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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 20, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LAUREN UNDERWOOD 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.

RECOGNIZING BRENDAN BRIDGES

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the hard work and dedication of Brendan Bridges as he retires from service as Greensburg Police Chief.

First joining the department in 2001, Chief Bridges served as a patrol officer and detective before being promoted as police chief in 2014.

Chief Bridges is turning a chapter and becoming the resource officer in Greensburg Community Schools system.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chief Bridges for his service to our community, and on behalf of Indiana's Sixth District I would like to wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

SHELBY COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shelby County, Indiana, on the bicentennial anniversary of its founding.

Created in 1821 by the Indiana General Assembly, Shelby County is a doughnut county of the greater Indianapolis area.

With a population of around 45,000 people, Shelby County is the home of the 21st Vice President of the United States, Thomas Hendricks.

Shelby County is predominantly built around its manufacturing and agriculture communities that continue to attract investment from companies around the globe.

Congratulations to Shelby County on your 200th anniversary, and I wish you the best of luck for the next 200 years.

UNION COUNTY BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Union County, Indiana, on the bicentennial anniversary of its founding.

Two hundred years ago, the Indiana State legislature authorized the creation of Union County by ceding land from Fayette, Franklin, and Wayne Counties.

With a small population of around 7,000 people, Union County is a community based on agriculture and farming.

Union County also attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually to visit the picturesque Whitewater Memorial State Park and the beautiful Brookville Lake.

Congratulations to Union County for its bicentennial anniversary, and I wish them the best of luck for the next 200 years.

IN MEMORY OF LARRY JACKSON

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of my very dear friend, Larry Jackson. Larry was an honest, hardworking Hoosier who always put family first.

Larry leaves behind his wonderful wife of 56 years, Judy Jackson, and his five children and grandchildren.

Larry was a devoted member of the St. Bartholomew Catholic Church and a dedicated man of faith.

My condolences and prayers go out to Judy and the entire Jackson family. God bless them.

A BIG VICTORY FOR HOOSIERS

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the favorable outcome we were able to secure for Indiana's Sixth District regarding the OMB MSA core population threshold.

Had a revised policy been adopted, Federal funding opportunities for Hoosiers in Indiana would have been severely reduced.

This is a big victory for midsized communities.

Hoosier cities and countless others across the Nation would have unnecessarily lost out on Federal reserves because of Washington's shortsightedness.

I am proud to have led my colleagues on a commonsense issue like this.

STAND FOR LIFE

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reconsider their mission to defeat the Hyde amendment.

The greatness of a free society can best be measured by how it cares for the most vulnerable, especially the unborn.

This legislative body has had a longstanding and bipartisan provision that prevents American taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortions, and we cannot end this practice now.

Furthermore, it is why I signed on to cosponsor H.R. 18.

Printed on recycled paper.

I am again urging my colleagues today to join me in always standing for life.

INFLATION IS TAXATION

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the growing inflation crisis that threatens our Hoosier way of life back home in Indiana's Sixth District.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are now trying to ram through a bipartisan $3.5 trillion package that will stick middle-class families with higher taxes and lower wages.

This hyper-partisan spending spree is a tax hike and a pay cut for every American.

It is simple: Inflation is taxation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONA JANE BROWN FERNANDER SAMUDA

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

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to stand on the floor of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to and to honor the life of a trusted friend of 4 decades, a cherished mentor, and an extraordinary woman of faith, Mrs. Leona Jane Brown Fernander Samuda.

Rosie, as I knew her and she was fondly referred to by her family and friends, passed away on June 14, 2021.

I extend my sympathy and condolences and prayers along with the more than 700,000 citizens of North Carolina's Twelfth Congressional District to the Brown, Fernander, Samuda families during this difficult time.

Born in Alice Town, Eleuthera, Bahamas, Rosie was a woman who spoke her mind, never mincing words, always genuinely wise in thought and deeds.

A mother, grandmother, great-grandmother who raised six children, five boys and one girl, she was the rock and fortress of her family.

A matriarch to family and community, Rosie shared her many talents, including cooking her favorite mac and cheese to the love she and I both had for wearing hats.

Rosie's glowing smile, the infectious personality that she had, and always a few jokes, made her a lover of people who loved her back.

A global citizen, she never met a stranger and was genuinely interested in the politics of every community where she lived, from the Parliament in her native Bahamas to the Black community politics in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Always engaging, interacting with political leaders, advocating for human and civil rights, Rosie never ceased to make her opinions known.

Rosie's contributions were extensive and her lessons invaluable. Rosie loved children and she became an entrepreneur and a businesswoman who owned and operated Aunt Jane's Edu Care for preschoolers.

Widely traveled, living in places such as Switzerland, Chippingham, and as a resident in my district in Charlotte, she studied and earned her degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Small in stature, Rosie was a mighty little giant who made an indelible impact on so many people for more than eight decades, and I was blessed to have known her and have her as a friend.

Mrs. Leona Jane Brown Fernander Samuda, dedicated woman of faith, gained the respect of men, women, and little children, and she made this world much better than she found it.

She served to fulfill the scripture in Psalm 84:10, which says: ''Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.''

Rest in peace, Rosie. We love you. We miss you.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF TONY LEE DILL

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and honor the memory of Tony Lee Dill, a west Texas farmer, who I had the privilege of representing and the great blessing of calling my friend.

Tony was born on June 3, 1960, to G.W. and Sue Dill in Terry County, Texas. Tony had a lifelong passion for the land and a love for people that was second to none.

Tony wasn't just a great farmer, he was a great leader, dedicating much of his life to being a voice for agriculture in rural America. He was absolutely committed to public service for his community, for his industry, and for the country he loved.

When I first met Tony, he was president of the Western Peanut Growers Association.

Tony was the epitome of a west Texan and a great American farmer. Tony was honest, humble, and hardworking. Tony was a gentleman, a man of great faith and love for the Lord, and he was happiest when he was with his family, his beloved wife, Donna, five children, and eight grandchildren.

I know they miss Tony something fierce, and I do, too, but I am confident that Tony is in the presence of the great farmer, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and all that share Tony's faith will be with him for all eternity.

God bless and go west Texas.

HONORING JOSH BARTLETT

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, last week west Texas witnessed an unspeakable tragedy. One of Lubbock County's true heroes, Sergeant Josh Bartlett, lost his life in the line of duty. Our hearts are heavy with grief for the Bartlett family, and our prayers are with them along with the injured officers and their families, especially including Sergeant Shawn Wilson.

Sergeant Bartlett dedicated his life to the sacred calling of wearing the uniform in defense of his country and community, honorably protecting and serving his fellow Americans. We are all heartbroken for his wife Rebecca and their children, Zachary, Christian, Logan and Kasidy. Like so many in law enforcement, Josh watched over our families while taking care of his own as a husband and a father.

We must never forget that the men and women in blue represent the very best of our Nation, the bravest and most dedicated among our citizens. We all owe them the highest respect and deepest gratitude for their willingness to sacrifice their lives to protect ours.

West Texas, Madam Speaker, is a family, and west Texans unapologetically, unreservedly love and respect our brothers and sisters in law enforcement. We know they stand between us and the bad guys, and we stand with them and their families, especially in these times of sorrow and loss.

May God comfort all the families affected in this tragedy, and may He protect and keep those who keep watch over us along the thin blue line.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW DEAL LIONS

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New Deal Lions on winning their first 2A baseball State championship.

The Lions' State championship win comes after a playoff loss in regionals and a 2020 season where they canceled six games due to COVID. Fueled by those setbacks, the New Deal Lions took head coach Jason Ybarra's motto, ''Unfinished Business,'' to heart during the 2021 season.

Led by Kyler Reed, Harley Patterson, and Noah Rodriguez as team captains, the New Deal Lions season included not only a State championship, Madam Speaker, but a 13 and 0 record district play.

Kyler Reed retained district MVP, Harley Patterson was named offensive MVP, Tanner Seeley was awarded defensive MVP, and Noah Rodriguez was recognized as the Newcomer of the Year.

So congratulations to Lion Nation. This team of young men, along with their coach, represent the west Texas value of hard work and dedication and the west Texas spirit of excellence in all things.

God bless and go west Texas.

HONORING THE HEROES FROM THE MOVIE THEATER SHOOTING IN AURORA, COLORADO, ON JULY 20, 2012

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroes from

the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20, 2012, and all of the everyday heroes who make sacrifices for their community, including those heroes we have seen during this COVID–19 pandemic.

Nine years ago today, 12 lives were taken, 70 were wounded, and hundreds more suffered emotional trauma.

Yet even in this tragedy, we saw incredible heroism, those who carried the wounded to safety, and the first responders, law enforcement, firefighters, and medical teams whose tireless efforts saved many lives.

I would like to recognize those who lost their lives that night: AJ Boik; Jesse Childress; Gordon Cowden, whose two teenage children were in the theater when he was killed; Jessica Ghawi; Micayla Medek; Veronica Moser-Sullivan, age six, whose mother was shot in the chest and miscarried a week after the attack; Rebecca Wingo; and Alex Sullivan, who was celebrating his 27th birthday and was 1 week away from his first wedding anniversary.

I would also like to recognize the four who died while saving and shielding others: Jonathan Blunk, John Larimer, Matt McQuinn, and Alex Teves.

During trying times, it is important to remember the heroes among us who, on a daily basis, answer the call to step up for their community and especially on July 20, a day we think of as National Heroes Day.

These everyday heroes such as healthcare workers, frontline workers, essential personnel, and those who helped develop and administer the COVID–19 vaccines, among others, have been particularly visible during this coronavirus pandemic, and I would like to recognize their tremendous acts of selflessness and bravery.

Join me in saying ''thank you'' to the hero in your life. Let's exhibit the same spirit of courage and service today and throughout the year.

□ 1015

47TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 47th anniversary of the Republic of Turkey's deadly and unprovoked military invasion of Cyprus.

This is a dark time in the history of the Greek Cypriot people and a stark reminder that we must never forget Turkey's ethnic cleansing of 200,000 Greek Cypriot people less than 50 years ago.

The tragedy that is the illegal Turkish occupation of Cyprus that occurred on July 20, 1974, continues to this very day. I speak before you at a time when the Republic of Turkey is actively engaged in an aggressive, illegal, and unilateral reopening of Varosha, a once-bustling Greek Cypriot resort town and international tourist destination in the Famagusta District of the island.

Following the Turkish approach to Varosha in August 1974, the town's native Greek Cypriot population fled for their lives, only to later be denied the right to return by the occupying Turkish Armed Forces. Many of the Varosha refugees are still alive today, yearning to go back to their homes, while President Erdogan has moved to reopen Varosha to tourists.

The suffering in Cyprus is not just limited to Varosha. The Turkish Armed Forces have illegally occupied more than one-third of the island. They have destroyed and converted over 500 Greek Orthodox churches to mosques in the course of their invasion. They stole over 60,000 archaeological treasures, part of Greek civilization's cultural heritage. Their violence led to the disappearance of over 20,000 Christian icons, and even worse, 1,130 people who remain missing since 1974—five of them, American citizens.

Madam Speaker, over the years, the United Nations has taken a stand against Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus, going so far as to deploy thousands of U.N. Peacekeepers to prevent further Turkish incursions into the southern half of the island. In addition, the U.N. Security Council gathered in 1984 and 1992 to pass Resolution 550 and Resolution 789, respectively, to draw red lines when it comes to Turkish activity in sensitive areas like Varosha.

Specifically, these resolutions state that the Council ''considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible, and calls for the transfer of that area to the administration of the United Nations,'' and that, ''the area at present under the control of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus be extended to include Varosha.''

As we grow one year closer to the 50th anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion of Cyprus, the United States must take a strong stand at the United Nations and other international fora to address the growing threat posed by Turkey, its increased aggression, and to ensure the eventual return of homes and land to its native Greek Cypriot inhabitants and reunification of this island nation.

If we, as a governing body, truly claim to stand for liberty and justice for all, we must speak in a unified voice on this issue. And it is a bipartisan issue. When he was chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, then-Senator Joe Biden promised the Greek Cypriot refugee community that they would return to their homeland, if he was ever elected President. During our first Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing with Secretary of State Blinken, he committed to me and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle that brought up this concern that the reunification of Cyprus would be a priority for this administration.

Yet, we saw our President meet with President Erdogan, and we don't even believe the issue was brought up, so we will continue to speak out against this. I encourage my colleagues to speak out, call for action, and take a stand for our Greek Cypriot friends who need our support now more than ever.

If we are to see the end of this occupation in our lifetimes, the United States must lead the way.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KATE JENNINGS

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker in 2016, my deputy chief of staff, Kate Jennings, first joined our office. After working with political greats like then-Senator Barack Obama and Senator DICK DURBIN, our team was lucky that Kate would be bringing her passion and her dedication to our work.

Over the next 5-plus years, there would not be one day when Kate didn't put the people who we serve at the very heart of everything she did. When COVID–19 hit Illinois last year, our office learned of a family sheltering in a hotel, unable to feed themselves or feed their children. So in the middle of this spreading pandemic, what did Kate do? She put herself at risk, went to the grocery, packed a box full of food, and delivered it to the door at the hotel where this family was sheltering so the children would not go hungry.

And every year, Kate would take Valentines to our veterans to make sure that they knew that they were appreciated and that they were loved. She would travel thousands of miles across our vast Congressional district, and was unwavering in her hard work for all 14 counties in our district. She never tired and always worked to lift up the voices of the people that were fortunate enough to be able to serve.

Madam Speaker, Kate recently began her next chapter, and our entire team and our office and I wish her well on her new adventure. This week, as we continue to strive to always deliver for the people, I can think of no better celebration than to thank the person who spent nearly 2,000 days in our office putting the people we serve first.

Madam Speaker, I thank Kate for her dedicated service, her hard work, and her friendship for so many years. Everyone on our team knows that she will continue to deliver for the people of Illinois.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAYMOND JONES

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mr. Raymond Jones of Saint Simons Island, Georgia, who passed away on June 21 at the age of 72.

Ray began his career with the Rich Products Corporation, working for the SeaPak Shrimp and Seafood division in Saint Simons Island. Over the next three decades, he would have a positive impact on the seafood industry and on our community. Ray was a genuine advocate for seafood sustainability and a trusted voice in meeting with Members of Congress. Ray served as chairman of the National Fisheries Institute's technical committee from 1994 to 1996, and was the technical chairman of the National Shrimp Industry Association from 1998 to 2005.

In 2017, he was recognized as the seafood industry leader for his decades of commitment to seafood sustainability and quality. Despite Ray's countless career achievements, his proudest role was as a father and grandfather.

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

RECOGNIZING PASTOR BILL LIGON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Pastor Bill Ligon of Brunswick, Georgia, for his 90th birthday.

Pastor Ligon experienced the call of God at 18 years old. Since then, he founded the Christian Renewal Church in Brunswick, Georgia, and has served as its pastor for over 40 years. Pastor Ligon has served throughout the southeast, but the impact of his outreach remains immeasurable.

He is one of the founders of the Fellowship of Churches and Ministers International, with churches in eight States and three foreign countries. Alongside his wife, Pastor Ligon served for 6 years as Southern Baptist missionaries in Spain where they served churches and taught the gospel.

Madam Speaker, with his passion to share and teach the gospel, I know Pastor Ligon will continue his tremendous work at Christian Renewal Church. He has dedicated his life to spreading the word of God, and I thank him for his decades of service.

RECOGNIZING REAR ADMIRAL ERIC JONES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rear Admiral Eric Jones for his outstanding career and service as Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District.

Rear Admiral Jones has dedicated his life to protecting our country. As District Commander, he is responsible for all Coast Guard operations throughout the Southeast and the Caribbean Basin, which includes Georgia's First Congressional District.

Notably, under his command, Coast Guard members responded when a cargo ship capsized in the Saint Simons Sound. This rescue effort was heroic and saved all 24 people on the ship.

During his time, Rear Admiral Jones has provided extraordinary leadership and management to the United States Coast Guard. His service has been marked by excellence and has received significant recognition, including four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and various service and unit awards.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Rear Admiral Jones on his next duty assignment and thank him for his years of service to Georgia's First Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOBBY CARPENTER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Mr. Bobby Carpenter, who passed away on June 25 at the age of 89.

Bobby graduated from Richmond Hill High School in 1948. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy for 4 years. Once back home, Bobby served as the postmaster of the Richmond Hill Post Office and received his official commission from President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Bobby also served as the president of Bryan Neck Cemetery Association for 50 years, church treasurer for 25 years, and a member of the Bryan County Board of Education. He enriched the lives of all who knew him and loved him, and he leaves behind a legacy of kindness, faith, and love.

Bobby's dedication to improving the lives of others will never be forgotten. Richmond Hill sorely misses him. My thoughts and prayers are with Bobby's family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

NATIONAL HEROES DAY

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, 9 years ago today, Aurora, Colorado, faced an unbelievable tragedy when a shooter opened fire in a movie theater.

Madam Speaker, 12 people lost their lives, 70 were injured, and countless others are still impacted by the trauma of that day.

Every year, Aurora and the greater Colorado community come together to remember the lives lost and the trauma. We also come together to recognize the everyday heroes that stepped up to help their neighbors and loved ones. Their heroism saved lives.

I thank my friend and colleague, Representative ED PERLMUTTER for, again, offering a resolution to designate July 28 as National Heroes Day. This year, in particular, we recognize the everyday heroes that have helped us withstand this pandemic, our frontline workers, scientists, and healthcare professionals, and the first responders who stand on the front lines every day.

As we reflect today, let us also be galvanized into action. In the 9 years since the Aurora tragedy, little has been done at the Federal level to reduce gun violence and mass shootings. Enough is enough. I am here, in part, because I have been inspired by my constituents who endured incredible tragedy 9 years ago and have directed that pain to fight for change. Let us not grow numb to the pain of this day, but let's continue to work toward meaningful and lasting change.

NATIONAL PENNSYLVANIA DAY

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 recognize July 20 as National Pennsylvania Day. Pennsylvania's nickname, the Keystone State, represents the central role we played in shaping our Nation. Our great Commonwealth was the second State to join the Union and continued to lead the way in making history.

As the first capitol of our Nation, many great decisions were made in Philadelphia. It was there our Founding Fathers authored the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution forming this great Nation. Pennsylvania served in an important role in key military operations. Valley Forge tells a story of sacrifice, leadership, grit, and determination when our ragtag military was attempting to defy history and defeat a global superpower.

The Battle of Gettysburg marked a turning point of the Civil War, providing the Union with the momentum to bring our great Nation back together. Our State continues to carry the legacy of many firsts, from the first American flag sewn by Betsy Ross to the first commercial oil well.

Our inventor spirit continues to weave through history, from Benjamin Franklin, Robert Fulton, and Jonas Salk. We continue to bring new and exciting ideas forward. Our legacy of American craftsmanship and work ethic runs deep, from our steel mills and coal mines to our farmlands and forests.

Madam Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, I am encouraged each and every day by the industrious spirit of our residents as we continue to build a bright path forward for our commonwealth and our country.

Happy Pennsylvania Day! I am proud to be from our great Keystone State.

□ 1030

HOT FERC SUMMER

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, I trust most of my colleagues have heard of ''Hot Girl Summer'' and the broader Megan Thee Stallion oeuvre.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare the start of ''Hot FERC Summer,'' with FERC, of course, being the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Why, you might ask? Well, to paraphrase Ms. Stallion, because now that FERC has put in all that work, it is time for them to be the MVP.

Now, some might say that FERC isn't, dare I say, hot enough to warrant that attention. But for those of us who are serious about fighting the climate crisis, they sure should be.

The Commission ensures our energy markets, generation, and transmission

are operating and providing us with affordable, reliable energy. But the best kept secret of all is that FERC is absolutely key to achieving our clean energy goals and a zero carbon economy.

For the last few decades, FERC's biggest push has been to encourage competition in the power sector. FERC Order 888, which just celebrated its 25th birthday a few months ago, may not have cracked the Billboard Top 100, but it has been almost singularly responsible for decarbonizing our electric sector. The order, like most things FERC-related, was, frankly, pretty wonky. But by incentivizing lower-cost gas, nuclear, and renewable energy, it drove the private sector to drastically lower their greenhouse gas emissions and slash electricity costs.

From the perspective of anyone who pays for electricity, that is fantastic news. You pay less for cleaner power.

From the perspective of someone who cares about climate change, it is also amazing because once a clean energy plant is built, you don't need to pay the wind to blow or the Sun to shine. Clean energy is the cheapest source of energy out there, and those old, dirty plants just can't compete.

In my home State of Illinois, a recent study found that it would be cheaper to sell a coal plant that was just built a decade ago for scrap and procure cleaner replacement power through those FERC-organized markets. Thank you, FERC.

To kick off ''Hot FERC Summer,'' I have introduced bills that will help FERC build on this success. The first of these was the Interregional Transmission Planning Improvement Act, which I introduced with Senator HEINRICH, that will ensure that our grid operators are thinking properly about the benefits of building transmission wires across the country.

The second, the Energy PRICE Act, which I introduced just today with Representatives LEVIN, HUFFMAN, and BONAMICI, would help ensure that FERC lives up to its legal responsibility to protect the public welfare by not approving electricity rates that don't account for the cost of greenhouse gas emissions.

I will be dropping a third ''Hot FERC Summer'' bill—I am sorry, a third hot jam next week.

But right now, FERC is at a crossroads. For the first time in years, President Biden has an opportunity to create a Democratic majority at FERC; a majority that will ensure that these incentives are in place to build an electric grid for our 21st century economy; a majority that will ensure that State renewable energy rules are respected and integrated into regional markets, a majority that will ensure that uneconomic fossil fuel plants are subjected to the competitive pressures of a free market that have given us an explosion in solar and wind energy over the past decade; a majority that will ensure that we make further progress in our clean energy goals rather than trying to fight against it.

But in order to do any of that in time to prevent more climate devastation, the President must nominate a Commissioner to FERC, and the Senate must confirm that individual. I urge both to do so as soon as possible to ensure that FERC stays at its full power and that it will be able to continue to be the most important clean energy agency that most of us have never heard of.

As you, of course know, Madam Speaker, ''Hot Girl Summer'' ain't about degrees, but ''Hot FERC Summer'' most definitely is. The record temperatures from Portland to Death Valley, the wildfires, and the coming hurricane season are all the direct result of our failure to decarbonize as quickly as we must.

While this summer is the hottest FERC summer yet, it is coming on the heels of 2020, which was the hottest summer North America has ever seen for as long as we have records. In point of fact, the 10 warmest summers on record have occurred since 1998. If we fail to act, they will be nothing compared to the summers we will experience over the coming decades because while the best chance to take action on climate was 30 years ago, the last chance is now.

EMPOWERING THE FREE MARKET

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

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, the Consumer Price Index rose 5.4 percent in the last year, the highest inflation in 13 years.

Americans are paying more for nearly everything. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the price of milk is up 5.6 percent; the price of fruit is up 7.3 percent; and the price of gas is up a whopping 45 percent.

Americans are paying more for goods and services because of the Democrats' out-of-control spending. Despite the dire economic state Democrats' reckless spending has put us in, they are now trying to ram through a partisan $3.5 trillion package that will raise taxes on the middle class and job creators.

What are Democrats telling American businesses to do when they are going to raise taxes and impose regulations on them as they try to rebuild in the aftermath of a pandemic? They are telling them to take their business overseas.

To bounce back from the Biden administration's dismal job reports in consecutive months, we need to be stimulating economic opportunity and growth with less taxes and less regulation. Doing so will help spur the creation of good-paying jobs that encourage people to get back in the workforce.

What won't fix it is continuing to throw money at the economy, which seems to be all the Washington swamp knows how to do. The Democrats' liberal tax-and-spend model is failing our economy and failing the American people.

We are not going to spend our way out of this mess with trillion-dollar programs that do nothing but serve liberal special interests. We do it by letting the free market flourish through lower taxes, lower regulation, and more economic freedom.

It worked under President Trump when he set records in unemployment, and it will work again if only the Federal Government would get out of the way and empower the people and the free market.

GETTING VACCINATED TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today as COVID cases surge in my home State of Nevada and across this country.

In fact, in the past 3 days, Nevada has added over 2,000 new cases, and our 2-week positivity rate has rapidly grown to more than 12 percent. Hospitalizations are up, too, with the vast majority being among, you guessed it, the unvaccinated.

Unfortunately, just over half of Nevadans are fully or partially vaccinated. We must all do our part to end this pandemic. The best thing you can do to protect yourself, your family, the ones you care about most is to get vaccinated.

Getting your vaccine is safe and, now, easier than ever. Believe it or not, back home in Nevada, it comes with the chance to win more than $5 million in prizes. That is how desperate we are to make sure that everyone is motivated to go get a vaccine.

Please, go to vaccines.gov to find a clinic. For those who are already vaccinated, please take the time this week to reach out and encourage your peers to do their part, too.

Together, we can stop the spread and get our lives back to normal.

REPORTING ON MISSING BLACK CHILDREN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, this first speech that I am going to give today is, as we used to say in church, something that the Lord spoke on my heart. He speaks to me, just not in an audible voice. This is something that has kind of been a burden with me for quite some time.

Madam Speaker, today, I rise to express my great concern for the disproportionate number of missing Black children in our country and the way they are treated by our national media.

Every child is precious, Madam Speaker, and it is a tragedy whenever a

child goes missing. The sad truth is that it happens to Black kids far more often. Missing Black children made up over one-third of the missing child cases in 2019—over one-third. Yet, it has also been shown these children receive much less media coverage than their counterparts from other demographics.

The media dedicates an enormous amount of time to discuss racism in Congress, schools, police departments, and various other American institutions, so why is it acceptable for the media to dedicate less attention to missing Black kids?

We all know this is not okay, Madam Speaker, but the American public doesn't know this is happening because our media is failing to cover this story.

Every child is made in the image of God and legally equal under the U.S. Constitution. We need to dedicate all the time and resources we can to recover missing kids, regardless of the color of their skin.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT DURWARD B. SWANSON

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Technical Sergeant Durward B. Swanson, a World War II veteran and survivor of the Pearl Harbor attacks, as the Tennessee Second District's Veteran of the Month.

Swanson joined the Army Air Corps in 1939 and was sent to Hickam Field, adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Naval Base. He originally signed up to do bomber maintenance, but a sergeant noticed he had skills on a Harley-Davidson and asked if he would head the air police motorcycle unit instead. He accepted that position, Madam Speaker.

On December 7, 1941, when Japanese bombers attacked the airbase, Swanson jumped onto his motorcycle to search for his best friend, Albert Jackson ''Stud'' Lloyd, who was standing in the middle of a ballfield shooting at the planes and cussing up a storm. Swanson drove onto the field and brought his friend back to safety.

After the attack, Swanson and Lloyd removed the damaged flag from the Hickam Field flagpole and folded it to prevent it from being flown overnight.

Following his service, Swanson played guitar for country music legend Hank Williams before deciding the music business wasn't for him. That would be Hank Williams, Sr., if anyone is wondering.

He went on to speak to schools across the United States and travel with groups to Pearl Harbor and the World War II Memorial in Washington.

In June, he celebrated his 100th birthday at the Ben Atchley veterans' home.

There are true heroes in our country, and they aren't famous athletes or movie stars. They are the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, like Durward Swanson.

Madam Speaker, I thank Durward for his service.

BUILD BACK BETTER THROUGH COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you some of the important projects we have nominated as part of the community project funding process, 10 projects that will bring more than $8.4 million in critical funding to my district and which have now been included in the House Appropriations Committee's fiscal year 2022 funding bill.

It is my honor to represent the residents of PA–05 in Congress, and I am thrilled to have secured funding for these projects that were submitted by nonprofit and government agencies in our region and that met the rigorous funding criteria laid out by Congress.

The projects our office nominated for inclusion address some of the most pressing needs in our region: economic development, climate resilience, treatment for opioid use disorder, and expanding mental health resources.

Each of these projects will also help deliver on House Democrats' and President Biden's promise to build back better, to set the table for success for the American people, now and in the future.

Today, I would like to shine the spotlight on two projects I am particularly proud of.

The Delaware County Mobile Crisis teams project will provide an alternative response for emergency calls involving people suffering from mental illness. For too long, our mental health system has been woefully underfunded. As a result, all too frequently, people living with mental illness or cognitive disabilities have ended up in our criminal justice system, often with fatal consequences. We can do better.

Around the country, communities have begun to address this dearth of mental health resources and overreliance on the criminal justice system by developing programs to provide alternatives to and diversion from arrest, abuse, and incarceration.

At the Federal level, I am proud to have introduced the Mental Health Justice Act, which would make it easier for State and local governments to develop these programs and send trained mental health professionals instead of police when someone calls 911 because an individual is experiencing a mental health crisis.

At the local level, I am proud to support Delaware County's application to fund just such a project in this year's appropriations bill, a project to address the mental and behavioral health challenges of residents who might otherwise find themselves in the criminal justice system.

□ 1045

The county proposal will create mobile crisis teams stationed with the county's Emergency Services Department. These teams will be dispatched in conjunction with law enforcement in response to requests for help for persons known or suspected to be suffering from mental illness with the goal of diverting them from the criminal justice system into treatment with access to prioritized admission and to properly address their underlying needs.

This program is a collaboration among Delaware County's human services, health adviser, district attorney, and public defender. I commend these county leaders for looking forward, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact mobile crisis teams can have on our community.

Another project that I was proud to secure funding for in the fiscal year '22 appropriations bill is for the restoration and reopening of the historic Lansdowne Theater.

The 1927 Lansdowne Theater is an Art Deco gem that will be rehabilitated into a regional concert hall and spur investment in the surrounding community. The $1.5 million in Federal funding we have secured in the appropriations bill will be the final dollars for this $15 million project so that it can immediately start the restoration needed to bring this community treasure back to life.

We anticipate the project will create 51 jobs to operate the theater and 100 permanent jobs in businesses nearby, in addition to over 100 jobs for the trades during construction. Once completed, the theater will breathe new economic life into the community and attract more arts and culture to PA–5.

It will create opportunities for enhanced educational programs for area students through internships and access to different genres of music.

This transformational investment is integral to a broader plan to create an anchor in the community to restore, enhance, and spur economic activity in this part of the Baltimore Pike commercial district.

The community project funding program is a win for the American people. It gives our communities the opportunity to make their case directly to Congress for funding to make bold, progressive investments that are exactly what our community and communities across the country need to recover and rebuild.

This is what keeping a promise looks like. I look forward to continuing to fight for the people with these new investments.

FREE CUBA

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

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support and encourage the brave men and women of Cuba.

Last week we saw unprecedented images and videos from across Cuba. Tens of thousands of Cubans took to the street. They took to the street not because of COVID or vaccines or the embargo but because they demand their

inalienable rights. They demand freedom. They chant: ''Libertad.'' They chant: ''Patria y vida.'' And they converged on the Communist Party headquarters responsible for 60 years of misery, abuse, and torture of the Cuban people.

Cubans have rejected the failed ideology forced upon three generations—the failed ideology of Marxism that has brought suffering to hundreds of millions around the world, the failed ideology that deserves to be sent to the ash heap of history once and for all.

As Communists often do, they concocted a conspiracy theory to explain the people's protests. The Communist dictator Miguel Diaz-Canel even claimed it was a U.S. plot. This is what Marxists do, of course. They lie. They will lie, they will commit violence against their own people, and they will try to suffocate the calls for freedom.

But this movement will not be silenced. It cannot. It mustn't. For too long this once flourishing island has suffered under Communist rule, and now the calls for freedom must be heeded: freedom from oppression, freedom from abuse, and freedom from tyranny. The downfall of this regime has been a long time coming. No more is it patria o muerte—country or death—but as the people across Cuba know, it is patria y vida—country and life.

As Americans—as a people who have inherited the greatest gifts of freedom the world has ever known—we must speak with one voice against the evils of Marxism. We must speak truth, a truth that not enough Americans are used to hearing. Instead, we have American politicians who openly advocate for the very same Marxist ideology that Cubans would die to escape from. This ignorant and foolish flirtation with Marxism must end, and we must make it clear that we will always support freedom-loving people around the world.

Our message will be one of empowerment: empower the brave Cuban people as they begin to throw off the chains of Communism and seek their inalienable, God-given rights of life, liberty, personal property, and the right to pursue their happiness.

So to the men and women of Cuba, I say this:

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

We see you. We hear you. We are with you. Let us no longer shout homeland or death but homeland and life. And begin to build what we dream of. What they destroyed with their hands.

Te vemos. Te oimos. Estamos con ustedes. Ya no gritemos patria o muerte sino patria y vida. Y empezar a construir lo que sonamos. Lo que destruyeron con sus manos.

Madam Speaker, to the Communist regime in Cuba, I say this: Your lies are exposed, your foundations are shaken to the core, and your days are numbered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas will provide a translation of his remarks to the desk.

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, we lift up our hearts and call upon Your name. For the promise of Your endless love is better than the ephemeral thread of life we hold on to so dearly. So long as we live, may we praise You.

When we gaze on Your handiwork, we are overwhelmed with Your glory; we are humbled by the span of Your extensive reach.

From Your temple, hear our voice. As we approach You in the sanctuary of Your extraordinary creation, draw near to You in these hallowed halls of freedom and justice, or discover You in the precious intimacy of our time with friends and loved ones, everywhere we are, we find ourselves in Your compassionate presence. Give us faith to see Your involvement in all areas of our lives. And receive us with mercy when we acknowledge our powerlessness without You. Encourage us when our souls are wearied with longing for the peace of mind only You can provide. Strengthen us when our bodies are faint with thirst and yearning for the sureness found in You.

We lift up our hands in prayer and call upon Your name that You would satisfy our needs this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from 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

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

OPEN THE UNITED STATES/CANADA BORDER

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, for the past 16 months, the United States' border with Canada has been closed to nonessential travel, tearing loved ones apart, preventing people from accessing cottages that they own, devastating businesses and local economies on both sides of the border.

This week, the Canadian Government announced plans to reopen the border to fully vaccinated Americans on August 9. On January 21 of this year, we were promised a plan would be developed by the United States to address travel to Canada within 14 days.

Madam Speaker, 180 days have now passed. We are still waiting for that plan. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publicly advised that fully vaccinated Americans are free to safely resume all pre-pandemic activity. It is time for the United States to align its border policy with the science, with the facts, and with the data. Action is long overdue. Open the U.S. border to our Canadian neighbors.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, as a father of three and a grandfather of 11, I know what the love of family feels like and how we love our children and when that child takes its first breath.

For over 40 years, the Hyde Amendment has prohibited taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortion. Both Republicans and Democrats have supported it. However, President Biden's budget plan will remove this vitally important protection. That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act.

This bill will make the Hyde Amendment permanent. Today, tomorrow, and every day, I am proud to stand for life.

Madam 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 (Mrs. DINGELL). 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.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, 5 days ago, millions of American families with children received Child Tax Credit refunds deposited directly into their bank account. This is hundreds of dollars that they could use for childcare expenses, to put gas in their cars to go to work, and to help fuel our economy.

This is going to happen again next month, and again in the middle of September. And these payments go out again the middle of October, and again the middle of November, and again the middle of December. This is critical lifesaving money. These are tax cuts directly to the American people.

And how did this happen? It happened because every Democrat voted for the Child Tax Credit. Every Republican voted ''no.'' We want to give Republicans another chance at this. We are going to try to make this Child Tax Credit permanent. We want this tax cut to the American people permanent, and the contrast could not be clearer. When Democrats are in control, we give tax cuts to the middle class.

BIDEN INFLATION TAX

(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, inflation threatens American families due to the out-of-control spending by President Joe Biden.

Biden inflation directly impacts the day-to-day well-being of American families. Inflation is currently rising at the fastest pace in 13 years. And Biden has proposed an irresponsible $3.5 trillion deal that will increase taxes.

Last month, consumer prices jumped 5.4 percent. Gas prices are up a huge 45.1 percent, and milk is up 5.6 percent. What Biden doesn't seem to realize is that these costs negatively affect the lower and middle class more than anyone else. Wasteful spending and taxes will only make matters worse. Inflation is Biden taxation, and the American families deserve better.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. God bless the courageous citizens of Cuba standing up for freedom and liberty from the failed socialist oppressors.

REMEMBERING RAMSES O. AGUINAGA

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Santa Ana Police Officer Ramses Aguinaga, who was tragically taken from his family by cancer. Ramses was a leader in the community where he grew up. He was a smart and caring person who always made an effort to understand each and every individual in his community.

In high school, he played football for Mater Dei High School where he was a key player in making sure that Mater Dei won the Southern Section Division championship.

In college, Ramses became interested in criminal justice and spent 16 years as a police officer. But his greatest accomplishment was the birth of his son, Mateus Aguinaga, and Ramses loved this child, loved him to death.

Ramses passed away in peace. His family mourns him and will never forget how he brightened the lives of so many of his friends and neighbors where he grew up. He was a loving father, a thoughtful son, a caring brother, and a role model for our community.

CONGRATULATING LUMBEE TRIBAL COUNCILMAN TERRY HUNT

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Lumbee Tribal Council member, Terry Hunt, who during July's council meeting was honored for nearly three decades of service in the U.S. Army and the North Carolina National Guard where he served as a Command Sergeant Major.

During the meeting, Councilman Hunt was bestowed with the Old North State Award, which honors guard members who have served at least 20 years and who have shown a dedication of service beyond expectation. He was also awarded the North Carolina Association Certificate, which honors National Guard retirees.

Councilman Hunt was elected to the Tribal Council in 2018, representing District 14, which includes communities in Eastern Robeson County. I am proud to work alongside him and the other members of the council as we pursue long-overdue Federal recognition for the Lumbee.

Congratulations to Councilman Hunt on this great honor. The people of North Carolina are grateful for his service.

RISE IN CRIME

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, America is a nation of laws, but in many parts of our country, the rule of law is under attack. At a time when the Nation should be reopening and healing, we see rising crime in many cities across America. And where this rise of crime is most prevalent is in cities that have decreased funding for its officers.

In 2020, we saw the highest number of murders in over 25 years. And now in 2021, we have seen a spike in violent crime and attacks against law enforcement officers. The Defund the Police movement has been the catalyst behind this rise in crime and attacks on our law enforcement. It has fueled hatred against our fellow citizens who risk their lives to protect us from crime. And sadly, there are many progressive members in this Chamber who have supported this dangerous movement.

The first step in addressing the increase in crime is not banning guns from law-abiding citizens as proposed by the President. Rather, we must reject the Defund the Police movement and ask those that support it to recognize its disastrous impacts on our communities.

TRANSATLANTIC ENERGY SECURITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus, I rise to express my deep concern on the issue of transatlantic energy security. The Kremlin and complicit European nations are seeking to complete the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. This Russian malign influence project will increase Vladimir Putin's leverage in Europe and disrupt the NATO alliance.

Current news reports indicate that a deal between the Biden administration and Germany is imminent. According to these reports, there is little in the deal that will prevent Russia's capacity to coerce our allies. Congress understands history's key lesson: When Germany and Russia collude, the people of Central and Eastern Europe pay the price.

Congress has now voted twice on an overwhelming bipartisan basis to sanction the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. These sanctions are mandatory, not discretionary. Given the administration's abuse of the sanctions waiver, I was pleased the Committee on Appropriations unanimously adopted my bipartisan amendment to repeal the waivers moving forward. While I look forward to reviewing the deal, the Congress—as Article I of the Constitution mandates—must reject any deal that fails to prioritize energy security in the transatlantic alliance.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANTS

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

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, for the past 40 years, community service block grants have been vital to providing communities the resources

needed to address poverty and expand opportunities for children and families. CSBG is a targeted program with strong oversight and a solid track record of success. And because no two communities are the same, CSBG gives organizations the flexibility to create new and locally tailored solutions.

CSBG is also bipartisan. This year, I was honored to join with more than 100 House Members from both sides of the aisle to advocate for an increase in funding to the program. More resources will allow great organizations in my community, like the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, to improve and increase their services.

For over 50 years, MVCAA has served the residents of Oneida, Herkimer, and Madison Counties providing important services, and supporting education, employment, childcare, and family needs. In 2018 alone, they assisted 9,210 individuals, including 3,649 children.

I am so grateful that the Committee on Appropriations met our fiscal year 2021 requests of $800 million for CSBG, which will ensure that even more families and children have access to the tools they need to realize their potential.

I thank my good friend, ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, TOM COLE, as well as Chairwoman ROSA DELAURO for their leadership and commitment to this program.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GILMAN

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man in my district who will represent Iowa on the world stage.

Thomas Gilman, a University of Iowa alumni, has qualified for the U.S. Olympic team for freestyle wrestling and will be competing in this summer's Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, later this month.

As a former Hawkeye, Thomas was a force to be reckoned with in the 125-pound weight division, finishing his career in Iowa City with an impressive record of 107–12 and a Big Ten Conference title. He was also named the Outstanding Wrestler of the 2017 Midlands Championships.

His other athletic accomplishments include a silver medal at the World Wrestling Championships in Paris in 2017 and another silver medal at the U.S. National Championships in Las Vegas in 2019.

I wish Thomas the best of luck as he goes on to represent the great State of Iowa and the United States in the Olympic Games. Bring home the gold.

HELP CUBAN PEOPLE ORGANIZE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the Communist Party is afraid. They are seeing their ideas collapse. They are seeing that people will no longer wait for the countless empty promises of the Castro years to be fulfilled.

This is why we are seeing thousands of unarmed protesters being arrested, beaten, and killed all across the island of Cuba.

If the Communist Party of Cuba had their way, if they were successful in blocking the communications of their people as they intended to do with their power outages and censorship, then we wouldn't even be able to see these abuses.

Cuba's Communist Government has had 62 years to prove that it could provide health, housing, education, work, food, and security to its people. Instead, we see buildings collapsing on the heads of Cuban citizens. We see that the government provided food full of gravel. We see security forces firing live rounds into crowds that are not allowed to be armed.

The White House needs to act soon to help the Cuban people organize and communicate freely, and let the rest of the world know what is really happening only 90 miles from our border.

Where is the United Nations?

I call on President Biden to unblock and expand uncensored internet access. We have the technology to do it now and guarantee cellular service to their island.

The embargo is not the problem. People need to be liberated. They are political prisoners. Provide independent and free press.

Madam Speaker, which of these do the Cuban people not deserve?

VOTING RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE DENIED

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I want to rise today to inform everyone who might be listening that the filibuster is not in this little book that has governed this great Nation, the Constitution of the United States.

In fact, the 15th Amendment, as it relates to voting, says: ''The right of citizens of the United States to vote should not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude,'' which means we should move forward with certain things.

One, we need to move forward with the infrastructure bill. We must move forward with the budget and budget reconciliation. We must ensure that voting rights are protected in this Nation. Again, the filibuster is not a constitutional provision, and therefore, we must govern.

Madam Speaker, I want to express my knowledge and concern of the crime and violence across America. It is facing us in Houston as well. I was delighted to bring almost a million dollars to help our victims of crimes and the victim advocates program for HPD. It is time now to stand up for America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SECURITY CAPABILITIES ACT OF 2021

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1870) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize strengthening of local transportation security capabilities by assigning certain officers and intelligence analysts to State, local, and regional fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset and improving the timely sharing of information regarding threats of terrorism and other threats, including targeted violence, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1870

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 ''Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DOMESTIC TERRORISM.—The term ''domestic terrorism'' has the meaning given such term in section 2331 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.—The term ''international terrorism'' has the meaning given such term in section 2331 of title 18, United States Code.

(3) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS.—The term ''public and private sector stakeholders'' has the meaning given such term in section 114(u)(1)(c) of title 49, United States Code.

(4) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSET.—The term ''surface transportation asset'' includes facilities, equipment, or systems used to provide transportation services by—

(A) a public transportation agency (as such term is defined in section 1402(5) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–53; 6 U.S.C. 1131(5)));

(B) a railroad carrier (as such term is defined in section 20102(3) of title 49, United States Code);

(C) an owner or operator of—

(I) an entity offering scheduled, fixed-route transportation services by over-the-road bus (as such term is defined in section 1501(4) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–53; 6 U.S.C. 1151(4))); or

(ii) a bus terminal; or

(D) other transportation facilities, equipment, or systems, as determined by the Secretary.

(5) TARGETED VIOLENCE.—The term ''targeted violence'' means an incident of violence in which an attacker selected a particular target in order to inflict mass injury or death with no discernable political or ideological motivation beyond mass injury or death.

(6) TERRORISM.—The term ''terrorism'' means domestic terrorism and international terrorism.

SEC. 3. THREAT INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall prioritize the assignment of officers and intelligence analysts under section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h) from the Transportation Security Administration and, as appropriate, from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security, to locations with participating State, local, and regional fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset in order to enhance the security of such assets, including by improving timely sharing, in a manner consistent with the protection of privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties, of information regarding threats of terrorism and other threats, including targeted violence.

(b) INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS.—Officers and intelligence analysts assigned to locations with participating State, local, and regional fusion centers under this section shall participate in the generation and dissemination of transportation security intelligence products, with an emphasis on such products that relate to threats of terrorism and other threats, including targeted violence, to surface transportation assets that—

(1) assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies in deploying their resources, including personnel, most efficiently to help detect, prevent, investigate, apprehend, and respond to such threats;

(2) promote more consistent and timely sharing with and among jurisdictions of threat information; and

(3) enhance the Department of Homeland Security's situational awareness of such threats.

(c) CLEARANCES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall make available to appropriate owners and operators of surface transportation assets, and to any other person that the Secretary determines appropriate to foster greater sharing of classified information relating to threats of terrorism and other threats, including targeted violence, to surface transportation assets, the process of application for security clearances under Executive Order No. 13549 (75 Fed. Reg. 162; relating to a classified national security information program) or any successor Executive order.

(d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a review of the implementation of this section, together with any recommendations to improve information sharing with State, local, Tribal, territorial, and private sector entities to prevent, identify, and respond to threats of terrorism and other threats, including targeted violence, to surface transportation assets.

SEC. 4. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with public and private sector stakeholders, may in a manner consistent with the protection of privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties, develop, through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, a training program to enhance the protection, preparedness, and response capabilities of law enforcement agencies with respect to threats of terrorism and other threats, including targeted violence, at a surface transportation asset.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security develops the training program described in subsection (a), such training program shall—

(1) be informed by current information regarding tactics used by terrorists and others engaging in targeted violence;

(2) include tactical instruction tailored to the diverse nature of the surface transportation asset operational environment; and

(3) prioritize training officers from law enforcement agencies that are eligible for or receive grants under sections 2003 or 2004 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604 and 605) and officers employed by railroad carriers that operate passenger service, including interstate passenger service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1870, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2021.

This legislation I introduced seeks to improve information sharing between the Department of Homeland Security and State and local law enforcement in areas with high-risk surface transportation assets.

This bill will enhance security in two key ways.

First, it requires DHS to prioritize the assignment of officers and intelligence analysts to State, local, and regional fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset. To mitigate threats to our critical surface transportation assets, we must ensure that intelligence regarding threats to surface transportation are shared with appropriate stakeholders in a timely manner. This important provision meets that mission, improving the chances of preventing the next attack.

Second, the bill authorizes DHS to develop a training program to enhance the protection, preparedness, and response capabilities of law enforcement agencies that operate at surface transportation assets. Surface transportation systems are unique in their layouts and use, and this training would improve law enforcement capabilities in these settings in a manner that protects civil rights and liberties.

Considering the increase in terrorist attacks in recent years against mass transit systems, bus stations, and passenger rail systems, it is crucial that timely information be shared with local law enforcement and security personnel at transit centers. These surface transportation systems are critical to our way of life, and an attack against one could be devastating.

Enactment of H.R. 1870 would be a significant step toward ensuring we are prepared to mitigate such risk by supplying DHS and State and local law enforcement with the resources they need to meet this homeland security challenge.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1870, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2021.

It is simply not enough for our Federal Government to be prepared for an attempted terrorist attack. We must ensure that our State and local partners are prepared as well.

Nowhere else is this more apparent than in the case of surface transportation. This legislation ensures that the Federal Government is providing sufficient information, intelligence, and training to State and local partners to better defend surface transportation assets.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1870, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from New York closes.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge Members to support this bill, and I congratulate my colleague on it.

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

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1870 is a timely measure, as attackers remain intent on targeting surface transportation systems at this time of heightened threat.

Enacting H.R. 1870 will improve information sharing among DHS and State and local law enforcement agencies, increasing our ability to stop or significantly decrease the harm caused by such attacks.

Madam Speaker, for this reason, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1870, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms.

BARRAGÁN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1870, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2021

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1893) to direct the Transportation Security Administration to develop a transportation security preparedness plan in the event of a communicable disease outbreak, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1893

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 ''Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. SURVEY OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WORKFORCE REGARDING COVID–19 RESPONSE.

(a)SURVEY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator''), in consultation with the labor organization certified as the exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-supervisory Administration personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of title 49, United States Code, shall conduct a survey of the Transportation Security Administration (referred to in this section as the ''Administration'') workforce regarding the Administration's response to the COVID–19 pandemic. Such survey shall be conducted in a manner that allows for the greatest practicable level of workforce participation.

(b)CONTENTS.—In conducting the survey required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall solicit feedback on the following:

(1) The Administration's communication and collaboration with the Administration's workforce regarding the Administration's response to the COVID–19 pandemic and efforts to mitigate and monitor transmission of COVID–19 among its workforce, including through—

(A) providing employees with personal protective equipment and mandating its use;

(B) modifying screening procedures and Administration operations to reduce transmission among officers and passengers and ensuring compliance with such changes;

(C) adjusting policies regarding scheduling, leave, and telework;

(D) outreach as a part of contact tracing when an employee has tested positive for COVID–19; and

(E) encouraging COVID–19 vaccinations and efforts to assist employees that seek to be vaccinated such as communicating the availability of duty time for travel to vaccination sites and recovery from vaccine side effects.

(2) Any other topic determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(c)REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completing the survey required under subsection (a), the Administration shall provide a report summarizing the results of the survey to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 3. TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS PLAN.

(a)PLAN REQUIRED.—Section 114 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(x)TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS PLAN.—

''(1)IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Administrator, in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security and in consultation with the partners identified under paragraphs (3)(A)(i) through (3)(A)(iv), shall develop a transportation security preparedness plan to address the event of a communicable disease outbreak. The Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall ensure such plan aligns with relevant Federal plans and strategies for communicable disease outbreaks.

''(2)CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall consider each of the following:

''(A) The findings of the survey required under section 2 of the Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021.

''(B) All relevant reports and recommendations regarding the Administration's response to the COVID–19 pandemic, including any reports and recommendations issued by the Comptroller General and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

''(C) Lessons learned from Federal interagency efforts during the COVID–19 pandemic.

''(3)CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall include each of the following:

''(A) Plans for communicating and collaborating in the event of a communicable disease outbreak with the following partners:

''(i) Appropriate Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor, and appropriate interagency task forces.

''(ii) The workforce of the Administration, including through the labor organization certified as the exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-supervisory Administration personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of this title.

''(iii) International partners, including the International Civil Aviation Organization and foreign governments, airports, and air carriers.

''(iv) Public and private stakeholders, as such term is defined under subsection (t)(1)(C).

''(v) The traveling public.

''(B) Plans for protecting the safety of the Transportation Security Administration workforce, including—

''(i) reducing the risk of communicable disease transmission at screening checkpoints and within the Administration's workforce related to the Administration's transportation security operations and mission;

''(ii) ensuring the safety and hygiene of screening checkpoints and other workstations;

''(iii) supporting equitable and appropriate access to relevant vaccines, prescriptions, and other medical care; and

''(iv) tracking rates of employee illness, recovery, and death.

''(C) Criteria for determining the conditions that may warrant the integration of additional actions in the aviation screening system in response to the communicable disease outbreak and a range of potential roles and responsibilities that align with such conditions.

''(D) Contingency plans for temporarily adjusting checkpoint operations to provide for passenger and employee safety while maintaining security during the communicable disease outbreak.

''(E) Provisions setting forth criteria for establishing an interagency task force or other standing engagement platform with other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Transportation, to address such communicable disease outbreak.

''(F) A description of scenarios in which the Administrator should consider exercising authorities provided under subsection (g) and for what purposes.

''(G) Considerations for assessing the appropriateness of issuing security directives and emergency amendments to regulated parties in various modes of transportation, including surface transportation, and plans for ensuring compliance with such measures.

''(H) A description of any potential obstacles, including funding constraints and limitations to authorities, that could restrict the ability of the Administration to respond appropriately to a communicable disease outbreak.

''(4)DISSEMINATION.—Upon development of the plan required under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall disseminate the plan to the partners identified under paragraph (3)(A) and to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

''(5)REVIEW OF PLAN.—Not later than two years after the date on which the plan is disseminated under paragraph (4), and biennially thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator and in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, shall review the plan and, after consultation with the partners identified under paragraphs (3)(A)(i) through (3)(A)(iv), update the plan as appropriate.''.

(b)COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which the transportation security preparedness plan required under subsection (x) of section 114 of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), is disseminated under paragraph (4) of such subsection (x), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of a study assessing the transportation security preparedness plan, including an analysis of—

(1) whether such plan aligns with relevant Federal plans and strategies for communicable disease outbreaks; and

(2) the extent to which the Transportation Security Administration is prepared to implement the plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1893, the Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021.

Since the start of the COVID–19 pandemic, more than 8,200 TSA employees have contracted coronavirus. Tragically, 17 hardworking frontline workers have lost their lives.

While TSA has taken steps to shield its workers and adjust security operations during the pandemic, its COVID–19 response was ranked low in employee surveys. More must be done to make sure TSA is adequately prepared for future disease outbreaks.

H.R. 1893 directs TSA to apply the lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic to protect its workforce and the traveling public during future disease outbreaks.

To do so, TSA is required to survey its workforce in more detail regarding pandemic response to ascertain areas for improvement that can be integrated into a transportation security preparedness plan for future pandemics. Specifically, the survey will examine TSA's efforts to communicate clearly with its workforce, protect employees with personal protective equipment, adjust workplace policies, engage in contact tracing, and facilitate COVID–19 vaccinations for workers.

TSA is then directed to integrate the information it collects into a transportation security preparedness plan that sets forth how TSA will respond to future pandemics, including how it will protect its workforce, communicate and collaborate with public and private entities, and adjust checkpoint operations to maintain security without compromising health and safety.

TSA is also required to assess what barriers remain to its ability to respond to the next disease outbreak.

H.R. 1893 will ensure that TSA will be able to respond quickly and effectively to prevent the next disease outbreak.

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

□ 1230

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1893, the Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021.

Our dedicated TSA workforce is critical in protecting our Nation's transportation system. This legislation will ensure that the voices of those frontline workers who have served tirelessly during the COVID–19 pandemic are heard as TSA improves its preparedness and protection of the transportation system in the face of future public health threats.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1893.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge Members to support the bill of my good friend, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, the sponsor of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as the American people return to air travel in greater numbers, it is essential that TSA plan for the future and use the lessons we have learned during COVID–19 to ensure that TSA responds more quickly and effectively to the next major public health crisis.

H.R. 1893 will allow TSA to reflect on the successes and the missteps of the past year and a half and create a concrete plan of action to protect workers and passengers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1893, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1893.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2021

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1895) to enhance the preparedness of the Transportation Security Administration for public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1895

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 ''Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1)ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2)APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(3)DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4)STERILE AREA.—The term ''sterile area'' has the meaning given such term in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5)TSA.—The term ''TSA'' means the Transportation Security Administration.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF TSA PERSONNEL DETAILS.

(a)COORDINATION.—Pursuant to sections 106(m) and 114(m) of title 49, United States Code, the Administrator may provide TSA personnel, who are not engaged in front line transportation security efforts, to other components of the Department and other Federal agencies to improve coordination with such components and agencies to prepare for, protect against, and respond to public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States.

(b)BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding efforts to improve coordination with other components of the Department and other Federal agencies to prepare for, protect against, and respond to public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States.

SEC. 4. TSA PREPAREDNESS.

(a)ANALYSIS.—

(1)IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct an analysis of preparedness of the transportation security system of the United States for public health threats. Such analysis shall assess, at a minimum, the following:

(A) The risks of public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States, including to transportation hubs, transportation security stakeholders, TSA personnel, and passengers.

(B) Information sharing challenges among relevant components of the Department, other Federal agencies, international entities, and transportation security stakeholders.

(C) Impacts to TSA policies and procedures for securing the transportation security system.

(2)COORDINATION.—The analysis conducted of the risks described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be conducted in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and transportation security stakeholders.

(b)BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(1) The analysis required under subsection (a).

(2) Technologies necessary to combat public health threats at security screening checkpoints to better protect from future public health threats TSA personnel, passengers, aviation workers, and other personnel authorized to access the sterile area of an airport through such checkpoints, and the estimated cost of technology investments needed to fully implement across the aviation system solutions to such threats.

(3) Policies and procedures implemented by TSA and transportation security stakeholders to protect from public health threats TSA personnel, passengers, aviation workers, and other personnel authorized to access the sterile area through the security screening checkpoints, as well as future plans for

additional measures relating to such protection.

(4) The role of TSA in establishing priorities, developing solutions, and coordinating and sharing information with relevant domestic and international entities during a public health threat to the transportation security system, and how TSA can improve its leadership role in such areas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1895, the Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act of 2021.

Protecting our Nation's transportation workforce and the traveling public is front of mind as we attempt to emerge from the COVID–19 pandemic with the looming threat of new variants of the virus.

H.R. 1895 seeks to ensure U.S. transportation systems are better prepared for public health threats by having TSA conduct a study on public health risks in concert with other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, and industry stakeholders.

Specifically, this bill enhances these efforts, requiring TSA to assess the risk of public health threats to the Nation's transportation security systems and analyze the agency's preparedness to respond to them.

The bill also allows TSA to reassign personnel not engaged in frontline transportation security efforts to other government agencies to improve intergovernmental coordination and response efforts.

I applaud my colleague from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ) for this timely legislation that prioritizes the health and safety of the traveling public and frontline transportation workers, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1895, the Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act of 2021.

The COVID–19 pandemic tested every aspect of our Nation's infrastructure. The nature of a global pandemic has brought into focus the impact that transportation systems can have on the spread or control of such pandemics.

This legislation, sponsored by my friend and colleague, Mr. GIMENEZ, ensures that the risks of the COVID–19 pandemic are analyzed by TSA and that it takes the appropriate steps to be prepared should another public health emergency ever occur.

Given the importance of the transportation system in the economy and everyday life of this country, it is paramount that the Federal Government ensure better preparedness and resilience of the system.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of H.R. 1895.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 1895, the Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act. This is an important piece of legislation that will help ensure America's transportation systems are better prepared for future public health threats. The current COVID–19 pandemic has only further underscored the importance of keeping our TSA officers safe.

Specifically, this bill directs TSA to conduct an analysis of looming public health risks to all components of our transportation systems, working with the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, and its transportation stakeholders. The analysis will describe TSA's security checkpoint policies and procedures to protect TSA personnel, passengers, aviation workers, and airport personnel from public health threats.

Additionally, this bill instructs TSA to brief Congress on this analysis following its conclusion so that we may rectify or codify any important recommendations so we can protect our officers and our transportation systems from public health risks.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues who joined me on this legislation, and I urge the House to swiftly pass this bill.

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

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, enactment of H.R. 1895 will support our efforts to mitigate future public health threats to our Nation's transportation systems.

We have witnessed the daunting effects of the pandemic over the past year and must be prepared for future public health threats to avoid repeating the same tragedies again.

Ensuring TSA is equipped with the right information on public health threats and prepared to combat them with interagency coordination will be essential to protecting our transportation system, transportation workers, and the traveling public. This bill furthers that effort.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1895, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1895.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

SECURITY SCREENING DURING COVID–19 ACT

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1877) to require the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to improve security screening procedures at airports during the COVID–19 national emergency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1877

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 ''Security Screening During COVID–19 Act''.

SEC. 2. PLAN.

(a)IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall issue and commence implementing a plan to enhance, as appropriate, security operations at airports during the COVID–19 national emergency in order to reduce risk of the spread of the coronavirus at passenger screening checkpoints and among the TSA workforce.

(b)CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of best practices developed in response to the coronavirus among foreign governments, airports, and air carriers conducting aviation security screening operations, as well as among Federal agencies conducting similar security screening operations outside of airports, including in locations where the spread of the coronavirus has been successfully contained, that could be further integrated into the United States aviation security system.

(2) Specific operational changes to aviation security screening operations informed by the identification of best practices under paragraph (1) that could be implemented without degrading aviation security and a corresponding timeline and costs for implementing such changes.

(c)CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the identification of best practices under subsection

(b), the Administrator shall take into consideration the following:

(1) Aviation security screening procedures and practices in place at security screening locations, including procedures and practices implemented in response to the coronavirus.

(2) Volume and average wait times at each such security screening location.

(3) Public health measures already in place at each such security screening location.

(4) The feasibility and effectiveness of implementing similar procedures and practices in locations where such are not already in place.

(5) The feasibility and potential benefits to security, public health, and travel facilitation of continuing any procedures and practices implemented in response to the COVID–19 national emergency beyond the end of such emergency.

(d)CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator may consult with public and private stakeholders and the TSA workforce, including through the labor organization certified as the exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-supervisory TSA personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of title 49, U.S. Code.

(e)SUBMISSION.—Upon issuance of the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit the plan to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(f)ISSUANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator shall not be required to issue or implement, as the case may be, the plan required under subsection (a) upon the termination of the COVID–19 national emergency except to the extent the Administrator determines such issuance or implementation, as the case may be, to be feasible and beneficial to security screening operations.

(g)GAO REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the issuance of the plan required under subsection (a) (if such plan is issued in accordance with subsection (f)), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review, if appropriate, of such plan and any efforts to implement such plan.

(h)DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1)ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2)CORONAVIRUS.—The term ''coronavirus'' has the meaning given such term in section 506 of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123).

(3)COVID–19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—The term ''COVID–19 national emergency'' means the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) on March 13, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus.

(4)PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS.—The term ''public and private stakeholders'' has the meaning given such term in section 114(t)(1)(C) of title 49, United States Code.

(5)TSA.—The term ''TSA'' means the Transportation Security Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1877, the Security Screening During COVID–19 Act.

This legislation, introduced by my colleague from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), directs the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to reduce the spread of the COVID–19 virus at passenger screening checkpoints and among the TSA workforce.

To date, over 8,200 TSA employees have tested positive for the coronavirus, and tragically, 17 workers have died from the disease.

As Americans begin to travel again, we must take steps to guarantee the safety of critical frontline workers and air passengers from the dangers posed by the virus, including the delta variant and other variants that could come our way.

Under H.R. 1877, the TSA Administrator would coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security's Chief Medical Officer, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC to develop a plan that identifies best practices among foreign governments, airports, air carriers, and other Federal agencies regarding COVID–19. Together, they will pinpoint specific operational challenges that TSA can make to further reduce the spread of the coronavirus at airports across the Nation, building on the actions TSA has taken over the past year.

COVID–19 has made it clear that public health is a global issue that requires a global response. That is why the United States must work with our international partners on how best to stop the spread of disease in transportation security settings, end this pandemic, and prevent future outbreaks.

TSA routinely participates in the international exchange of information to enhance global aviation security, share its expertise, and reduce threats across the globe.

Given the unprecedented challenge of the COVID–19 pandemic to today's air travel environment, TSA must capitalize on its international partnerships to identify new ways to enhance its security operations and contain this virus. H.R. 1877 will push TSA to do just that to protect the workforce and passengers.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1877, the Security Screening During COVID–19 Act.

The COVID–19 pandemic has tested our Nation's preparedness on many fronts. Like in so many other areas, it is important that we emerge from this pandemic stronger than when it started. This legislation seeks to make our aviation security more resilient by requiring TSA to develop a plan for screening operations during the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1877. I congratulate my colleague and friend from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I urge Members to support this bill and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1877 received unanimous support in our committee because it is a commonsense legislation that will keep Americans safe. The coronavirus pandemic is not yet over, and TSA must work with national and international partners to implement new strategies to stop the spread of disease and prepare for the future.

The Security Screening During COVID–19 Act will push TSA to build upon its current efforts to ensure the agency is doing everything possible to protect the workforce and passengers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1877, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1877, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY TRANSPARENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1871) to improve the understanding and clarity of Transportation Security Administration policies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1871

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 ''Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION; INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SECURITY.

(a)SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION.—

(1)IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) shall—

(A) ensure clear and consistent designation of ''Sensitive Security Information'', including reasonable security justifications for such designation;

(B) develop and implement a schedule to regularly review and update, as necessary, TSA Sensitive Security Information Identification guidelines;

(C) develop a tracking mechanism for all Sensitive Security Information redaction and designation challenges;

(D) document justifications for changes in position regarding Sensitive Security Information redactions and designations, and make such changes accessible to TSA personnel for use with relevant stakeholders, including air carriers, airport operators, surface transportation operators, and State and local law enforcement, as necessary; and

(E) ensure that TSA personnel are adequately trained on appropriate designation policies.

(2)STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) shall conduct outreach to relevant stakeholders described in paragraph (1)(D) that regularly are granted access to Sensitive Security Information to raise awareness of the TSA's policies and guidelines governing the designation and use of Sensitive Security Information.

(b)INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SECURITY.—

(1)IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop and implement guidelines with respect to last point of departure airports to—

(A) ensure the inclusion, as appropriate, of air carriers and other transportation security stakeholders in the development and implementation of security directives and emergency amendments;

(B) document input provided by air carriers and other transportation security stakeholders during the security directive and emergency amendment, development, and implementation processes;

(C) define a process, including time frames, and with the inclusion of feedback from air carriers and other transportation security stakeholders, for cancelling or incorporating security directives and emergency amendments into security programs;

(D) conduct engagement with foreign partners on the implementation of security directives and emergency amendments, as appropriate, including recognition if existing security measures at a last point of departure airport are found to provide commensurate security as intended by potential new security directives and emergency amendments; and

(E) ensure that new security directives and emergency amendments are focused on defined security outcomes.

(2)BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the guidelines described in paragraph (1).

(3)DECISIONS NOT SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any action of the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under paragraph (1) is not subject to judicial review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

□ 1245

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1871, the Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act. This bipartisan legislation, as introduced by my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP), will ensure consistent standards and improve procedures for designating sensitive security information at TSA.

Sensitive security information, known as SSI, is information that if publicly released would be detrimental to transportation security. Just like with classified information, those who are granted access to SSI have a special obligation to safeguard it and face penalties if they fail to do so. Given these stakes, it is important that TSA apply consistent standards when designating SSI. This bill will not only require TSA to maintain those clear standards, but also develop a schedule to regularly review its SSI guidelines, develop a tracking mechanism for SSI redaction challenges, and conduct additional outreach with aviation stakeholders on SSI guidelines. These reforms will improve transparency at TSA.

H.R. 1871 has the potential to enhance TSA's work to secure last-points-of-departure airports by requiring TSA to include air carriers and other stakeholders in the development of security directives and emergency amendments affecting such airports and to engage with foreign partners on their implementation.

By including industry and international perspectives in this process, H.R. 1871 will ensure TSA's efforts to secure flights from foreign airports are effective.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1871, the Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act. Clarity and transparency are important everywhere in government, and the TSA is no exception. This bill will ensure that TSA creates a more consistent and transparent system for determining what qualifies as sensitive security information, or SSI. It further requires TSA to work closely with transportation stakeholders in the development, review, and implementation of new requirements, known as security directives, or SDs, and emergency amendments, or EAs.

It is critical that TSA works hand in glove with our transportation industry to ensure the safest, most efficient travel for all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1871, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from New York closes. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act is a commonsense solution to strengthen national security and promote communication with stakeholders. Involving stakeholders in policymaking is the most effective way to implement trustworthy and efficient decisions. As any stakeholder will tell you, information sharing is critical.

My bill will improve consistency in TSA's designation and redaction of materials as sensitive security information, as well as address the security directive and emergency amendment process and its impacts on international aviation security. My bill will also ensure clear and consistent designations and emphasize TSA's outreach with carriers and local law enforcement to promote information sharing.

Finally, the Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act will instruct the TSA Administrator to implement guidelines to ensure all security and safety measures are being met. This legislation will undoubtedly improve aviation security by ensuring TSA clearly communicates critical security information to transportation security stakeholders.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge Members to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act is a bipartisan and commonsense bill that will improve TSA's operations.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1871, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1871.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

DHS BLUE CAMPAIGN ENHANCEMENT ACT

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2795) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Blue Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2795

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 ''DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN ENHANCEMENT.

Section 434 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 242) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(6), by striking ''utilizing resources,'' and inserting ''developing and utilizing, in consultation with the Advisory Board established pursuant to subsection (g), resources''; and

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

''(f)WEB-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS.—To enhance training opportunities, the Director of the Blue Campaign shall develop web-based interactive training videos that utilize a learning management system to provide online training opportunities that shall be made available to the following individuals:

''(1) Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers.

''(2) Non-Federal correction system personnel.

''(3) Such other individuals as the Director determines appropriate.

''(g)BLUE CAMPAIGN ADVISORY BOARD.—

''(1)IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a Blue Campaign Advisory Board and shall assign to such Board a representative from each of the following components:

''(A) The Transportation Security Administration.

''(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(C) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

''(D) The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

''(E) The United States Secret Service.

''(F) The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

''(G) The Privacy Office.

''(H) Any other components or offices the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(2)CHARTER.—The Secretary is authorized to issue a charter for the Board, and such charter shall specify the following:

''(A) The Board's mission, goals, and scope of its activities.

''(B) The duties of the Board's representatives.

''(C) The frequency of the Board's meetings.

''(3)CONSULTATION.—The Director shall consult the Board established pursuant to paragraph (1) regarding the following:

''(A) Recruitment tactics used by human traffickers to inform the development of training and materials by the Blue Campaign.

''(B) The development of effective awareness tools for distribution to Federal and non-Federal officials to identify and prevent instances of human trafficking.

''(C) Identification of additional persons or entities that may be uniquely positioned to recognize signs of human trafficking and the development of materials for such persons.

''(4)APPLICABILITY.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to—

''(A) the Board; or

''(B) consultations under paragraph (2).

''(h)CONSULTATION.—With regard to the development of programs under the Blue Campaign and the implementation of such programs, the Director is authorized to consult with State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, and experts. Such consultation shall be exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign is dedicated to raising awareness about the often-concealed crime of human trafficking. Each year, there are thousands of victims of human trafficking in the U.S. with numbers steadily increasing over the last 20 years. Traffickers subject their victims to forced labor, debt bondage, or sexual exploitation by using violence, manipulation, or false promises.

The DHS Blue Campaign works to combat this crime by educating law enforcement and the public on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking. Through outreach to local communities, industry partners, and law enforcement authorities, the Blue Campaign seeks to build on a foundation of human trafficking prevention and protection.

The tactics and techniques that human traffickers use are evolving. It is crucial for the Federal Government to foster awareness in a sustained way and educate Americans on the indicators of human trafficking to identify victims.

H.R. 2795, the DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act, would build upon the existing Blue Campaign by focusing on enhancing human trafficking prevention training opportunities and improving the development of such trainings and material. Specifically, H.R. 2795 would create an advisory board which brings together representatives throughout DHS to provide guidance on recruitment tactics used by human traffickers and inform the development of awareness tools.

It would also require the Blue Campaign to create web-based training videos to reach the widest possible audience of law enforcement officers and correction system personnel, among others. H.R. 2795 has bipartisan support and was reported out of committee by unanimous consent.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2021.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: This letter is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 2795, the ''DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act,'' that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 2795, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, May 26, 2021.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2795, the ''DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act.'' I recognize that the Committee on the Judiciary has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 2795, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 2795 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working

with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this Nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman,
Committee on Homeland Security.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2795, the DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act. As vice-ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, I know how important it is for us to approach protecting this great Nation in a comprehensive manner by tackling all types of threats, including: hackers, terrorists, violent criminals, and human traffickers.

Criminal organizations use human trafficking to fund their operations by defrauding, coercing, and exploiting both adults and children, forcing them into labor and commercial sex acts. The DHS Blue Campaign enables and empowers the DHS workforce and customer-facing industries they work with—industries such as airlines—to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and take the proper steps to alert authorities.

H.R. 2795 enhances the Department's existing training opportunities by developing internet-based training programs to train Federal, State, local, Tribal law enforcement officers, and others as part of the Department's Blue Campaign. This important piece of legislation also established the Blue Campaign Advisory Board within the Department to coordinate Blue Campaign efforts and work cohesively to combat human trafficking.

Empowering State and local law enforcement to recognize potential human trafficking is the first step in helping them assist these victims, many of whom have been told that they have broken the law and can't seek police assistance by their traffickers. H.R. 2795 does this and helps disrupt these criminal networks, which is an important component in dismantling criminals and the terrorists financing their acts around the world.

I want to thank Representative MEIJER for his leadership, and Chairman THOMPSON for moving this legislation out of committee, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill to further secure the homeland.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from Mississippi closes. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER).

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2795, the DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act. This bill, which I am proud to have introduced with my colleague, the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability, Representative CORREA, has one very specific goal, to combat human trafficking.

According to the Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report, every year, around the world tens of thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked, including far too many right here in the United States. Human traffickers use fraud and coercion to compel people into situations of forced labor or sexual exploitation. False promises of well-paying jobs, romantic relationships, and violence are all methods used by human traffickers. Victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality and from any socioeconomic background.

To curb this horrific practice, we must use a multipronged approach, and a critical component to this strategy is ensuring that law enforcement personnel and employees in customer-facing industries are trained to identify a potential victim of human trafficking by recognizing key indicators and taking appropriate action.

DHS started the Blue Campaign in 2010 to do just that; to unify and coordinate Department efforts to address human trafficking. The Blue Campaign enables and empowers the DHS workforce and the industries they work with—including airlines and the public—to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and take steps to alert the appropriate authorities.

My bill, the DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act, bolsters these efforts by creating an advisory board to inform and coordinate training among the DHS components to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the training that DHS provides for its personnel, its industries, and State and local law enforcement partners.

This legislation also increases the online trainings that DHS will provide, enabling the Department to reach a broader audience more quickly.

I would like to thank my good friend from California (Mr. CORREA) for joining me in this effort and supporting this important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to approve this bill and help DHS do its part to combat human trafficking.

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge Members to support this bill.

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

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

Madam Speaker, DHS is uniquely positioned to address human trafficking through the Blue Campaign. H.R. 2795 seeks to build upon the success of the Blue Campaign, which was first established in August 2010, and to bolster human trafficking awareness by ensuring that public-facing materials remain as current and accessible as possible. This is a worthwhile endeavor.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2795, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

□ 1300

STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3138) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a grant program relating to the cybersecurity of State and local governments, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3138

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 ''State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

''SEC. 2220A. STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CYBER THREAT INDICATOR.—The term 'cyber threat indicator' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).

''(2) CYBERSECURITY PLAN.—The term 'Cybersecurity Plan' means a plan submitted by an eligible entity under subsection (e)(1).

''(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a State; or

''(B) an Indian tribe that, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section or not later than 120 days before the start of any fiscal year in which a grant under this section is awarded—

''(i) notifies the Secretary that the Indian tribe intends to develop a Cybersecurity Plan; and

''(ii) agrees to forfeit any distribution under subsection (n)(2).

''(4) INCIDENT.—The term 'incident' has the meaning given the term in section 2209.

''(5) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Indian tribe' or 'Tribal organization' has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

''(6) INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS ORGANIZATION.—The term 'information sharing and analysis organization' has the meaning given the term in section 2222.

''(7) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term 'information system' has the meaning given the

term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).

''(8) ONLINE SERVICE.—The term 'online service' means any internet-facing service, including a website, email, virtual private network, or custom application.

''(9) RANSOMWARE INCIDENT.—The term 'ransomware incident' means an incident that actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information on an information system, or actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, an information system for the purpose of coercing the information system's owner, operator, or another person.

''(10) STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.—The term 'State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program' means the program established under subsection (b).

''(11) STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE.—The term 'State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee' means the committee established under subsection (o)(1).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall establish a program, to be known as the 'the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program', to award grants to eligible entities to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations.

''(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) BASELINE REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible entity or multistate group that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant in compliance with—

''(1)(A) the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity or the Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group; and

''(B) the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments developed under section 2210(e)(1); or

''(2) activities carried out under paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (h).

''(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program shall be administered in the same office of the Department that administers grants made under sections 2003 and 2004.

''(e) CYBERSECURITY PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity applying for a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a Cybersecurity Plan for approval.

''(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A Cybersecurity Plan of an eligible entity shall—

''(A) incorporate, to the extent practicable, any existing plans of the eligible entity to protect against cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations;

''(B) describe, to the extent practicable, how the eligible entity will—

''(i) manage, monitor, and track information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of the eligible entity or by local or Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity and the information technology deployed on those information systems, including legacy information systems and information technology that are no longer supported by the manufacturer of the systems or technology;

''(ii) monitor, audit, and track activity between information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of the eligible entity or by local or Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity and between those information systems and information systems not owned or operated by the eligible entity or by local or Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(iii) enhance the preparation, response, and resilience of information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of the eligible entity or local or Tribal organizations against cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats;

''(iv) implement a process of continuous cybersecurity vulnerability assessments and threat mitigation practices prioritized by degree of risk to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats on information systems of the eligible entity or local or Tribal organizations;

''(v) ensure that State, local, and Tribal organizations that own or operate information systems that are located within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity—

''(I) adopt best practices and methodologies to enhance cybersecurity, such as the practices set forth in the cybersecurity framework developed by, and the cyber supply chain risk management best practices identified by, the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

''(II) utilize knowledge bases of adversary tools and tactics to assess risk;

''(vi) promote the delivery of safe, recognizable, and trustworthy online services by State, local, and Tribal organizations, including through the use of the .gov internet domain;

''(vii) ensure continuity of operations of the eligible entity and local, and Tribal organizations in the event of a cybersecurity incident (including a ransomware incident), including by conducting exercises to practice responding to such an incident;

''(viii) use the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education Cybersecurity Workforce Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to identify and mitigate any gaps in the cybersecurity workforces of State, local, or Tribal organizations, enhance recruitment and retention efforts for such workforces, and bolster the knowledge, skills, and abilities of State, local, and Tribal organization personnel to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats, such as through cybersecurity hygiene training;

''(ix) ensure continuity of communications and data networks within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity between the eligible entity and local and Tribal organizations that own or operate information systems within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity in the event of an incident involving such communications or data networks within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(x) assess and mitigate, to the greatest degree possible, cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats related to critical infrastructure and key resources, the degradation of which may impact the performance of information systems within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(xi) enhance capabilities to share cyber threat indicators and related information between the eligible entity and local and Tribal organizations that own or operate information systems within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, including by expanding existing information sharing agreements with the Department;

''(xii) enhance the capability of the eligible entity to share cyber threat indictors and related information with the Department;

''(xiii) leverage cybersecurity services offered by the Department;

''(xiv) develop and coordinate strategies to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of the eligible entity in consultation with—

''(I) local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

''(II) as applicable—

''(aa) States that neighbor the jurisdiction of the eligible entity or, as appropriate, members of an information sharing and analysis organization; and

''(bb) countries that neighbor the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

''(xv) implement an information technology and operational technology modernization cybersecurity review process that ensures alignment between information technology and operational technology cybersecurity objectives;

''(C) describe, to the extent practicable, the individual responsibilities of the eligible entity and local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity in implementing the plan;

''(D) outline, to the extent practicable, the necessary resources and a timeline for implementing the plan; and

''(E) describe how the eligible entity will measure progress towards implementing the plan.

''(3) DISCRETIONARY ELEMENTS.—A Cybersecurity Plan of an eligible entity may include a description of—

''(A) cooperative programs developed by groups of local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats; and

''(B) programs provided by the eligible entity to support local and Tribal organizations and owners and operators of critical infrastructure to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats.

''(4) MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity applying for a grant under this section shall agree to designate the Chief Information Officer, the Chief Information Security Officer, or an equivalent official of the eligible entity as the primary official for the management and allocation of funds awarded under this section.

''(f) MULTISTATE GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, may award grants under this section to a group of two or more eligible entities to support multistate efforts to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems within the jurisdictions of the eligible entities.

''(2) SATISFACTION OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In order to be eligible for a multistate grant under this subsection, each eligible entity that comprises a multistate group shall submit to the Secretary—

''(A) a Cybersecurity Plan for approval in accordance with subsection (i); and

''(B) a plan for establishing a cybersecurity planning committee under subsection (g).

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A multistate group applying for a multistate grant under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(B) MULTISTATE PROJECT DESCRIPTION.—An application of a multistate group under subparagraph (A) shall include a plan describing—

''(i) the division of responsibilities among the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group for administering the grant for which application is being made;

''(ii) the distribution of funding from such a grant among the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group; and

''(iii) how the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group will work together to implement the Cybersecurity Plan of each of those eligible entities.

''(g) PLANNING COMMITTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall establish a cybersecurity planning committee to—

''(A) assist in the development, implementation, and revision of the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity;

''(B) approve the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity; and

''(C) assist in the determination of effective funding priorities for a grant under this section in accordance with subsection (h).

''(2) COMPOSITION.—A committee of an eligible entity established under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) be comprised of representatives from the eligible entity and counties, cities, towns, Tribes, and public educational and health institutions within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

''(B) include, as appropriate, representatives of rural, suburban, and high-population jurisdictions.

''(3) CYBERSECURITY EXPERTISE.—Not less than ½ of the representatives of a committee established under paragraph (1) shall have professional experience relating to cybersecurity or information technology.

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING EXISTING PLANNING COMMITTEES.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to require an eligible entity to establish a cybersecurity planning committee if the eligible entity has established and uses a multijurisdictional planning committee or commission that meets, or may be leveraged to meet, the requirements of this subsection.

''(h) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant to—

''(1) implement the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity;

''(2) develop or revise the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity; or

''(3) assist with activities that address imminent cybersecurity risks or cybersecurity threats to the information systems of the eligible entity or a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

''(i) APPROVAL OF PLANS.—

''(1) APPROVAL AS CONDITION OF GRANT.—Before an eligible entity may receive a grant under this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall review the Cybersecurity Plan, or any revisions thereto, of the eligible entity and approve such plan, or revised plan, if it satisfies the requirements specified in paragraph (2).

''(2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—In approving a Cybersecurity Plan of an eligible entity under this subsection, the Director shall ensure that the Cybersecurity Plan—

''(A) satisfies the requirements of subsection (e)(2);

''(B) upon the issuance of the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments authorized pursuant to section 2210(e), complies, as appropriate, with the goals and objectives of the strategy; and

''(C) has been approved by the cybersecurity planning committee of the eligible entity established under subsection (g).

''(3) APPROVAL OF REVISIONS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, may approve revisions to a Cybersecurity Plan as the Director determines appropriate.

''(4) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (e) and paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary may award a grant under this section to an eligible entity that does not submit a Cybersecurity Plan to the Secretary if—

''(A) the eligible entity certifies to the Secretary that—

''(i) the activities that will be supported by the grant are integral to the development of the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity; and

''(ii) the eligible entity will submit by September 30, 2023, to the Secretary a Cybersecurity Plan for review, and if appropriate, approval; or

''(B) the eligible entity certifies to the Secretary, and the Director confirms, that the eligible entity will use funds from the grant to assist with the activities described in subsection (h)(3).

''(j) LIMITATIONS ON USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may not use the grant—

''(A) to supplant State, local, or Tribal funds;

''(B) for any recipient cost-sharing contribution;

''(C) to pay a demand for ransom in an attempt to—

''(i) regain access to information or an information system of the eligible entity or of a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; or

''(ii) prevent the disclosure of information that has been removed without authorization from an information system of the eligible entity or of a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(D) for recreational or social purposes; or

''(E) for any purpose that does not address cybersecurity risks or cybersecurity threats on information systems of the eligible entity or of a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

''(2) PENALTIES.—In addition to any other remedy available, the Secretary may take such actions as are necessary to ensure that a recipient of a grant under this section uses the grant for the purposes for which the grant is awarded.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to prohibit the use of grant funds provided to a State, local, or Tribal organization for otherwise permissible uses under this section on the basis that a State, local, or Tribal organization has previously used State, local, or Tribal funds to support the same or similar uses.

''(k) OPPORTUNITY TO AMEND APPLICATIONS.—In considering applications for grants under this section, the Secretary shall provide applicants with a reasonable opportunity to correct defects, if any, in such applications before making final awards.

''(l) APPORTIONMENT.—For fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall apportion amounts appropriated to carry out this section among States as follows:

''(1) BASELINE AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall first apportion 0.25 percent of such amounts to each of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 0.75 percent of such amounts to each of the remaining States.

''(2) REMAINDER.—The Secretary shall apportion the remainder of such amounts in the ratio that—

''(A) the population of each eligible entity, bears to

''(B) the population of all eligible entities.

''(3) MINIMUM ALLOCATION TO INDIAN TRIBES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In apportioning amounts under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, for each fiscal year, directly eligible Tribes collectively receive, from amounts appropriated under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, not less than an amount equal to three percent of the total amount appropriated for grants under this section.

''(B) ALLOCATION.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), funds shall be allocated in a manner determined by the Secretary in consultation with Indian tribes.

''(C) EXCEPTION.—This paragraph shall not apply in any fiscal year in which the Secretary—

''(i) receives fewer than five applications from Indian tribes; or

''(ii) does not approve at least two applications from Indian tribes.

''(m) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of an activity carried out using funds made available with a grant under this section may not exceed—

''(A) in the case of a grant to an eligible entity—

''(i) for fiscal year 2022, 90 percent;

''(ii) for fiscal year 2023, 80 percent;

''(iii) for fiscal year 2024, 70 percent;

''(iv) for fiscal year 2025, 60 percent; and

''(v) for fiscal year 2026 and each subsequent fiscal year, 50 percent; and

''(B) in the case of a grant to a multistate group—

''(i) for fiscal year 2022, 95 percent;

''(ii) for fiscal year 2023, 85 percent;

''(iii) for fiscal year 2024, 75 percent;

''(iv) for fiscal year 2025, 65 percent; and

''(v) for fiscal year 2026 and each subsequent fiscal year, 55 percent.

''(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive or modify the requirements of paragraph (1) for an Indian tribe if the Secretary determines such a waiver is in the public interest.

''(n) RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANTEES.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION.—Each eligible entity or multistate group that receives a grant under this section shall certify to the Secretary that the grant will be used—

''(A) for the purpose for which the grant is awarded; and

''(B) in compliance with, as the case may be—

''(i) the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity;

''(ii) the Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group; or

''(iii) a purpose approved by the Secretary under subsection (h) or pursuant to an exception under subsection (i).

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO LOCAL AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which an eligible entity or multistate group receives a grant under this section, the eligible entity or multistate group shall, without imposing unreasonable or unduly burdensome requirements as a condition of receipt, obligate or otherwise make available to local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity or the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group, and as applicable, consistent with the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity or the Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group—

''(A) not less than 80 percent of funds available under the grant;

''(B) with the consent of the local and Tribal organizations, items, services, capabilities, or activities having a value of not less than 80 percent of the amount of the grant; or

''(C) with the consent of the local and Tribal organizations, grant funds combined with other items, services, capabilities, or activities having the total value of not less than 80 percent of the amount of the grant.

''(3) CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT FUNDS TO LOCAL AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible entity or multistate group shall certify to the Secretary that the eligible entity or multistate group has made the distribution to local,

Tribal, and territorial governments required under paragraph (2).

''(4) EXTENSION OF PERIOD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity or multistate group may request in writing that the Secretary extend the period of time specified in paragraph (2) for an additional period of time.

''(B) APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a request for an extension under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines the extension is necessary to ensure that the obligation and expenditure of grant funds align with the purpose of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

''(5) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or an Indian tribe.

''(6) DIRECT FUNDING.—If an eligible entity does not make a distribution to a local or Tribal organization required in accordance with paragraph (2), the local or Tribal organization may petition the Secretary to request that grant funds be provided directly to the local or Tribal organization.

''(7) PENALTIES.—In addition to other remedies available to the Secretary, the Secretary may terminate or reduce the amount of a grant awarded under this section to an eligible entity or distribute grant funds previously awarded to such eligible entity directly to the appropriate local or Tribal organization as a replacement grant in an amount the Secretary determines appropriate if such eligible entity violates a requirement of this subsection.

''(o) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director shall establish a State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee to provide State, local, and Tribal stakeholder expertise, situational awareness, and recommendations to the Director, as appropriate, regarding how to—

''(A) address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations; and

''(B) improve the ability of State, local, and Tribal organizations to prevent, protect against, respond to, mitigate, and recover from such cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats.

''(2) DUTIES.—The committee established under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) submit to the Director recommendations that may inform guidance for applicants for grants under this section;

''(B) upon the request of the Director, provide to the Director technical assistance to inform the review of Cybersecurity Plans submitted by applicants for grants under this section, and, as appropriate, submit to the Director recommendations to improve those plans prior to the approval of the plans under subsection (i);

''(C) advise and provide to the Director input regarding the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve Cybersecurity for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments required under section 2210;

''(D) upon the request of the Director, provide to the Director recommendations, as appropriate, regarding how to—

''(i) address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats on information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations; and

''(ii) improve the cybersecurity resilience of State, local, or Tribal organizations; and

''(E) regularly coordinate with the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government Coordinating Council, within the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council, established under section 871.

''(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Director, as follows:

''(i) Two individuals recommended to the Director by the National Governors Association.

''(ii) Two individuals recommended to the Director by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

''(iii) One individual recommended to the Director by the National Guard Bureau.

''(iv) Two individuals recommended to the Director by the National Association of Counties.

''(v) One individual recommended to the Director by the National League of Cities.

''(vi) One individual recommended to the Director by the United States Conference of Mayors.

''(vii) One individual recommended to the Director by the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

''(viii) One individual recommended to the Director by the National Congress of American Indians.

''(viii) Four individuals who have educational and professional experience relating to cybersecurity work or cybersecurity policy.

''(B) TERMS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), each member of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years.

''(ii) REQUIREMENT.—At least two members of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall also be members of the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government Coordinating Council, within the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council, established under section 871.

''(iii) EXCEPTION.—A term of a member of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be three years if the member is appointed initially to the Committee upon the establishment of the Committee.

''(iv) TERM REMAINDERS.—Any member of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of such member's term until a successor has taken office.

''(v) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

''(C) PAY.—Members of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall serve without pay.

''(4) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall select a chairperson and vice chairperson from among members of the committee.

''(5) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be a permanent authority.

''(p) REPORTS.—

''(1) ANNUAL REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after an eligible entity or multistate group receives funds under this section, the eligible entity or multistate group shall submit to the Secretary a report on the progress of the eligible entity or multistate group in implementing the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity or Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group, as the case may be.

''(B) ABSENCE OF PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after an eligible entity that does not have a Cybersecurity Plan receives funds under this section for developing its Cybersecurity Plan, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a report describing how the eligible entity obligated and expended grant funds during the fiscal year to—

''(i) so develop such a Cybersecurity Plan; or

''(ii) assist with the activities described in subsection (h)(3).

''(2) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than once per year, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall submit to Congress a report on the use of grants awarded under this section and any progress made toward the following:

''(A) Achieving the objectives set forth in the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments, upon the date on which the strategy is issued under section 2210.

''(B) Developing, implementing, or revising Cybersecurity Plans.

''(C) Reducing cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of State, local, and Tribal organizations as a result of the award of such grants.

''(q) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section—

''(1) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, $500,000,000; and

''(2) for each subsequent fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

''SEC. 2220B. CYBERSECURITY RESOURCE GUIDE DEVELOPMENT FOR STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

''The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall develop, regularly update, and maintain a resource guide for use by State, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials, including law enforcement officers, to help such officials identify, prepare for, detect, protect against, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks (as such term is defined in section 2209), cybersecurity threats, and incidents (as such term is defined in section 2209).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 4, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2220 the following new items:

''Sec. 2220A. State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

''Sec. 2220B. Cybersecurity resource guide development for State, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials.''.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY TO IMPROVE THE CYBERSECURITY OF STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 2210 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY TO IMPROVE THE CYBERSECURITY OF STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall, in coordination with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, develop and make publicly available

a Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments.

''(B) RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy required under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) provide recommendations relating to the ways in which the Federal Government should support and promote the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, mitigate against, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks (as such term is defined in section 2209), cybersecurity threats, and incidents (as such term is defined in section 2209); and

''(ii) establish baseline requirements for cybersecurity plans under this section and principles with which such plans shall align.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) identify capability gaps in the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents;

''(B) identify Federal resources and capabilities that are available or could be made available to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to help those governments identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents;

''(C) identify and assess the limitations of Federal resources and capabilities available to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to help those governments identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents and make recommendations to address such limitations;

''(D) identify opportunities to improve the coordination of the Agency with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, to improve—

''(i) incident exercises, information sharing and incident notification procedures;

''(ii) the ability for State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to voluntarily adapt and implement guidance in Federal binding operational directives; and

''(iii) opportunities to leverage Federal schedules for cybersecurity investments under section 502 of title 40, United States Code;

''(E) recommend new initiatives the Federal Government should undertake to improve the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents;

''(F) set short-term and long-term goals that will improve the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents; and

''(G) set dates, including interim benchmarks, as appropriate for State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to establish baseline capabilities to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents.

''(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Director, in coordination with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, shall consider—

''(A) lessons learned from incidents that have affected State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

''(B) the impact of incidents that have affected State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, including the resulting costs to such governments;

''(C) the information related to the interest and ability of state and non-state threat actors to compromise information systems (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501)) owned or operated by State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments;

''(D) emerging cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments resulting from the deployment of new technologies; and

''(E) recommendations made by the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A.

''(4) EXEMPTION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Paperwork Reduction Act'), shall not apply to any action to implement this subsection.''.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY.—Section 2202 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 652) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (e) through (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

''(d) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities under subsection (c), the Director shall—

''(1) develop program guidance, in consultation with the State and Local Government Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A, for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program under such section or any other homeland security assistance administered by the Department to improve cybersecurity;

''(2) review, in consultation with the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee, all cybersecurity plans of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments developed pursuant to any homeland security assistance administered by the Department to improve cybersecurity;

''(3) provide expertise and technical assistance to State, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials with respect to cybersecurity; and

''(4) provide education, training, and capacity development to enhance the security and resilience of cybersecurity and infrastructure security.''.

(c) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security of the Department of Homeland Security shall conduct a study to assess the feasibility of implementing a short-term rotational program for the detail to the Agency of approved State, local, Tribal, and territorial government employees in cyber workforce positions.

SEC. 4. TITLE XXII TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in the first section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665; relating to the duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2215. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES RELATING TO .GOV INTERNET DOMAIN.'';

(B) in the second section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665b; relating to the joint cyber planning office), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2216. JOINT CYBER PLANNING OFFICE.'';

(C) in the third section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665c; relating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2217. CYBERSECURITY STATE COORDINATOR.'';

(D) in the fourth section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665d; relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2218. SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.'';

(E) in section 2216 (6 U.S.C. 665e; relating to the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2219. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.''; and

(F) in section 2217 (6 U.S.C. 665f; relating to Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2220. CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.''.

(2) CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021.—Paragraph (1) of section 904(b) of division U of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''of 2002'' after ''Homeland Security Act''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 2214 through 2217 and inserting the following new items:

''Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.
''Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.
''Sec. 2216. Joint cyber planning office.
''Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.
''Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.
''Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.
''Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KAPTUR). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the recent Colonial Pipeline, JBS, and Kaseya ransomware attacks have brought the Nation's attention to the tremendous national security threat posed by ransomware.

The Colonial Pipeline breach alone disrupted the supply of gasoline for a

large portion of the Nation and contributed to gas shortages across much of the Southeast. It also spurred conversations about how much of our Nation's critical infrastructure is privately owned and operated.

Lost on many Americans is how much vulnerable critical infrastructure is actually in the public sector. Today, emergency services, public schools, hospitals, and agencies involved in providing essential services or regulating important industries are all housed in our State and local governments. In recent years, we have seen communities, big and small, that lacked dedicated cybersecurity resources fall victim to ransomware attacks.

The types of incidents we have seen include a ransomware attack on Baltimore that cost city taxpayers $18 million; a hack on the D.C. police department that resulted in leaked sensitive personnel files; and a cyberattack against a Massachusetts school district that forced it to cancel its first day of in-person instruction earlier this year.

In May, my subcommittee held a hearing on the ransomware crisis where experts shared their views on the policy solutions that the Federal Government can consider to address this challenge. Our witnesses uniformly urged greater investment in prevention, particularly at the State and local levels.

We cannot just focus on responding to cyber incidents. We must help our communities reduce their vulnerability and better mitigate incidents when they occur.

In the long term, front-end cybersecurity investments save money, protect infrastructure, and prevent disruption to our economy and in our communities.

That is why I introduced the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act. It authorizes $500 million annually for grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to upgrade their cybersecurity. It requires States to pay a graduated cost share to incentivize them to budget better for cybersecurity, and it requires them to develop cybersecurity plans so we ensure these funds are well-spent.

My bill also requires DHS to create a plan to improve the cybersecurity posture of State and local governments to ensure that States have goals and objectives to which they align their own cybersecurity plans.

We have spent considerable resources enhancing the security of our Federal networks, and President Biden's recent executive order, along with investments included in the American Rescue Plan, demonstrate a continued commitment to strengthening Federal cybersecurity.

These actions are incredibly important, but we need to do more to address the vulnerabilities at the State and local levels, where there has been inadequate investment in cybersecurity for years.

It is essential for the Federal Government to be a partner in protecting State and local digital infrastructure. As Congress considers ways to invest in our Nation's infrastructure, State and local digital infrastructure must be a part of that conversation.

As we have seen in recent months, the gap between the digital world and the physical one is smaller than ever. I appreciate the bipartisan recognition of that and the strong support this investment in our infrastructure security received in the Homeland Security Committee.

In particular, I want to thank Chairman THOMPSON, Ranking Member KATKO, Ranking Member GARBARINO, and Representatives MCCAUL, RUPPERSBERGER, KILMER, and SLOTKIN for cosponsoring this legislation.

By passing the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act today, we can demonstrate to the American people that Congress can work in a bipartisan way to make a meaningful difference in addressing our Nation's cybersecurity risk.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3138, the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2021.

I thank Chairwoman CLARKE, Chairman THOMPSON, Ranking Member GARBARINO, and my other committee colleagues for their leadership on H.R. 3138.

Over the past year, we have seen the devastating impact a ransomware attack can have on our Nation's most critical infrastructure. But we must not forget that no one is immune from cyber criminals, including our State and local governments.

I am pleased today that the House is taking action to give our State and local partners, and CISA, a leg up against these cyber criminals.

This bill will have a tremendous impact on the cybersecurity posture of State and local governments by focusing important funding and expertise on the front lines, the State and local levels.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3138, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her leadership on the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act.

I particularly emphasize the fact that we are the United States of America, but the cyberattacks occur in our neighborhoods, our hamlets, our cities, our counties, and our States. They occur right under our noses, and they impact our constituents by taking their personal records from the Texas Medical Center, for example, impacting the medical care of people, interfering with various diagnostic machines, and dealing with the energy infrastructure, such as the Colonial Pipeline incident. These are happening in our neighborhoods.

The State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act will make $500 million available in grants from the Department of Homeland Security to State, local, and Tribal entities over the next 4 years as they address critical cybersecurity risks facing information systems.

I will soon rise to the floor on legislation that I have authored, and I will make this point, Madam Speaker: It is crucial that the other body begins to address the legislation that this House is able to pass because we are passing innovative, corrective, and needed legislation.

Cyber is not a joke, if I can say that. Neither are the attacks on our cyber infrastructure.

However, the Department of Homeland Security was created in 2002 to bring together the expertise of several different government entities to protect against foreign threats. At that time, the Nation's main concern was protecting our citizens and residents from another large-scale terrorist attack, one that we had never seen before: attacking tall buildings with airplanes. We had never seen it.

But, today, 2021, is not 2001. It is not 20 years ago, and the landscape of terrorism has changed enormously. With rapid advancement in technology and malign foreign cyber aggression in nation-states that are not engaged, this bill is important.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 3138, that will provide us a way to address this issue.

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, while cybersecurity threats are not new, this year has highlighted the serious impact cyber incidents can have on our national security.

The United States has as much cybersecurity expertise as any country. But without adequate resources, State and local governments cannot implement the policies and practices we know will make their digital infrastructure more secure.

Enactment of the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act will ensure that they have the funding, planning, and support to adequately invest in securing government networks and reducing risk.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3138, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3138, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

DHS INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS CAPABILITIES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2021

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1833) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for the responsibility of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to maintain capabilities to identify threats to industrial control systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1833

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 ''DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. CAPABILITIES OF THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY TO IDENTIFY THREATS TO INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (H), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon; and

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

''(I) activities of the Center address the security of both information technology and operational technology, including industrial control systems;''; and

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

''(p) INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.—The Director shall maintain capabilities to identify and address threats and vulnerabilities to products and technologies intended for use in the automated control of critical infrastructure processes. In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall—

''(1) lead Federal Government efforts, in consultation with Sector Risk Management Agencies, as appropriate, to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats to industrial control systems, including supervisory control and data acquisition systems;

''(2) maintain threat hunting and incident response capabilities to respond to industrial control system cybersecurity risks and incidents;

''(3) provide cybersecurity technical assistance to industry end-users, product manufacturers, Sector Risk Management Agencies, other Federal agencies, and other industrial control system stakeholders to identify, evaluate, assess, and mitigate vulnerabilities;

''(4) collect, coordinate, and provide vulnerability information to the industrial control systems community by, as appropriate, working closely with security researchers, industry end-users, product manufacturers, Sector Risk Management Agencies, other Federal agencies, and other industrial control systems stakeholders; and

''(5) conduct such other efforts and assistance as the Secretary determines appropriate.''.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every six months thereafter during the subsequent 4-year period, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a briefing on the industrial control systems capabilities of the Agency under section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), as amended by subsection (a).

(c) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review implementation of the requirements of subsections (e)(1)(I) and (p) of section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), as amended by subsection (a), and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate a report containing findings and recommendations relating to such implementation. Such report shall include information on the following:

(1) Any interagency coordination challenges to the ability of the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency of the Department of Homeland Security to lead Federal efforts to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats to industrial control systems pursuant to subsection (p)(1) of such section.

(2) The degree to which the Agency has adequate capacity, expertise, and resources to carry out threat hunting and incident response capabilities to mitigate cybersecurity threats to industrial control systems pursuant to subsection (p)(2) of such section, as well as additional resources that would be needed to close any operational gaps in such capabilities.

(3) The extent to which industrial control system stakeholders sought cybersecurity technical assistance from the Agency pursuant to subsection (p)(3) of such section, and the utility and effectiveness of such technical assistance.

(4) The degree to which the Agency works with security researchers and other industrial control systems stakeholders, pursuant to subsection (p)(4) of such section, to provide vulnerability information to the industrial control systems community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1833, the DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act.

This bill seeks to give the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, a stronger hand in securing industrial control systems and would help to clarify its central coordination role across the Federal Government.

□ 1315

The importance of securing industrial control systems cannot be overstated. We rely on these systems to provide vital services, like water treatment, energy distribution, and critical manufacturing.

As control systems have grown more and more connected to business and IT networks that rely on the internet, we have seen systems become more vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Industrial control systems have been targeted by groups closely aligned with nation-states like China and Russia who seek to undermine the United States and advance their own geopolitical interests.

We have also seen criminal groups, like the perpetrators of the ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline, create great economic disruption while extorting companies.

It doesn't take a criminal mastermind to infiltrate an industrial environment, either. Earlier this year, an unsophisticated, unknown perpetrator was able to breach a water treatment plant in Oldsmar, Florida, and manipulate chemical levels in ways that could have poisoned nearby residents.

H.R. 1833 will strengthen CISA's authority as the lead Federal coordinator for securing industrial control systems and empower CISA to hunt for threats, respond to incidents, and to promote strong cybersecurity for critical infrastructure.

The Department of Homeland Security has been working on control system security since 2004. H.R. 1833 recognizes that role at a pivotal time as cyber threats to critical infrastructure reach new heights.

Importantly, this bill also includes a GAO review of whether CISA has the resources, staffing, and authorities it needs to effectively implement these provisions. Such oversight will be key, given that these systems are complex, diverse, and there are a limited number of skilled cyber experts capable of securing them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1833, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank my colleague from New York for supporting my bill, H.R.

1833, the DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act of 2021.

As I have said from day one as ranking member of this committee, we need to continue to bolster cybersecurity capabilities at CISA to defend our Federal networks and the Nation's critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

The volume of cyberattacks and ransomware attacks in 2021 alone shows that no one is immune from nation-state cyber actors or cyber criminals. Cyber threats, particularly ransomware, are the preeminent national security threat facing our Nation today. From Colonial Pipeline to a local water facility in Florida, we have witnessed the real-world consequences cyberattacks can have on our critical infrastructure.

In the cyberattack against a water treatment plant in Florida, hackers were able to gain access to industrial control systems, or ICS for short, and attempted to alter the mixture of water chemicals to what could have been catastrophic fatal levels.

Cyber incidents are very rarely sector specific. CISA is a central agency that can quickly connect the dots when a malicious cyber campaign spans multiple sectors. It is vital that we continue to enhance its visibility across the critical infrastructure ecosystem.

This bill requires the CISA director to maintain capabilities to detect and mitigate threats and vulnerabilities affecting automated control of critical infrastructure, particularly industrial control systems.

This includes maintaining cross-sector incident response capabilities to respond to cybersecurity incidents and providing cybersecurity technical assistance to stakeholders.

We must continue to solidify CISA's lead role in protecting our Nation's critical infrastructure from cyber threats, particularly the industrial control systems that underpin vital components of our daily lives.

This bill is one step in the committee's continued efforts to build up CISA's authorities and resources to effectively carry out its mission, and it is a resounding statement to have such heavy-hitting, bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1833, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from New York closes. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge Members to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I would like to start by thanking the gentleman from New York for his outstanding leadership in this regard.

Industrial control systems are a rich target for cyber adversaries looking to disrupt, extort, and simply wreak havoc. These systems underpin the functions and services we rely on for our day-to-day lives, and the threats they face have never been higher.

Successful disruption of one of these systems could have dire consequences for public health and safety, public confidence, and even the national and economic security of the United States.

CISA is well-positioned to help owners and operators better understand risks to operational technology and work with them to close security gaps.

I again want to congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), my committee colleague and ranking member, on authoring this bill to codify the role that CISA plays in leading Federal efforts to secure industrial control systems.

Enactment of H.R. 1833 will help to raise our cybersecurity posture across the board.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1833, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY REMEDIATION ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2980) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for the remediation of cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2980

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 ''Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act''.

SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.

Section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

''(6) the term 'cybersecurity vulnerability' has the meaning given the term 'security vulnerability' in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501); and''.

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

''(B) sharing mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities pursuant to subsection (n); and''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities in accordance with subparagraph (B)'' before ''with Federal'';

(B) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking ''sharing'' and inserting ''share''; and

(C) in paragraph (9), by inserting ''mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities,'' after ''measures,'';

(3) in subsection (e)(1)(G), by striking the semicolon after ''and'' at the end;

(4) by redesignating subsection (o) as subsection (p); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (n) following new subsection:

''(o) PROTOCOLS TO COUNTER CERTAIN CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.—The Director may, as appropriate, identify, develop, and disseminate actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities to information systems and industrial control systems, including in circumstances in which such vulnerabilities exist because software or hardware is no longer supported by a vendor.''.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on how the Agency carries out subsection (n) of section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to coordinate vulnerability disclosures, including disclosures of cybersecurity vulnerabilities (as such term is defined in such section), and subsection (o) of such section (as added by section 2) to disseminate actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities to information systems and industrial control systems, that includes the following:

(1) A description of the policies and procedures relating to the coordination of vulnerability disclosures.

(2) A description of the levels of activity in furtherance of such subsections (n) and (o) of such section 2209.

(3) Any plans to make further improvements to how information provided pursuant to such subsections can be shared (as such term is defined in such section 2209) between the Department and industry and other stakeholders.

(4) Any available information on the degree to which such information was acted upon by industry and other stakeholders.

(5) A description of how privacy and civil liberties are preserved in the collection, retention, use, and sharing of vulnerability disclosures.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 4. COMPETITION RELATING TO CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.

The Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of the

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department, may establish an incentive-based program that allows industry, individuals, academia, and others to compete in identifying remediation solutions for cybersecurity vulnerabilities (as such term is defined in section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 2) to information systems (as such term is defined in such section 2209) and industrial control systems, including supervisory control and data acquisition systems.

SEC. 5. TITLE XXII TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in the first section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665; relating to the duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

"SEC. 2215. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES RELATING TO .GOV INTERNET DOMAIN.";

(B) in the second section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665b; relating to the joint cyber planning office), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

"SEC. 2216. JOINT CYBER PLANNING OFFICE.";

(C) in the third section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665c; relating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

"SEC. 2217. CYBERSECURITY STATE COORDINATOR.";

(D) in the fourth section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665d; relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

"SEC. 2218. SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.";

(E) in section 2216 (6 U.S.C. 665e; relating to the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

"SEC. 2219. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE."; and

(F) in section 2217 (6 U.S.C. 665f; relating to Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

"SEC. 2220. CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.".

(2) CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021.—Paragraph (1) of section 904(b) of division U of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "of 2002" after "Homeland Security Act".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 2214 through 2217 and inserting the following new items:

"Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.
"Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.
"Sec. 2216. Joint cyber planning office.
"Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.
"Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.
"Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.
"Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, 5 years ago a Government Accountability Office survey found that 12 out of 12 Federal agencies used obsolete information technology. In other words, 12 out of 12 Federal agencies were using software or hardware for which vendors no longer provided support, updates, or patches.

The Federal Government is hardly alone. It has been widely reported that State and local governments and critical infrastructure owners and operators across the country rely on legacy technology.

We have seen malicious cyber actors wreak havoc by exploiting known vulnerabilities.

H.R. 2980 would authorize CISA to develop and distribute playbooks to provide procedures and mitigation strategies for the most critical, known vulnerabilities, especially those affecting software or hardware that is no longer supported by a vendor. The playbooks would be available to Federal agencies, industry, and other stakeholders.

The bill, as introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), also authorizes the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, in consultation with CISA, to establish a competition program for industry, individuals, academia, and others to provide remediation solutions for cybersecurity vulnerabilities that are no longer supported.

Importantly, in response to recent cyberattacks, H.R. 2980 prioritizes efforts to address vulnerabilities of industrial control systems of critical infrastructure that may be targeted, like water systems and pipelines.

H.R. 2980 is no substitute for investing in new technology, but it will provide important support to government and private sector entities that cannot replace legacy technology or rapidly patch known vulnerabilities because of resource limitations or other system complications.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2980, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2980, the Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my friend, for being a staunch advocate of CISA and these important cybersecurity issues. I look forward to continuing to work with her and my other colleagues on the preeminent national security threat facing our Nation today.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 2980, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her leadership, and I thank the ranking member of the full committee and the chair of the full committee for bringing these matters to the attention of the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 2980, the Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act, which authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to take actions to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities in our Nation's critical infrastructure.

Interestingly enough, when we introduced this bill some years ago, we called it the zero-day bill, which was to presuppose what would happen when everything collapsed. When we introduced it, it was before the Colonial Pipeline, it was before the Solaris attack, it was before knowing about the gangs in Russia, cyber gangs that proliferate before the activity of China.

I thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KATKO for their leadership in putting the security of our Nation's cyber access first, whether they are computing resources used in voting technology or industrial control systems that support delivery of electricity, oil, and gas, or management of transportation systems that are vital to our Nation's economic health.

The Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act was introduced, as I said, and passed the House during the 115th and 116th Congresses and has been updated again in the 117th Congress to meet the ever-evolving nature of cyber threats faced by Federal and private sector information systems and our Nation's critical infrastructure.

As I said before, it will be very important that the other body seriously considers the cyber threats against this Nation. This bill goes significantly further than the first cybersecurity vulnerability act that I introduced in the 115th Congress to address the instance of zero-day events that can lead to catastrophic cybersecurity failures of information and computing systems.

It is estimated that 85 percent of critical infrastructure is owned by the private sector, and for far too long this fact has hampered efforts to establish stronger requirements for cybersecurity by owners and operators.

Private sector critical infrastructure failure due to a cyberattack is no longer a private matter when it can have massive impacts on the public, such as disruption of gasoline flowing to filling stations, which we saw recently.

My bill, the Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act, will expand

the definition of security vulnerability to include cybersecurity vulnerability; add sharing mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities; establish protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities involving information system and industrial control systems, which will include vulnerabilities related to software or hardware that is no longer supported by a vendor; direct the undersecretary for DHS Office of Science and Technology to stand up a competition to find solutions to known cybersecurity vulnerabilities; provide greater transparency on how the Department of Homeland Security CISA is coordinating cybersecurity vulnerability disclosures through the sharing of actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities with information systems and industrial control systems owners and operators.

□ 1330

H.R. 2980 bolsters the efforts to engage critical infrastructure owners and operators in communicating cybersecurity threats and lays the foundation for greater transparency on the real threats posed by cyberterrorists to private and government sector critical infrastructure and information systems, which impact the people of this Nation.

This legislation allows the science and technology director, in consultation with CISA, to establish an incentive-based program that allows industry, individuals, academia, and others to compete in identifying remediation solutions for cybersecurity vulnerabilities to information systems and industrial control systems, including supervisory control and data acquisition systems.

This bill, when it becomes law, will put our Nation's best minds to work on closing the vulnerabilities that cyber thieves and terrorists use to access, disrupt, corrupt, or take control of critical infrastructure information systems.

In addition to these changes, the bill requires a report to Congress that may contain a classified annex.

The report will provide information on how DHS coordinates cybersecurity vulnerability disclosures and disseminates actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities involving information systems and industrial systems.

Congress needs to know how prevalent and persistent cybersecurity threats targeting critical infrastructure and information systems might be, especially if those threats result in a payment of ransom. They need to know about a payment of ransom.

Paying a ransom for ransomware emboldens and encourages bad cyber actors and places everyone at greater risk for the financial and societal costs of increases in threats as others seek payouts.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as long as there is silence about cyberattacks like ransomware, the criminals and terrorists will remain out of reach and continue to feel safe and emboldened in carrying out these attacks, often from the soil of our enemies or peer competitors.

I applaud and thank the Biden administration for its quick action in responding to the attack against Colonial Pipeline, but it did shut down the whole East Coast, and he did it by an executive order.

Today, our Nation is in a cybersecurity crisis. The attacks against Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal Governments, as well as threats posed to private information systems and critical information systems make this bill necessary.

So I am hoping, along with those who have been attacked, like the Metropolitan Police Department, the medical system in Houston—the gang known as the Babuk group released thousands of Metropolitan Police sensitive documents, and it goes on and on.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD four articles regarding this issue.

[From the Forbes Magazine, July 20, 2021]

TURNING UP THE HEAT: A RANSOMWARE ATTACK ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS A NIGHTMARE SCENARIO

(By Richard Tracy, Forbes Councils Member)

Ransomware attacks in 2020 were up more than 150% compared to the previous year, while ransomware payments were up over 300%.

Over the past six months, we've seen a number of ransomware attacks against critical infrastructure—from a water treatment facility to a gas pipeline and multiple food distribution companies—all of which present clear and present danger to society. The impact was so dire—with recent research finding over seven ransomware attacks per hour—that the Department of Justice elevated ransomware attacks to a similar priority as terrorism.

The recent Colonial Pipeline hack, in particular, appears to have struck a nerve, as there is finally discussion about cybersecurity standards for the pipeline industry. That would be a good start and one that is long overdue considering the importance of fuel distribution for our economy and overall way of life.

However, the oil and gas industry is just one element in a single critical infrastructure sector—the energy sector. DHS has defined sixteen critical infrastructure sectors, and each is deemed critical for the proper functioning of our society. Due to the connected nature of everything these days, each sector is a potential cyber target. Disruption to any critical infrastructure segment has potentially dire economic, safety and national security consequences. As such, it only makes sense to address cybersecurity risk management for all sectors, not just oil and gas.

The threat goes beyond the pipeline.

To better understand the need to focus on all critical infrastructure, let's look at the power grid. Imagine a ransomware attack against the power grid that services highly populated areas in the desert southwest. Now, imagine this attack takes place during the hottest part of the summer.

Think about the heat-related deaths that would likely occur and the impact on medical supplies that require refrigeration. Yes, there are generator backups in hospitals where supplies are stored, but we already know from the pipeline hack that the fuel needed to run these generators can be disrupted too. It's also important to note that hospitals, also considered critical infrastructure, have also suffered from ransomware attacks. In fact, hospitals have had an even bigger target on their backs in recent months. The connected nature of our critical infrastructure compounds the problem and potential impacts.

To further illustrate how important the power grid is to our citizens, Protect Our Power, an independent, non-profit advocacy and educational organization focused solely on driving increased resilience of the U.S. electric grid to attacks, recently conducted a public opinion poll of 1,095 Americans. Most notably, the study found:

86 percent of Americans are concerned that the grid is vulnerable to a serious cyberattack.

70 percent say they would feel unsafe in the event of an extended power outage of two weeks or more.

66 percent believe their quality of life will suffer from an outage lasting more than seven days.

64 percent say they are unprepared for an extended power outage that will last more than two weeks.

70 percent say the infrastructure bill should include funding to address this important issue.

Only 16 percent believe the federal government is doing all it can to prevent an attack on the grid.

As most Americans agree, the federal government can and should do more to help secure all of our critical infrastructures.

Recent ransomware attacks against critical infrastructure help us understand standards and practices that would have helped. For example, multi-factor authentication (MFA), a widely recognized best practice, may have prevented the Colonial Pipeline hack. According to GAO, greater and more consistent adoption of the NIST CSF, which was specifically developed to help critical infrastructure manage cyber risk, would benefit cyber risk management efforts across all critical infrastructure sectors.

In summary, we need to secure all critical infrastructure sectors. The power grid example used here illustrates how dire the consequences could be. It's time to move. Summer is upon us, and the desert southwest is getting hot.

[From the New York Times, July 19, 2021]

U.S. FORMALLY ACCUSES CHINA OF HACKING MICROSOFT

(By Zolan Kanno-Youngs, David E. Sanger)

WASHINGTON.—The Biden administration on Monday formally accused the Chinese government of breaching Microsoft email systems used by many of the world's largest companies, governments and military contractors, as the United States joined a broad group of allies, including all NATO members, to condemn Beijing for cyberattacks around the world.

The United States accused China for the first time of paying criminal groups to conduct large-scale hackings, including ransomware attacks to extort companies for millions of dollars, according to a statement from the White House. Microsoft had pointed to hackers linked to the Chinese Ministry of State Security for exploiting holes in the company's email systems in March; the U.S. announcement on Monday morning was the first suggestion that the Chinese government hired criminal groups to hack tens of thousands of computers and networks around the

world for ''significant remediation costs for its mostly private sector victims,'' according to the White House.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said in a statement on Monday that China's Ministry of State Security ''has fostered an ecosystem of criminal contract hackers who carry out both state-sponsored activities and cybercrime for their own financial gain.''

''These contract hackers cost governments and businesses billions of dollars in stolen intellectual property, ransom payments, and cybersecurity mitigation efforts, all while the MSS had them on its payroll,'' Mr. Blinken said.

Condemnation from NATO and the European Union is unusual, because most of their member countries have been deeply reluctant to publicly criticize China, a major trading partner. But even Germany, whose companies were hit hard by the hacking of Microsoft Exchange—email systems that companies maintain on their own, rather than putting them in the cloud—cited the Chinese government for its work.

''We call on all states, including China, to uphold their international commitments and obligations and to act responsibly in the international system, including in cyberspace,'' according to a statement from NATO.

Despite the broadside, the announcement lacked sanctions similar to ones that the White House imposed on Russia in April, when it blamed the country for the extensive SolarWinds attack that affected U.S. government agencies and more than 100 companies. (The Justice Department on Friday did unseal an indictment from May charging for Chinese residents with a campaign to hack computer systems of dozens of companies, universities and government entities in the United States between 2011 and 2018. The hackers developed front companies to hide any role the Chinese government had in backing the operation, according to the Justice Department.)

By imposing sanctions on Russia and organizing allies to condemn China, the Biden administration has delved deeper into a digital Cold War with its two main geopolitical adversaries than at any time in modern history.

While there is nothing new about digital espionage from Russia and China—and efforts by Washington to block it—the Biden administration has been surprisingly aggressive in calling out both countries and organizing a coordinated response.

But so far, it has not yet found the right mix of defensive and offensive actions to create effective deterrence, most outside experts say. And the Russians and the Chinese have grown bolder. The SolarWinds attack, one of the most sophisticated ever detected in the United States, was an effort by Russia's lead intelligence service to alter code in widely used network-management software to gain access to more than 18,000 businesses, federal agencies and think tanks.

China's effort was not as sophisticated, but it took advantage of a vulnerability that Microsoft had not discovered and used it to conduct espionage and undercut confidence in the security of systems that companies use for their primary communications. It took the Biden administration months to develop what officials say is ''high confidence'' that the hacking of the Microsoft email system was done at the behest of the Ministry of State Security, the senior administration official said, and abetted by private actors who had been hired by Chinese intelligence.

The last time China was caught in such broad-scale surveillance was in 2014, when it stole more than 22 million security-clearance files from the Office of Personnel Management, allowing a deep understanding of the lives of Americans who are cleared to keep the nation's secrets.

President Biden has promised to fortify the government, making cybersecurity a focus of his summit meeting in Geneva with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia last month. But his administration has faced questions about how it will also address the growing threat from China, particularly after the public exposure of the Microsoft hacking.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, the senior administration official acknowledged that the public condemnation of China would only do so much to prevent future attacks.

''No one action can change China's behavior in cyberspace,'' the official said. ''And neither could just one country acting on its own.''

But the decision not to impose sanctions on China was also telling: It was a step many allies would not agree to take.

Instead, the Biden administration settled on corralling enough allies to join the public denunciation of China to maximize pressure on Beijing to curtail the cyberattacks, the official said.

The joint statement criticizing China, to be issued by the United States, Australia, Britain, Canada, the European Union, Japan and New Zealand, is unusually broad. It is also the first such statement from NATO publicly targeting Beijing for cybercrimes.

The European Union condemned on Monday ''malicious cyberactivities'' undertaken from the Chinese territory but stopped short of denouncing the responsibility of the Chinese government.

''This irresponsible and harmful behavior resulted in security risks and significant economic our loss for government institutions and private companies, and has shown significant spillover and systemic effects for our security, economy and society at large,'' Josep Borrell Fontelles, the E.U.'s foreign policy chief, said in a statement. ''These activities can be linked to the hacker groups,'' the statement added.

Mr. Borrell called on Chinese authorities not to allow ''its territory to be used'' for such activities, and to ''take all appropriate measures and reasonably available and feasible steps to detect, investigate and address the situation.''

The National Security Agency, F.B.I. and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency also issued an advisory on Monday warning that Chinese hacking presented a ''major threat'' to the United States and its allies. China's targets include ''political, economic, military, and educational institutions, as well as critical infrastructure.''

Criminal groups hired by the government aim to steal sensitive data, critical technologies and intellectual properties, according to the advisory.

The F.B.I. took an unusual step in the Microsoft hacking: In addition to investigating the attacks, the agency obtained a court order that allowed it to go into unpatched corporate systems and remove elements of code left by the Chinese hackers that could allow follow-up attacks. It was the first time that the F.B.I. acted to remediate an attack as well as investigate its perpetrators.

[From the New York Times, Updated June 8, 2021]

PIPELINE ATTACK YIELDS URGENT LESSONS ABOUT U.S. CYBERSECURITY

(By David E. Sanger, Nicole Perlroth)

For years, government officials and industry executives have run elaborate simulations of a targeted cyberattack on the power grid or gas pipelines in the United States, imagining how the country would respond.

But when the real, this-is-not-a-drill moment arrived, it didn't look anything like the war games.

The attacker was not a terror group or a hostile state like Russia, China or Iran, as had been assumed in the simulations. It was a criminal extortion ring. The goal was not to disrupt the economy by taking a pipeline offline but to hold corporate data for ransom.

The most visible effects—long lines of nervous motorists at gas stations—stemmed not from a government response but from a decision by the victim, Colonial Pipeline, which controls nearly half the gasoline, jet fuel and diesel flowing along the East Coast, to turn off the spigot. It did so out of concern that the malware that had infected its back-office functions could make it difficult to bill for fuel delivered along the pipeline or even spread into the pipeline's operating system.

What happened next was a vivid example of the difference between tabletop simulations and the cascade of consequences that can follow even a relatively unsophisticated attack. The aftereffects of the episode are still playing out, but some of the lessons are already clear, and demonstrate how far the government and private industry have to go in preventing and dealing with cyberattacks and in creating rapid backup systems for when critical infrastructure goes down.

In this case, the long-held belief that the pipeline's operations were totally isolated from the data systems that were locked up by DarkSide, a ransomware gang believed to be operating out of Russia, turned out to be false. And the company's decision to turn off the pipeline touched off a series of dominoes including panic buying at the pumps and a quiet fear inside the government that the damage could spread quickly.

A confidential assessment prepared by the Energy and Homeland Security Departments found that the country could only afford another three to five days with the Colonial pipeline shut down before buses and other mass transit would have to limit operations because of a lack of diesel fuel. Chemical factories and refinery operations would also shut down because there would be no way to distribute what they produced, the report said.

And while President Biden's aides announced efforts to find alternative ways to haul gasoline and jet fuel up the East Coast, none were immediately in place. There was a shortage of truck drivers, and of tanker cars for trains.

''Every fragility was exposed,'' Dmitri Alperovitch, a co-founder of CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm, and now chairman of the think tank Silverado Policy Accelerator. ''We learned a lot about what could go wrong. Unfortunately, so did our adversaries.''

The list of lessons is long. Colonial, a private company, may have thought it had an impermeable wall of protections, but it was easily breached. Even after it paid the extortionists nearly $5 million in digital currency to recover its data, the company found that the process of decrypting its data and turning the pipeline back on again was agonizingly slow, meaning it will still be days before the East Coast gets back to normal.

''This is not like flicking on a light switch,'' Mr. Biden said Thursday, noting that the 5,500-mile pipeline had never before been shut down.

For the administration, the event proved a perilous week in crisis management. Mr. Biden told aides, one recalled, that nothing could wreak political damage faster than television images of gas lines and rising prices, with the inevitable comparison to Jimmy Carter's worse moments as president.

Mr. Biden feared that, unless the pipeline resumed operations, panic receded and price gouging was nipped in the bud, the situation

would feed concerns that the economic recovery is still fragile and that inflation is rising.

Beyond the flurry of actions to get oil moving on trucks, trains and ships, Mr. Biden published a long-gestating executive order that, for the first time, seeks to mandate changes in cybersecurity.

And he suggested that he was willing to take steps that the Obama administration hesitated to take during the 2016 election hacks—direct action to strike back at the attackers.

''We're also going to pursue a measure to disrupt their ability to operate,'' Mr. Biden said, a line that seemed to hint that United States Cyber Command, the military's cyberwarfare force, was being authorized to kick DarkSide off line, much as it did to another ransomware group in the fall ahead of the presidential election.

Hours later, the group's internet sites went dark. By early Friday, DarkSide, and several other ransomware groups, including Babuk, which has hacked Washington D.C.'s police department, announced they were getting out of the game.

DarkSide alluded to disruptive action by an unspecified law enforcement agency, though it was not clear if that was the result of U.S. action or pressure from Russia ahead of Mr. Biden's expected summit with President Vladimir V. Putin. And going quiet might simply have reflected a decision by the ransomware gang to frustrate retaliation efforts by shutting down its operations, perhaps temporarily.

The Pentagon's Cyber Command referred questions to the National Security Council, which declined to comment.

The episode underscored the emergence of a new ''blended threat,'' one that may come from cybercriminals, but is often tolerated, and sometimes encouraged, by a nation that sees the attacks as serving its interests. That is why Mr. Biden singled out Russia—not as the culprit, but as the nation that harbors more ransomware groups than any other country.

''We do not believe the Russian government was involved in this attack, but we do have strong reason to believe the criminals who did this attack are living in Russia,'' Mr. Biden said. ''We have been in direct communication with Moscow about the imperative for responsible countries to take action against these ransomware networks.''

With DarkSide's systems down, it is unclear how Mr. Biden's administration would retaliate further, beyond possible indictments and sanctions, which have not deterred Russian cybercriminals before. Striking back with a cyberattack also carries its own risks of escalation.

The administration also has to reckon with the fact that so much of America's critical infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector and remains ripe for attack.

''This attack has exposed just how poor our resilience is,'' said Kiersten E. Todt, the managing director of the nonprofit Cyber Readiness Institute. ''We are overthinking the threat, when we're still not doing the bare basics to secure our critical infrastructure.''

The good news, some officials said, was that Americans got a wake-up call. Congress came face-to-face with the reality that the federal government lacks the authority to require the companies that control more than 80 percent of the nation's critical infrastructure adopt minimal levels of cybersecurity.

The bad news, they said, was that American adversaries—not only superpowers but terrorists and cybercriminals—learned just how little it takes to incite chaos across a large part of the country, even if they do not break into the core of the electric grid, or the operational control systems that move gasoline, water and propane around the country.

Something as basic as a well-designed ransomware attack may easily do the trick, while offering plausible deniability to states like Russia, China and Iran that often tap outsiders for sensitive cyberoperations.

It remains a mystery how DarkSide first broke into Colonial's business network. The privately held company has said virtually nothing about how the attack unfolded, at least in public. It waited four days before having any substantive discussions with the administration, an eternity during a cyberattack.

Cybersecurity experts also note that Colonial Pipeline would never have had to shut down its pipeline if it had more confidence in the separation between its business network and pipeline operations.

''There should absolutely be separation between data management and the actual operational technology,'' Ms. Todt said. ''Not doing the basics is frankly inexcusable for a company that carries 45 percent of gas to the East Coast.''

Other pipeline operators in the United States deploy advanced firewalls between their data and their operations that only allow data to flow one direction, out of the pipeline, and would prevent a ransomware attack from spreading in.

Colonial Pipeline has not said whether it deployed that level of security on its pipeline. Industry analysts say many critical infrastructure operators say installing such unidirectional gateways along a 5,500-mile pipeline can be complicated or prohibitively expensive. Others say the cost to deploy those safeguards are still cheaper than the losses from potential downtime.

Deterring ransomware criminals, which have been growing in number and brazenness over the past few years, will certainly be more difficult than deterring nations. But this week made the urgency clear.

''It's all fun and games when we are stealing each other's money,'' said Sue Gordon, a former principal deputy director of national intelligence, and a longtime C.I.A. analyst with a specialty in cyber issues, said at a conference held by The Cipher Brief, an online intelligence newsletter. ''When we are messing with a society's ability to operate, we can't tolerate it.''

[From MeriTalk: Improving the Outcomes of Government IT, May 20, 2021]

HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE ADVANCES SLATE OF CYBERSECURITY BILLS

(By Lamar Johnson)

The House Homeland Security Committee voted May 18 to advance five bills that would look to improve the nation's cybersecurity in several areas, including protecting pipeline infrastructure, testing cybersecurity readiness, and improving state and local cybersecurity, among others.

The bills to advance out of committee included the Pipeline Security Act, the CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) Cyber Exercise Act, and the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act. Also advanced out of committee were the Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act, introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Tex., and the Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act, introduced by Rep. John Katko, R-N.Y., the ranking member on the committee.

''Since the beginning of this Congress, this Committee has engaged in extensive oversight of these events and how the Federal government partners with others to defend our networks,'' Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said in a release. ''The legislation we reported today was the result of this oversight. I am pleased that they received broad bipartisan support and hope they are considered on the House floor in short order.''

The Pipeline Security Act was reintroduced by Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, D-Mo. just a day before advancing out of committee, with the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack still top of mind. If passed, it will codify CISA and the Transportation Security Agency's responsibilities in protecting pipelines from cyberattacks and terrorist attacks.

''The Colonial Pipeline ransom ware attack that shut down one [of] our nation's largest pipelines and triggered fuel shortages across the northeast has brought new urgency to our work to protect the country's critical infrastructure. This attack also follows a string of disturbing cyberattacks against government entities and the private sector,'' Thompson said.

The CISA Cyber Exercise Act would authorize and require CISA to establish a National Cyber Exercise Program responsible for testing the nation's cyber readiness. The bill was introduced by Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., and would direct the agency to create a set of exercises that states, local governments, and private sector businesses could use to test their cyber readiness.

State and local governments get a win with the advancement of the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act. The bill was reintroduced by Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-N.Y., on May 12, and a similar version passed in the House in the last Congress. The bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to create a $500 million-per-year grant program to incentivize state and local governments to work to improve their cybersecurity.

The committee also advanced two bills aimed at protecting critical infrastructure and the supply chain after a recent spate of cyberattacks exposed vulnerabilities in the cybersecurity of each.

Rep. Lee's Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act would authorize CISA to work with the owners and operators of critical infrastructure on mitigation strategies around known and critical vulnerabilities. Rep. Katko's Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act would direct DHS to do research and development around supply chain risks in domains that are critical to the nation's economy. It would then be required to submit that report to Congress.

The next step for all these bills is a vote on the full House floor.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation because there is a known list of these attacks from the ISS World to the $50 million paid. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I ask my friends in the other body, to pass this legislation so it becomes law.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2980, "The Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act," which authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to take actions to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities in our nation's critical infrastructure.

I thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KATKO for their leadership in putting the security of our nation's cyber assets first, whether they are computing resources used in voting technology or industrial control systems that support the delivery of electricity, oil and gas, or management of transportation systems that are vital to our nation's economic health.

The Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act was introduced and passed the House during the 115th and 116th Congresses and has been updated again in the 117th Congress to meet the ever-evolving nature of cyber threats faced by federal and private sector information systems and our nation's critical infrastructure.

This bill goes significantly further than the first Cybersecurity Vulnerability bill that I introduced in the 115th Congress, to address the instance of Zero Day Events that can lead to catastrophic cybersecurity failures of information and computing systems.

It is estimated that eighty-five percent of critical infrastructure is owned by the private sector and for far too long this fact has hampered efforts to establish stronger requirements for cybersecurity by owners and operators.

Private sector critical infrastructure failure due to a cyberattack is no longer a private matter when it can have massive impacts on the public such as the disruption of gasoline flowing to filling stations.

The Jackson Lee Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act will:

Expand the definition of security vulnerability to include cybersecurity vulnerability;

Adds sharing mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities;

Establish protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities involving information systems and industrial control systems, which will include vulnerabilities related to software, or hardware that is no longer supported by a vendor;

Direct the Under Secretary for the DHS Office of Science and Technology to standup a competition to find solutions to known cybersecurity vulnerabilities; and

Provide greater transparency on how the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Information Security Agency (CISA) is coordinating cybersecurity vulnerability disclosures through the sharing of actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities with information systems and industrial control systems owners and operators.

H.R. 2890 bolsters the efforts to engage critical infrastructure owners and operators in communicating cybersecurity threats; and lays the foundation for greater transparency on the real threats posed by cyberterrorist to private and government sector critical infrastructure and information systems.

The legislation allows the Science the Technology Directorate in consultation with CISA to establish an incentive based program that allows industry, individuals, academia, and others to compete in identifying remediation solutions for cybersecurity vulnerabilities to information systems and industrial control systems including supervisory control and data acquisition systems.

This bill when it becomes law would put our nation's best minds to work on closing the vulnerabilities that cyber-thieves and terrorists to use them to access, disrupt, corrupt, or take control of critical infrastructure and information systems.

In addition to these changes, the bill requires a report to Congress that may contain a classified annex.

The report will provide information on how DHS:

Coordinates cybersecurity vulnerability disclosures; and

Disseminates actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities involving information system and industrial systems.

Congress needs to know how prevalent and persistent cybersecurity threats targeting critical infrastructure and information systems might be, especially if those threats result in a payment of ransom.

Paying a ransom for ransomware emboldens and encourages bad cyber actors and places everyone at greater risk for the financial and societal costs of increases in threats as other seek payouts.

As long as there is silence about cyber-attacks like ransomware the criminals and terrorists will remain out of reach and continue to feel safe in carrying out these attacks often from the soil of our enemies or peer competitors.

A company cannot stand up to Russia or China, but the United States can and has done so to protect our national interest.

I applaud and thank the Biden Administration for its quick action to respond to the attack against Colonial Pipeline in issuing a new Executive Order.

Today, our nation is in a cybersecurity crisis.

My concern regarding the security of information networks began in 2015 when the Office of Personnel Management's data breach resulted in the theft of millions of sensitive personnel records on federal employees.

The attacks against federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal governments, as well as threats posed to private information systems, and critical infrastructure systems makes this bill necessary.

On May 13, 2021 it was reported that the DC Metropolitan Police Department had experienced the worst reported cyberattack against a police department in the United States.

The gang, known as the Babuk group, released thousands of the Metropolitan Police Department's sensitive documents on the dark web because the department would not pay.

Cyberthreats are not limited to information related to government employees.

In February 2021, a cyberattack on an Oldsmar, Florida water treatment facility involved increasing the levels of sodium hydroxide from 100 parts per million to 11,100 parts per million in drinking water.

However, the levels of this chemical in the water produced by Oldsmar, Florida was increased to levels that would cause harm to people if they drank or used it.

This is just one example of how terrorists can attack critical infrastructure and cause threats to health, safety and life.

Cyber terrorists and cyber criminals are also motivated to attack information networks in exchange for money.

The sources of revenue from cyberattacks has moved from demands of payment for thieves not to release information—to the sale of stolen information on the dark web and now to a sophisticated denial of service attack in the form of ransomware that locks a system using encryption until the victim pays.

A list of known ransomware attacks in 2020 that are suspected of paying ransoms, included:

ISS World (Denmark) paid an estimated cost: $74 million;

Cognizant (US) paid an estimated $50 million;

Sopra Steria (French) paid estimated $50 million;

Redcar and Cleveland Council (UK) paid an estimated $14 million; and

University of California San Francisco (US) paid an estimated $1.14 million.

There are likely many other attacks that are not publicly known and this must change if we are to defeat this threat.

Ransomware is becoming the tool of choice for those seeking a payout because it can be carried out against anyone or any entity by perpetrators who are far from U.S. shores.

The Colonial Pipeline incident is just one in a long line of successful attacks or infiltrations carried out against domestic information systems and critical infrastructure with increasing consequences for the life, health, safety, and economic security of our citizens.

CEO Joseph Blount testified before the U.S. Senate that the attack occurred using a legacy Virtual Private Network (VPN) system that did not have multifactor authentication.

In other words, hackers were able to gain access to this critical infrastructure as a result of a single compromised password.

There would be no need for the Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act if owners and operators were succeeding in meeting the cybersecurity needs of critical infrastructure.

I know that there is more that should and ought to be done to address the issue of cybercrime and I will be pursuing this avenue under the jurisdiction of the House Judiciary Committee, as the chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues vote in support of H.R. 2890.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge Members to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, our adversaries are showing no signs of slowing their efforts to undermine U.S. interests in cyberspace.

Most often, hackers exploit known vulnerabilities. The Federal Government can and should support efforts to address and mitigate known vulnerabilities.

H.R. 2980 would do just that.

I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her foresight, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2980, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

CISA CYBER EXERCISE ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 3223) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency the National Cyber Exercise Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3223

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 ''CISA Cyber Exercise Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CYBER EXERCISE PROGRAM.

(a)IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 2220A. NATIONAL CYBER EXERCISE PROGRAM.

''(a)ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

''(1)IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Agency the National Cyber Exercise Program (referred to in this section as the 'Exercise Program') to evaluate the National Cyber Incident Response Plan, and other related plans and strategies.

''(2)REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A)IN GENERAL.—The Exercise Program shall be—

''(i) based on current risk assessments, including credible threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences;

''(ii) designed, to the extent practicable, to simulate the partial or complete incapacitation of a government or critical infrastructure network resulting from a cyber incident;

''(iii) designed to provide for the systematic evaluation of cyber readiness and enhance operational understanding of the cyber incident response system and relevant information sharing agreements; and

''(iv) designed to promptly develop after-action reports and plans that can quickly incorporate lessons learned into future operations.

''(B)MODEL EXERCISE SELECTION.—The Exercise Program shall—

''(i) include a selection of model exercises that government and private entities can readily adapt for use; and—

''(ii) aid such governments and private entities with the design, implementation, and evaluation of exercises that—

''(I) conform to the requirements described in subparagraph (A);

''(II) are consistent with any applicable national, State, local, or Tribal strategy or plan; and

''(III) provide for systematic evaluation of readiness.

''(3)CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the Exercise Program, the Director may consult with appropriate representatives from Sector Risk Management Agencies, cybersecurity research stakeholders, and Sector Coordinating Councils.

''(b)DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1)STATE.—The term 'State' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

''(2)PRIVATE ENTITY.—The term 'private entity' has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).''.

(b)TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1)HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in the first section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665; relating to the duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2215. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES RELATING TO .GOV INTERNET DOMAIN.'';

(B) in the second section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665b; relating to the joint cyber planning office), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2216. JOINT CYBER PLANNING OFFICE.'';

(C) in the third section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665c; relating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2217. CYBERSECURITY STATE COORDINATOR.'';

(D) in the fourth section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665d; relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2218. SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.'';

(E) in section 2216 (6 U.S.C. 665e; relating to the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2219. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.'';

and

(F) in section 2217 (6 U.S.C. 665f; relating to Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2220. CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.''.

(2)CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021.—Paragraph (1) of section 904(b) of division U of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''of 2002'' after ''Homeland Security Act''.

(c)CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 2214 through 2217 and inserting the following new items:

''Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.
''Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.
''Sec. 2216. Joint cyber planning office.
''Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.
''Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.
''Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.
''Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs.
''Sec. 2220A. National Cyber Exercise Program.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as Americans prepared for their 4th of July holiday weekends, a Russian-based cybercrime crime group launched a ransomware attack that would affect up to 1,500 small- and medium-sized businesses and local governments.

The Kaseya ransomware attacks followed a series of cyberattacks, including one that resulted in the shutdown of 5,500 miles of pipeline on the East Coast.

The unfortunate reality is that the rate and ferocity of cyberattacks show no signs of ebbing.

State actors and cybercriminals alike use cyber tools to advance their goals, regardless of whether they are driven by geopolitical considerations or profiteering.

Together, the Federal Government and its State, local, and private sector partners must do everything in their power to defend our networks while deterring and raising the cost of cyberattacks.

At the same time, we must have tested, exercised cyber-incident response plans in place in the event a malicious hacker successfully gains access to a victim network.

Last year's National Defense Authorization Act included language directing DHS, in coordination with interagency partners, to conduct four exercises over the next 12 years to test the resiliency, response, and recovery of the U.S. to a significant cyber incident impacting critical infrastructure.

Such exercises are critical to understanding our national resilience to cyberattacks and where we need to invest in improving capability.

H.R. 3223 would complement the capstone exercise program authorized last year.

It directs the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, together with sector risk management agencies, to develop an exercise program that is designed to more regularly test and assess systemic preparedness and resilience to cyberattacks against critical infrastructure.

The authorization includes requirements for the development of model exercises that State and local governments or private sector entities could readily adapt.

Our collective resilience to cyberattacks demands that we regularly assess and improve our ability to respond to cyberattacks.

The exercise program authorized by H.R. 3223 will help State and local governments and private sector critical infrastructure entities to do just that.

So I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3223, and I reserve the balance of my time

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3223, the CISA Cyber Exercise Act. I thank my friend and colleague, Ms. SLOTKIN, for her leadership on this bill, which establishes a cyber exercise program

within CISA to elevate the National Cyber Incident Response Plan.

As cyberattacks affecting our Nation's critical infrastructure continue to rise, it is imperative that State and local governments and the private sector leverage the free services CISA offers to help prevent and mitigate the scourge of ransomware and other cyberattacks facing our Nation.

I am pleased that this legislation will authorize another vital tool in CISA's arsenal.

I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3223, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN).

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the CISA Cyber Exercise Act, a bipartisan bill to strengthen our preparation for cyber threats, which I introduced following the ransomware attacks on the Colonial Pipeline.

Last month, I happened to have the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Vilsack join me in Ingham County in my district to talk to farmers about protecting family farms, a very important topic in a rural community like mine. And when we went to open Q and A what I think shocked everybody was that the first man to stand up, the first farmer that stood up in his John Deere hat and his overalls wanted to know about cybersecurity. That was the first thing on his mind.

I never imagined that, as a Member of Congress, I would find myself standing in a barn talking with local farmers about ransomware, cyberattacks, and how we are going to protect ourselves but, in fact, I have been having that conversation over and over again in my community. And that is because the last few months have made clear to all Americans that cybersecurity is not just a tech issue, it has gone mainstream. It is at the very heart of protecting our critical infrastructure, energy, food, water, and healthcare that drives our daily lives, and it affects every single one of us. That is why just a week after a ransomware attack struck the world's largest meat processor, these Ingham County farmers wanted to know how cyberattacks would affect their family farms, their livelihood.

What would happen if we were struck by ransomware in Michigan? Who could they turn to to call for help? And above all, what is our government doing to protect citizens who are on the front lines of this threat?

I introduced the CISA Cyber Exercise Act to help answer exactly those questions.

This bill will make sure that our government is preparing for the full range of cyber threats and that we are giving our communities and businesses the tools they need to be secure and resilient.

It strengthens CISA, which is literally America's 911 call for cybersecurity, by formally establishing a National Cyber Exercise Program to test our Nation's response plans for major cyberattacks.

It also directs CISA to build and expand a set of model cyber exercises that can be used by our State and local governments.

By passing this legislation today, we are helping to ensure our Nation and our communities are protected.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge Members to support this fine bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, the country is experiencing an unprecedented number of significant cyberattacks.

From hospitals to schools to pipelines and a meat processing plant, nothing is immune.

The key to ensuring we are resilient to cyberattacks is to ensure that we have trained and tested cyber incident response plans.

H.R. 3223, the CISA Cyber Exercise Act, is critical in that effort.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3223, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3223.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

DOMAINS CRITICAL TO HOMELAND SECURITY ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3264) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require research and development to identify and evaluate the extent to which critical domain risks within the United States supply chain pose a substantial threat to homeland security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3264

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 ''Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act''.

SEC. 2. CRITICAL DOMAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 890B. HOMELAND SECURITY CRITICAL DOMAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary is authorized to conduct research and development to—

''(A) identify United States critical domains for economic security and homeland security; and

''(B) evaluate the extent to which disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction of any of such domain poses a substantial threat to homeland security.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) RISK ANALYSIS OF CRITICAL DOMAINS.—The research under paragraph (1) shall include a risk analysis of each identified United States critical domain for economic security to determine the degree to which there exists a present or future threat to homeland security in the event of disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction to such domain. Such research shall consider, to the extent possible, the following:

''(i) The vulnerability and resilience of relevant supply chains.

''(ii) Foreign production, processing, and manufacturing methods.

''(iii) Influence of malign economic actors.

''(iv) Asset ownership.

''(v) Relationships within the supply chains of such domains.

''(vi) The degree to which the conditions referred to in clauses (i) through (v) would place such a domain at risk of disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction.

''(B) ADDITIONAL RESEARCH INTO HIGH-RISK CRITICAL DOMAINS.—Based on the identification and risk analysis of United States critical domains for economic security pursuant to paragraph (1) and subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, respectively, the Secretary may conduct additional research into those critical domains, or specific elements thereof, with respect to which there exists the highest degree of a present or future threat to homeland security in the event of disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction to such a domain. For each such high-risk domain, or element thereof, such research shall—

''(i) describe the underlying infrastructure and processes;

''(ii) analyze present and projected performance of industries that comprise or support such domain;

''(iii) examine the extent to which the supply chain of a product or service necessary to such domain is concentrated, either through a small number of sources, or if multiple sources are concentrated in one geographic area;

''(iv) examine the extent to which the demand for supplies of goods and services of such industries can be fulfilled by present and projected performance of other industries, identify strategies, plans, and potential barriers to expand the supplier industrial base, and identify the barriers to the participation of such other industries;

''(v) consider each such domain's performance capacities in stable economic environments, adversarial supply conditions, and under crisis economic constraints;

''(vi) identify and define needs and requirements to establish supply resiliency within each such domain; and

''(vii) consider the effects of sector consolidation, including foreign consolidation, either through mergers or acquisitions, or due to recent geographic realignment, on such industries' performances.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the research under paragraph (1) and subparagraph

(B) of paragraph (2), the Secretary may consult with appropriate Federal agencies, State agencies, and private sector stakeholders.

''(4) PUBLICATION.—Beginning one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a report containing information relating to the research under paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), including findings, evidence, analysis, and recommendations. Such report shall be updated annually through 2026.

''(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the publication of each report required under paragraph (4) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate each such report, together with a description of actions the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, will undertake or has undertaken in response to each such report.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) UNITED STATES CRITICAL DOMAINS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY.—The term 'United States critical domains for economic security' means the critical infrastructure and other associated industries, technologies, and intellectual property, or any combination thereof, that are essential to the economic security of the United States.

''(2) ECONOMIC SECURITY.—The term 'economic security' means the condition of having secure and resilient domestic production capacity, combined with reliable access to the global resources necessary to maintain an acceptable standard of living and to protect core national values.

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

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 890A the following new item:

''Sec. 890B. Homeland security critical domain research and development.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

□ 1345

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3264, the Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act. America's economy depends on diverse and resilient supply chains that ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services to the Nation.

Disruptions, whether caused by natural disasters or manmade events, can reduce the availability and integrity of critical supplies. This has significant Homeland Security implications.

For example, the COVID–19 pandemic revealed vulnerabilities in the Nation's medical supply chains, which caused persistent shortages for personal protective equipment and testing supplies; most of which is manufactured overseas. And the recent ransomware attack on Colonial Pipeline showed how a brief shutdown of a major gas pipeline can drive up prices and lead to gas shortages.

H.R. 3264 would authorize DHS to conduct research and development into supply chain risks for critical domains of the U.S. economy. The research would include a risk analysis for each critical domain to identify weaknesses that pose a substantial homeland security threat.

The bill would also require DHS to report on the results of its research annually through fiscal year 2026. This report will allow the public and private sectors to take meaningful action to mitigate risk and to ensure the long-term economic security of the United States.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York for her words in support of H.R. 3264, a bill I introduced called the Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act. We are now a year and a half into the COVID pandemic and, as a country, have yet to make substantial progress in making our supply chains more secure and resilient.

America's economic and homeland security depends on the flow of goods, services, information, and technology across our physical and virtual borders. And as we all know, COVID–19 exposed many risks and flaws to our critical supply chains; flaws that we now must address.

Over the past year and a half, we painfully discovered that China was a world leader in the production of personal protective equipment. And despite being the epicenter of the pandemic, China was in a privileged position, blocking the rest of the world's access to PPE at a time of maximum need.

China selfishly was able to plan ahead with its asymmetrical knowledge of what would be needed, choosing to put the U.S. and the rest of the world at risk. It has become clear that the United States is overly reliant on many important goods from China, such as semiconductors, rare earth minerals used in electronics, and active ingredients in pharmaceuticals, all of which could put Americans' security and resilience at risk. It has become clear that many future supply chain vulnerabilities are likely unknown to us, even now.

With COVID, we learned these lessons the hard way. Now is the time to act by proactively identifying these risks. We can't allow ourselves to be behind the curve in the next national or global disaster. We need to take action and get ahead of the curve and do our best to serve our country. That means we need to stop talking about it and finally put pen to paper.

To do this—to keep our supply chain secure—and to prevent similar disruptions from crippling our economy and jeopardizing our resiliency posture, Homeland Security needs to identify and analyze weak links in the U.S. global supply chains and work to prioritize where efforts need to be focused to strengthen those most critical to our homeland.

My bill requires Homeland Security to do just that; to look at critical supply chains, identify weaknesses, and prioritize vulnerabilities in a way that allows for meaningful action in years ahead to address them. This is really just commonsense legislation. It is about being prepared.

Requiring Homeland Security to report on these vulnerabilities to our economic security annually to Congress and the public will allow for the first time a unifying document that accounts for the security implications of current and future economic decisions, and enable a prioritized policy response to spur action.

It is crucial that Homeland Security lean into its unique position as the only executive department that deals with both the national security and economic prosperity of the Nation, and lead the United States Government as a preeminent economic security agency in the decades to come.

This is a natural maturation of Homeland Security's unique vantage point sitting on top of 16 critical infrastructure sectors where it stitches together a holistic national risk picture.

We can no longer take for granted the resiliency of our economy. We need to work to ensure that all modes of travel are safe, to facilitate trade through our ports of entry, and to keep our networks free from cyberattacks.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, Chairman THOMPSON, for being an original cosponsor, as well as all my committee colleagues for unanimously supporting this bipartisan legislation in committee. Economic security is homeland security, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3264 to improve America's economic and homeland security, and I thank the gentleman from New York

for his forward-leaning legislation in introducing this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3264.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1850) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1850

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 Research and Development for First Responders Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 322. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under section 308(c)(2). Such laboratory shall be used to test and evaluate emerging technologies and conduct research and development to assist emergency response providers in preparing for, and protecting against, threats of terrorism.

''(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory described in this subsection is the laboratory—

''(1) known, as of the date of the enactment of this section, as the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory; and

''(2) transferred to the Department pursuant to section 303(1)(E).

''(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory shall—

''(1) conduct tests, evaluations, and assessments of current and emerging technologies, including, as appropriate, the cybersecurity of such technologies that can connect to the internet, for emergency response providers;

''(2) act as a technical advisor to emergency response providers; and

''(3) carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting in any manner the authorities or responsibilities of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 321 the following new item:

''Sec. 322. National Urban Security Technology Laboratory.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1850, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.

First responders across the Nation are facing unprecedented challenges. Over the past year, the unrelenting demands of COVID–19 have placed great strain on our hometown heroes. In the West, first responders have had the added challenge of battling devastating wildfires; and in the East, they are in the midst of a dangerous hurricane season.

Compounding these challenges is a terrorism threat landscape that, according to the Department of Homeland Security, has ''evolved significantly and become increasingly complex and volatile in 2021.''

Given the complexity of the challenges our men and women on the front lines face, it is critical that they have the most reliable and effective technology and equipment to respond. When it comes to delivering innovative technological solutions, the first responder community looks to the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory in New York City.

NUSTL, as it has come to be known, serves a unique mission in the Federal Government. It is the only Federal lab that is solely dedicated to researching and developing technology to help first responders safely and effectively respond to emergencies that range from natural disasters and industrial incidents to active shooters and terrorist attacks.

New innovative emergency response technologies are constantly being deployed, but to keep our first responders safe, they must first be tried and tested.

Enactment of H.R. 1850 would ensure that NUSTL can continue to carry out this vital role in Homeland Security. Specifically, it would ensure that NUSTL could continue to conduct simulated scenarios with first responders to test new emergency systems, support research for innovative technology, and assist first responders in evaluating new tools.

In recent years, despite NUSTL's recognized value to the Nation, we saw the Trump administration repeatedly propose shuttering it. Thankfully, Congress rejected those shortsighted proposals and redoubled its support for this vital institution.

Looking ahead, we must not only permanently authorize NUSTL by enacting H.R. 1850, but we must also continue to prioritize funding for the lab so it can continue its critical work.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2021.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I am writing to address the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (''Science Committee'') in H.R. 1850, the ''Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.''

While the Science Committee has claimed jurisdiction over versions of this bill introduced in previous Congresses, I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, and, accordingly agree not to insist on a sequential referral. This is, of course, conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Science Committee, and that a copy of this letter and your response will be included in the bill report to be filed by the Committee on Homeland Security and included in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

Finally, I ask that you support the appointment of Science Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this, or similar legislation. Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2021.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1850, the ''Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.'' I recognize that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 1850, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

I concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 1850 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this Nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1850, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. H.R. 1850 authorizes the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology directorate.

This important lab tests and evaluates emerging technologies and conducts research and development to assist emergency response providers in preparing for and protecting against Homeland Security threats.

The lab also works to enhance first responder capabilities by partnering with stakeholders to develop viable solutions to radiological and nuclear threats and by acting as a technical adviser to the first responder community.

The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory has assisted in training thousands of State and local first responders during more than 130 training events with State and local agencies throughout the New York City metropolitan area. With New York still serving as a top target for terrorist and other security threats, now is the time to support our front line emergency response providers.

Madam Speaker, I commend my fellow New York colleagues, Representatives RICE and GARBARINO, for leading on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 1850, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 1850, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act.

This bipartisan bill would permanently authorize the New York City-based National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, which has been commonly referred to as NUSTL.

□ 1400

NUSTL's mission is to develop and test new tools for our first responders to utilize in response to terrorist attacks, natural disasters, accidents, and other large-scale events.

There is no other lab in the country doing this critical counterterrorism and emergency response work, and it is more important now than ever before.

From the rise in domestic extremism to stronger and more frequent storms as a result of climate change, the threats facing our Nation are pressing. We must make sure our first responders are best equipped to handle any potential emergency, and providing support for NUSTL will help us accomplish that goal.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman GARBARINO, my colleague on Long Island, for co-leading this legislation with me, and I would also like to thank Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KATKO for their help in getting it on the floor.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I want to adopt a comment of my colleague from New York (Ms. CLARKE) about the great State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1850 is a bill to protect our protectors. At the very least, those on the front lines deserve to go to work with the certainty that their equipment will work when they need it the most. They should not have to ask themselves: Will it function under pressure? Can it take the heat?

We owe it to the nearly 2 million Americans who put their lives on the line to protect us to ensure that NUSTL is operational and resourced to test their equipment.

This fall, we will be observing the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks that shook this Nation to its core. The 9/11 attack was not only the single deadliest terrorist attack in human history, but it was the deadliest incident ever for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, 343 New York City firefighters, 23 NYPD officers, and 37 Port Authority officers died that day. By enacting H.R. 1850, we can ensure that as threats continue to grow and change, NUSTL will be there to provide critical technical support to our first responder community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) for this legislation, and I ask that my colleagues support this bipartisan legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCNERNEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1850.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

DHS MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ACT

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a medical countermeasures program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3263

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 ''DHS Medical Countermeasures Act''.

SEC. 2. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 1932. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a medical countermeasures program to facilitate personnel readiness, and protection for the Department's employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic, and to support Department mission continuity.

''(b) OVERSIGHT.—The Chief Medical Officer of the Department shall provide programmatic oversight of the medical countermeasures program established pursuant to subsection (a), and shall—

''(1) develop Department-wide standards for medical countermeasure storage, security, dispensing, and documentation;

''(2) maintain a stockpile of medical countermeasures, including antibiotics, antivirals, and radiological countermeasures, as appropriate;

''(3) preposition appropriate medical countermeasures in strategic locations nationwide, based on threat and employee density, in accordance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations;

''(4) provide oversight and guidance regarding the dispensing of stockpiled medical countermeasures;

''(5) ensure rapid deployment and dispensing of medical countermeasures in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic;

''(6) provide training to Department employees on medical countermeasure dispensing; and

''(7) support dispensing exercises.

''(c) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES WORKING GROUP.—The Chief Medical Officer shall establish a medical countermeasures working group comprised of representatives from appropriate components and offices of the Department to ensure that medical countermeasures standards are maintained and guidance is consistent.

''(d) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Chief Medical Officer shall develop and submit to the Secretary an integrated logistics support plan for medical countermeasures, including—

''(1) a methodology for determining the ideal types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile and how frequently such methodology shall be reevaluated;

''(2) a replenishment plan; and

''(3) inventory tracking, reporting, and reconciliation procedures for existing stockpiles and new medical countermeasure purchases.

''(e) STOCKPILE ELEMENTS.—In determining the types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile under subsection (d), the Chief Medical Officer shall utilize, if available—

''(1) Department chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk assessments; and

''(2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on medical countermeasures.

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the plan developed in accordance with subsection (d) and brief such Committees regarding implementing the requirements of this section.

''(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'medical countermeasures' means antibiotics, antivirals, radiological countermeasures, and other countermeasures that may be deployed to protect the Department's employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1931 the following new item:

''Sec. 1932. Medical countermeasures.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3263 seeks to establish a medical countermeasures program to facilitate the readiness and protection of personnel and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack; disease outbreak; or pandemic.

H.R. 3263 requires DHS' chief medical officer, or CMO, to provide programmatic oversight of the medical countermeasures program and establish a medical countermeasures working group comprised of relevant DHS components.

Additionally, the bill requires the CMO to utilize DHS chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk assessments, and CDC guidance, to determine the types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile.

H.R. 3263, first introduced in the 114th Congress, was developed due to concerns about the possibility of a severe pandemic that could cause illnesses and fatalities and destabilize the operations of DHS. The COVID–19 pandemic has brought these concerns to the forefront.

DHS is responsible for protecting our homeland, but the Department can only do that if it has a safe workforce. Many of the more than 240,000 employees are out on the front lines due to the nature of their responsibilities.

Furthermore, critical supply shortages of personal protective equipment earlier in the pandemic, which affected the Federal Government and State and local governments, also severely impacted DHS operations.

H.R. 3263 is informed by an August 2014 DHS inspector general report. It is also informed by testimony provided during multiple House Homeland Security Committee hearings.

Enactment of this bill will improve DHS' ability to protect the well-being of DHS personnel so they can fulfill their mission: protecting our homeland.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act offered by my colleague and friend, Representative MILLER-MEEKS.

This bill establishes a critical medical countermeasures program within the Department of Homeland Security to protect the workforce from chemical, biological, radiological, and other public health threats.

The COVID–19 pandemic has shown us the importance of preparation and risk mitigation in the face of the unknown. At the Department of Homeland Security, where many components have high-risk, public-facing operations, a medical countermeasures program and stockpile are crucial for ensuring mission continuity.

Like the rest of the country, the Department struggled to maintain sufficient supplies throughout the pandemic. That, combined with the reliance on foreign-made personal protective equipment and other medical supplies, highlights the need for this important legislation.

This bill requires the Homeland Security chief medical officer to maintain a medical countermeasures stockpile and develop standards for its storage, security, and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative MILLER-MEEKS for her leadership on this timely bill. I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 3263, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from New York closes.

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

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act.

The COVID–19 pandemic has wreaked havoc all over the world, causing countless deaths, both from COVID and from unexpected causes unrelated to COVID, businesses shuttering, job loss, and our everyday way of life almost coming to a halt. While I am pleased that the United States is heading back to normalcy with three excellent and widely available vaccines, we cannot forget the great struggles that we encountered just last year.

Every day, countless Americans put their lives on the line for others, including the men and women in the Department of Homeland Security. Throughout the pandemic, the agencies and officers at CBP continued to protect our borders; TSA officers secured our transportation system; and representatives from FEMA, who took a lead role in the government's response to the pandemic, still had to deploy when disaster struck in other areas.

My bill, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act, supports the DHS workforce and Department mission continuity by requiring the Secretary to establish a medical countermeasures program to protect employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack; naturally occurring disease outbreak; or pandemic.

This legislation requires the chief medical officer of the Department to maintain a stockpile of medical countermeasures and to develop Department-wide standards for storage, security, placement, dispensing, supply diversity, and documentation of countermeasures.

This bill requires the establishment of a medical countermeasures working group comprised of representatives from relevant Department components and offices to ensure medical countermeasure standards are maintained and guidance is consistent.

Finally, the bill requires the chief medical officer to develop an integrated logistics support plan for medical countermeasures that includes a methodology for determining types and quantities of countermeasures, inventory tracking, and a replenishment plan for existing stockpiles.

Mr. Speaker, as a doctor, former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, and military veteran, I can assure you I know full well the necessity of medical countermeasures for treatment, diagnosis, and maintaining the safety of our community.

The Department of Homeland Security has over 240,000 employees tasked with jobs ranging from border and aviation security to emergency response and cybersecurity, with one common goal: keeping America safe. It is imperative that materials and processes are put in place to protect the safety and welfare of employees and to

ensure effective pandemic and disaster planning and response for mission continuity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this commonsense bill, H.R. 3263.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge Members to support this bill.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3263 is a measure that this country needs.

I believe all of us in this body can agree that protecting the health and safety of DHS personnel is critical to homeland security, and to that end, we must pass this bill.

Enactment of H.R. 3263 would strengthen medical countermeasure protocols within the Department and help DHS prepare for and respond to homeland threats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3263, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3263.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

□ 1415

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2467, PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2668, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND RECOVERY ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3985, AVERTING LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURY BY EXPEDITING SIVS ACT OF 2021

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 535 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 535

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2467) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–10, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; (2) the further amendments described in section 2 of this resolution; (3) the amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution; and (4) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of this resolution shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time after debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution for the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 4. All points of order against the further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2668) to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to affirmatively confirm the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to seek permanent injunctions and other equitable relief for violations of any provision of law enforced by the Commission. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–11 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3985) to amend the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to expedite the special immigrant visa process for certain Afghan allies, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. (a) At any time through the legislative day of Thursday, July 22, 2021, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV with respect to multiple measures described in subsection (b), and the Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion.

(b) A measure referred to in subsection (a) includes any measure that was the object of a motion to suspend the rules on the legislative day of July 19, 2021, or July 20, 2021, in the form as so offered, on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX.

(c) Upon the offering of a motion pursuant to subsection (a) concerning multiple measures, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 535, providing for considering of three measures. First, H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act, under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment from Chairman PALLONE, provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees, makes in order 10 amendments, provides en bloc authority, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1

hour of general debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 3985, the ALLIES Act of 2021, under a closed rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment from Chairman NADLER, provides for 1 hour of general debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

Finally, the rule provides the majority leader or his designee the ability to en bloc requested roll call votes on suspension bills considered on July 19 and July 20, 2021. This authority lasts through July 22.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the three bills in this rule: H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021; H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act; and H.R. 3985, the ALLIES Act of 2021.

H.R. 2467 will require comprehensive regulation of PFAS under our Nation's landmark environmental laws.

PFAS compounds—dangerous, manmade chemicals which do not break down easily and are known as forever chemicals—have contaminated our water, soil, and air for decades. The CDC estimates that nearly every American has been exposed to them, especially our brave firefighters, servicemembers, and their families.

In my home State of North Carolina, we know this issue too well. Chemical companies have polluted the Cape Fear River with PFAS for years. Tests of drinking water systems in my district, including in Raleigh and Cary, have detected PFAS.

This bill would accomplish multiple goals, including directing the EPA to establish standards to protect our drinking water from contamination and authorizing grants to drinking water utilities treating PFAS contamination.

Some utilities are already investing millions of dollars to upgrade their water treatment technology. I was proud to offer a bipartisan amendment with Congressman ROUZER to clarify the requirements for this grant program, helping to ensure that communities that are already investing money to address this problem can still benefit from the funding included in this bill.

H.R. 2467 is a strong step forward to protect the health of our water, air, soil, and our people. I am thrilled that we are bringing this bipartisan legislation to the House floor.

I also rise in support of H.R. 2668. For over 100 years, the FTC has been tasked with protecting consumers from fraud and deception in the marketplace. Until the Supreme Court's recent ruling, the FTC used a provision of the FTC Act to recover and return billions of dollars to victims of fraud. Senior citizens, military families, and immigrants are particularly vulnerable to scammers and deceptive business practices.

H.R. 2668 will ensure that the FTC has the tools it needs to protect hardworking families and small businesses and to make victims of fraud whole.

Lastly, I rise in support of H.R. 3985. I come from a military State, and I am proud to advocate on behalf of all those who have risked their lives to protect our country. As we draw down our forces in Afghanistan, the very least we can do for our Afghan allies—including interpreters, contractors, and security personnel—is to protect them from the Taliban and provide them with the opportunity to rebuild their lives in safety here in the United States.

North Carolina is fortunate to be home to many courageous Afghans who relocated to the United States through the Afghan Special Immigration Visa program, and I know that my community will benefit from allowing more of these heroes to take refuge in our State.

By increasing the Afghan Special Immigration Visa cap and easing requirements for applicants, this bill will ensure that our Nation keeps its promises to those allies who stood shoulder to shoulder with American forces on the battlefield.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to pass all three of these bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for consideration of a bill to designate perfluorooctanoic acid, also known as PFOA, and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, also known as PFOS, as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, outside the regular rulemaking process. This rule also includes a bill to overturn a recent Supreme Court decision on the Federal Trade Commission's authority to seek monetary relief for consumers, and a bill to ease restrictions and increase the cap on Special Immigrant Visas for Afghans.

H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act, has a laudable goal to address the negative impacts of PFOA and PFAS. These are manmade chemicals and have proven useful but potentially harmful. While they are often used in products throughout our world, there is evidence that certain types of PFAS lead to negative health consequences. Although there is bipartisan agreement that Congress needs to address PFAS contamination, this bill does not achieve that goal.

The PFAS Action Act would require the Environmental Protection Agency to designate PFAS and PFOA as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, known as CERCLA, within 1 year of the bill's passage and then to consider designating the remaining 9,000-plus PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances within 5 years.

The reality is just over 800 compounds have been categorized as hazardous substances since the passage of CERCLA in 1980. Now, we are going to add over 9,000 chemicals in just 5 years, and I submit it will be nearly impossible for the Environmental Protection Agency to implement this.

The agency is actively engaged in investigating the prevalence of PFAS chemicals and has undertaken rulemakings to address some of the provisions in this bill, so undercutting this process by establishing unrealistic requirements on a shortened timeline sets the Environmental Protection Agency up for failure.

CERCLA is an incredibly complex body of law that triggers significant liability if a cleanup is necessary. Creating a blanket designation of all of the 9,252 PFAS chemicals would create a massive problem for consumers who live with FDA-approved PFAS devices. For example, 40 million Americans are currently living with a PFAS-based heart stent.

Are they to be designated as Superfund sites or to have those stents removed?

□ 1430

A blanket CERCLA designation would also hinder innovation in new products. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed the vulnerabilities in our supply chain. It doesn't seem like the correct time to limit the materials available for innovation when the designation as hazardous, for largely useful compounds, is based on rushed science.

This bill also requires the EPA to issue a rule on toxicity testing for PFAS, a rule on PFAS contamination of drinking water, and a rule to designate all PFAS chemicals as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Furthermore, this legislation requires the Environmental Protection Agency to establish grants for communities to implement PFAS water treatment technologies.

Republicans offered amendments in the Energy and Commerce Committee and at the Rules Committee that were rejected for various procedural reasons. The Rules Committee did not receive a score from the Congressional Budget Office for this bill until an hour before our Rules meeting yesterday, and the CBO score was indeterminate.

The administration of this bill would cost the Federal Government $280 million over 10 years. It is impossible to know how this impacts Federal spending over the next 10 years. No one knows how much PFAS contamination exists, so no one knows how much liability this bill creates for taxpayers.

Because the amendments offered by Republicans were based on the underlying bill, the amendments were also problematic from a budget perspective. There is no reason to limit consideration of these amendments that affect consumer safety based on the inability to achieve a budget score because the underlying bill is budgetarily suspect.

Ultimately, this bill ignores the societal good that some fluorinated compounds demand. PFAS are in medical devices that save lives. They are used in firefighting foams to put out the worst of blazes, including jet fuel fires. They are in advanced energy products like solar panels and pipelines. They are even in piano keys and dental floss. These compounds are risky if used improperly or irresponsibly, but they are essential when used correctly.

Our second bill, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act seeks to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in the case of AMG Capital v. Federal Trade Commission. In this decision, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act does not grant the Federal Trade Commission the authority to seek monetary relief as an equitable remedy when engaging in enforcement actions.

Unfortunately, this bill was rushed through the Energy and Commerce Committee without addressing any of the Republican concerns. First, this bill reinstates the Federal Trade Commission's authority to seek monetary relief under section 13(b) and expands the scope to apply broadly to all FTC enforcement authority. This will likely make monetary relief the go-to remedy for every alleged FTC violation.

The Federal Trade Commission already has authority to seek monetary relief for fraudulent and dishonest conduct under section 19 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

Second, this bill includes a statute of limitations of 10 years, but a 5-year statute of limitations is in line with the rest of the Federal Trade Commission Act, and, in fact, would be more appropriate. It does not make sense for courts to go back for a full decade to calculate monetary relief.

During the Rules meeting yesterday, Ranking Member BILIRAKIS offered an amendment that would have addressed these two issues. Unfortunately, committee Democrats would not even allow a debate on these amendments on the floor of this House.

Additionally, the expanded scope of the bill would give the Federal Trade Commission new authority to seek monetary relief in antitrust cases. This remedy is currently not needed, because antitrust cases can be brought through private rights of action or, in fact, treble damages, a tripling of the compensatory damages, can be awarded.

This bill is a missed opportunity to develop Federal privacy legislation that is needed to overcome a patchwork of State laws. A key part of protecting consumers is ensuring that the Federal Trade Commission has the tools to enforce a Federal privacy standard. It is disappointing that the Democrats refused to work with Republicans to make this bill actually useful and effective for real consumers.

Republicans support ensuring that the Federal Trade Commission has the necessary tools to protect consumers from bad actors. But it also recognizes that guardrails are necessary to prevent the Federal Trade Commission from exceeding its authority.

The final bill, the ALLIES Act, expands the number of special immigrant visas by 8,000 and eases requirements for Afghan requirements. To qualify, an individual must have been employed in Afghanistan by or on behalf of the United States Government, the International Security Assistance Force, or the Resolute Support Mission.

This bill removes the current requirement that the International Security Assistance Force or Resolute Support employees had been engaged in sensitive and trusted positions. This will make it easier for Afghans who served alongside our Armed Forces to qualify.

Americans first entered Afghanistan in October 2001. Most of us were not in Congress in October of 2001. And this, of course, followed the terrorist attacks on September 11 of that year. Once the Taliban was defeated and Osama bin Laden was caught, the United States worked to establish a legitimate and strong central government in Afghanistan. Now, after 20 years, Americans are ready for their brave sons and daughters to come home.

Despite our efforts and bloodshed, Afghanistan remains plagued by a resurgent Taliban, by dangerous militias, and by a weak central government. The Pentagon recently stated that, for all intents and purposes, the United States withdrawal is, in fact, already complete. Unfortunately, many Afghans who served alongside our Armed Forces and security personnel remain in Afghanistan under serious threat due to their employment by or on behalf of the United States' missions.

We must ensure that we are not putting Americans at risk by not properly vetting applicants as they are brought to this country, but we also must do right by those Afghans who risked their lives to aid Americans throughout the last 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, it will come as no surprise to you that I am going to urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule. PFAS water contamination is personal for all of us. Nearly all of us have been contaminated without our consent, without our knowledge. We all have PFAS in our blood, the forever chemical. High levels of this toxin have dangerous and damaging health effects. The EPA's website describes the effects: ''low infant birth weights, effects on the immune system, cancer . . . and thyroid hormone disruption.''

And manufacturers knew. They knew the dangers of PFAS my entire life. It wasn't until the turn of this century and the heroic work of Attorney Rob Bilott that they were forced to admit what they knew. They knew that PFAS was toxic in the 1960s. They knew it was building up in our bodies, in our blood, by the 1970s. They knew it was contaminating our water by the 1980s. They knew that it was poisoning our own workers by the 1990s. But they hid the truth from their own workers, from their neighbors, from you and me.

We have a responsibility to protect everyone from PFAS contamination and the PFAS Action Act is a step in the right direction in ensuring everyone has clean water. The PFAS Action Act would: require the EPA to establish a national drinking water standard; designate PFOA and PFOS chemicals as hazardous substances; require EPA to regulate PFAS discharge; and provide $200 million annually for wastewater treatment; place a moratorium on the introduction of new PFAS; and require comprehensive PFAS health testing.

All of this would set a standard and provide protections. I am grateful to see a requirement for EPA to develop necessary rules for safe disposal of PFAS. That is included in this legislation.

We cannot continue to allow manufacturers to recklessly poison our communities. As we move forward, remember, it is our responsibility as legislators to educate, litigate, legislate, and finally hold polluters accountable.

I thank Representative DINGELL for her tenacity in drafting and passing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill as well as the other two bills in the rule.

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

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to immediately consider S. 1867, the COVID–19 Origin Act, introduced by Senator HAWLEY. It has been 55 days since the Senate passed this critical bill without a single dissenting vote.

Declassifying intelligence surrounding the origin of COVID–19 is imperative and key to the House Republican plan to hold China accountable for the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, to further explain the amendment, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), a valuable member of the Doctors Caucus.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge defeat of the previous question so we can immediately consider S. 1867, the COVID–19 Origin Act of 2021.

The coronavirus pandemic has been marred by fear, confusion, and mistrust, and it appears very possible that this virus was genetically engineered through gain-of-function research in a lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, making the virus more contagious to human beings.

It is absolutely true that there has been political engineering, including even speaking on the facts of its origin and its initial spread. I am sure each and every one of us has talked to constituents who have said they just don't know what to believe is true when it comes to COVID. Well, we are in a position today to help, to provide some transparency and accountability. The best disinfectant is sunlight and that is what we can provide today.

I could stand up here for hours walking through the specific details of the report that I helped conduct with some of my colleagues on the Intelligence Committee, or by rehashing the findings from the hearings that our Republican colleagues on the Select Committee conducted, but I only have a few minutes, so here are a few key facts and pieces of information that our bill establishes.

Right now, what we do know is that, according to the Department of State, we have ''reason to believe that several researchers in the Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick in the autumn of 2019 . . . with symptoms consistent with both COVID–19 and common seasonal illnesses.''

We also know Wuhan researchers, including Dr. Shi Zheng-Li, also known colloquially as the ''bat lady,'' conducted experiments involving a particular bat virus which showed an incredibly similar genetic makeup to SARS-CoV–2, the virus that causes COVID–19.

We also know from publications that Dr. Shi was conducting dangerous gain-of-function research.

Further, we know that the Wuhan Institute, which presents itself as a civilian institution, has received U.S. taxpayer dollars through grants to the EcoHealth Alliance. The lab has collaborated on projects for China's military.

Finally, there is no animal intermediary found. As scientists have stated, COVID–19 in its present form would have taken years to develop naturally in its infectious state, yet it did not. Rather, it was seemingly immediate.

When I was on the Cincinnati Board of Health, we investigated health issues, and we provided our findings to the public. We never saw anything like this pandemic, but we played a key role in keeping our community healthy by preventing smaller outbreaks from happening again.

That is why, given these facts, the bill calls for three things. The bill first establishes that we must identify the precise origins of COVID–19 because it is critical for preventing a similar pandemic in the future.

Earlier this year, CDC Director Robert Redfield stated, ''the most likely etiology of this pathogen in Wuhan was from a laboratory.''

Even Director-General Tedros of the World Health Organization acknowledges that COVID–19 may have originated in a lab and thought it was worth investigating.

Second, given these scientific opinions and a whole slew of evidence, including what I noted earlier, the bill establishes that we have reason to believe that the COVID–19 pandemic may have originated in the Wuhan Institute of Virology in their lab.

Finally—and this goes back to my original point about transparency—the bill requires the Director of National Intelligence to declassify as much evidence as possible that they can of what they know about the origin of COVID–19; what activity the Wuhan lab was conducting; and what we know about the researchers who reportedly fell ill back in 2019.

The bill is about accountability for Americans who want to know, who deserve to know what caused this horrible scourge that took the lives of so many of our families and loved ones; that destroyed our businesses and livelihoods; that robbed them of years of their lives. Actually, the whole world wants to know.

□ 1445

It is critical to inform Congress so we can better prepare to stave off the next pandemic. I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have recently asked our leaders to establish a committee to do just that. I think it is a laudable goal, and this bill would help those efforts.

I can't stress enough that this bill is not controversial by any means. In fact, it passed the Senate in May with unanimous consent. Not one Senator objected, not Senators CRUZ or RAND PAUL, not BERNIE SANDERS or ELIZABETH WARREN. If those four Senators can get on board with this bill, should not we be able to do the same?

Mr. Speaker, I urge defeat of the previous question and for immediate consideration of S. 1867. It is for transparency. It is for accountability. It is for truth. It is for doing the right thing on behalf of humankind.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule under consideration today.

Well before coming to Congress, I provided legal services for Iraqis and Afghans who had put their lives at risk as drivers, translators, and contractors to help our military abroad. They needed help to obtain the Special Immigrant Visas they were promised in return.

From that experience, I know firsthand that the process is rigorous and time-consuming. Even before the pandemic, it could take years for these critical allies to receive the special visas they were promised. During that time, they and their families faced continual threats of injury and death. Many died, had to go into hiding, or had their relatives killed because they had assisted U.S. forces.

As the U.S. leaves Afghanistan after almost two decades of unending war, we need to streamline the SIV process so that we can make good on America's promise to our Afghan allies who risked their lives to protect our troops.

The ALLIES Act would ensure that the U.S. keeps its promise to protect those allies who worked with U.S. troops in Afghanistan. We must pass this bill quickly so that no one is left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to state my support for the other two bills in today's rule.

My region knows just how pervasive and dangerous the PFAS chemicals are. Pennsylvania has multiple PFAS-contaminated sites, and my district is downstream from a couple of them.

Uncontaminated drinking water should not be a debatable topic. For the health and safety our families, friends, and neighborhoods, we need to properly regulate and remediate PFAS chemicals, and this bill would do just that.

Finally, we need to pass the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act to restore the ability of the FTC to protect consumers by forcing bad actors to return funds to consumers who have been defrauded, in the wake of a Supreme Court decision that took away that power from the FTC.

It is estimated that Pennsylvania seniors lose about $1.2 billion a year to scammers. Forcing reimbursements has been a key tool in the FTC toolbox for almost 40 years, and it is probably the most important tool for the individual consumer. This bill will make clear Congress' intent to restore that power to the FTC.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this rule and its underlying legislation, and I call on all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, again, I am going to urge defeat of the previous question and consideration of the amendment as previously discussed by Dr. WENSTRUP.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) to further explain the amendment.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BURGESS for yielding and Dr. WENSTRUP for leading this effort.

If the previous question is defeated, we will amend the rule to immediately consider S. 1867, the COVID–19 Origin Act of 2021. This legislation, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent, is simple. If passed, the bill would require the Biden administration's Director of National Intelligence to declassify intelligence information related to any potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology, also known as the Wuhan lab, and the origins of COVID–19 in order to better prepare for and avoid future pandemics.

Let's remember the devastating effect that this pandemic has had in this country with over 600,000 deaths and 4 million deaths worldwide.

In May, Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee released an interim report outlining the growing evidence of a possible lab leak of the COVID–19 virus.

Here are the facts. Number one, we know, based on numerous reports, that the researchers at the Wuhan lab fell sick with COVID-related symptoms in the fall of 2019. Number two, we also know that there was active engagement by the Chinese military at the Wuhan lab. And, number three, we know that the Chinese Government has continued to hinder efforts for data collection and transparency in this investigation. Essentially, Mr. Speaker, they have been nontransparent and noncooperative.

The bottom line is, the American people deserve a full accounting of the origins of the COVID–19 pandemic, which has resulted in shutting down our economy, massive deaths across the world, and millions out of work.

Mr. Speaker, how can we prevent a future pandemic if we don't know the genesis of this one?

This vote today will help answer those questions and get to the origins of the pandemic. I am proud to join my friend, Congressman WENSTRUP, in this effort for transparency, and I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE), another distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend, my colleague from the Rules Committee, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS).

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the rule in favor of the ALLIES Act.

This bill would protect our Afghan partners who risked their lives as translators and navigators to U.S. military personnel by expediting the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa process and approving an additional 8,000 visas so that they can come to America as soon as possible.

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan has placed thousands of these allies and their families at risk of retribution.

If not for the contributions of these Afghan partners, the United States military losses could have been greater than already endured during this prolonged conflict.

For 20 years, their courage and sacrifice protected our troops, and they were an invaluable asset to our forces in Afghanistan. We have a duty to ensure both they and their families are safe from retaliation from the Taliban and other terrorist organizations.

In my district of Rochester, New York, my office hears multiple times per week from SIV advocates, like Keeping Our Promise and the Association of Wartime Allies. The stories they share are heartbreaking: brave men and women stuck in bureaucratic limbo, waiting for the visas they were promised so they can start a new life in America.

We need to pass this bill and honor the promise we made to our allies. If we leave these people behind, who will ever be willing to assist U.S. forces around the world, knowing that we lacked the moral resolve to protect our allies?

That is not what we stand for. The United States leads from the front. Now is the time to take charge of the situation and ensure we keep our promise and leave no one behind.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and pass H.R. 3985.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO), a former member of the Rules Committee and a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule. Although there are parts of the rule that I agree with, I am going to talk today about the PFAS Action Act and why I think it is a problem.

Republicans and Democrats alike are concerned about our water quality. Of course, we want to make sure that we have good-quality drinking water.

Unfortunately, the PFAS Action Act goes too far. It classifies over 9,000 chemicals as hazardous. This is a huge problem because there are a lot of materials that are made with PFAS chemicals that aren't harmful to humans.

In one case in point, in my district, there is a company called W. L. Gore. Most of you know about it because they make GORE-TEX, but they also make medical devices. They have 2,000 employees in Flagstaff, Arizona, and they have 1,000 employees in my district. They make heart stents.

I went on a tour of their company. They make all kinds of medical devices that are implanted in human beings that we rely on to save lives. Yet, those medical devices have a form of PFAS in them. If this legislation is passed, you are basically going to cause them to be called hazardous materials, and we won't be able to implant these in people.

This is a huge problem, and I think that my Democratic friends just need to think this through a little bit more.

All of us want clean drinking water. But there are so many different uses of these PFAS chemicals, over 9,000 of them, and some of them are for really good uses, like these medical devices, the heart stents.

That is why I oppose this rule. I ask my Democrat colleagues to reconsider. We had an amendment in the Energy and Commerce Committee that was rejected by the Democrats, although one of the members said they would like to revisit and fix it.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlewoman from North Carolina as she manages this rule and does it in an excellent manner.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the underlying rule and to mention that H.R. 2467, known as the PFAS Action Act, is an important step in the right direction in providing safe and proper use of these chemicals.

As well, I rise in support of H.R. 2668, which is dealing with reinforcing the authority of the Federal Trade Commission.

Likewise, I rise in support of H.R. 3985, and I thank JASON CROW for his leadership. That is, of course, expanding the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 to expedite the Special Immigrant Visa process for certain Afghan allies, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, we could not be making a more important statement and doing a more important act. We are making a statement that says that we do not forget our friends, our allies.

As a Member of the United States Congress since before 9/11, and having interacted with the Afghanistan Government during the early years, the creation of that government in Kabul, going to Kabul and talking to the beginning, the embryonic parliamentarians, where there were any number of women there in those early years after the war as they began to set up their government, being a part of looking at their constitution and having input into its democratic ideals, I know what can happen when America leaves.

What happened when America left after the Iraq war? Schools with girls were burned. Parliamentarians that were women lost their lives.

This is a dangerous condition, sadly. Those allies who provided us services, who were translators, who provided the civilian services, they are in danger.

This is the right direction. I thank the administration for working with us and working with Mr. CROW. I am a cosponsor of this legislation. It is time to move this now. I really hope the other body seriously takes into account that we are saving lives.

As the co-chair of the Afghan Caucus, I think it is crucial for us to save lives. This is an important initiative. We need to do more. I think there are 8,000 visas. We need to do more, but this is an excellent step. I really support the

efforts of Mr. CROW and thank him for his leadership.

We are going to be monitoring this. We must monitor what the Taliban is doing, and we must make sure that lives are saved.

□ 1500

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how many additional speakers the gentlewoman from North Carolina has.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

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

Mr. Speaker, Republicans agree that PFAS contamination must be addressed, and it must be addressed quickly. But requiring a blanket CERCLA designation for a family of over 9,000 compounds is not only untenable; it circumvents the science and the ongoing work at the Environmental Protection Agency.

I do want to point out that yesterday I had posed a question in the Rules Committee if there had been a hearing in the Energy and Commerce Committee. I was assured that there had been. But, in fact, those hearings occurred in the previous Congress.

There was a reference to PFAS in the budgetary hearing for the Environmental Protection Agency, and there was likewise a tangential reference in a reauthorization of a water bill, but for an issue that is this involved, it seems that this required its own separate hearing within the committee.

The Chair, who is on the Energy and Commerce Committee, knows that sometimes these things run together. We have worked on this problem for so many Congresses that I asked the question simply because I couldn't remember if there had been an actual hearing on this bill in this Congress. But, in fact, there has not, and I just want the RECORD to accurately reflect that.

The reason that that is important is there are many Members in this Congress who were not Members of the previous Congress, and we are asking them to take a vote today on a terribly important piece of legislation. We need to provide our colleagues with all the facts, and the way we do that in regular order is through the regular hearing process in an authorizing committee, like the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Unfortunately, in spite of the assurances from the chair of the Rules Committee, that has not happened with this bill.

Another thing really was concerning to me yesterday in the Rules Committee. I had two amendments. I was told: Oh, we can't do those because we don't really know the budgetary impacts of that.

My gosh, you don't know the budgetary impacts of the entire bill.

We got a CBO score right at the hearing time yesterday, and the CBO score says $280 million of direct expenses over the next 10 years. But it has no idea of the downstream effects of passing this legislation or what the resulting expenditures would be for Federal and State governments. We have no earthly idea what the actual cost of this is.

I would just simply submit, to reject amendments brought in good faith by Republicans because you don't have all the budgetary information at hand when the Congressional Budget Office really cannot provide us the proper budgetary direction on the underlying bill, you begin to see the discrepancy and why that yields so much frustration.

As a result, no Republican amendments to try to improve the bill were considered because of the indeterminate budgetary effects. It seems to me that a bill focused on consumer safety should not be limited by procedural issues.

Those very same procedural issues, Mr. Speaker, can be waived by the Committee on Rules. That is what we do. We waive things all the time. But in this case, we couldn't find the additional energy to be able to do that.

Additionally, the rushed bill to overturn the Supreme Court's decision on the Federal Trade Commission's section 13(b) authority to seek monetary relief will only make monetary relief the go-to remedy for every FTC violation, with no guardrails.

Creating new agency authority that affects consumers should not be undertaken so lightly and should not be rushed through committee without full consideration of the issue. This bill does nothing to advance Federal privacy standards that are needed to overcome the patchwork of State laws and increase our ability to negotiate a new data-sharing agreement with the European Union.

Again, I would just stress that an amendment offered by Mr. BILIRAKIS in committee—and I offered it again yesterday in the Rules Committee—to try to make this a more bipartisan and reasonable approach was rejected on party lines. That is not the way that we should be governing.

Finally, the ALLIES Act will increase the ability of certain Afghans to obtain Special Immigrant Visas. These Afghans worked alongside our troops for years to make their country a better place, often at significant risk to their own lives and their families' lives. We must ensure that they are properly and thoroughly vetted so that the Taliban and jihadist militias cannot exploit our generosity. We must also not leave behind those who risked their lives to aid our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question, and I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

It is long overdue for Congress to take comprehensive action to address the PFAS contamination of our environment and its health impacts on Americans. I have seen this in North Carolina.

Industry has known of the danger of PFAS contamination for decades, yet we still lack significant Federal protections.

We cannot continue to let these manmade chemicals endanger the health of our people and our planet.

H.R. 2467 will protect Americans and our environment by setting standards for our drinking water, instituting comprehensive PFAS testing requirements, providing grants to utilities that are treating contamination, and so much more.

I also support H.R. 2668 to solidify the FTC's ability to retrieve money for victims of frauds and scams. We cannot allow American consumers and businesses to fall victim to fraud without holding scammers and bad actors financially accountable. This emergency legislation will help make Americans who have fallen victim to fraud whole.

Lastly, I support H.R. 3985 to keep our Nation's promises to our Afghan allies and protect those who helped protect us. We owe it to those who put their lives on the line for our Armed Forces. We also owe it to our servicemembers, who will continue to rely in the future on allied interpreters, contractors, and security personnel in foreign lands.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule and the previous question.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule governing debate of H.R. 2668, the "Consumer Protection and Recovery Act", which will ensure that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) can protect American consumers and put money back in the pockets of consumers who have been the victims of fraud and other scams by amending the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC Act) to explicitly provide the FTC the ability to obtain both injunctive and monetary equitable relief for all violations of the laws it enforces.

Specifically, this bill would:

Add a new subsection (e) to section 13 of the FTC Act that specifies types of equitable relief the FTC may pursue: restitution for losses, contract reformation and recission, money refunds, and the return of property;

Provide the FTC disgorgement authority to seek court orders requiring bad actors repay unjust gains acquired in violation of the law.

Clarify that the FTC may seek temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions without bond and that any relief sought under section 13(b) may be for past violations in addition to ongoing and imminent violations.

As the Nation's premier consumer protection agency, the FTC is directed to enforce numerous statutes: the core of which is section 5 of the FTC Act mandating the agency to prevent unfair or deceptive acts or practices and unfair methods of competition.

Section 13(b) of the FTC Act authorizes the FTC to bring suit in federal courts seeking relief for consumers and is a critical enforcement tool the FTC uses to combat fraud and scams under section 5.

In 2020 alone, the FTC returned more than $482 million to over 1.6 million consumer victims of fraud or illegal business practices.

The FTC's restitution authority under section 13(b) was settled law for over 40 years, but

beginning in 2017, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals reversed its own precedent to overturn FTC authority under section 13(b) to obtain monetary relief and the Third Circuit soon followed.

Because of these decisions, close to 48 million Americans in six states became unable to obtain monetary redress under 13(b).

Then, on April 22, 2021, the Supreme Court held in AMG Capital Management v. FTC that section 13(b) does not allow the FTC to seek monetary relief or require bad actors to return money earned through illegal activity.

According to Acting Chairwoman Slaughter, the Supreme Court decision ''deprived the FTC of the strongest tool [the FTC] had to help consumers.''

Mr. Speaker, all five FTC Commissioners have repeatedly urged Congress to take quick action to pass legislation reaffirming FTC authority under section 13(b).

H.R. 2668 does exactly that, by restoring nearly forty years of precedent and giving the FTC the ability to protect Americans from scams and unethical business practices.

Americans need this protection, because every day, and far too often, individuals in Texas and across the country fall victim to financial scammers.

The COVID–19 pandemic has given rise to an increase of scams and fraud that prey on consumers' fears and financial insecurities, and inaction on this issue is not an option as it will only embolden bad actors.

H.R. 2668 will ensure that the FTC maintains its ability to return money to the victims of scams.

Seniors especially need this protection, because they have worked their entire lives with the promise of a safe and secure retirement, but scammers and unscrupulous businesses are taking advantage of uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and working overtime to target them.

Retirement accounts are not the only damage these scams cause—they damage the independence and trust of a vulnerable community.

During the COVID–19 pandemic, we have seen instances of fraud rise in unprecedented numbers, as scammers attempt to take advantage of senior citizens and deprive them of their hard-earned savings.

Bad actors preying on older Americans is, unfortunately, nothing new, but in the midst of a global pandemic impacting Americans' lives and livelihoods, cracking down on those scams must be a priority.

One such scam was thwarted by Houston police and the Harris County District Attorney, who made an arrest in February in an international cyber-scam that bilked unsuspecting, mostly elderly victims out of more than $1 million.

One victim of the scam, Asuncion Peppers, 74, a retired medical technician knows that first hand; She was bilked out of her life savings.

Hackers contacted Ms. Peppers on Facebook, pretending to be one of her Facebook friends.

She was told she was eligible for a government grant of almost one million dollars and all she had to do was send a check to pay taxes.

Investigators believes the scammers were operating from Nigeria, defrauding senior citizens in the U.S. and around the world.

Before Ms. Peppers realized she was being conned, she sent checks totaling $87,000 hard-earned money.

She said that she worked three jobs to build her life savings.

Ms. Peppers and her husband are just two of 38 victims bilked out of more than $1.3 million before the fraud was discovered.

This story is not an isolated incident: although 1 in 20 seniors in the U.S. is a target of fraud schemes, the National Adult Protective Services Association has found that only 1 in 44 seniors report that they are victims of a fraud scheme.

During these unprecedented times, it is imperative that Congress pass legislation that protects U.S. consumers and honest businesses from wrongdoers who steal money through fraud and deception.

Mr. Speaker, we need to strengthen federal prevention efforts and ensure leaders in the public and private sectors are collaborating on effective safeguards.

This begins with ensuring that the FTC has the explicit authority to obtain both injunctive and monetary relief for all violations of the laws it enforces.

I urge all members to join me in voting for the rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 2668, the ''Consumer Protection and Recovery Act.''

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 535

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 8 Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (S. 1867) to require the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID–19, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 9 Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of S. 1867.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 207, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 210]

YEAS—216

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
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
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—207

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
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)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
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
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—7

Costa
Crow
Gonzalez, Vicente
Higgins (LA)
LaMalfa
Lesko
Scott, Austin

□ 1537

Messrs. WESTERMAN and LAHOOD changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. LOFGREN changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Moolenaar)
Allred (Wexton)
Auchincloss (Moulton)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Buchanan (LaHood)
Cárdenas (Carbajal)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Escobar (Garcia (TX))
Fallon (Nehls)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))
Fulcher (Simpson)
García (IL) (Garcia (TX))
Granger (Calvert)
Grijalva (Stanton)
Jackson (Nehls)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Jones (Williams (GA))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Leger Fernandez (Jacobs (CA))
McEachin (Wexton)
McHenry (Banks)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Neal (Lynch)
Nunes (Garcia (CA))
Payne (Pallone)
Pfluger (Mann)
Porter (Wexton)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Underwood)
Smucker (Joyce (PA))
Stewart (Owens)
Tonko (Pallone)
Trone (Beyer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the adoption of the resolution.

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 208, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 211]

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—208

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
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)
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
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—3

Brady
Higgins (LA)
Scott, Austin

□ 1600

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Moolenaar)
Buchanan (LaHood)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Doyle, Michael F. (Cartwright)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))
Fulcher (Simpson)
García (IL) (Garcia (TX))
Gottheimer (Panetta)
Granger (Calvert)
Grijalva (Stanton)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Jones (Williams (GA))
Kahele (Moulton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Underwood)
Stewart (Owens)
Trone (Beyer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS CERTAIN BILLS AND AGREE TO CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 7 of House Resolution 535, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bills: H.R. 678; H.R. 1036; H.R. 1079; H.R. 1158; H.R. 1250; H.R. 1754; H.R. 1833; H.R. 1850; H.R. 1871; H.R. 1877; H.R. 1893; H.R. 1895; H.R. 2118; H.R. 2795; H.R. 2928; H.R. 2980; H.R. 3003; H.R. 3138; H.R. 3223; H.R.

3263; and H.R. 3264, and agree to H. Res. 277; and H. Res. 294.

The Clerk read the title of the bills and the resolutions.

The text of the bills and the resolutions are as follows:

PRESERVING HOME AND OFFICE NUMBERS IN EMERGENCIES ACT OF 2021

H.R. 678

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 ''Preserving Home and Office Numbers in Emergencies Act of 2021'' or the ''PHONE Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON NUMBER REASSIGNMENT AFTER DISASTER DECLARATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) MORATORIUM ON NUMBER REASSIGNMENT AFTER DISASTER DECLARATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a number assigned to a subscriber for the provision of fixed wireline voice service at a location in a designated area during a covered period—

''(i) the number may not be reassigned, except at the request of the subscriber; and

''(ii) the assignment of the number may not be rescinded or otherwise modified, except at the request of the subscriber.

''(B) EXTENSION AT REQUEST OF SUBSCRIBER.—During the covered period, at the request of a subscriber described in subparagraph (A), the prohibition in subparagraph (A) shall be extended for the number for 1 year after the date on which the covered period expires.

''(C) SUBSCRIBER RIGHT TO CANCEL AND RESUBSCRIBE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a number described under subparagraph (A) or (B), if the subscriber assigned to such number demonstrates to the provider of the service (or, under subclause (II), any other provider of fixed wireline voice service that serves the local area) that the residence where the number is located is inaccessible or uninhabitable—

''(I) the provider may not charge the subscriber an early termination or other fee in connection with the cancellation of such service, if cancelled during the covered period or the extension of the period described in subparagraph (B); and

''(II) if the subscriber cancels the service during the covered period or the extension of the period described in subparagraph (B), the provider (or any other provider of fixed wireline voice service that serves the local area)—

''(aa) shall permit the subscriber to subscribe or resubscribe, as the case may be, to fixed wireline voice service with the number at the residence or at a different residence (if such number is available in the location of such different residence); and

''(bb) may not charge the subscriber a connection fee or any other fee relating to the initiation of fixed wireline voice service.

''(ii) CANCELLATION WITHOUT DEMONSTRATION OF INACCESSIBILITY OR UNINHABITABILITY.—If a subscriber cancels the provision of service assigned to a number described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and does not demonstrate to the provider of such service that the residence where the number is located is inaccessible or uninhabitable as described under clause (i), the number is no longer subject to the prohibition under subparagraph (A) or (B).

''(D) IDENTIFICATION ON COMMISSION WEBSITE.—The Commission shall publicly identify on the website of the Commission each designated area that is in a covered period, not later than 15 days after the submission of a public designation by a State under subparagraph (E)(iii) with respect to such area. In identifying a designated area under subparagraph (E)(iii), a State shall consult with providers of fixed wireline voice service that serve such area and coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reasonably limit the designated area to areas that have sustained covered damage.

''(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term 'covered damage' means, with respect to an area—

''(I) damage that renders residences in such area inaccessible or uninhabitable; or

''(II) damage that otherwise results in the displacement of subscribers from or within such area.

''(ii) COVERED PERIOD.—The term 'covered period' means a period that—

''(I) begins on the date of a declaration by the President of a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) with respect to a designated area; and

''(II) ends on the date that is 1 year after such date.

''(iii) DESIGNATED AREA.—The term 'designated area' means a geographic area for which a State has submitted a public designation to the Commission, within 15 days after a declaration by the President of a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) with respect to such area, stipulating that the State has determined that—

''(I) covered damage was sustained in such area; and

''(II) the prohibitions described in this paragraph are necessary and in the public interest.

''(iv) VOICE SERVICE.—The term 'voice service' has the meaning given the term 'voice service' in section 227(e)(8).''.

(b) AMENDMENT OF FCC RULES REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall amend its rules to reflect the requirements of paragraph (5) of section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)), as added by subsection (a).

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (5) of section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)), as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) after the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Commission announces that the Commission is capable of publicly identifying a designated area on the website of the Commission under subparagraph (D) of such paragraph (5).

(d) ORDER OF AMENDMENT EXECUTION.—If this Act is enacted before October 17, 2021, section 3(a) of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–172) is amended, effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, by striking ''adding at the end'' and inserting ''inserting after paragraph (3)'', so that the paragraph (4) that is to be added by such section to section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) appears after paragraph (3) of such section 251(e) and before the paragraph (5) added to such section 251(e) by subsection (a) of this section.

BASSAM BARABANDI REWARDS FOR JUSTICE ACT

H.R. 1036

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 ''Bassam Barabandi Rewards for Justice Act''.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS PROGRAM.

Subsection (b) of section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

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

''(13) the identification or location of an individual or entity that—

''(A) knowingly, directly or indirectly, imports, exports, or reexports to, into, or from any country any goods, services, or technology controlled for export by the United States because of the use of such goods, services, or technology in contravention of a United States or United Nations sanction; or

''(B) knowingly, directly or indirectly, provides training, advice, or other services or assistance, or engages in significant financial transactions, relating to any such goods, services, or technology in contravention of such sanction.''.

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ACT

H.R. 1079

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 ''Desert Locust Control Act''.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to prioritize efforts to control the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability, improve interagency coordination to prevent future outbreaks, and promote resilience in affected countries.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Agency for International Development reports that countries in East Africa are currently suffering the worst desert locust outbreak in decades, which will devour crops and pasture and destroy local livelihoods across the region.

(2) As of December 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization reported that there were 42 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in East Africa, which numbers are projected to increase if the desert locust outbreak is not controlled.

(3) The desert locust outbreak in East Africa, particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, is negatively impacting food security, local livelihoods and economic productivity, and may threaten political stability in the region.

(4) Proactive investments now to control the desert locust outbreak could reduce the need for a much larger United States humanitarian response effort later, as well as support economic and political stability and build resilience in affected countries.

(5) In order to optimize the United States response to the desert locust outbreak, an interagency working group should be established to develop and implement a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, mitigate impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability and prevent future outbreaks.

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish an interagency working group to coordinate the United States response to the

ongoing desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, including the development of a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the outbreak, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability, and prevent future outbreaks.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The interagency working group shall be composed of the following:

(A) Two representatives from the United States Agency for International Development.

(B) One representative from each of the following:

(i) The United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

(ii) The National Security Council.

(iii) The Department of State.

(iv) The Department of Defense.

(v) The Department of Agriculture.

(vi) Any other relevant Federal department or agency.

(2) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one of the representatives from the United States Agency for International Development described in paragraph (1)(A) to serve as chair of the interagency working group.

(c) DUTIES.—The interagency working group shall—

(1) assess the scope of the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, including its impact on food security, economic productivity, and political stability in affected countries;

(2) assess the impacts of restrictions relating to the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as ''COVID–19'') pandemic on efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and mitigate its impacts and in exacerbating food insecurity;

(3) monitor the effectiveness of ongoing assistance efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and mitigate its impacts and identify gaps and opportunities for additional support to such programs;

(4) review the effectiveness of regional and multilateral efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and the coordination among relevant United States Government agencies, regional governments, and international organizations, including the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; and

(5) not later than 90 days after the establishment of the interagency working group under subsection (a), develop and submit to the President and the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust outbreak, including a description of efforts to—

(A) improve coordination among relevant United States Government agencies, regional governments, and international organizations, including the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization;

(B) ensure delivery of necessary assets control the desert locust outbreak and humanitarian and development assistance to address and mitigate impacts to food security, economic productivity, and political stability; and

(C) to the extent practicable, prevent and mitigate future desert locust and other, similar destructive insect outbreaks (such as Fall Armyworm) in Africa and other parts of the world, which require a humanitarian response.

(d) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP SUPPORT.—The interagency working group shall continue to meet not less than semi-annually to facilitate implementation of the comprehensive, strategic plan required by subsection (c)(5).

(e) SUNSET.—This Act shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, or at such time as there is no longer an upsurge in the desert locust outbreak in East Africa, whichever occurs earlier.

(g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

REFUGEE SANITATION FACILITY SAFETY ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1158

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 ''Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. SECURE ACCESS TO SANITATION FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Subsection (a) of section 501 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 2601 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (12), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

''(6) the provision of safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women, girls, and vulnerable populations.''.

EMERGENCY REPORTING ACT

H.R. 1250

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 ''Emergency Reporting Act''.

SEC. 2. REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM; IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.

(a) REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM.—

(1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 weeks after the deactivation of the Disaster Information Reporting System with respect to an event for which the System was activated for at least 7 days, the Commission shall issue a preliminary report on, with respect to such event and to the extent known—

(i) the number and duration of any outages of—

(I) broadband internet access service;

(II) interconnected VoIP service;

(III) commercial mobile service; and

(IV) commercial mobile data service;

(ii) the approximate number of users or the amount of communications infrastructure potentially affected by an outage described in clause (i);

(iii) the number and duration of any outages at public safety answering points that prevent public safety answering points from receiving emergency calls and routing such calls to emergency service personnel; and

(iv) any additional information determined appropriate by the Commission.

(B) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORT.—The Commission shall develop the report required by subparagraph (A) using information collected by the Commission, including information collected by the Commission through the System.

(2) PUBLIC FIELD HEARINGS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 8 months after the deactivation of the Disaster Information Reporting System with respect to an event for which the System was activated for at least 7 days, the Commission shall hold at least 1 public field hearing in the area affected by such event.

(B) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN HEARINGS.—For each public field hearing held under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall consider including—

(i) representatives of State government, local government, or Indian Tribal governments in areas affected by such event;

(ii) residents of the areas affected by such event, or consumer advocates;

(iii) providers of communications services affected by such event;

(iv) faculty of institutions of higher education;

(v) representatives of other Federal agencies;

(vi) electric utility providers;

(vii) communications infrastructure companies; and

(viii) first responders, emergency managers, or 9–1–1 directors in areas affected by such event.

(3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the deactivation of the Disaster Information Reporting System with respect to an event for which the System was activated for at least 7 days, the Commission shall issue a final report that includes, with respect to such event—

(A) the information described under paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) any recommendations of the Commission on how to improve the resiliency of affected communications or networks recovery efforts.

(4) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORTS.—In developing a report required under this subsection, the Commission shall consider information collected by the Commission, including information collected by the Commission through the System, and any public hearing described in paragraph (2) with respect to the applicable event.

(5) PUBLICATION.—The Commission shall publish each report, excluding information that is otherwise exempt from public disclosure under the rules of the Commission, issued under this subsection on the website of the Commission upon the issuance of such report.

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall conduct a proceeding and, after public notice and an opportunity for comment, adopt rules to—

(1) determine the circumstances under which to require service providers subject to the 9–1–1 regulations established under part 9 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, to submit a timely notification, (in an easily accessible format that facilities situational awareness) to public safety answering points regarding communications service disruptions within the assigned territories of such public safety answering points that prevent—

(A) the origination of 9–1–1 calls;

(B) the delivery of Automatic Location Information; or

(C) Automatic Number Identification;

(2) require such notifications to be made; and

(3) specify the appropriate timing of such notification.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTOMATIC LOCATION INFORMATION; AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION.—The terms ''Automatic Location Information'' and ''Automatic Number Identification'' have the meaning given those terms in section 9.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term ''broadband internet access service'' has the meaning given such term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(3) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term ''commercial mobile service'' has the meaning given such term in section 332(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

(4) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE.—The term ''commercial mobile data service'' has the meaning given such term in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

(5) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

(6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The terms ''Indian Tribal government'' and ''Indian Tribal Government'' have the meaning given those terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121).

(7) INTERCONNECTED VOIP SERVICE.—The term ''interconnected VoIP service'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

(8) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The term ''public safety answering point'' has the meaning given such term in section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222).

(9) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

MEASURING THE ECONOMICS DRIVING INVESTMENTS AND ACCESS FOR DIVERSITY ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1754

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 ''Measuring the Economics Driving Investments and Access for Diversity Act of 2021'' or the ''MEDIA Diversity Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. CONSIDERING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.

Section 13(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 163(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) CONSIDERING SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1) and regulatory barriers under subsection (b)(3), the Commission, with the input of the Office of Communications Business Opportunities of the Commission, shall consider market entry barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals in the communications marketplace in accordance with the national policy under section 257(b).''.

DHS INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS CAPABILITIES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1833

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 ''DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. CAPABILITIES OF THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY TO IDENTIFY THREATS TO INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (H), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon; and

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

''(I) activities of the Center address the security of both information technology and operational technology, including industrial control systems;''; and

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

''(p) INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.—The Director shall maintain capabilities to identify and address threats and vulnerabilities to products and technologies intended for use in the automated control of critical infrastructure processes. In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall—

''(1) lead Federal Government efforts, in consultation with Sector Risk Management Agencies, as appropriate, to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats to industrial control systems, including supervisory control and data acquisition systems;

''(2) maintain threat hunting and incident response capabilities to respond to industrial control system cybersecurity risks and incidents;

''(3) provide cybersecurity technical assistance to industry end-users, product manufacturers, Sector Risk Management Agencies, other Federal agencies, and other industrial control system stakeholders to identify, evaluate, assess, and mitigate vulnerabilities;

''(4) collect, coordinate, and provide vulnerability information to the industrial control systems community by, as appropriate, working closely with security researchers, industry end-users, product manufacturers, Sector Risk Management Agencies, other Federal agencies, and other industrial control systems stakeholders; and

''(5) conduct such other efforts and assistance as the Secretary determines appropriate.''.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every six months thereafter during the subsequent 4-year period, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a briefing on the industrial control systems capabilities of the Agency under section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), as amended by subsection (a).

(c) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review implementation of the requirements of subsections (e)(1)(I) and (p) of section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659), as amended by subsection (a), and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate a report containing findings and recommendations relating to such implementation. Such report shall include information on the following:

(1) Any interagency coordination challenges to the ability of the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency of the Department of Homeland Security to lead Federal efforts to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats to industrial control systems pursuant to subsection (p)(1) of such section.

(2) The degree to which the Agency has adequate capacity, expertise, and resources to carry out threat hunting and incident response capabilities to mitigate cybersecurity threats to industrial control systems pursuant to subsection (p)(2) of such section, as well as additional resources that would be needed to close any operational gaps in such capabilities.

(3) The extent to which industrial control system stakeholders sought cybersecurity technical assistance from the Agency pursuant to subsection (p)(3) of such section, and the utility and effectiveness of such technical assistance.

(4) The degree to which the Agency works with security researchers and other industrial control systems stakeholders, pursuant to subsection (p)(4) of such section, to provide vulnerability information to the industrial control systems community.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

H.R. 1850

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 Research and Development for First Responders Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 322. NATIONAL URBAN SECURITY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall designate the laboratory described in subsection (b) as an additional laboratory pursuant to the authority under section 308(c)(2). Such laboratory shall be used to test and evaluate emerging technologies and conduct research and development to assist emergency response providers in preparing for, and protecting against, threats of terrorism.

''(b) LABORATORY DESCRIBED.—The laboratory described in this subsection is the laboratory—

''(1) known, as of the date of the enactment of this section, as the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory; and

''(2) transferred to the Department pursuant to section 303(1)(E).

''(c) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—The National Urban Security Technology Laboratory shall—

''(1) conduct tests, evaluations, and assessments of current and emerging technologies, including, as appropriate, the cybersecurity of such technologies that can connect to the internet, for emergency response providers;

''(2) act as a technical advisor to emergency response providers; and

''(3) carry out other such activities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as affecting in any manner the authorities or responsibilities of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 321 the following new item:

''Sec. 322. National Urban Security Technology Laboratory.''.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY TRANSPARENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT

H.R. 1871

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 ''Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION; INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SECURITY.

(a) SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) shall—

(A) ensure clear and consistent designation of ''Sensitive Security Information'', including reasonable security justifications for such designation;

(B) develop and implement a schedule to regularly review and update, as necessary, TSA Sensitive Security Information Identification guidelines;

(C) develop a tracking mechanism for all Sensitive Security Information redaction and designation challenges;

(D) document justifications for changes in position regarding Sensitive Security Information redactions and designations, and make such changes accessible to TSA personnel for use with relevant stakeholders, including air carriers, airport operators, surface transportation operators, and State and local law enforcement, as necessary; and

(E) ensure that TSA personnel are adequately trained on appropriate designation policies.

(2) STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) shall conduct outreach to relevant stakeholders described in paragraph (1)(D) that regularly are granted access to Sensitive Security Information to raise awareness of the TSA's policies and guidelines governing the designation and use of Sensitive Security Information.

(b) INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SECURITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop and implement guidelines with respect to last point of departure airports to—

(A) ensure the inclusion, as appropriate, of air carriers and other transportation security stakeholders in the development and implementation of security directives and emergency amendments;

(B) document input provided by air carriers and other transportation security stakeholders during the security directive and emergency amendment, development, and implementation processes;

(C) define a process, including time frames, and with the inclusion of feedback from air carriers and other transportation security stakeholders, for cancelling or incorporating security directives and emergency amendments into security programs;

(D) conduct engagement with foreign partners on the implementation of security directives and emergency amendments, as appropriate, including recognition if existing security measures at a last point of departure airport are found to provide commensurate security as intended by potential new security directives and emergency amendments; and

(E) ensure that new security directives and emergency amendments are focused on defined security outcomes.

(2) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the guidelines described in paragraph (1).

(3) DECISIONS NOT SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any action of the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under paragraph (1) is not subject to judicial review.

SECURITY SCREENING DURING COVID–19 ACT

H.R. 1877

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 ''Security Screening During COVID–19 Act''.

SEC. 2. PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall issue and commence implementing a plan to enhance, as appropriate, security operations at airports during the COVID–19 national emergency in order to reduce risk of the spread of the coronavirus at passenger screening checkpoints and among the TSA workforce.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of best practices developed in response to the coronavirus among foreign governments, airports, and air carriers conducting aviation security screening operations, as well as among Federal agencies conducting similar security screening operations outside of airports, including in locations where the spread of the coronavirus has been successfully contained, that could be further integrated into the United States aviation security system.

(2) Specific operational changes to aviation security screening operations informed by the identification of best practices under paragraph (1) that could be implemented without degrading aviation security and a corresponding timeline and costs for implementing such changes.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the identification of best practices under subsection (b), the Administrator shall take into consideration the following:

(1) Aviation security screening procedures and practices in place at security screening locations, including procedures and practices implemented in response to the coronavirus.

(2) Volume and average wait times at each such security screening location.

(3) Public health measures already in place at each such security screening location.

(4) The feasibility and effectiveness of implementing similar procedures and practices in locations where such are not already in place.

(5) The feasibility and potential benefits to security, public health, and travel facilitation of continuing any procedures and practices implemented in response to the COVID–19 national emergency beyond the end of such emergency.

(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult with public and private stakeholders and the TSA workforce, including through the labor organization certified as the exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-supervisory TSA personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of title 49, U.S. Code.

(e) SUBMISSION.—Upon issuance of the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit the plan to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator shall not be required to implement the plan required under subsection (a) upon the termination of the COVID–19 national emergency except to the extent the Administrator determines such implementation to be feasible and beneficial to security screening operations.

(g) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the commencement of implementation pursuant to subsection (e) of the plan required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review of such implementation.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) CORONAVIRUS.—The term ''coronavirus'' has the meaning given such term in section 506 of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123).

(3) COVID–19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—The term ''COVID–19 national emergency'' means the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) on March 13, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus.

(4) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS.—The term ''public and private stakeholders'' has the meaning given such term in section 114(t)(1)(C) of title 49, United States Code.

(5) TSA.—The term ''TSA'' means the Transportation Security Administration.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1893

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 ''Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. SURVEY OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WORKFORCE REGARDING COVID–19 RESPONSE.

(a) SURVEY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator''), in consultation with the labor organization certified as the exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-supervisory Administration personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of title 49, United States Code, shall conduct a survey of the Transportation Security Administration (referred to in this section as the ''Administration'') workforce regarding the Administration's response to the COVID–19 pandemic. Such survey shall be conducted in a manner that allows for the greatest practicable level of workforce participation.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the survey required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall solicit feedback on the following:

(1) The Administration's communication and collaboration with the Administration's workforce regarding the Administration's response to the COVID–19 pandemic and efforts to mitigate and monitor transmission of COVID–19 among its workforce, including through—

(A) providing employees with personal protective equipment and mandating its use;

(B) modifying screening procedures and Administration operations to reduce transmission among officers and passengers and ensuring compliance with such changes;

(C) adjusting policies regarding scheduling, leave, and telework;

(D) outreach as a part of contact tracing when an employee has tested positive for COVID–19; and

(E) encouraging COVID–19 vaccinations and efforts to assist employees that seek to be vaccinated such as communicating the availability of duty time for travel to vaccination sites and recovery from vaccine side effects.

(2) Any other topic determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completing the survey required under subsection (a), the Administration shall provide a report summarizing the results of the survey to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 3. TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS PLAN.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Section 114 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(x) TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Administrator, in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security and in consultation with the partners identified under paragraphs (3)(A)(i) through (3)(A)(iv), shall develop a transportation security preparedness plan to address the event of a communicable disease outbreak. The Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall ensure such plan aligns with relevant Federal plans and strategies for communicable disease outbreaks.

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall consider each of the following:

''(A) The findings of the survey required under section 2 of the Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021.

''(B) All relevant reports and recommendations regarding the Administration's response to the COVID–19 pandemic, including any reports and recommendations issued by the Comptroller General and the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

''(C) Lessons learned from Federal interagency efforts during the COVID–19 pandemic.

''(3) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall include each of the following:

''(A) Plans for communicating and collaborating in the event of a communicable disease outbreak with the following partners:

''(i) Appropriate Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor, and appropriate interagency task forces.

''(ii) The workforce of the Administration, including through the labor organization certified as the exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-supervisory Administration personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of this title.

''(iii) International partners, including the International Civil Aviation Organization and foreign governments, airports, and air carriers.

''(iv) Public and private stakeholders, as such term is defined under subsection (t)(1)(C).

''(v) The traveling public.

''(B) Plans for protecting the safety of the Transportation Security Administration workforce, including—

''(i) reducing the risk of communicable disease transmission at screening checkpoints and within the Administration's workforce related to the Administration's transportation security operations and mission;

''(ii) ensuring the safety and hygiene of screening checkpoints and other workstations;

''(iii) supporting equitable and appropriate access to relevant vaccines, prescriptions, and other medical care; and

''(iv) tracking rates of employee illness, recovery, and death.

''(C) Criteria for determining the conditions that may warrant the integration of additional actions in the aviation screening system in response to the communicable disease outbreak and a range of potential roles and responsibilities that align with such conditions.

''(D) Contingency plans for temporarily adjusting checkpoint operations to provide for passenger and employee safety while maintaining security during the communicable disease outbreak.

''(E) Provisions setting forth criteria for establishing an interagency task force or other standing engagement platform with other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Transportation, to address such communicable disease outbreak.

''(F) A description of scenarios in which the Administrator should consider exercising authorities provided under subsection (g) and for what purposes.

''(G) Considerations for assessing the appropriateness of issuing security directives and emergency amendments to regulated parties in various modes of transportation, including surface transportation, and plans for ensuring compliance with such measures.

''(H) A description of any potential obstacles, including funding constraints and limitations to authorities, that could restrict the ability of the Administration to respond appropriately to a communicable disease outbreak.

''(4) DISSEMINATION.—Upon development of the plan required under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall disseminate the plan to the partners identified under paragraph (3)(A) and to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

''(5) REVIEW OF PLAN.—Not later than two years after the date on which the plan is disseminated under paragraph (4), and biennially thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator and in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, shall review the plan and, after consultation with the partners identified under paragraphs (3)(A)(i) through (3)(A)(iv), update the plan as appropriate.''.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which the transportation security preparedness plan required under subsection (x) of section 114 of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), is disseminated under paragraph (4) of such subsection (x), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of a study assessing the transportation security preparedness plan, including an analysis of—

(1) whether such plan aligns with relevant Federal plans and strategies for communicable disease outbreaks; and

(2) the extent to which the Transportation Security Administration is prepared to implement the plan.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2021

H.R. 1895

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 ''Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) STERILE AREA.—The term ''sterile area'' has the meaning given such term in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) TSA.—The term ''TSA'' means the Transportation Security Administration.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF TSA PERSONNEL DETAILS.

(a) COORDINATION.—Pursuant to sections 106(m) and 114(m) of title 49, United States Code, the Administrator may provide TSA personnel, who are not engaged in front line transportation security efforts, to other components of the Department and other Federal agencies to improve coordination with such components and agencies to prepare for, protect against, and respond to public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding efforts to improve coordination with other components of the Department and other Federal agencies to prepare for, protect against, and respond to public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States.

SEC. 4. TSA PREPAREDNESS.

(a) ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct an analysis of preparedness of the transportation security system of the United States for public health threats. Such analysis shall assess, at a minimum, the following:

(A) The risks of public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States, including to transportation hubs, transportation security stakeholders, TSA personnel, and passengers.

(B) Information sharing challenges among relevant components of the Department, other Federal agencies, international entities, and transportation security stakeholders.

(C) Impacts to TSA policies and procedures for securing the transportation security system.

(2) COORDINATION.—The analysis conducted of the risks described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be conducted in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and transportation security stakeholders.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(1) The analysis required under subsection (a).

(2) Technologies necessary to combat public health threats at security screening checkpoints to better protect from future public health threats TSA personnel, passengers, aviation workers, and other personnel authorized to access the sterile area of an airport through such checkpoints, and

the estimated cost of technology investments needed to fully implement across the aviation system solutions to such threats.

(3) Policies and procedures implemented by TSA and transportation security stakeholders to protect from public health threats TSA personnel, passengers, aviation workers, and other personnel authorized to access the sterile area through the security screening checkpoints, as well as future plans for additional measures relating to such protection.

(4) The role of TSA in establishing priorities, developing solutions, and coordinating and sharing information with relevant domestic and international entities during a public health threat to the transportation security system, and how TSA can improve its leadership role in such areas.

SECURING AMERICA FROM EPIDEMICS ACT

H.R. 2118

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 ''Securing America From Epidemics Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Due to increasing population and population density, human mobility, and ecological change, emerging infectious diseases pose a real and growing threat to global health security.

(2) While vaccines can be the most effective tools to protect against infectious disease, the absence of vaccines for a new or emerging infectious disease with epidemic potential is a major health security threat globally, posing catastrophic potential human and economic costs.

(3) The COVID–19 pandemic has infected more than 119,960,700 individuals and has killed at least 2,656,822 people worldwide, and it is likely that unreported cases and deaths are significant.

(4) Even regional outbreaks can have enormous human costs and substantially disrupt the global economy and cripple regional economies. The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa killed more than 11,000 and cost $2,800,000,000 in losses in the affected countries alone.

(5) While the need for vaccines to address emerging epidemic threats is acute, markets to drive the necessary development of vaccines to address them—a complex and expensive undertaking—are very often critically absent. Also absent are mechanisms to ensure access to those vaccines by those who need them when they need them.

(6) To address this global vulnerability and the deficit of political commitment, institutional capacity, and funding, in 2017, several countries and private partners launched the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). CEPI's mission is to stimulate, finance, and coordinate development of vaccines for high-priority, epidemic-potential threats in cases where traditional markets do not exist or cannot create sufficient demand.

(7) Through funding of partnerships, CEPI seeks to bring priority vaccines candidates through the end of phase II clinical trials, as well as support vaccine platforms that can be rapidly deployed against emerging pathogens.

(8) CEPI supported the manufacturing of the United States-developed Moderna COVID–19 vaccine during its Phase 1 clinical trial, and CEPI has initiated at least 12 partnerships to develop vaccines against COVID–19.

(9) CEPI is co-leading COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the ACT–Accelerator, which is a global collaboration to quickly produce and equitably distribute safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics for COVID–19.

(10) Support for and participation in CEPI is an important part of the United States own health security and biodefense and is in the national interest, complementing the work of many Federal agencies and providing significant value through global partnership and burden-sharing.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States is hereby authorized to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (''Coalition'').

(b) DESIGNATION.—The President is authorized to designate an employee of the relevant Federal department or agency providing the majority of United States contributions to the Coalition, who should demonstrate knowledge and experience in the fields of development and public health, epidemiology, or medicine, to serve—

(1) on the Investors Council of the Coalition; and

(2) if nominated by the President, on the Board of Directors of the Coalition, as a representative of the United States.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) The United States planned contributions to the Coalition and the mechanisms for United States participation in such Coalition.

(2) The manner and extent to which the United States shall participate in the governance of the Coalition.

(3) How participation in the Coalition supports relevant United States Government strategies and programs in health security and biodefense, including—

(A) the Global Health Security Strategy required by section 7058(c)(3) of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141);

(B) the applicable revision of the National Biodefense Strategy required by section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104); and

(C) any other relevant decision-making process for policy, planning, and spending in global health security, biodefense, or vaccine and medical countermeasures research and development.

(d) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under chapters 1 and 10 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) are authorized to be made available for United States contributions to the Coalition.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

DHS BLUE CAMPAIGN ENHANCEMENT ACT

H.R. 2795

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 ''DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BLUE CAMPAIGN ENHANCEMENT.

Section 434 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 242) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(6), by striking ''utilizing resources,'' and inserting ''developing and utilizing, in consultation with the Advisory Board established pursuant to subsection (g), resources''; and

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

''(f) WEB-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS.—To enhance training opportunities, the Director of the Blue Campaign shall develop web-based interactive training videos that utilize a learning management system to provide online training opportunities that shall be made available to the following individuals:

''(1) Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers.

''(2) Non-Federal correction system personnel.

''(3) Such other individuals as the Director determines appropriate.

''(g) BLUE CAMPAIGN ADVISORY BOARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a Blue Campaign Advisory Board and shall assign to such Board a representative from each of the following components:

''(A) The Transportation Security Administration.

''(B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(C) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

''(D) The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

''(E) The United States Secret Service.

''(F) The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

''(G) The Privacy Office.

''(H) Any other components or offices the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(2) CHARTER.—The Secretary is authorized to issue a charter for the Board, and such charter shall specify the following:

''(A) The Board's mission, goals, and scope of its activities.

''(B) The duties of the Board's representatives.

''(C) The frequency of the Board's meetings.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—The Director shall consult the Board established pursuant to paragraph (1) regarding the following:

''(A) Recruitment tactics used by human traffickers to inform the development of training and materials by the Blue Campaign.

''(B) The development of effective awareness tools for distribution to Federal and non-Federal officials to identify and prevent instances of human trafficking.

''(C) Identification of additional persons or entities that may be uniquely positioned to recognize signs of human trafficking and the development of materials for such persons.

''(4) APPLICABILITY.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to—

''(A) the Board; or

''(B) consultations under paragraph (2).

''(h) CONSULTATION.—With regard to the development of programs under the Blue Campaign and the implementation of such programs, the Director is authorized to consult with State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations, and experts. Such consultation shall be exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).''.

CYBER SENSE ACT OF 2021

H.R. 2928

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 ''Cyber Sense Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. CYBER SENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a voluntary Cyber Sense program to test the cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in the bulk-power system, as defined in section 215(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o(a)).

(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) establish a testing process under the Cyber Sense program to test the cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in the bulk-power system, including products relating to industrial control systems and operational technologies, such as supervisory control and data acquisition systems;

(2) for products and technologies tested under the Cyber Sense program, establish and maintain cybersecurity vulnerability reporting processes and a related database;

(3) provide technical assistance to electric utilities, product manufacturers, and other electricity sector stakeholders to develop solutions to mitigate identified cybersecurity vulnerabilities in products and technologies tested under the Cyber Sense program;

(4) biennially review products and technologies tested under the Cyber Sense program for cybersecurity vulnerabilities and provide analysis with respect to how such products and technologies respond to and mitigate cyber threats;

(5) develop guidance, that is informed by analysis and testing results under the Cyber Sense program, for electric utilities for procurement of products and technologies;

(6) provide reasonable notice to the public, and solicit comments from the public, prior to establishing or revising the testing process under the Cyber Sense program;

(7) oversee testing of products and technologies under the Cyber Sense program; and

(8) consider incentives to encourage the use of analysis and results of testing under the Cyber Sense program in the design of products and technologies for use in the bulk-power system.

(c) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Any cybersecurity vulnerability reported pursuant to a process established under subsection (b)(2), the disclosure of which the Secretary of Energy reasonably foresees would cause harm to critical electric infrastructure (as defined in section 215A of the Federal Power Act), shall be deemed to be critical electric infrastructure information for purposes of section 215A(d) of the Federal Power Act.

(d) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIABILITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the commencement of an action against the United States Government with respect to the testing of a product or technology under the Cyber Sense program.

CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY REMEDIATION ACT

H.R. 2980

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 ''Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act''.

SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.

Section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

''(6) the term 'cybersecurity vulnerability' has the meaning given the term 'security vulnerability' in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501); and''.

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

''(B) sharing mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities pursuant to subsection (n); and''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities in accordance with subparagraph (B)'' before ''with Federal'';

(B) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking ''sharing'' and inserting ''share''; and

(C) in paragraph (9), by inserting ''mitigation protocols to counter cybersecurity vulnerabilities,'' after ''measures,'';

(3) in subsection (e)(1)(G), by striking the semicolon after ''and'' at the end;

(4) by redesignating subsection (o) as subsection (p); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (n) following new subsection:

''(o) PROTOCOLS TO COUNTER CERTAIN CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.—The Director may, as appropriate, identify, develop, and disseminate actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities to information systems and industrial control systems, including in circumstances in which such vulnerabilities exist because software or hardware is no longer supported by a vendor.''.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on how the Agency carries out subsection (n) of section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to coordinate vulnerability disclosures, including disclosures of cybersecurity vulnerabilities (as such term is defined in such section), and subsection (o) of such section (as added by section 2) to disseminate actionable protocols to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities to information systems and industrial control systems, that includes the following:

(1) A description of the policies and procedures relating to the coordination of vulnerability disclosures.

(2) A description of the levels of activity in furtherance of such subsections (n) and (o) of such section 2209.

(3) Any plans to make further improvements to how information provided pursuant to such subsections can be shared (as such term is defined in such section 2209) between the Department and industry and other stakeholders.

(4) Any available information on the degree to which such information was acted upon by industry and other stakeholders.

(5) A description of how privacy and civil liberties are preserved in the collection, retention, use, and sharing of vulnerability disclosures.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 4. COMPETITION RELATING TO CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES.

The Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department, may establish an incentive-based program that allows industry, individuals, academia, and others to compete in identifying remediation solutions for cybersecurity vulnerabilities (as such term is defined in section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 2) to information systems (as such term is defined in such section 2209) and industrial control systems, including supervisory control and data acquisition systems.

SEC. 5. TITLE XXII TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in the first section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665; relating to the duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2215. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES RELATING TO .GOV INTERNET DOMAIN.'';

(B) in the second section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665b; relating to the joint cyber planning office), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2216. JOINT CYBER PLANNING OFFICE.'';

(C) in the third section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665c; relating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2217. CYBERSECURITY STATE COORDINATOR.'';

(D) in the fourth section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665d; relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2218. SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.'';

(E) in section 2216 (6 U.S.C. 665e; relating to the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2219. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.''; and

(F) in section 2217 (6 U.S.C. 665f; relating to Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2220. CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.''.

(2) CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021.—Paragraph (1) of section 904(b) of division U of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''of 2002'' after ''Homeland Security Act''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 2214 through 2217 and inserting the following new items:

''Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.

''Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.

''Sec. 2216. Joint cyber planning office.

''Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.

''Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.

''Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.

''Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs.''.

PROMOTING UNITED STATES WIRELESS LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2021

H.R. 3003

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP OF UNITED STATES IN COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5G networks and for future generations of wireless communications networks, the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) equitably encourage participation by companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) in such standards-setting bodies; and

(2) equitably offer technical expertise to companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) to facilitate such participation.

(b) STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.—The standards-setting bodies referred to in subsection (a) include—

(1) the International Organization for Standardization;

(2) the voluntary standards-setting bodies that develop protocols for wireless devices and other equipment, such as the 3GPP and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; and

(3) any standards-setting body accredited by the American National Standards Institute or Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall brief the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Foreign Relations of the Senate on a strategy to carry out subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 3GPP.—The term ''3GPP'' means the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

(2) 5G NETWORK.—The term ''5G network'' means a fifth-generation mobile network as described by 3GPP Release 15 or higher.

(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(4) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term ''cloud computing'' has the meaning given the term in Special Publication 800–145 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, entitled ''The NIST Definition of Cloud Computing'', published in September 2011, or any successor publication.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term ''communications network'' means any of the following:

(A) A system enabling the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing.

(B) Cloud computing resources.

(C) A network or system used to access cloud computing resources.

(6) NOT TRUSTED.—The term ''not trusted'' means, with respect to a company or stakeholder, that the company or stakeholder is determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose a threat to the national security of the United States. In making such a determination, the Assistant Secretary shall rely solely on one or more of the following determinations:

(A) A specific determination made by any executive branch interagency body with appropriate national security expertise, including the Federal Acquisition Security Council established under section 1322(a) of title 41, United States Code.

(B) A specific determination made by the Department of Commerce pursuant to Executive Order No. 13873 (84 Fed. Reg. 22689; relating to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain).

(C) Whether a company or stakeholder produces or provides covered telecommunications equipment or services, as defined in section 889(f)(3) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 1918).

STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

H.R. 3138

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 ''State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

''SEC. 2220A. STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CYBER THREAT INDICATOR.—The term 'cyber threat indicator' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).

''(2) CYBERSECURITY PLAN.—The term 'Cybersecurity Plan' means a plan submitted by an eligible entity under subsection (e)(1).

''(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a State; or

''(B) an Indian tribe that, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section or not later than 120 days before the start of any fiscal year in which a grant under this section is awarded—

''(i) notifies the Secretary that the Indian tribe intends to develop a Cybersecurity Plan; and

''(ii) agrees to forfeit any distribution under subsection (n)(2).

''(4) INCIDENT.—The term 'incident' has the meaning given the term in section 2209.

''(5) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Indian tribe' or 'Tribal organization' has the meaning given that term in section 4(e) of the of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

''(6) INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS ORGANIZATION.—The term 'information sharing and analysis organization' has the meaning given the term in section 2222.

''(7) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term 'information system' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).

''(8) ONLINE SERVICE.—The term 'online service' means any internet-facing service, including a website, email, virtual private network, or custom application.

''(9) RANSOMWARE INCIDENT.—The term 'ransomware incident' means an incident that actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information on an information system, or actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, an information system for the purpose of coercing the information system's owner, operator, or another person.

''(10) STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.—The term 'State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program' means the program established under subsection (b).

''(11) STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE.—The term 'State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee' means the committee established under subsection (o)(1).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall establish a program, to be known as the 'the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program', to award grants to eligible entities to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations.

''(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) BASELINE REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible entity or multistate group that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant in compliance with—

''(1)(A) the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity or the Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group; and

''(B) the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments developed under section 2210(e)(1); or

''(2) activities carried out under paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (h).

''(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program shall be administered in the same office of the Department that administers grants made under sections 2003 and 2004.

''(e) CYBERSECURITY PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity applying for a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a Cybersecurity Plan for approval.

''(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A Cybersecurity Plan of an eligible entity shall—

''(A) incorporate, to the extent practicable, any existing plans of the eligible entity to protect against cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations;

''(B) describe, to the extent practicable, how the eligible entity will—

''(i) manage, monitor, and track information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of the eligible entity or by local or Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity and the information technology deployed on those information systems, including legacy information systems and information technology that are no longer supported by the manufacturer of the systems or technology;

''(ii) monitor, audit, and track activity between information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of the eligible entity or by local or Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity and between those information systems and information systems not owned or operated by the eligible entity or by local or Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(iii) enhance the preparation, response, and resilience of information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of the eligible entity or local or Tribal organizations against cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats;

''(iv) implement a process of continuous cybersecurity vulnerability assessments and threat mitigation practices prioritized by degree of risk to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats on information systems of the eligible entity or local or Tribal organizations;

''(v) ensure that State, local, and Tribal organizations that own or operate information systems that are located within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity—

''(I) adopt best practices and methodologies to enhance cybersecurity, such as the practices set forth in the cybersecurity framework developed by, and the cyber supply chain risk management best practices identified by, the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

''(II) utilize knowledge bases of adversary tools and tactics to assess risk;

''(vi) promote the delivery of safe, recognizable, and trustworthy online services by State, local, and Tribal organizations, including through the use of the .gov internet domain;

''(vii) ensure continuity of operations of the eligible entity and local, and Tribal organizations in the event of a cybersecurity incident (including a ransomware incident), including by conducting exercises to practice responding to such an incident;

''(viii) use the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education Cybersecurity Workforce Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to identify and mitigate any gaps in the cybersecurity workforces of State, local, or Tribal organizations, enhance recruitment and retention efforts for such workforces, and bolster the knowledge, skills, and abilities of State, local, and Tribal organization personnel to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats, such as through cybersecurity hygiene training;

''(ix) ensure continuity of communications and data networks within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity between the eligible entity and local and Tribal organizations that own or operate information systems within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity in the event of an incident involving such communications or data networks within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(x) assess and mitigate, to the greatest degree possible, cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats related to critical infrastructure and key resources, the degradation of which may impact the performance of information systems within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(xi) enhance capabilities to share cyber threat indicators and related information between the eligible entity and local and Tribal organizations that own or operate information systems within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, including by expanding existing information sharing agreements with the Department;

''(xii) enhance the capability of the eligible entity to share cyber threat indictors and related information with the Department;

''(xiii) leverage cybersecurity services offered by the Department;

''(xiv) develop and coordinate strategies to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of the eligible entity in consultation with—

''(I) local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

''(II) as applicable—

''(aa) States that neighbor the jurisdiction of the eligible entity or, as appropriate, members of an information sharing and analysis organization; and

''(bb) countries that neighbor the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

''(xv) implement an information technology and operational technology modernization cybersecurity review process that ensures alignment between information technology and operational technology cybersecurity objectives;

''(C) describe, to the extent practicable, the individual responsibilities of the eligible entity and local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity in implementing the plan;

''(D) outline, to the extent practicable, the necessary resources and a timeline for implementing the plan; and

''(E) describe how the eligible entity will measure progress towards implementing the plan.

''(3) DISCRETIONARY ELEMENTS.—A Cybersecurity Plan of an eligible entity may include a description of—

''(A) cooperative programs developed by groups of local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats; and

''(B) programs provided by the eligible entity to support local and Tribal organizations and owners and operators of critical infrastructure to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats.

''(4) MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity applying for a grant under this section shall agree to designate the Chief Information Officer, the Chief Information Security Officer, or an equivalent official of the eligible entity as the primary official for the management and allocation of funds awarded under this section.

''(f) MULTISTATE GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, may award grants under this section to a group of two or more eligible entities to support multistate efforts to address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems within the jurisdictions of the eligible entities.

''(2) SATISFACTION OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In order to be eligible for a multistate grant under this subsection, each eligible entity that comprises a multistate group shall submit to the Secretary—

''(A) a Cybersecurity Plan for approval in accordance with subsection (i); and

''(B) a plan for establishing a cybersecurity planning committee under subsection (g).

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A multistate group applying for a multistate grant under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(B) MULTISTATE PROJECT DESCRIPTION.—An application of a multistate group under subparagraph (A) shall include a plan describing—

''(i) the division of responsibilities among the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group for administering the grant for which application is being made;

''(ii) the distribution of funding from such a grant among the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group; and

''(iii) how the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group will work together to implement the Cybersecurity Plan of each of those eligible entities.

''(g) PLANNING COMMITTEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall establish a cybersecurity planning committee to—

''(A) assist in the development, implementation, and revision of the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity;

''(B) approve the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity; and

''(C) assist in the determination of effective funding priorities for a grant under this section in accordance with subsection (h).

''(2) COMPOSITION.—A committee of an eligible entity established under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) be comprised of representatives from the eligible entity and counties, cities, towns, Tribes, and public educational and health institutions within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and

''(B) include, as appropriate, representatives of rural, suburban, and high-population jurisdictions.

''(3) CYBERSECURITY EXPERTISE.—Not less than ½ of the representatives of a committee established under paragraph (1) shall have professional experience relating to cybersecurity or information technology.

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING EXISTING PLANNING COMMITTEES.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to require an eligible entity to establish a cybersecurity planning committee if the eligible entity has established and uses a multijurisdictional planning committee or commission that meets, or may be leveraged to meet, the requirements of this subsection.

''(h) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant to—

''(1) implement the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity;

''(2) develop or revise the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity; or

''(3) assist with activities that address imminent cybersecurity risks or cybersecurity threats to the information systems of the eligible entity or a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

''(i) APPROVAL OF PLANS.—

''(1) APPROVAL AS CONDITION OF GRANT.—Before an eligible entity may receive a grant under this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall review the Cybersecurity Plan, or any revisions thereto, of the eligible entity and approve such plan, or revised plan, if it satisfies the requirements specified in paragraph (2).

''(2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—In approving a Cybersecurity Plan of an eligible entity under this subsection, the Director shall ensure that the Cybersecurity Plan—

''(A) satisfies the requirements of subsection (e)(2);

''(B) upon the issuance of the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments authorized pursuant to section 2210(e), complies, as appropriate, with the goals and objectives of the strategy; and

''(C) has been approved by the cybersecurity planning committee of the eligible entity established under subsection (g).

''(3) APPROVAL OF REVISIONS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, may approve revisions to a Cybersecurity Plan as the Director determines appropriate.

''(4) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (e) and paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary may award a grant under this section to an eligible entity that does not submit a Cybersecurity Plan to the Secretary if—

''(A) the eligible entity certifies to the Secretary that—

''(i) the activities that will be supported by the grant are integral to the development of the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity; and

''(ii) the eligible entity will submit by September 30, 2023, to the Secretary a Cybersecurity Plan for review, and if appropriate, approval; or

''(B) the eligible entity certifies to the Secretary, and the Director confirms, that the eligible entity will use funds from the grant to assist with the activities described in subsection (h)(3).

''(j) LIMITATIONS ON USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may not use the grant—

''(A) to supplant State, local, or Tribal funds;

''(B) for any recipient cost-sharing contribution;

''(C) to pay a demand for ransom in an attempt to—

''(i) regain access to information or an information system of the eligible entity or of a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; or

''(ii) prevent the disclosure of information that has been removed without authorization from an information system of the eligible entity or of a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity;

''(D) for recreational or social purposes; or

''(E) for any purpose that does not address cybersecurity risks or cybersecurity threats on information systems of the eligible entity or of a local or Tribal organization within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

''(2) PENALTIES.—In addition to any other remedy available, the Secretary may take such actions as are necessary to ensure that a recipient of a grant under this section uses the grant for the purposes for which the grant is awarded.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to prohibit the use of grant funds provided to a State, local, or Tribal organization for otherwise permissible uses under this section on the basis that a State, local, or Tribal organization has previously used State, local, or Tribal funds to support the same or similar uses.

''(k) OPPORTUNITY TO AMEND APPLICATIONS.—In considering applications for grants under this section, the Secretary shall provide applicants with a reasonable opportunity to correct defects, if any, in such applications before making final awards.

''(l) APPORTIONMENT.—For fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall apportion amounts appropriated to carry out this section among States as follows:

''(1) BASELINE AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall first apportion 0.25 percent of such amounts to each of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 0.75 percent of such amounts to each of the remaining States.

''(2) REMAINDER.—The Secretary shall apportion the remainder of such amounts in the ratio that—

''(A) the population of each eligible entity, bears to

''(B) the population of all eligible entities.

''(3) MINIMUM ALLOCATION TO INDIAN TRIBES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In apportioning amounts under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, for each fiscal year, directly eligible Tribes collectively receive, from amounts appropriated under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, not less than an amount equal to three percent of the total amount appropriated for grants under this section.

''(B) ALLOCATION.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), funds shall be allocated in a manner determined by the Secretary in consultation with Indian tribes.

''(C) EXCEPTION.—This paragraph shall not apply in any fiscal year in which the Secretary—

''(i) receives fewer than five applications from Indian tribes; or

''(ii) does not approve at least two applications from Indian tribes.

''(m) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of the cost of an activity carried out using funds made available with a grant under this section may not exceed—

''(A) in the case of a grant to an eligible entity—

''(i) for fiscal year 2022, 90 percent;

''(ii) for fiscal year 2023, 80 percent;

''(iii) for fiscal year 2024, 70 percent;

''(iv) for fiscal year 2025, 60 percent; and

''(v) for fiscal year 2026 and each subsequent fiscal year, 50 percent; and

''(B) in the case of a grant to a multistate group—

''(i) for fiscal year 2022, 95 percent;

''(ii) for fiscal year 2023, 85 percent;

''(iii) for fiscal year 2024, 75 percent;

''(iv) for fiscal year 2025, 65 percent; and

''(v) for fiscal year 2026 and each subsequent fiscal year, 55 percent.

''(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive or modify the requirements of paragraph (1) for an Indian tribe if the Secretary determines such a waiver is in the public interest.

''(n) RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANTEES.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION.—Each eligible entity or multistate group that receives a grant under this section shall certify to the Secretary that the grant will be used—

''(A) for the purpose for which the grant is awarded; and

''(B) in compliance with, as the case may be—

''(i) the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity;

''(ii) the Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group; or

''(iii) a purpose approved by the Secretary under subsection (h) or pursuant to an exception under subsection (i).

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO LOCAL AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which an eligible entity or multistate group receives a grant under this section, the eligible entity or multistate group shall, without imposing unreasonable or unduly burdensome requirements as a condition of receipt, obligate or otherwise make available to local and Tribal organizations within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity or the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group, and as applicable, consistent with the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity or the Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group—

''(A) not less than 80 percent of funds available under the grant;

''(B) with the consent of the local and Tribal organizations, items, services, capabilities, or activities having a value of not less than 80 percent of the amount of the grant; or

''(C) with the consent of the local and Tribal organizations, grant funds combined with other items, services, capabilities, or activities having the total value of not less than 80 percent of the amount of the grant.

''(3) CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT FUNDS TO LOCAL AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible entity or multistate group shall certify to the Secretary that the eligible entity or multistate group has made the distribution to local, Tribal, and territorial governments required under paragraph (2).

''(4) EXTENSION OF PERIOD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity or multistate group may request in writing that the Secretary extend the period of time specified in paragraph (2) for an additional period of time.

''(B) APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a request for an extension under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines the extension is necessary to ensure that the obligation and expenditure of grant funds align with the purpose of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

''(5) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or an Indian tribe.

''(6) DIRECT FUNDING.—If an eligible entity does not make a distribution to a local or Tribal organization required in accordance with paragraph (2), the local or Tribal organization may petition the Secretary to request that grant funds be provided directly to the local or Tribal organization.

''(7) PENALTIES.—In addition to other remedies available to the Secretary, the Secretary may terminate or reduce the amount of a grant awarded under this section to an eligible entity or distribute grant funds previously awarded to such eligible entity directly to the appropriate local or Tribal organization as a replacement grant in an amount the Secretary determines appropriate if such eligible entity violates a requirement of this subsection.

''(o) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director shall establish a State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee to provide State, local, and Tribal stakeholder expertise, situational awareness, and recommendations to the Director, as appropriate, regarding how to—

''(A) address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations; and

''(B) improve the ability of State, local, and Tribal organizations to prevent, protect against, respond to, mitigate, and recover from such cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats.

''(2) DUTIES.—The committee established under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) submit to the Director recommendations that may inform guidance for applicants for grants under this section;

''(B) upon the request of the Director, provide to the Director technical assistance to inform the review of Cybersecurity Plans submitted by applicants for grants under this section, and, as appropriate, submit to the Director recommendations to improve those plans prior to the approval of the plans under subsection (i);

''(C) advise and provide to the Director input regarding the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve Cybersecurity for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments required under section 2210;

''(D) upon the request of the Director, provide to the Director recommendations, as appropriate, regarding how to—

''(i) address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats on information systems of State, local, or Tribal organizations; and

''(ii) improve the cybersecurity resilience of State, local, or Tribal organizations; and

''(E) regularly coordinate with the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government Coordinating Council, within the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council, established under section 871.

''(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established pursuant to paragraph (1)

shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Director, as follows:

''(i) Two individuals recommended to the Director by the National Governors Association.

''(ii) Two individuals recommended to the Director by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

''(iii) One individual recommended to the Director by the National Guard Bureau.

''(iv) Two individuals recommended to the Director by the National Association of Counties.

''(v) One individual recommended to the Director by the National League of Cities.

''(vi) One individual recommended to the Director by the United States Conference of Mayors.

''(vii) One individual recommended to the Director by the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

''(viii) One individual recommended to the Director by the National Congress of American Indians.

''(viii) Four individuals who have educational and professional experience relating to cybersecurity work or cybersecurity policy.

''(B) TERMS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), each member of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years.

''(ii) REQUIREMENT.—At least two members of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall also be members of the State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Government Coordinating Council, within the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council, established under section 871.

''(iii) EXCEPTION.—A term of a member of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be three years if the member is appointed initially to the Committee upon the establishment of the Committee.

''(iv) TERM REMAINDERS.—Any member of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of such member's term until a successor has taken office.

''(v) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

''(C) PAY.—Members of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall serve without pay.

''(4) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall select a chairperson and vice chairperson from among members of the committee.

''(5) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee shall be a permanent authority.

''(p) REPORTS.—

''(1) ANNUAL REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after an eligible entity or multistate group receives funds under this section, the eligible entity or multistate group shall submit to the Secretary a report on the progress of the eligible entity or multistate group in implementing the Cybersecurity Plan of the eligible entity or Cybersecurity Plans of the eligible entities that comprise the multistate group, as the case may be.

''(B) ABSENCE OF PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after an eligible entity that does not have a Cybersecurity Plan receives funds under this section for developing its Cybersecurity Plan, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a report describing how the eligible entity obligated and expended grant funds during the fiscal year to—

''(i) so develop such a Cybersecurity Plan; or

''(ii) assist with the activities described in subsection (h)(3).

''(2) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not less frequently than once per year, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall submit to Congress a report on the use of grants awarded under this section and any progress made toward the following:

''(A) Achieving the objectives set forth in the Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments, upon the date on which the strategy is issued under section 2210.

''(B) Developing, implementing, or revising Cybersecurity Plans.

''(C) Reducing cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems, applications, and user accounts owned or operated by or on behalf of State, local, and Tribal organizations as a result of the award of such grants.

''(q) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section—

''(1) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, $500,000,000; and

''(2) for each subsequent fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

''SEC. 2220B. CYBERSECURITY RESOURCE GUIDE DEVELOPMENT FOR STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

''The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall develop, regularly update, and maintain a resource guide for use by State, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials, including law enforcement officers, to help such officials identify, prepare for, detect, protect against, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks (as such term is defined in section 2209), cybersecurity threats, and incidents (as such term is defined in section 2209).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 4, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2220 the following new items:

''Sec. 2220A. State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

''Sec. 2220B. Cybersecurity resource guide development for State, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials.''.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY TO IMPROVE THE CYBERSECURITY OF STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 2210 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 660) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY TO IMPROVE THE CYBERSECURITY OF STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall, in coordination with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, develop and make publicly available a Homeland Security Strategy to Improve the Cybersecurity of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments.

''(B) RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy required under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) provide recommendations relating to the ways in which the Federal Government should support and promote the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, mitigate against, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks (as such term is defined in section 2209), cybersecurity threats, and incidents (as such term is defined in section 2209); and

''(ii) establish baseline requirements for cybersecurity plans under this section and principles with which such plans shall align.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) identify capability gaps in the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents;

''(B) identify Federal resources and capabilities that are available or could be made available to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to help those governments identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents;

''(C) identify and assess the limitations of Federal resources and capabilities available to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to help those governments identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents and make recommendations to address such limitations;

''(D) identify opportunities to improve the coordination of the Agency with Federal and non-Federal entities, such as the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, to improve—

''(i) incident exercises, information sharing and incident notification procedures;

''(ii) the ability for State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to voluntarily adapt and implement guidance in Federal binding operational directives; and

''(iii) opportunities to leverage Federal schedules for cybersecurity investments under section 502 of title 40, United States Code;

''(E) recommend new initiatives the Federal Government should undertake to improve the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents;

''(F) set short-term and long-term goals that will improve the ability of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents; and

''(G) set dates, including interim benchmarks, as appropriate for State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to establish baseline capabilities to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity risks, cybersecurity threats, incidents, and ransomware incidents.

''(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Director, in coordination with the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, shall consider—

''(A) lessons learned from incidents that have affected State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and exercises with Federal and non-Federal entities;

''(B) the impact of incidents that have affected State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, including the resulting costs to such governments;

''(C) the information related to the interest and ability of state and non-state threat actors to compromise information systems (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501)) owned or operated by State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments;

''(D) emerging cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments resulting from the deployment of new technologies; and

''(E) recommendations made by the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A.

''(4) EXEMPTION.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Paperwork Reduction Act'), shall not apply to any action to implement this subsection.''.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY.—Section 2202 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 652) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (e) through (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

''(d) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities under subsection (c), the Director shall—

''(1) develop program guidance, in consultation with the State and Local Government Cybersecurity Resilience Committee established under section 2220A, for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program under such section or any other homeland security assistance administered by the Department to improve cybersecurity;

''(2) review, in consultation with the State and Local Cybersecurity Resilience Committee, all cybersecurity plans of State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments developed pursuant to any homeland security assistance administered by the Department to improve cybersecurity;

''(3) provide expertise and technical assistance to State, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials with respect to cybersecurity; and

''(4) provide education, training, and capacity development to enhance the security and resilience of cybersecurity and infrastructure security.''.

(c) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security of the Department of Homeland Security shall conduct a study to assess the feasibility of implementing a short-term rotational program for the detail to the Agency of approved State, local, Tribal, and territorial government employees in cyber workforce positions.

SEC. 4. TITLE XXII TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in the first section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665; relating to the duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2215. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES RELATING TO .GOV INTERNET DOMAIN.'';

(B) in the second section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665b; relating to the joint cyber planning office), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2216. JOINT CYBER PLANNING OFFICE.'';

(C) in the third section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665c; relating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2217. CYBERSECURITY STATE COORDINATOR.'';

(D) in the fourth section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665d; relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2218. SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.'';

(E) in section 2216 (6 U.S.C. 665e; relating to the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2219. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.''; and

(F) in section 2217 (6 U.S.C. 665f; relating to Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2220. CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.''.

(2) CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021.—Paragraph (1) of section 904(b) of division U of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''of 2002'' after ''Homeland Security Act''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 2214 through 2217 and inserting the following new items:

''Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.
''Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.
''Sec. 2216. Joint cyber planning office.
''Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.
''Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.
''Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.
''Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs.''.

CISA CYBER EXERCISE ACT

H.R. 3223

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 ''CISA Cyber Exercise Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CYBER EXERCISE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 2220A. NATIONAL CYBER EXERCISE PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Agency the National Cyber Exercise Program (referred to in this section as the 'Exercise Program') to evaluate the National Cyber Incident Response Plan, and other related plans and strategies.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Exercise Program shall be—

''(i) based on current risk assessments, including credible threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences;

''(ii) designed, to the extent practicable, to simulate the partial or complete incapacitation of a government or critical infrastructure network resulting from a cyber incident;

''(iii) designed to provide for the systematic evaluation of cyber readiness and enhance operational understanding of the cyber incident response system and relevant information sharing agreements; and

''(iv) designed to promptly develop after-action reports and plans that can quickly incorporate lessons learned into future operations.

''(B) MODEL EXERCISE SELECTION.—The Exercise Program shall—

''(i) include a selection of model exercises that government and private entities can readily adapt for use; and—

''(ii) aid such governments and private entities with the design, implementation, and evaluation of exercises that—

''(I) conform to the requirements described in subparagraph (A);

''(II) are consistent with any applicable national, State, local, or Tribal strategy or plan; and

''(III) provide for systematic evaluation of readiness.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the Exercise Program, the Director may consult with appropriate representatives from Sector Risk Management Agencies, cybersecurity research stakeholders, and Sector Coordinating Councils.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) STATE.—The term 'State' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

''(2) PRIVATE ENTITY.—The term 'private entity' has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in the first section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665; relating to the duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2215. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES RELATING TO .GOV INTERNET DOMAIN.'';

(B) in the second section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665b; relating to the joint cyber planning office), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2216. JOINT CYBER PLANNING OFFICE.'';

(C) in the third section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665c; relating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2217. CYBERSECURITY STATE COORDINATOR.'';

(D) in the fourth section 2215 (6 U.S.C. 665d; relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2218. SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.'';

(E) in section 2216 (6 U.S.C. 665e; relating to the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

''SEC. 2219. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.'';

and

(F) in section 2217 (6 U.S.C. 665f; relating to Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs), by amending the section enumerator and heading to read as follows:

"SEC. 2220. CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.".

(2) CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021.—Paragraph (1) of section 904(b) of division U of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''of 2002'' after ''Homeland Security Act''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by striking the items relating to sections 2214 through 2217 and inserting the following new items:

''Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.
''Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.
''Sec. 2216. Joint cyber planning office.
''Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.
''Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.
''Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.
''Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity Education and Training Programs.
''Sec. 2220A. National Cyber Exercise Program.''.

DHS MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ACT

H.R. 3263

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 ''DHS Medical Countermeasures Act''.

SEC. 2. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1932. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a medical countermeasures program to facilitate personnel readiness, and protection for the Department's employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic, and to support Department mission continuity.

''(b) OVERSIGHT.—The Chief Medical Officer of the Department shall provide programmatic oversight of the medical countermeasures program established pursuant to subsection (a), and shall—

''(1) develop Department-wide standards for medical countermeasure storage, security, dispensing, and documentation;

''(2) maintain a stockpile of medical countermeasures, including antibiotics, antivirals, and radiological countermeasures, as appropriate;

''(3) preposition appropriate medical countermeasures in strategic locations nationwide, based on threat and employee density, in accordance with applicable Federal statutes and regulations;

''(4) provide oversight and guidance regarding the dispensing of stockpiled medical countermeasures;

''(5) ensure rapid deployment and dispensing of medical countermeasures in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic;

''(6) provide training to Department employees on medical countermeasure dispensing; and

''(7) support dispensing exercises.

''(c) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES WORKING GROUP.—The Chief Medical Officer shall establish a medical countermeasures working group comprised of representatives from appropriate components and offices of the Department to ensure that medical countermeasures standards are maintained and guidance is consistent.

''(d) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Chief Medical Officer shall develop and submit to the Secretary an integrated logistics support plan for medical countermeasures, including—

''(1) a methodology for determining the ideal types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile and how frequently such methodology shall be reevaluated;

''(2) a replenishment plan; and

''(3) inventory tracking, reporting, and reconciliation procedures for existing stockpiles and new medical countermeasure purchases.

''(e) STOCKPILE ELEMENTS.—In determining the types and quantities of medical countermeasures to stockpile under subsection (d), the Chief Medical Officer shall utilize, if available—

''(1) Department chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear risk assessments; and

''(2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on medical countermeasures.

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the plan developed in accordance with subsection (d) and brief such Committees regarding implementing the requirements of this section.

''(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'medical countermeasures' means antibiotics, antivirals, radiological countermeasures, and other countermeasures that may be deployed to protect the Department's employees and working animals in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives attack, naturally occurring disease outbreak, or pandemic.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1931 the following new item:

''Sec. 1932. Medical countermeasures.''.

DOMAINS CRITICAL TO HOMELAND SECURITY ACT

H.R. 3264

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 ''Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act''.

SEC. 2. CRITICAL DOMAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 890B. HOMELAND SECURITY CRITICAL DOMAIN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary is authorized to conduct research and development to—

''(A) identify United States critical domains for economic security and homeland security; and

''(B) evaluate the extent to which disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction of any of such domain poses a substantial threat to homeland security.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) RISK ANALYSIS OF CRITICAL DOMAINS.—The research under paragraph (1) shall include a risk analysis of each identified United States critical domain for economic security to determine the degree to which there exists a present or future threat to homeland security in the event of disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction to such domain. Such research shall consider, to the extent possible, the following:

''(i) The vulnerability and resilience of relevant supply chains.

''(ii) Foreign production, processing, and manufacturing methods.

''(iii) Influence of malign economic actors.

''(iv) Asset ownership.

''(v) Relationships within the supply chains of such domains.

''(vi) The degree to which the conditions referred to in clauses (i) through (v) would place such a domain at risk of disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction.

''(B) ADDITIONAL RESEARCH INTO HIGH-RISK CRITICAL DOMAINS.—Based on the identification and risk analysis of United States critical domains for economic security pursuant to paragraph (1) and subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, respectively, the Secretary may conduct additional research into those critical domains, or specific elements thereof, with respect to which there exists the highest degree of a present or future threat to homeland security in the event of disruption, corruption, exploitation, or dysfunction to such a domain. For each such high-risk domain, or element thereof, such research shall—

''(i) describe the underlying infrastructure and processes;

''(ii) analyze present and projected performance of industries that comprise or support such domain;

''(iii) examine the extent to which the supply chain of a product or service necessary to such domain is concentrated, either through a small number of sources, or if multiple sources are concentrated in one geographic area;

''(iv) examine the extent to which the demand for supplies of goods and services of such industries can be fulfilled by present and projected performance of other industries, identify strategies, plans, and potential barriers to expand the supplier industrial base, and identify the barriers to the participation of such other industries;

''(v) consider each such domain's performance capacities in stable economic environments, adversarial supply conditions, and under crisis economic constraints;

''(vi) identify and define needs and requirements to establish supply resiliency within each such domain; and

''(vii) consider the effects of sector consolidation, including foreign consolidation, either through mergers or acquisitions, or due to recent geographic realignment, on such industries' performances.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the research under paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), the Secretary may consult with appropriate Federal agencies, State agencies, and private sector stakeholders.

''(4) PUBLICATION.—Beginning one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a report containing information relating to the research under paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), including findings, evidence, analysis, and recommendations. Such report shall be updated annually through 2026.

''(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the publication of each report required under paragraph (4) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate each such report, together with a description of actions the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, will undertake or has undertaken in response to each such report.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) UNITED STATES CRITICAL DOMAINS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY.—The term 'United States critical domains for economic security' means the critical infrastructure and other associated industries, technologies, and intellectual property, or any combination thereof, that are essential to the economic security of the United States.

''(2) ECONOMIC SECURITY.—The term 'economic security' means the condition of having secure and resilient domestic production capacity, combined with reliable access to the global resources necessary to maintain an acceptable standard of living and to protect core national values.

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

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 890A the following new item:

''Sec. 890B. Homeland security critical domain research and development.''.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY

H. RES. 277

Whereas the principle that an informed and engaged electorate is critical to a vibrant democracy is deeply rooted in our laws of free speech and underpins the virtues on which we established our Constitution, ''in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . .'';

Whereas having independent, diverse, and local media that provide exposure to a broad range of viewpoints and the ability to contribute to the political debate is central to sustaining that informed engagement;

Whereas it is in the public interest to encourage source, content, and audience diversity on our Nation's shared telecommunications and media platforms;

Whereas the survival of small, independent, and diverse media outlets that serve diverse audiences and local media markets is essential to preserving local culture and building understanding on important community issues that impact the daily lives of residents;

Whereas research by the American Society of News Editors, the Radio Television Digital News Association, the Pew Research Center, and others has documented the continued challenges of increasing diversity among all types of media entities;

Whereas with increasing media experience and sophistication, it is even more important to have minority participation in local media to ensure a diverse range of information sources are available and different ideas and viewpoints are expressed to strengthen social cohesion among different communities; and

Whereas the constriction in small, independent, and diverse media outlets and limited participation of diverse populations in media ownership and decision making are combining to negatively impact our goal of increasing local civic engagement and civic knowledge through increased voter participation, membership in civic groups, and knowledge of local political and civil information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to diversity as a core tenet of the public interest standard in media policy; and

(2) pledges to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

ENCOURAGING REUNIONS OF DIVIDED KOREAN-AMERICAN FAMILIES

H. RES. 294

Whereas the Korean Peninsula, with the Republic of Korea (in this resolution referred to as ''South Korea'') in the South and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this resolution referred to as ''North Korea'') in the North, remains divided following the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953;

Whereas the division of the Korean Peninsula separated more than 10,000,000 Korean family members, including some who are now citizens of the United States;

Whereas there have been 21 rounds of family reunions between South Koreans and North Koreans along the border since 2000;

Whereas Congress signaled its support for family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea in section 1265 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181), signed into law by President George W. Bush on January 28, 2008;

Whereas most of the population of divided family members in the United States, initially estimated at 100,000 in 2001, has significantly dwindled as many of the individuals have passed away;

Whereas the summit between North Korea and South Korea on April 27, 2018, has prioritized family reunions;

Whereas the United States and North Korea have engaged in talks during 2 historic summits in June 2018 in Singapore and February 2019 in Hanoi; and

Whereas many Korean Americans are waiting for a chance to meet their relatives in North Korea for the first time in more than 60 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls on the United States and North Korea to begin the process of reuniting Korean-American divided family members with their immediate relatives through ways such as—

(A) identifying divided families in the United States and North Korea who are willing and able to participate in a pilot program for family reunions;

(B) finding matches for members of such families through organizations such as the Red Cross; and

(C) working with the Government of South Korea to include American citizens in inter-Korean video reunions;

(2) reaffirms the institution of family as inalienable and, accordingly, urges the restoration of contact between divided families physically, literarily, or virtually; and

(3) calls on the United States and North Korea to pursue reunions as a humanitarian priority of immediate concern.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 7 of House Resolution 535, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bills and agree to the resolutions.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 319, nays 105, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 212]

YEAS—319

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
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
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Feenstra
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier

Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stefanik
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wenstrup
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—105

Aderholt
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Balderson
Banks
Bergman
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Crawford
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Fallon
Ferguson
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Hagedorn
Harris
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Hinson
Huizenga
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Lamborn
Lesko
Loudermilk
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Rice (SC)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Duyne
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams (TX)

NOT VOTING—6

Allen
Higgins (LA)
Issa
Salazar
Scott, Austin
Stauber

□ 1630

Mr. BALDERSON changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bills were passed and the resolutions were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 212.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 212.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Moolenaar)
Buchanan (LaHood)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Doyle, Michael F. (Cartwright)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))
Fulcher (Simpson)
García (IL) (Garcia (TX))
Gottheimer (Panetta)
Granger (Calvert)
Grijalva (Stanton)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Jones (Williams (GA))
Kahele (Moulton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Underwood)
Stewart (Owens)
Trone (Beyer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND RECOVERY ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 535, I call up the bill (H.R. 2668) to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to affirmatively confirm the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to seek permanent injunctions and other equitable relief for violations of any provision of law enforced by the Commission, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to House Resolution 535, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–11, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 2668

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 ''Consumer Protection and Recovery Act''.

SEC. 2. FTC AUTHORITY TO SEEK PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF.

(a) PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS AND OTHER EQUITABLE RELIEF.—Section 13 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 53) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''has violated,'' after ''corporation'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''that'' and inserting ''that either (A)''; and

(ii) by striking ''final,'' and inserting ''final; or (B) the permanent enjoining thereof or the ordering of equitable relief under subsection (e),''; and

(C) in the matter following paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''to enjoin any such act or practice'';

(ii) by striking ''Upon'' and inserting ''In a suit under paragraph (2)(A), upon'';

(iii) by striking ''without bond'';

(iv) by striking ''proper cases'' and inserting ''a suit under paragraph (2)(B)'';

(v) by striking ''injunction.'' and inserting ''injunction, equitable relief under subsection (e), or such other relief as the court determines to be just and proper, including temporary or preliminary equitable relief.'';

(vi) by striking ''Any suit'' and inserting ''Any suit under this subsection''; and

(vii) by striking ''In any suit under this section'' and inserting ''In any such suit''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) EQUITABLE RELIEF.—

''(1) RESTITUTION; CONTRACT RESCISSION AND REFORMATION; REFUNDS; RETURN OF PROPERTY.—In a suit brought under subsection (b)(2)(B), the Commission may seek, and the court may order, with respect to the violation that gives rise to the suit, restitution for losses, rescission or reformation of contracts, refund of money, or return of property.

''(2) DISGORGEMENT.—In a suit brought under subsection (b)(2)(B), the Commission may seek, and the court may order, disgorgement of any unjust enrichment that a person, partnership, or corporation obtained as a result of the violation that gives rise to the suit.

''(3) CALCULATION.—Any amount that a person, partnership, or corporation is ordered to pay under paragraph (2) with respect to a violation shall be offset by any amount such person, partnership, or corporation is ordered to pay, and the value of any property such person, partnership, or corporation is ordered to return, under paragraph (1) with respect to such violation.

''(4) LIMITATIONS PERIOD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A court may not order equitable relief under this subsection with respect to any violation occurring before the period that begins on the date that is 10 years before the date on which the Commission files the suit in which such relief is sought.

''(B) CALCULATION.—For purposes of calculating the beginning of the period described in subparagraph (A), any time during which an individual against which the equitable relief is sought is outside of the United States shall not be counted.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 16(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 56(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''(relating to injunctive relief)''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to any action or proceeding that is pending on, or commenced on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. 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 H.R. 2668.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act.

This legislation is essential to protect consumers and honest businesses across the country. It restores a critical tool of the Federal Trade Commission to go to court to get victimized consumers their money back and make lawbreakers return their illegal profits. The tool is section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

For over 40 years, section 13(b) has been the FTC's primary and most effective means to obtain relief for consumers and businesses. Over just the last 5 years alone, the FTC returned over $11.2 billion to nearly 10 million Americans who had been scammed.

As one example, the FTC used this authority to help relieve veterans and servicemembers from crushing student debt after they were scammed by the University of Phoenix and DeVry. The agency has also returned money to seniors and other vulnerable groups often targeted by fraud. None of this would have been possible without 13(b).

Congress must act now because, in April, the Supreme Court ruled that 13(b) did not allow the FTC to seek restitution for consumers. Instead, the Court ruled that the FTC could only seek injunctions to stop bad actors from violating the law. In the case before the Court, a criminal payday lender was found to have defrauded consumers of $1.3 billion, but that money could not legally be returned to the victims.

Without this legislation, that unjust result remains the law of the land. That is why this legislation has such broad support, including military and veterans groups, business organizations, consumer advocates, unions, and the attorneys general of 28 States, including both Republican- and Democratic-led States. That is why the FTC, during both the Trump and Biden administrations, has repeatedly and unanimously begged Congress to act to save the consumer protections afforded by 13(b).

The opponents of the bill have misrepresented and mischaracterized what this bill does, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker. The Consumer Protection and Recovery Act simply restores the FTC's ability to seek equitable monetary relief for violations of all the laws it enforces, exactly as it has done for over 40 years.

Some say these authorities are ripe for abuse. But under this bill, the FTC would not be able to bring more cases or enact more rules. The bill does not allow for civil penalties, fines, or punitive damages. Consumers can only get back what they lost, and lawbreakers only have to give up their illegal profits.

Nothing in current law can replace the authorities that the FTC has lost. The suggested alternative, section 19 of the FTC Act, does not protect consumers in all cases and requires procedural hurdles that take far too long for any meaningful relief, or any relief at all, to reach our constituents.

This bill ensures consumers are not left holding the bag when bad guys break the law. The money they get back allows hardworking families to pay rent, feed their children, buy clothes, and make ends meet.

I thank Representative CÁRDENAS for his leadership on this bill as well as Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee Chair Jan Schakowsky for all her hard work in helping us get this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to put their constituents first and support the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped to stand before you today urging my colleagues to support this legislation. Sadly, I must oppose because the expansive authority included here goes way beyond the new agency power I and my colleagues were willing to put into statute to ensure the FTC has the ability to get financial restitution to constituents who were victimized by scams as quickly as possible. So, we do agree on the concept but not the details.

Instead, this bill before us will provide the FTC with new authorities that far outpace the need supported by a consensus of the FTC Commissioners.

Even more concerning, Mr. Speaker, as we heard from the former head of the FTC's Consumer Protection Bureau, who testified before our subcommittee, it signals a return to the broad overreach we saw with the FTC in previous decades, a situation so bad that a Democratic Congress crippled the FTC's funding and stripped it of its authority at that particular time. But, alas, here we go again. History is repeating itself if this piece of legislation is passed.

Separately, H.R. 2668 has been riddled with process fouls and has ignored well-founded concerns from Republicans, including the lack of needed transparency reform and the lack of a national privacy standard, which will protect consumers. We are overdue for this, and we must have a national privacy standard as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker.

I have heard from my colleagues. They claim this bill only establishes a statute of limitations, but that simply is not the case. In fact, if you listened to the rhetoric from my Democratic colleagues, you would believe this bill was narrowly targeted at fraudsters and scammers, but that is not the case.

Under this bill, the FTC could obtain billions in penalties without ever proving that the alleged company ever knew or intended to mislead at all.

The Supreme Court ruled 9–0, a unanimous decision, that the FTC never had the authority to grant monetary relief under 13(b). Even the liberal Justices of the Court, Mr. Speaker, said that 13(b) was only designed for injunctive relief. We all agree on that.

So, let's fix it for the benefit of our consumers and any future victims. Let's make sure that they get the restitution they deserve.

An important principle of the American justice system is that the harsher the penalty is, the more due process is needed. So while I do agree with my Democratic colleagues that 13(b) provides sufficient due process for injunctive relief, the new authorities this legislation bestows on section 13(b) does not, however, provide enough due process if the penalty is monetary relief.

Perhaps therein lies my colleagues' true intent. This legislation is not really to fix a problem or restore a power but instead aims to grant the FTC with brand-new and unchecked authorities, rivaling those of the 1970s, to seek financial penalties for what it alleges is fraud and anticompetitive acts through section 13(b) of the FTC Act.

To those listening today, do not be fooled by the title of this bill. I believe it is irresponsible that the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act grants these new authorities without any guardrails to ensure due process remains a foundational American principle or to protect American companies from egregious enforcements that are not intended to protect consumers or help them recover from the harm of bad actors.

We all want to go after the bad actors, Mr. Speaker, but there must be due process.

Now, if it is a clear-cut case of fraud, like Volkswagen, then I agree that we should be able to use 13(b) to seek monetary relief, and my amendment captures such acts. That is the exception to the legal standard.

But if the FTC has to look back 10 years—and that is what we do with this particular piece of legislation, if it passes—and not have to prove there was deceptive intent, as there was in Volkswagen, then we need to ensure due process before the FTC can take money from small businesses and entrepreneurs.

I feel that that is only fair. That is why I was proud to offer a compromise during our Energy and Commerce Committee markup, which was the only portion of the markup that received bipartisan support. My amendment was the only one that received bipartisan support, and I believe it is fair and reasonable.

My amendment struck the right balance between providing the FTC with the new authorities to go after bad actors but also placed much-needed guardrails to keep the FTC from short-circuiting due process and seeking disgorgement from small businesses unaware of any potential violation.

Our small businesses are struggling, and those that conduct bad acts should be punished, absolutely should be punished. There should be restitution for the victims. But our innocent small businesses are having a hard time as it is.

□ 1645

One of my Democratic colleagues even commented that to go from 5 years to 10 years will increase the cost of businesses' errors-and-omissions insurance policies. We must consider that as well.

Now, combine that with no standards attached to the behavior in question,

and we will see even more inflation, ultimately hurting our small businesses and allowing the big guys to pass on the cost to constituents, which they most likely will do. They have the lawyers on their side, so they will pass the costs on to the constituents. We can't have that.

Without these guardrails, the FTC will create a ripple effect that will kill small businesses, unfortunately, innovation and ingenuity, while raising prices in our economy.

My amendment found the right balance, I believe, on the statute of limitations to ensure businesses are not blindsided by the assertion of claims long after the potential conduct, when evidence may no longer be available or is stale, and it is only right. Five years—I would even compromise and go a little higher, but the information must not be stale. I would say in most States, and also DOJ in some criminal cases, the statute is roughly 5 years. In most States, approximately 5 to maybe 7 years, at the most.

While shortening the statute, it also provides the FTC with a unique, equitable tolling period to allow the FTC the ability to seek monetary relief beyond the 5-year statute of limitations in the case of intentionally deceptive or fraudulent conduct. This addresses examples of the fraudulent behavior you will hear from my Democratic colleagues, when the FTC failed to act in a timely fashion. The tolling language is in my amendment.

Despite receiving bipartisan support, the majority rejected this amendment. One can only wonder if this is because it stands in the way of remaking our entire country into a managed economy and one that, again, strips due process rights from its citizens. I hope that is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, Republicans and Democrats both want to protect consumers. We were in Rules yesterday, and we both agreed on that; we want to protect our consumers, and we want to make sure that they get the restitution that they deserve.

I have stayed at the table to negotiate this and even offered an amendment that went a step further than the one I offered in committee. Unfortunately, it fell on deaf ears. The Rules Committee did not make my or any other Republican amendment in order today, ignoring our serious concerns.

We were concerned about pending cases, to make sure that the FTC had the time to look at all the pending cases, and that would make an exception to the statute of limitations, the 5 years. I think we thought of everything.

To my colleagues, let's work together and properly empower the FTC to protect constituents and pass a national privacy standard. This is our opportunity. As a matter of fact, the Senate is working on a bill that includes a privacy standard; a 13(b) fix, but also a privacy standard.

I urge a ''no'' vote on this particular piece of legislation. I want to get back to the table and get this right.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the chairman of our Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee. She has worked long and hard on this legislation.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for all of his hard work. I appreciate it.

It is not every day that we get to vote for something that will have an immediate and positive impact on our constituents like the legislation that we have before us today.

The Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, introduced by TONY CÁRDENAS, is urgently needed right now to ensure that the Federal Trade Commission can protect consumers by putting money back into the pockets of victims of fraud and scams and other illegal activities.

The restitution authority under section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act has been the FTC's most effective law enforcement tool. But, unfortunately, just a few months ago, the United States Supreme Court said that somehow the law wasn't exactly written right, and if you wanted to retain that restitution authority, you had to go back and fix the law.

I do want to say that there is not a single change in the authorities to the FTC, not one. Actually, I take it back, there is one. Before there was no statute of limitations at all, and we did impose a statute of limitations.

What we know is, for 40 years when the FTC had this authority, it was able to do such fabulous things, like get back almost $62 million for delivery drivers in its remarkable settlement with Amazon over Amazon's systemic stealing of drivers' tips.

It enabled the Federal Trade Commission to recover more than $9.5 billion from Volkswagen and Porsche for consumers who were deceived by false advertising about vehicles fitted with illegal emissions defeat devices.

Honest businesses want this legislation because they don't want to have to compete with fraudsters and scammers.

This can't wait. We have seen new bad actors cropping up all over the country and taking money out of people's pockets. It is open season right now for scammers. Every single day that we wait, they get away with the scams and not have to put money back into people's pockets.

I urge my colleagues, join us. There are no secrets here. It is the same bill. Join us to protect consumers. There are plenty of guardrails that have gone on for 40 years, and it is time to pass this bill now.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), my good friend and a great Member. Michigan is the home of Tom Brady; at least he went to college there, a great American. Mr. WALBERG is also a great American.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and we are glad that Brady is there. Go blue.

Mr. Speaker, I have long championed bipartisan legislation to increase consumer protections from fraud and scams, particularly for our Nation's seniors and vulnerable populations.

In April, the House passed by an overwhelming majority H.R. 1215, the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act, which I led with my friend and colleague, Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER.

Our bill creates the Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Group and the Senior Fraud Advisory Office within the FTC to better assist the agency and employers with monitoring, identifying, and preventing mail, telephone, and internet fraud.

I have also championed legislation that cracks down on robocall scams and Medicaid patient abuse and fraud. These efforts are particularly important, as we saw scams increase at an alarming rate during the COVID–19 pandemic.

But I cannot support H.R. 2668, the deceptively mis-advertised bill before us today. This bill was rushed through an entirely partisan process without addressing significant concerns from Republicans to protect fundamental due process rights and prevent the FTC from operating unchecked, as it did in the 1970s.

I hoped the Energy and Commerce Committee would have had the opportunity to hear from the full slate of FTC commissioners on this bill, the same commissioners who testified in the Senate one week prior to our legislative hearing and commented on what should be included in any legislative fix to 13(b).

Make no mistake, I fully support giving the FTC necessary tools to bring just enforcement actions against fraudsters and scammers, including restitution for harmed consumers. However, H.R. 2668 gives the FTC these new expansive tools without much-needed guardrails, all under the guise of protecting our constituents.

Just this past April, in a rare 9–0 unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled that section 13(b) of the FTC Act does not authorize the Commission to seek, or the Court to award, monetary relief including disgorgement or restitution.

The Court stated that the Commission grossly misused its authority and encouraged Congress to address the issue with a bipartisan—and that was their term—bipartisan legislative solution.

But the bill before us today is anything but bipartisan. This bill would grant the FTC a 10-year statute of limitations for this newfound authority, allowing the FTC the ability to go after conduct that is no longer occurring in the marketplace.

There is a reason that a 5-year statute of limitations or less is standard in many Federal and State statutes. As the committee learned from the former head of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, shorter statutes protect against surprises through the assertion of claims long after the conduct, when evidence may be stale or no longer available, and encourage the timely filing of claims by regulatory agencies.

Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee tried countless times to work with Democrats on a compromise solution to these issues, all to no avail.

My good friend, the Republican leader of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, Representative BILIRAKIS, proposed a compromise amendment that would allow the FTC to go after bad actors while also respecting due process rights. His amendment even addressed the concern raised from my friends in the majority on the statute of limitations.

This was a sincere offer from Republicans to address Democrats' concerns and meet them halfway, and it even received bipartisan support in committee.

But instead of coming to the floor with a bipartisan bill, Democrats rejected our efforts and jammed through this partisan bill without consideration for its consequences.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on H.R. 2668. Come back to the table and work with Republicans to find a compromise solution that provides the FTC the tools to actually protect our constituents. That is what we must ask and that is what I ask.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CARDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman FRANK PALLONE for this opportunity to bring the culmination of over 2 years of working on both sides of the aisle to bring this bill to fruition.

It is unfortunate that we weren't able to negotiate more into this bill and make it bipartisan, but there will be other opportunities, as we are a two-Chamber legislature, and I am sure that the Senate has some ideas about how to make this bill better, and we are all open to that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Subcommittee Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY for doing an extraordinary job, making sure that we shepherd this bill through the process and making sure that we keep open lines of communication on both sides of the aisle so that we can get to this point.

It is important for us to understand that this bill is about the Federal Trade Commission's ability to protect consumers from fraudsters and scammers. This means that right now scammers remain free to steal money from hardworking Americans, seniors who are falling prey every minute of the day to scams on the Internet, to veterans who people knock on their door and appeal to them and rip them off and give them nothing for their hard-earned money after defending our honor in the military, to single moms who sign up to get a higher education so they can provide for their children, and then end up empty-handed, with nothing to show for their hard-earned money. Those are the people that 13(b), through the FTC, is going to go after and restore those funds.

□ 1700

For example, since 2016, they have restored over $11 billion to American families from fraudsters and scammers. Yes, it is happening every single day. And it is only getting worse. And today the United States people stand naked with the ability to be able to defend themselves.

The average American family cannot afford to hire a lawyer. What the FTC does is they appeal to a Federal court and they say we have found a bad actor. We are ready to take them to task. We are ready to restore the American families that they are trying to destroy and get them their money back. That is what 13(b) is.

We have a balance of power in this country. The FTC is part of the administration. That is one balance of power. The United States Supreme Court said through a technicality, well, 13(b) should not be made available right now for the FTC to protect the American people.

And they pointed to Congress and said, well, as long as Congress will pass the law then they can do their job and protect the American people. That is what this bill is.

This bill is simply an opportunity to restore the faith of the American people in our system that when they get ripped off, whether it is in person, or on the internet or in whatever manner that some scammer is taking advantage of our American people, the FTC is going to be there to speak up for them, to defend them, and take that money back and put it in the pockets of those individuals who have been ripped off. That is what 13(b) is.

Today, I am very proud, as an American-born citizen, the son of immigrants, to be a Member of Congress, to be able to do the work that we are doing today to get this bill out of the House of Representatives. I urge every Member of this House to please help restore the faith of the American people in us and our system and make sure that they understand that we speak for them, we hear them, and we know how they feel when they get ripped off. And the FTC is going to be there through 13(b) to restore the American people and give them the money that was stolen from them.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), a great member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2668. I agree with my Democratic colleagues that the FTC should be reasonably equipped with tools to protect consumers. Today, the FTC has been able to return $25 million to Hoosiers that have fallen victim to fraudulent schemes.

However, as currently written the bill before the House today goes beyond the FTC's previous use of 13(b).

The bill lacks sufficient guardrails that would provide checks and balances to the Commission's expanded authority.

Meanwhile, we haven't had the opportunity to discuss this legislation with the full Commission in an open and transparent hearing.

During the markup process we offered several commonsense amendments in a good faith effort to improve the bill.

These amendments would have created thresholds of FTC authority and clarifying definitions to ensure provisions in this bill could not be abused.

Unfortunately, these reforms were not supported by the majority.

I am concerned that rushing this legislation through the House may lead to higher costs for small businesses without improving protections for the consumers, which is what we all want to do.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the underlying bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our neighbors back home are tired of the scam artists ripping them off, so I rise in strong support of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act. I thank Representative CÁRDENAS, Chair SCHAKOWSKY, and Chair PALLONE for moving this bill swiftly to the floor.

H.R. 2668 fixes a glitch in the laws governing the Federal Trade Commission. Now the FTC is one of our most important consumer watchdog agencies, and for 40 years the FTC has been able to recover ill-gotten gains and restitution for consumers, but a recent Supreme Court decision kind of threw it back to Congress for us to clarify the FTC's authority.

This is very important. This is the authority that allows the FTC to rightfully recover moneys for consumers when fraudsters cheat them out of it. And this is especially important for seniors, folks in the Active Duty military, veterans, and others because they are often targeted by scams like telemarketer credit card scams, those scam artists that claim that we are working for a charitable organization that is going to help disabled police officers or disabled military, these false, fake cures that say, pay us this money and you are going to be cured of your Type 2 diabetes or you won't be in pain anymore. It is so wrong.

The FTC is working overtime. They have particularly been working overtime during the COVID pandemic because there have been so many scams and frauds.

We have got to pass this bill so that we can empower the FTC to get people's money back. It is that simple.

In fact, in my home State of Florida, just since July 2018, the FTC helped recover over $81 million for over 540,000 Floridians.

So if Members don't support this legislation, you are just giving a green light to the fraudsters to steal from consumers without penalty.

That is wrong. We can't let that happen.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2668.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), our great ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on the subcommittee.

I rise today, unfortunately, in strong opposition to H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, which represents a missed opportunity for both our committee and this Chamber.

Energy and Commerce has historically been the committee of bipartisanship and compromise. Unfortunately, this bill fails to meet that standard in the committee's rich history.

The legislation before us today is another go-it-alone approach that we have come to expect from House Democrat leadership.

In all my time on the committee, I am not sure I have seen so many process fouls or so much disregard for the minority as I have with H.R. 2668.

It fails to include an amendment put forward by Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, our fearless leader and ranking member on the subcommittee that received bipartisan support in our committee markup.

H.R. 2668 has been shadowed by a series of procedural fouls beginning with the intentional exclusion of Republican FTC commissioners from Energy and Commerce's hearing on this legislation as opposed to the Senate Commerce Committee hearing where they were invited to discuss 13(b) authority at length 1 week before.

Perhaps the Republican commissioners were excluded from our hearing because the majority did not want to hear the truth about their bill.

If the majority had led a better, more fair process, this legislation would have been significantly improved or at least built on the trust that we could come together on solutions crafted around sound legal arguments and analysis by all the proper experts.

To be clear, I share the goal of H.R. 2668, to protect people from scammers. But this bill is missing much-needed guardrails that the committee Republicans offered as amendments.

My biggest concern with this legislation, it fails to prioritize due process and ensuring proper analysis. This bill was pushed through a subcommittee markup without a good-faith effort to address the real concerns that we were raising.

We were given less than a week's notice late on Friday before the markup, and shortly before that DOJ sent us incomplete answers to a letter addressing the legitimate concerns raised by our members. This was followed by what seemed like a coordinated response to our questions for the record from FTC Acting Chair Slaughter shortly thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, committee members on both sides of the aisle received just 38 hours of notice regarding the inclusion of this legislation during a full committee markup resulting in criticism from both sides of the aisle.

I doubt many Members of this House believe Congress should operate in this manner. I do think we can all agree that both Republicans and Democrats want to protect people from malicious actors and that the FTC must have the necessary tools to do so.

H.R. 2668 grants FTC brand-new authorities under section 13(b) of the FTC Act, to seek financial penalties for what it alleges is fraud and anticompetitive behavior. It does so without the inclusion of guardrails to protect due process. This is a huge, missed opportunity to enact a national privacy standard.

Last Congress, Senator WICKER rightfully identified privacy and 13(b) reform as policies that could be easily legislated together and should. Even this bill's prime sponsor, Mr. CÁRDENAS, acknowledged his effort to include a national privacy standard with a legislative fix for 13(b).

We must do our job. We cannot have California dictating policy for the other 49 States.

If my colleagues are so concerned about urgently granting the FTC with new authorities to protect people, why aren't we urgently passing a national standard, which we all agree will protect their data privacy?

This legislation fails to address much-needed FTC reforms, to increase transparency, establish a national privacy framework, and ensure due process. There should be no lack of will to take on fraudsters, scammers, and abusers of our personal information.

We need to sit down, work it out, and move comprehensive FTC reform legislation forward together.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.'' We can do better.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, and I am going to urge quick passage of this legislation.

H.R. 2668 would restore the Federal Trade Commission's authority under section 13(b) to go after those who have stolen money from consumers and enable the agency to get this money back to the consumers.

Restoring this authority is in line with bipartisan FTC leadership requests, congressional intent, and over 40 years of practice.

And restoring this authority is especially important for congressional districts like mine where many are struggling to pay the rent and put food on the table.

Prior to the Supreme Court decision, the FTC had used this essential authority to return more than $11 billion to consumers who had fallen victim to unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent practices; and that is just since 2016.

The FTC currently has pending before it investigations that could result in returning $2 billion to consumers if this is restored.

Furthermore, the COVID–19 pandemic has made the need for this legislation even more urgent. During the pandemic, we have seen a rise in scams that prey on consumers' fears and financial insecurities.

Consumers who have been defrauded deserve to get their money back. We owe it to them to move quickly and pass H.R. 2668.

I thank Representative CÁRDENAS for his hard work and leadership on this legislation and Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY and Chairman PALLONE for moving this piece of legislation today. I also thank the Democratic staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for all their hard work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this legislation.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER).

□ 1715

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I ask that Chairman PALLONE engage in a colloquy with me on the effect of this bill on small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I support the purpose of the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act to allow the FTC to get money back for consumers who have been harmed by violations of FTC laws.

I am concerned that small business owners who inadvertently harm customers will, on top of paying restitution, however, get hit with unreasonable penalties for what was essentially an honest mistake.

As a small business owner, I know how difficult it can be to keep up with all the rules and regulations that small businesses must abide by. And I think we should only allow civil penalties for punitive damages where bad actors knowingly violate the law.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the chairman to clarify the extent of this bill with respect to small businesses.

Mr. PALLONE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCHRADER. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon for the question.

The intent of this bill is to restore the FTC's authority to secure restitution not to pile penalties onto small businesses that make an honest mistake.

We want to allow the FTC to ensure consumers who are harmed by a violation of the law are made whole. So let me be clear. This bill does not allow the FTC to impose civil penalties or punitive damages. It only allows for equitable remedies, putting everything back the way it was before the violation occurred.

When the FTC is going after truly bad actors who intentionally preyed on consumers, it would need to use the authority under a different part of its statute to seek penalties and also meet the burden of proof required under that additional authority.

And another important point is that this bill actually protects honest small businesses from having to compete against unscrupulous companies that break the law to give themselves an unfair advantage. So this bill gives the FTC back the tools it needs to ensure a level playing field in the marketplace.

I thank the gentleman from Oregon for engaging on this bill and working with us on our shared goal of protecting American consumers.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his assurances that the intent of this bill is to protect consumers and not to hurt honest small businesses by subjecting them to excessive penalties.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act.

This legislation would restore a key authority of the Federal Trade Commission, which allows it to return money to consumers who have been defrauded by scammers. The FTC has used this authority to protect consumers for the past 40-plus years. It is often senior citizens, veterans, and other vulnerable members of society who tend to be victims of scams, that benefit most from the FTC's ability to return money.

But as a result of the Supreme Court's decision, defrauded consumers are no longer being protected. Instead, they are being left out in the cold at one of the worst possible times.

Around 327,000 people have filed a fraud complaint linked to the COVID–19 pandemic, according to FTC data. And those victims have lost a combined $488 million. Scammers are taking advantage of the public health crisis and the Court's decision is hampering the FTC's efforts to combat this fraud.

That is why it is critical that we pass H.R. 2668 to restore the FTC's authority to seek equitable relief by amending section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide the FTC with express authority to obtain both injunctive and monetary equitable relief.

I thank my colleague on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Representative CÁRDENAS, for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), who is the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and I thank him, also, for working with us on this legislation.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act.

This legislation is essential to promoting the Federal Trade Commission's mission to enforce antitrust law and to protect consumers. For decades, the commission has secured monetary relief for victims of unfair, deceptive, and anticompetitive conduct, such as pharmaceutical companies blocking access to lower-cost drugs.

In a recent example, the FTC returned nearly $60 million to patients suffering from opioid addiction. But a few months ago, the Supreme Court severely weakened one of the FTC's most vital tools for protecting consumers and deterring bad conduct by ruling that the FTC could not seek monetary relief under one of the key statutes that it enforces. This legislation would reverse the Court's decision and would restore one of the Commission's critical tools for fighting monopolists and protecting consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the bill's sponsor, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and I thank Chairman PALLONE and Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY for their leadership to address this urgent problem, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), who is the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act.

This critical legislation restores the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to hold wrongdoers accountable under section 13(b) of the FTC Act.

Until recently, this statute authorized the Commission to obtain monetary relief when a corporation has harmed consumers or businesses by breaking the law. For more than four decades, the FTC used this critical enforcement tool to secure billions of dollars in relief for consumers that were harmed by anticompetitive conduct or unfair or deceptive practices.

In the past 5 years alone, the FTC has secured $11.2 billion in refunds to consumers through this enforcement tool. As Commissioner Rebecca Kelly Slaughter recently testified, these important cases involved combating anticompetitive practices by pharmaceutical companies that contribute to the soaring costs of prescription drugs, abusive scams targeting veterans and older Americans, and numerous other examples of harmful conduct. However, the Supreme Court severely weakened this tool in a recent decision where it narrowed the scope of section 13(b) to cases involving ongoing harms.

H.R. 2668 will reverse this disastrous ruling by reinstating FTC's authority to obtain both injunctive and monetary relief for all violations of the law that it enforces. And what is really interesting when I listened to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, every single speaker said, of course, consumers should get their money back. Of course, the FTC should have this power. And then they express their intention to vote against the bill to do exactly that—restore the power of the FTC to in fact provide that kind of relief.

I thank Congressman CÁRDENAS for sponsoring this bill. I thank Chairman PALLONE and Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY for their extraordinary leadership. This bill is about protecting competition across our economy from Big Tech to Big Pharma.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with consumers and those that have been harmed by deceptive, unfair, anticompetitive practices, and let those consumers and small businesses be made whole.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), who is a strong advocate for consumers.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, when I was a law professor at U.C. Irvine, I wrote a 600-page textbook on consumer protection. And luckily for everyone, you do not need to read the book to understand one fundamental truth: Nobody likes to get cheated; not Republicans, not Democrats; not young, not old; not White, not Brown, not Black. Nobody likes to get cheated.

But when consumers do get cheated, the only way they get justice is if they get their money back. The Federal Trade Commission has used its authority under section 13(b) of the FTC Act to return literally billions of dollars to victims of a wide range of scams; everything from telemarketing fraud to companies lying about how their products can be used to prevent or treat COVID.

If a wrongdoer steals from you, it is the FTC's job to put your money back into your pocket. The Consumer Protection and Recovery Act lets the FTC return to doing just that.

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

Mr. Speaker, we need due process in this particular bill. I believe that this bill is incomplete. We do have to protect the honest small businesses in this country. As a matter of fact, I heard just yesterday, from over 100 small businesses, and they have real serious concerns, legitimate concerns about this particular bill. This bill is not ready for prime time at this particular time. As I said, it is incomplete.

Mr. Speaker, we must go after the bad actors. There must be restitution for our victims—there is no question—but it has to be fair, with a fair and reasonable legal standard.

Mr. Speaker, on that particular note, with regard to the legal standard, former head of the FTC Consumer Protection Bureau and committee witness, Dr. Howard Beales stated that a reasonable person standard was an appropriate standard to include in any restitution or disgorgement legislation.

He testified that this will ensure that the FTC focuses its efforts on bad actors, not honest small business people, but bad actors when using its limited resources to bring these claims.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1, the Democrats' so-called For the People Act, would create a public money slush fund using corporate fines to fund political campaigns, including their own.

Based on numbers from the last election cycle, H.R. 1 would add up to an average of $7.2 million into each Congressional candidate's campaign.

My motion would ensure any fines collected by the Federal Trade Commission under this bill would go to the victims of fraud and not be used as a pathway to fund Congressional campaign coffers—victims, like the thousands of students that were cheated out of $62 million by a debt relief scam recently prosecuted by the FTC; or the patients with liver disease who spent thousands on a supplement that was deceptively marketed as a treatment; or those struggling with opioid abuse who were part of a scheme that overcharged them for medication to help minimize withdrawal symptoms.

The FTC has worked to ensure these victims are compensated. But if H.R. 1 were to become law, many of these fine structures would be weaponized to boost public funds given to candidates to pay for their campaign mailers, political consultants, and even attack ads. Our focus should be on assisting victims, not using public dollars to fund our own campaigns. Again, based on numbers from the 2020 cycle, that is up to $7.2 million per Congressional candidate.

H.R. 1 is often touted by my Democrat colleagues and the media as voting rights legislation. This is the furthest thing from the truth. How does weaponizing our victim compensation system to line the pockets of politicians help people vote, or really help people at all?

Mr. Speaker, if we adopt this motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on Energy and Commerce to consider my amendment to H.R. 2668 that would prevent any public funds collected because of this bill from going into the campaign coffers of Members of Congress or Congressional candidates, and instead, keep the fines' process focused on helping the victims of fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the motion to recommit at the appropriate time and a ''no'' vote on the underlying bill.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, to go back to this bill, I know my colleague from Illinois—who I like a lot—was talking about H.R. 1, but let's go back to this bill.

I know that there have been a lot of statements on the other side of the aisle about, why this bill? They didn't like the process; they didn't like what we were doing. But, look, the bottom line is very simple here. For many years, the FTC was going after bad actors and those who were committing fraud and scamming consumers, and they were basically getting the money back that was stolen from the consumers and giving it back to those consumers in a form of restitution.

The Supreme Court ruled they couldn't continue to do that, not because the Court thought it was a bad idea, but they just didn't think the statutory language allowed it. And since that time, the FTC—both under Democrat and Republican administrations—is asking us to restore that ability of the FTC to seek restitution and give money back to the consumers who were defrauded.

□ 1730

There is nothing else here. That is exactly what we are doing. Nothing more.

I don't really understand the opposition that is coming from the Republican side of the aisle because we are just making it possible for the FTC to do its job effectively, which they were doing for so many years when they recovered billions and billions of dollars for consumers.

I would say look at the language, look at what we are actually doing here, and please support this bill because this is good for everybody in this country, regardless of whether they are Democrat or Republican, or their ideology. This is not ideological. This is a practical way to help the average person.

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act. This legislation restores the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) authority to protect consumers and businesses from scammers.

In April 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that the FTC can no longer use section 13(b) of the FTC Act to ensure monetary relief to Americans who have fallen victim to fraudsters and scammers. This ruling gutted the FTC's authority and we must act quickly to restore it. The FTC has returned $11.2 billion to consumers in the last five years alone, and since 2018, the FTC has recovered more than $171 million dollars for almost one million Californians. Section 13(b) has also helped veterans who have been defrauded by for-profit colleges and provided relief to low-income families gouged by payday lenders.

The FTC has relied on this authority for four decades, and if Congress does not act with urgency, millions more Americans will fall victim to fraudsters with no pathway to reprieve. The urgency of this situation cannot be underscored enough. There is more than $2 billion dollars in 24 pending cases that are currently threatened by the FTC no longer having this authority.

If Congress is to protect consumers across every state in every district, then we must act now. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and vote yes.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 535, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2668 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois is as follows:

At the end of the committee print, insert the following:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

No amounts may be assessed on funds collected pursuant to the amendments made by section 2 for purposes of making payments in support of a campaign for election for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 207, nays 217, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 213]

YEAS—207

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
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)
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 (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—217

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
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
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Gomez
Higgins (LA)
O'Halleran
Rogers (AL)
Scott, Austin
Thompson (PA)

□ 1802

Ms. CHU, Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, BLUMENAUER, Mses. CRAIG, OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. PASCRELL changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms. HERRELL, Messrs. FEENSTRA, OBERNOLTE, and GREEN of Tennessee changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Buchanan (LaHood)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Doyle, Michael F. (Cartwright)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))
Fulcher (Simpson)
García (IL) (Garcia (TX))
Granger (Calvert)
Grijalva (Stanton)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Jones (Williams (GA))
Kahele (Moulton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Underwood)
Stewart (Owens)
Trone (Beyer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 205, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 214]

YEAS—221

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
Gaetz
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
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—205

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
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)
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 (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
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 Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—4

Donalds
Higgins (LA)
Rogers (AL)
Scott, Austin

□ 1822

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

Buchanan (LaHood)
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McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Underwood)
Stewart (Owens)
Trone (Beyer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 289

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Representative OBERNOLTE's name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H. Res. 289.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

ALLOW MEDICARE TO NEGOTIATE DRUG PRICES

(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, we hear a lot of talk about the soaring costs of prescription drugs, but we seldom hear about the sad fact that Medicare is not allowed to negotiate prescription drug prices.

Earlier this month, drug companies announced yet another painful price hike on critical medications. The soaring price of prescription drugs is crushing Americans at the pharmacy counter, driving up health insurance premiums and creating unaffordable costs for taxpayers, who finance Medicare. That is right. We, the people, fund Medicare. Yet, due to an antiquated law, Medicare has to pay drug prices without the right to negotiate.

That is why, last week, I led a group of my colleagues in sending a letter to leadership, demanding that Medicare negotiation of drug prices be included in the upcoming reconciliation bill.

This is common sense, and it is long overdue.

According to the CBO, allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices would save American taxpayers $456 billion in just the first 10 years alone, with those savings heading right back into the pockets of American families. And it would bring down drug prices for all Americans, not just Medicare recipients. Together, we can get this done.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of taxpayers and, importantly, in support of life, an unalienable right endowed by our Creator.

For over 40 years, Democrats and Republicans have come together to include the commonsense prohibition on taxpayer-funded abortions, better known as the Hyde amendment.

President Biden himself was a vocal backer of the Hyde amendment during his decades in the Senate.

Because of Hyde, 2.5 million lives have been saved and afforded the chance to reach their God-given potential.

Yet, as we stand here today, House Democrats are advancing an annual funding bill that shockingly abandons the longstanding Hyde amendment.

It shouldn't be controversial to spare precious babies and give taxpayers the assurance that their hard-earned money is not used for abortions.

Therefore, 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.

□ 1830

SAVE OAK FLAT

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to save Oak Flat. Oak Flat is a sacred land for the San Carlos Apache Tribe, a land deserving of protection under our Historic Preservation Act.

The Resolution Copper Mine, a Chinese company, will completely destroy the sacred area and leave behind 1.4 billion tons of mine tailings waste and create a crater 1.8 miles long and 1,000 feet deep.

We have to ask ourselves, will we allow a foreign-owned mining company to create such destruction? Will we allow them to devastate a sacred land so they can export American natural resources to China for their profit?

No.

This project would use enormous amounts of water and will produce toxic waste that will destroy ecosystems in the area and change the landscape forever.

We must stand against foreign companies destroying traditional cultural landscapes. We should not grant China this competitive edge.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1884, the Save Oak Flat Act, so we can protect this Tribal sacred area.

REMEMBERING PATRICIA WILKINSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Patricia Wilkinson of Jackson, Mississippi, who recently passed away at the age of 73.

Pat and her husband, Joe, retired to St. Simons Island in my district.

I had the pleasure of serving with Joe in the Georgia General Assembly and the greater pleasure of calling Pat and him friends.

Following graduation from the University of Mississippi, Pat followed in her older sister's footsteps to become a flight attendant with Delta Airlines. She spent 50 years as a highly respected senior international Delta flight attendant.

Outside of work, Pat was an active member of the Sandy Springs Society and the Woodward Academy Parents Council.

Pat's love for life and travel was contagious. While she loved flying, nothing could compare to the love she had for her family. Her family was the center of her world, and she brought joy and unconditional love to all.

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

CHILD TAX CREDIT LIFTS UP FAMILIES

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, there is a special place in every parent's heart for summer with our children. My son, Jordan, used to put on his little cleats and a big hat and run out onto the field to play tee-ball with his friends on Saturday mornings. After that, we would go to the pool to cool off; eat lunch under a shady tree; play in the backyard as the day turned to dusk; and read a story together as he drifted off to sleep.

Truly, summer is for hardworking parents to spend time with the little ones that they love most. It is for our children to grow and live and learn and play.

That is why I am so proud that we just passed the child tax credit into law. It means more money in the pockets of middle-class families. Now, over 680,000 families in my home State of Georgia will receive a tax cut, and these credits will raise over 160,000 children in Georgia out of poverty.

This is more funding for Georgia families to protect our children and to lift up our communities.

MARY WALLACE ''WALLY'' FUNK HAS LED AN AMAZING LIFE

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

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Flying Aggie, Oklahoma State University graduate, and my Alpha Chi Omega sorority sister, Mary Wallace ''Wally'' Funk, who today became the oldest woman to have traveled to space. At 82 years old, Funk has led an amazing life, from breaking down gender barriers to careers in aviation, and now space travel.

In my home State of Oklahoma at Fort Sill, Funk achieved many firsts, including the first female civilian flight instructor, first female air safety investigator, and the first female FAA inspector.

Persistence is just one of the many wonderful qualities to describe Funk. When NASA began accepting women to go to space in the late 1970s, she applied three times.

As a pioneer of the aviation and space exploration, Funk's courage, perseverance, and leadership has positively impacted the science industry, especially for women. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize Wally Funk for her vast achievements.

AN EMOTIONAL DAY

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today is a very emotional day for me. I am so proud to be a Member of the House of Representatives, equally proud to be an American-born citizen, and equally proud to be raised by my two immigrant parents, who always believed that in this country, the United States of America, you can be the best that you can be, and you can do the kinds of things that in many parts of the world a child of parents with a first- and second-grade education doesn't have the opportunity to do.

Today we passed a bill, with the support of our staff and colleagues in the House of Representatives, to help protect consumers, to put billions of dollars back in the pockets of individuals who have been and unfortunately will be ripped off by bad actors across this country, but they will be protected.

The faith of our government to work for our people is being restored by restoring section 13(b) to the Federal Trade Commission.

Again, this is a very emotional day for me because my parents came to this country, working in the fields, harvesting fruits and vegetables to help Americans eat, and I get to be a Member of this House, harvesting votes to help restore the confidence and faith of the American people in our system.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF DR. BRIAN TOTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Dr. Brian Toth. Brian has spent a total of 38 years in education. He is a passionate and dedicated education professional. Dr. Toth started his career in 1983 as a math and computer teacher in the Altoona Johnstown Diocese system. Over the years, Brian taught in five different school districts, eventually reaching the ranks of superintendent.

He is a proud graduate of Penn State University, St. Francis University, California University of Pennsylvania, and the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

His dedication to his students and the communities in which he worked is admirable. Aside from serving for 18 years as a superintendent, Dr. Toth is the former president of the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators and a former PASA governing board member where he represented IU8 and IU9.

He also served as a former vice president of PA Local Government Investment Trust, a former PA representative on the American Association of School Administrators governing board, the former president of the Pennsylvania School Study Council, and the vice chair of the Community Education Council.

I thank Brian for his continued service in education and for his dedication to his students. May he enjoy his retirement.

BROADBAND FOR RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, Congress has appropriated well over $300 billion to State and local governments over the past 14 months to help provide broadband access, but we must ensure these funds are being utilized to meet the needs of rural America.

This is only possible if Federal broadband maps are accurate. Last Congress I supported the Broadband DATA Act, which was signed into law and directed the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC, to allow independent third-party data to challenge these maps.

Many States, including Georgia, have already done their own work to identify areas with immediate broadband needs.

I recently sent a bipartisan, bicameral letter to the FCC urging them to utilize data from the Georgia Broadband Map program in their new mapping program and insisting that regular updates be provided to Congress.

House Agriculture Republicans have also marked up the Broadband for Rural America Act, which will provide targeted assistance to the least-connected residents.

I look forward to working on bipartisan solutions to ensure every household has broadband access while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO MALI—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117–49)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in Mali declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019, is to continue in effect beyond July 26, 2021.

The situation in Mali, including repeated violations of ceasefire arrangements made pursuant to the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali; the expansion of terrorist activities into southern and central Mali; the intensification of drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, human rights abuses, and hostage-taking; and the intensification of attacks against civilians, the Malian defense and security forces, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and international security presences, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13882 with respect to the situation in Mali.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 20, 2021*.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117–50)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2021.

Certain ongoing activities, such as Iran's continuing arms transfers to Hizballah—which include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems—serve to undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 20, 2021*.

47TH ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for this Special Order to commemorate the 47th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey, and to further call attention and demand action on the continued Turkish settlement of Varosha.

On July 20, 1974, a very sad day, Turkey invaded the Republic of Cyprus and violently captured the northern part of the island and established a heavily armed occupation force that continues to control nearly 37 percent of Cyprus' territory.

As a result of this flagrant violation of international law, 160,000 Greek Cypriots, 70 percent of the population of the occupied area, were forcibly expelled from their homes. In addition, approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed, including five Americans, Mr. Speaker, of Cypriot descent.

□ 1845

More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots remain missing since the Turkish invasion, and their fate is still unknown.

Greek and Turkish Cypriots were forcibly divided along ethnic lines and remain so to this day. It is utterly baffling why over the past 47 years the U.S., the E.U., the U.N. and the international community writ large have failed to take meaningful action against Turkey for the invasion and subsequent occupation of Cyprus.

Indeed, lack of action has emboldened Turkey to treat the occupied north of Cyprus as an unannexed province of Turkey where Erdogan seeks to, among other things, build a presidential palace, presumably as a precursor to the caliphate he expects to lead.

Decades of failed reunification attempts have jaded even the most optimistic of us.

Today, after President Erdogan defied warnings from the U.S. and the international community, as well as U.N. Security Council resolutions and went ahead and changed the status of Varosha, there can no longer be any doubt that with Erdogan leading Turkey and Ersin Tatar leading the Turkish Cypriot community, there will be no Cyprus solutions, sadly.

The tragic story of Varosha is perhaps the true embodiment of the permanent harm Turkey's direct interference has had on the island. Once holding international renown as a premier tourist destination, it has fallen into a state of dilapidation—sadly, Mr. Speaker, and I did witness it myself—after its lawful inhabitants were forced to flee in the face of the Turkish invasion.

Varosha, particularly the resettlement of its lawful inhabitants, has long been a central issue in the negotiations for Cypriot reunification. However, Turkey continues to unilaterally threaten the noble dream of one people, one border, one Cyprus.

Unfortunately, it was not by coincidence that Erdogan chose this day—the anniversary of the fateful Turkish invasion of Cyprus—to take this illegal action. I emphasize ''illegal,'' Mr. Speaker.

Although the events of the Turkish invasion 47 years ago are not new, I feel it is important that the severity of the invasion and its lasting effects are not understated or forgotten. We must never forget.

It was then, the Turkish forces ethnically cleansed and then fenced off the beautiful area of Varosha, holding it hostage for decades as a bargaining chip in reunification negotiations. All despite the two Cypriot communities' intention to reach an agreement on the resettlement of its lawful inhabitants. The 1979 High Level Agreement made it clear that the resettlement of Varosha was a unified Cypriot priority, that both sides were open to such acts of goodwill, and that the United Nations should play a role in the resolution of the Cyprus problem.

However, the status quo radically changed in 2019 when the Turkish occupation authorities announced their intention, sadly, to open Varosha to Turkish settlement, directly contradicting the United Nation's role and legitimacy on the issue, specifically U.N. Security Council Resolutions 482, 550, 789, and 2483.

Back in October of 2019, I even wrote that the Turkish settlement of Varosha would be a step in the completely wrong direction of what the Cypriot people want—and I have spoken to the Cypriot people—which is the eventual reunification of Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus continues to maintain the return of Varosha as a

cornerstone of confidence building measures with the Turkish Cypriots, including joint ventures seeking to restore the dilapidated city.

Indeed, the present government of the Republic of Cyprus proposed a confidence building measure that would have turned Varosha over to U.N. control and allowed the Turkish-Cypriot port Famagusta to trade with the world under E.U. designation.

And Famagusta is a wonderful place. I had relatives that had to leave during the invasion in 1974, Mr. Speaker. They lost their homes, they lost their livelihoods, and they moved to Athens. But, again, a beautiful place, and it is a very sad situation. And it is action we need, not words, and that is why I am here tonight, Mr. Speaker, to educate the American public and the Members of Congress.

So the Erdogan government, Mr. Speaker, and the Turkish occupation authorities in Cyprus rejected this win-win proposal and decided to keep this one time jewel—and it is a jewel—of the eastern Mediterranean sadly, a ghost town.

Turkish Cypriots, in particular, want to be part of the E.U. and share in all the economic benefits that their compatriots, the Greek Cypriots, enjoy. We support them in their efforts and condemn Erdogan for using Turkish Cypriots as pawns. That is exactly what he is doing. He is using them as pawns to help bolster his dismal record on Turkey's economy.

The world knows that Erdogan is desperate and trying to distract from his failed leadership in Turkey. With his sinking poll numbers, Erdogan must shore up his nationalist base ahead of Turkey's 2023 election. That is what this is all about. That is why he has converted his rhetoric into action and moved to reopen parts of Varosha for Turkish recreation and tourism. It is outrageous, and it must be stopped.

We need to speak up now before it is too late, and fight for the dream and hope of an eventual Cypriot reunification. These are our allies. These are great allies, Mr. Speaker.

The United States, the U.N., the E.U. cannot simply continue to just simply offer its sentiments and vocal displeasure. They must match their displeasure with action, not limited to U.N. management of Varosha as outlined in U.N. Security Council Resolution 550, diplomatic isolation, or sanctions, not limited to just that.

The permanent Turkish settlement of Varosha without justice to the Cypriots who had their homes unlawfully taken from them should be the final red line for the international community that cannot be crossed. We, the international community, have an opportunity and an obligation to stand and fight for justice for our ally, the Cypriot people.

The Cypriot people have a right to their dream of a united Cyprus without direct interference from the Turks, and the displaced Cypriots are entitled to return to their homes in beautiful Varosha.

The United States must take real action and let Erdogan know in very clear terms that the U.S. will no longer put up with the blatant exploitation of the Cypriot people. And that is what it has been all these years.

Last week, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators led in part by my good friend, MARCO RUBIO, called for the Biden administration to pursue multilateral sanctions if Turkey changes the status of Varosha. Senator MENENDEZ has also been a great leader in this area, too.

Turkey crossed that Rubicon today. And like it did when we warned them not to go ahead with the Russian S400 purchases, they thumbed their nose at the United States Congress, the State Department, and the White House.

It is time that Turkey be held accountable for acting contrary to U.S. policy, U.S. interests, and U.S. law. And I ask this House to echo the call by the Senators asking the Biden administration to pursue multilateral sanctions in response to Turkey's flagrant violations of international law.

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

200 DAYS OF DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday, tomorrow, marks 200 days of this Congress and 200 days of House Democrats delivering for the people.

Together, with President Biden we have created millions of jobs since he took office at a faster pace than any President in U.S. history. Economic growth projections are up. Wages are up. And unemployment is down.

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan, we have brought needed relief to families across the country.

More than 160 million Americans are now fully vaccinated against COVID–19. And nearly 70 percent of adults in the United States have received at least one shot.

We invested in helping schools reopen safely and to make up for lost learning time. We sent money to States and to local communities to help keep childcare providers on the job and to lower costs for working families. And we got more than 163 million economic impact payments into the hands of hardworking Americans in 2021.

And last week, child tax credit monthly payments began hitting the bank accounts of roughly 39 million households, covering almost 90 percent of children nationwide. That is historic tax relief for nearly every working family across the United States.

And behind each of those numbers is a family member, a neighbor, a colleague faced with untenable circumstances, getting the support that they need.

Last week I had a chance to sit down, Mr. Speaker, with families in my district. I represent northern Colorado. It is a wonderful place. Many of these families shared with me exactly what these child tax credit payments will mean for them and for their families.

Annie in Boulder, a woman that I met last Wednesday, is 8 months pregnant, and her child tax credit payment is helping her pay for healthcare while she is on maternity leave until she is able to return to work full time.

Johanna from Fort Collins, already received her credit on July 15, and she will use that credit to pay for a summer camp for her son.

Others shared how these payments will help pay for their childcare, for food, or rent payments. Child tax credit payments for many Colorado families, for many California families, for many Texas families, for many Montana families, for many American families is a lifeline because the payments mean money in the pockets of hardworking parents that will ultimately help strengthen our economy and build better lives for their families.

The bottom line is that with the child tax credit and with the American Rescue Plan, help is here for so many.

I recently had an opportunity to take a road trip across my district to see what the American Rescue Plan has meant for families in northern Colorado from Boulder County to Larimer County up to the Wyoming border from Vail to Grand Lake to Bailey, Evergreen, and many places in between, visiting with families and small business owners, childcare workers, and communities.

And we heard story after story about how these funds are helping our communities, providing support to local food banks who have seen skyrocketing demands, providing a needed lifeline to small business owners and renters, and supporting, as I said, our cities and counties amidst the unprecedented moment that we are all experiencing.

□ 1900

We have always said that at this time of unprecedented challenge, we could not leave our families or our communities to weather this moment alone. Well, we have not. President Biden has not. House Democrats have not. Senate Democrats have not. And we will not.

Mr. Speaker, 200 days—200 days of shots in arms, money in pockets, children in schools, people in jobs. And our work is just getting started, because

we will continue to deliver for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU), my good friend, the co-chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, someone who has been delivering for the people in his district in California and for the people of our country for many years.

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I would ask to engage Representative NEGUSE in a colloquy to ask a question.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to entertain the gentleman's question.

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, that wonderful tax cut for American families with children, did any Republican congressman vote for it?

Mr. NEGUSE. It is funny that you ask that question, Mr. LIEU, because not a single Republican, not one, voted for the child tax credit; no laughing matter, as it were.

Mr. LIEU. That's right. It was Democrats in the House, Democrats in the Senate that got the American Rescue Plan signed into law, and President Biden enacted it.

Some of you may wonder, well, what else is in this American Rescue Plan.

So we have this amazing tax cut for millions and millions of American families with children, but in addition, the American Rescue Plan was designed to do four things: To get shots into arms, children into schools, people back on their jobs, and cash in their pockets. And it is doing all four of those.

We know that since January 20, there has been over 3 million jobs created under the Biden-Harris administration. We know that jobless claims have been cut in half. The American Rescue Plan had stimulus checks go out to millions of Americans who needed cash in their pockets. It also provided billions of dollars to schools across our country so they could reopen safely, and it also had money for restaurants and small businesses. It had additional economic injury disaster grants. It also had shuttered venue grants to help those shuttered venues. It was so full of programs to help the American people that we now have projections that our GDP is now going to skyrocket.

We see people coming back into jobs, and we see America back on track, and not a single Republican voted for that American Rescue Plan.

You know what else was in that plan? Funding for local government. I served in local government. I was on the Torrance City Council; I loved that job. It is very clear to me that one of the big aspects of local government funding is funding for public safety, funding for our firefighters, funding for police officers. Not a single Republican voted for that local funding for public safety. This American Rescue Plan was a transformative law and it is still continuing to provide benefits to the American people.

Just a few days ago, as Representative NEGUSE mentioned, on July 15, most American families got a tax refund—hundreds of dollars. This is going to happen again the middle of next month; they are going to get hundreds of dollars again. And then it is going to happen again on the 15th of September, and again on the 15th of October, and again on the 15th of November, and again on December 15.

This is transforming the lives of Americans. It is allowing hardworking parents to have cash to provide childcare, cash to get gas for their car, to go to work, to get back into our economy, get back into the labor market; and again, not a single Republican in the House or in the Senate voted for the American Rescue Plan. And this was just the first 6 months of Democrats in control.

What did the Republicans do when they were in control? Well, they also did give tax cuts, except it went to the top 1 percent. It went to billionaires. And all of you know that, because you didn't get a tax cut. You would have remembered if you did, but you didn't. The American people actually did not get this, because it went mostly to billionaires.

Democrats and Republicans, very starkly different. The first 6 months in office, we chose to give a tax cut to the middle class, to families with children, and we are not done. Now we are working on the American Jobs Plan that is going to have an infrastructure component. It is going to have money for elder care. It is going to have workforce retraining. It is going to help restore the millions of jobs that were lost during this pandemic. We are working on the American Families Plan, because this amazing tax cut for families with children, we want to make it permanent. We want to give Republicans another chance to vote for it, because we want to make this tax cut for families with children permanent. Hopefully, we are going to get bipartisan support for that.

What else is going to be in the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan? It is going to have funding also for education. Studies show that in terms of education, the most impact it can have on a human being's life is under the age of five. So we are going to have funding to have universal preschool for three- and four-year-olds. This is when their brains are developing. This is when you can have tremendous impact that is going to affect them for the rest of their lives.

We are going to extend higher education funding to provide free community college for anyone who wants it. We are in the 21st century now. We simply have to expand our education. People have to learn more skills so they can prepare for the economy of the 21st century.

Hopefully, Republicans will join us. Hopefully, we will get bipartisan support, and we will continue to make America as great as we want it to be and to move forward on a bipartisan basis. We ask Republicans to join us, but for now, we do know not a single one of them voted for the American Rescue Plan.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California.

If the distinguished gentleman from California might be willing to engage in a brief colloquy with me, I would be interested in yielding to him.

I was fully aware that the House Republicans didn't vote in favor of the child tax credit, but you mentioned a litany of other programs that have come to pass over the course of the last 200 days that have had a dramatic impact on the American people.

Is it your understanding that no Republicans voted for, for example, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund as part of the American Rescue Plan?

Mr. LIEU. That is correct. Even though a number of them took credit for that program, they actually didn't vote for it. So I don't want the American people to be confused. If your Republican Member of Congress claims credit for the American Rescue Plan, they did not vote for it. But hey, if they want to talk good things about it, we are happy to accept it, but your Republican Member of Congress did not vote for the American Rescue Plan.

Mr. NEGUSE. Well, Mr. LIEU, I couldn't agree with you more. And you make a very interesting and salient point, because as we reflect on the 200 days with House Democrats leading the charge here in the Congress, pushing to get money in pockets and restaurant revitalization funds and funds for small businesses and the child tax credit payments, and funds for our schools and funds for firefighting departments and local communities, we know that House Democrats have been working for the people.

And while it is unfortunate that the House Republican Caucus has been unwilling to partner with us in this effort, we certainly hope that they will come around.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, one of the privileges of serving in this august body is meeting giants. The Speaker, of course, is familiar with the refrain that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and that is certainly the case in the instance of the colleague of whom I have the honor of recognizing, someone who has been a voice for the voiceless, who has been a champion for working families in our country, for doing everything that she can possibly do to eradicate poverty, not just in the State of California, but across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), my distinguished colleague and friend.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank my colleague and the gentleman from Colorado for his gracious comments, remarks, and leadership. And just know that we are in this together, and we have been in this together for a long, long time. And this is really working for the American people. It is in our blood. We have no option. And you certainly—in the short

time you have been here—you certainly have hit the ground running and have shown who you are and whose you are. So thank you, again, so much.

And to, of course, our co-chair, Mr. LIEU, let me just say thank you for your clarity of purpose and making sure that—yourself and Mr. NEGUSE—making sure that the truth is told. And oftentimes, we forget that the truth shall set you free. But I always marvel at you, Congressman LIEU, and Mr. NEGUSE, especially when you are on the media. You don't pull any punches. You tell the truth; you cut through all the noise. And I think the American people deserve that. Thank you both for that, and thank you for giving us a chance to be with you this evening.

Mr. Speaker I rise also with my colleagues to highlight the fact that House Democrats have delivered for the people in the first 200 days of this Congress. House Democrats and the Biden administration have begun building back bolder. We have helped tackle this virus head on by putting shots in people's arms, and money in people's pockets.

And, yes, to address the crisis of poverty in this country, the American Rescue Plan expanded and improved the child tax credit, which I had the honor of working with my colleagues, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, and our chair of the Committee on Appropriations, Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, to establish the foundation for this.

This benefit has made a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of struggling families, especially for communities of color. In my district alone, the newly improved tax credit will directly benefit 108,600 children. That's in the Golden State of California. Child poverty is about the highest in the country. And it will lift over 10,000 children out of poverty. Now, for the people, we must make it permanent.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that Democrats, we rescued Republicans. There were zero—mind you—zero Republican votes, as my colleagues have said over and over again, for the creation, for example, of 3 million jobs, for investing $130 billion to help schools reopen safely. There were zero Republican votes for the child tax credit and for putting money into the pockets of American families who, through no fault of their own, have been living on the edge, struggling to survive, begging for help.

Well guess what? Democrats delivered for everyone; everyone, regardless of their party affiliation, regardless of who they voted for, or even if they didn't vote. And, yes, some Republicans, they have the audacity to tout these benefits as if they supported them. But you know what? That is okay. That is okay. We are delivering for the people regardless.

And, yes, African Americans and people of color were disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus, and we made certain that equity and funding for low-income and vulnerable communities and low-wealth populations were targeted and included.

Now, last time I looked, Republicans also have many constituents who face socioeconomic and racial bias and have had a difficult time just surviving because of systemic racism and economic inequality. Republicans have constituents who have faced these adversities; we do also. But guess what? Republicans did not step up. We did.

Mr. Speaker, I hope now that the public understands who is on their side. You all are making it very clear. I hope the public really understands what this is about and really who is standing with them.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to build back better and bolder, and I sincerely hope that these efforts will be bipartisan. For after all, we were elected to represent and support our constituents. Not abandon them, mind you, in the time of need.

So, yes, I am proud to have helped minority leader, for instance, MCCARTHY's constituents. I am proud to have helped Senator MCCONNELL's constituents. But I hope that they recognize that the benefits that extended to them during this unprecedented pandemic, I hope they will recognize and rethink the importance of working for the people.

Again, I am very proud to have supported the American Rescue Plan regardless of party affiliation. And I am very pleased that we were able to take care of our colleagues' constituents when they wouldn't.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank the gentlewoman from California, and I certainly could not have said it any better, because we were proud to take the steps that were necessary to help constituents across the country.

The problems, the challenges that we face as a country don't discriminate on political lines or jurisdictional lines. We don't focus on helping Republican communities or Democratic communities. American communities, that is who we are here to help; American families, the American people.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security was created over 80 years ago. And I was at an event earlier today. As we talked about the child tax credit, I was joined by my colleague, Mr. LIEU. And Senator BOOKER was so eloquent as he described the child tax credit program, in particular, as a new Social Security for kids, for children.

□ 1915

So that every child in the United States has the opportunity to succeed and live the American Dream, that is what it is all about. The stories that you heard from my colleagues today, that is who we are helping. The single mother in Broomfield, Colorado, who is trying to make ends meet. The working family in Texas, California, Iowa, Nebraska, Seattle, or Florida trying to find the resources to pay for childcare, to put food on the table, to pay their mortgage, that is what the child tax credit is all about.

Mr. Speaker, 200 days, 200 days of progress. I am proud of the work. My colleague, Mr. LIEU, is proud of the work that House Democrats have done in partnership with President Biden; the work that Representative AXNE has done to fight for farmers in Iowa; the work that Representative HARDER has done to increase appropriations for firefighting in the Western United States, as we are besieged by wildfires; the work that Representative DELGADO did to secure local community support for the smallest cities, towns, and municipalities in rural America.

Money in pockets, shots in arms, children in schools, and people in jobs. Mr. Speaker, 200 days, and we are just getting started.

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

ADDRESSING SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

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 address the crisis we have on our southern border.

Last week, I was fortunate enough to go with three other Congressmen to see the Rio Grande Valley sector, and I want to educate the American public, as well as my colleagues, as to what I saw down there. It is my personal belief that it is the biggest crisis that we are facing today.

First of all, let's just look at the raw numbers. In June, we have had contact with 190,000 people at the border. Now, a lot of those are turned around. We do not know, because the numbers are not yet available, how many are let in the country, but we believe about 16,000 children who were unaccompanied by an adult are let in; we believe about 24,000 other family members are let in; and we believe about 30,000 people who are not touched by the Border Patrol and who are sneaking across the line are let in.

So, we believe that more than 70,000 people, who we did not pick and did not vet, were let in America in June, as opposed to about 6,000 people last June. That is kind of a dramatic change, 6,000 to 70,000 people.

Normally, this time of year, by the way, those numbers are falling, but they went up in June compared to May. Why? Normally, it is hot this time of year, and people are less likely to travel south of the border, but more people are coming up here.

I have been down to the border four times this year, and things are different from sector to sector. The Rio Grande Valley sector is that which borders the Gulf of Mexico. I want to point out that, there, people are coming from

countries you would expect, primarily Honduras, then Guatemala, then Mexico, then El Salvador, although other countries like Haiti, Ecuador, or Cuba are also in the top 10, a little bit different than other regions where Brazil led the way or where Russia was very close to the top.

I want to point out that according to the Border Patrol agents I talked to, frequently, these people are not necessarily starving or poor, with the exception of Venezuela and Cuba, where they have had to put up with socialist Marxist governments. They appear well fed. Some of them, particularly from Cuba or Europe, are actually, judging by their clothes or the purses they have, relatively well off.

I stood on the border in a path between the Rio Grande River and where you check in with the Border Patrol. During the 45 minutes I stood there, again and again and again clumps of people, 15 people, 45 people, 25 people, were coming across. They were rather jolly, despite the fact that I was standing next to a Border Patrol agent. That did not intimidate them. They knew that, under our new laws, they would be escorted in. They just smiled, waved, and were completely happy.

They knew that they would wind up being looked at, at the border. That is why people just kept coming, until 3 o'clock in the morning, as one of my colleagues saw.

What other comments can I make about watching this huge sea of humanity cross the border? It is strengthening the cartels. I do not know if I believe it, but a Border Patrol agent told me that he felt the Mexican cartels are now making more money escorting people across the American border than they are from drugs. I can't document that. That is just what I was told.

If you have to come across the border, if you come across the Rio Grande, people have to realize, you do not get to come across unless you deal with the drug cartels. They will charge someone from Mexico about $3,000; from Central America, about $5,000; from Brazil—and these are all abouts—you negotiate your own price with the cartels, maybe $10,000.

I didn't see anybody coming from China, but our tour guides at the Rio Grande Valley said it was not uncommon to get people from China. They may be paying up to $20,000.

You get different trips. When you come up from Central America, first of all, you are escorted toward a place near the border between Mexico and Central America. Then, you pay to get from a gathering place there to a gathering place just south of the American border. Then, you are escorted to the Rio Grande River and over the Rio Grande River. Maybe for a higher quality trip, it might cost you $12,000 to get a better boat, that sort of thing, as you worked your way north.

You have to pay. We recently heard a story from the Border Patrol in which somebody from Ecuador refused to pay. He felt like he could just come across the border. The gangs just killed him on the spot, boom. That is the type of thing you are dealing with.

A lot of sexual assaults, so as our Border Patrol interviews people, they try to do something about it. But, obviously, given the hodgepodge nature of the border, I think very rarely are they able to catch the assailant.

To give you a further idea of how difficult it is, people might say: Why does the Border Patrol not intercept the boat coming across the Rio Grande? Because what the drug cartels will do if there is a little child on the boat, and there is frequently a little child, they will just throw that child in the river, knowing full well that the U.S. Border Patrol, being compassionate Americans, will help that 1-year-old or 3-year-old child to safety rather than go after the drug cartel or the person working for the drug cartel, escorting people across the border. I was told again today, talking to our Border Patrol, that is very common, that they would throw a little child in the river.

Kind of an interesting thing, if you watch these people come across, it is so automatic that, nowadays, they get a little wristband, like you might get at a county fair. That wristband varies depending upon the quality of trip you are going to get, as well as which gang is escorting you across. It is just done automatically.

Like I said, you come to the southern border of Mexico. Then, you take a plane, train, or bus through Mexico and enter another gathering place just south of the border. You are escorted to the river, and then escorted on a boat across. Like I said, depending on the quality of the trip, $3,000, or from Asia, $20,000—a very difficult thing.

The next thing we learned down there, you might think: What does Mexico think about the new policies implemented by the United States? Of course, the biggest policy is that we got rid of the migrant protection program, where people who were going to ask for asylum had to stay south of the border. For whatever reason, the Biden administration decided to get rid of that.

Since then, the Border Patrol agents I talked to felt they were getting less cooperation with Mexico. They are still getting cooperation, but it frayed the very good cooperation we had with the Mexican border patrol 6 months ago because the attitude of the Mexican border patrol themselves or the police themselves is: Why should I risk my life taking on the drug gangs when the Americans on the other side don't really seem to care about protecting their own border?

The next thing to point out, that I didn't know looking at TV, is it is not unusual at all to have people come here without their own ID. Without their own ID, of course, you have to take their word for it, as to who they are. You can't do criminal background checks like you want to do.

Bizarrely, even without an ID, the wonderful American taxpayer will fly you or bus you wherever you want to go in the United States. When I left that area, in the McAllen airport, I saw people with manila envelopes. On the envelope, it says: ''I do not speak English,'' but it gives directions as to where you should go.

As we talked to some of the immigrants coming across, they knew where they wanted to go. ''I want to go to Chicago.'' ''I want to go to New York.'' ''I want to go to Louisiana.'' So, we dutifully put the instructions on the manila envelope, without ID, and they are allowed to get on the airlines without ID, something that none of us could do, and we take them wherever they want to go.

The next comment I will have is people talk about keeping families together. Under the current system, as we open up the border, we see not a small number of children all alone in what I can only describe as cages. I would say they are maybe 20 feet by 20 feet with maybe eight kids in there all under the age of 5, or another fencing area with kids who are older than that crowded together, maybe 10 to 13. They are, obviously, kids. We do let kids in who claim to be under 18 who almost certainly aren't. But in any event, it is kind of heartbreaking to see these little kids under the age of 5 sitting on mats, asleep at 10 in the morning without any adults to accompany them, without their parents to accompany them.

Now, you might say: What are they doing here? Bizarrely, I think, parents will send their kids north to live with an aunt and uncle or gram or grandpa or whatever, and they put the address and the name of the people on their T-shirts or with something the kids are carrying. Then, the kids show the Border Patrol their T-shirts, and the United States sends the kids to a nonprofit organization that takes them to New York, Baltimore, or wherever.

It frustrates the Border Patrol because, of course, in the United States, if we knew parents who just wrote on a 3-year-old's shirt ''take Johnny to 123 Elm Street in Los Angeles, California,'' and dropped him off at the airport, those parents would be getting a call from social services.

But here, in dealing with immigrants, we don't consider that unusual at all. ''Oh, Johnny, we are supposed to find a way to take you from McAllen to 123 Elm Street in West Bend, Wisconsin.'' Why? We have no problem doing that. It is just something that bothers the Border Patrol and bothers me as well.

The next thing to think about, something new that the Border Patrol sees, and I am a big advocate for those people who are born with different abilities, but it is apparent to the Border Patrol that, more recently, they are getting kids who they wonder if they are coming from orphanages, who have different abilities than the rest of us—

you could say special needs. We are seeing more of that come across the border.

Of course, America is a very wonderful country, and we do take these kids in. I am sure we will find special programs for them. But I think it ought to be openly discussed if we are seeing a new trend of countries south of the border feeling that it is up to the United States to care for this population.

□ 1930

I am going to comment a little bit on the people they call got-aways. Obviously, if you have so many young kids who are being processed here, Mr. Speaker, the Border Patrol has to spend a lot of time filling out paperwork and interviewing these folks.

What happens when the Border Patrol is filling out paperwork and changing diapers? They don't have time to guard the border.

As a result, we have heard in certain sectors the Border Patrol is at one half the number of people they want on the border, which is why this time last year they had about 6,000 got-aways sneaking in every month, and now there are 30,000 got-aways sneaking in every month.

A discussion of what I learned at the border is incomplete without talking about the drugs that are coming across the border. Ever since I have had this job, we have talked about the number of people who are dying in this country by illegal drug overdoses. I think after a while people's eyes tend to glaze over, and they may not be aware that in the last 6 or 7 years the number of people dying in this country has doubled.

When I first got this job, it was about 45,000 a year, and I was just stunned at 45,000. It is not that far away from the number of people who died fighting in Vietnam, and every year that many people die of drug overdoses in this country. It has doubled. It is now up to 90,000 a year.

When I talked to the local DEA agent in Milwaukee, he told me that he felt the drugs from all of the overdoses in Milwaukee County—which at the time was 540 a year—probably came across the southern border. Just like every other member of law enforcement in Wisconsin, they wonder what we are doing in Washington to prevent these drugs from coming across the southern border.

Why is there such a big increase?

I think two things: First of all, more drugs are coming across the border. As marijuana becomes legalized in more and more States and grown legally in more States, there is a speculation that the drug gangs who, after all, make money selling drugs, are shifting from marijuana to harder drugs.

Secondly, the current drug of choice, the drug that is being used by these horrible cartels—and by the way, we ought to put more of these people in prison, not less—the type of drugs that are being brought across by these cartels is fentanyl.

I had always thought that heroin was about the most dangerous thing you could take, Mr. Speaker. Fentanyl is much more dangerous than heroin, which is why I recently talked to a district attorney in my district, and in his area there were as many people who died from drug overdoses last year as the 3 prior years combined. It is what we see as the young people shift or older people shift from heroin to fentanyl on purpose or not on purpose, because frequently the fentanyl is put in with the heroin.

So if we care about the 90,000 people who are dying every year in this country of illegal overdoses and we think about the poor families who lose their loved ones and wonder what we are going to do, it seems that a minimum part of the response has to be to respond at the border.

One more time, it seems like we are going in the opposite direction. We are doing less at the border. More people are coming across, and more people coming across means more fentanyl; more fentanyl coming across means more fentanyl-laced heroin; and more fentanyl-laced heroin means more people dying and more broken hearts of the families of the people who are dying.

So what can I recommend to the wonderful Congressman in the Chair?

First of all, I will ask the Biden administration not to get rid of title 42. That is the section that allows the Border Patrol to turn people around because of fear of COVID. There are rumors that the use of title 42 is soon going to be dropped by the Biden administration. Perhaps the uptick in COVID will cause them not to do it. But as I said, already we have 70,000 people a month crossing the border, and if the word gets out that we are no longer going to turn away single adults or families with kids over the age of 7 who are right now being turned around because of COVID, that 70,000-a-month figure is going to shoot up even more.

Secondly, with regard to COVID right now, the Border Patrol checks people, but they only check people if they have a temperature of at least 99; otherwise, they just send them on—which includes a lot of asymptomatic people—to the nongovernmental organizations who take these people next.

If they test positive there, then these organizations put them up in hotels or apartments.

But because they are here illegally and they want to get inland to America, what do the people with COVID do once they are placed in a hotel or placed in an apartment?

They leave right away. So, right now, as a practical matter the policy of the Biden administration of people who come here—I am not talking about unvaccinated people, I am talking about people who literally have COVID—the response of this country is we let them in. I would beg the Biden administration to do something about that concern.

So keep or expand title 42 so people can't get here because of COVID. And, secondly, when people test positive for COVID, don't let them out. That is kind of opposite of the whole story we are getting from the President.

The third thing I would like to ask the President to do—and I made this request, I think it was 3 weeks ago now—please put someone other than Vice President HARRIS in charge of the border. She went down to the El Paso sector. She did a few-hour perfunctory check.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I learn so much more every time I am down there, and usually I stay down there a couple days each. Every sector of the southern border is different, and there are nine sectors there. I happened to be in the Rio Grande sector this time. It is very different from what you learn in the Tucson sector, Mr. Speaker, and very different from what you learn in the San Diego sector.

Please, President Biden, pick someone who either has a zeal to control the southern border or at least is personally responsible enough to go down there and do something. Because I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that 70,000 figure now up from 6,000 a year ago is going to do nothing but grow; and if you ever get rid of title 42, it is going to rocket up through the roof. I don't think there is any country—particularly a country with a generous welfare state like we have—who can survive purely open borders.

So there is your primer, Mr. Speaker, for all the people fortunate enough to be in the room and fortunate to be listening at all.

I beg President Biden to take the border more seriously, and I beg the media of this country to take the border more seriously. I do not think anything that the government does or does not do is more significant than what happens with the 70,000 people who are coming across the border today, and what I believe will happen as soon as the weather gets a little cooler and it becomes more apparent to people around the world, soon that number is going to go from 70 to 80 to 90 to 100 and maybe significantly more than that.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 30 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is always important to have an opportunity to speak to our colleagues and as well the American people. Tonight, I will dwell on questions of human rights, challenges to those human

rights and the legacy of the undermining of human rights even in America that will include aspects of such indignities around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) who will start with a discussion on a longstanding and well-known historic violations of human rights.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for yielding. I appreciate it very much.

I want to speak today about the 47th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of the tiny island of Cyprus. For the last 47 years, Turkish troops have occupied the north of that island which is a direct violation of human rights. They have taken that opportunity to engage in disruption and desecration of cultural and religious sites.

Today, President Erdogan of Turkey visited Cyprus on this day, the 47th anniversary of the Turkish occupation.

Why did he come?

Was it to negotiate in good faith for a solution to the division of the island?

No.

Did he come to apologize for the continued occupation of the island?

No.

He came to announce the reopening of the beach town of Varosha in direct contravention of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 550 which ''considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible.''

Varosha was a once-bustling resort town. It was an international tourist destination in the Famagusta district of the Republic of Cyprus. But with the advance of Turkey's invading forces to the town in August of 1974, Varosha's native Greek Cypriot population fled for their lives.

Erdogan's visit is a cynical and shameful act designed to mock the rightful inhabitants of Varosha and to advance Turkey's agenda of dividing Cypress into two separate states instead of pursuing a bizonal, bicommunal federation that all parties of good faith have endorsed.

I urge the Biden administration to use all means at its disposal to resist Turkey's creeping partition of Cyprus and to bring international condemnation to these outrageous steps that President Erdogan is taking which disrespect and violate the rights and human dignity of the refugees of Varosha.

One day Cyprus will be reunited, but that can only come with the forceful leadership of the American Government, deployed consistently, morally, and with an abiding sense of justice.

I want to thank the Congresswoman for yielding to me so I could address an important issue of human rights, and I want to thank her for her incredible work over decades and certainly during her service here in Congress to make sure that in this country we are recognizing human rights and the dignity of every individual. I want to thank her for her leadership on H.R. 40, this very, very important commission, and thank her for being part of the conscience of this Congress.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership. We must always remember that human rights are equal to human dignity.

So it is my privilege tonight to stand to discuss the value of recognizing human dignity. As I do so, let me add to an earlier discussion that reflects on giving our children human dignity.

Isn't it amazing how children have suffered in the course of the most recent history depredation of wealth, and so they have been ensconced in poverty, they have been hungry, and they have been without a good education? These are children in America. We can speak about children around the world. They have had little access to broadband technology, and they have suffered in their housing provisions, if you will.

So I am very proud to just start out by, again, applauding the American Rescue Act and also the life-changing impact of the child tax credit. I don't think we can do that enough. And children of color have been at the front of the line and we are able to help with food and childcare, diapers, healthcare, clothing, taxes.

Poor, working, and middle class families are able to receive the same amount. You will see, Mr. Speaker, where I am going on this because we don't do this in anger. We don't do this because we are mad. We do this because it is righting the wrong, as one of my colleagues said.

This will provide $250 per month, per child and $300 per month for every young child. That means children under 5. All families in my district will be able to feel more secure. Let me run through these numbers because they are stunning.

The 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas, Mr. Speaker, 91.7 percent of children in my district will gain from the expanded and improved child tax credit. I know that because I have been immersed in childcare education events.

We have been in a church, we have been at my Federal building, we have been up and down on the radio, we have been everywhere we could be to ensure that we did it with humor, with seriousness, with compassion, being out on the street corners along with trying to encourage people to get vaccinated. We have been saying: Get ready for the child tax credit President Biden and the Democratic Congress worked so hard on.

Mr. Speaker, 91.7 percent of the children will gain in my district. That is 202,800 children.

I have schools in my district that are 100 percent at risk, and they eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There is no shame to helping children. Behind those children are parents who are suffering. These dollars will help these parents have dignity, their children have dignity, and their children have resources.

The average benefit for 56,700 households in my district—Houston, I hope you are listening—is $3,500.

If you have not filed your taxes in the 2019 year, you can immediately get help from my office at 713–655–0050 or the IRS tax advocacy team, also in my building of 1919 Smith Street in Houston, Texas.

Don't miss the opportunity for your own human dignity. It is not a handout. It is a hand up. The expanded and improved child tax credit lifts 21,800 children in my district out of poverty. Because of the larger benefits for the youngest, 8,400 kids under the age of 6 are raised out of poverty. That has expanded across America where millions of children face a new day.

□ 1945

Families with children in poverty receive $5,300 on average, and they are getting some 6,500 children in my district out of deep poverty. We know now that we are engaged in the appropriations process. I thank Chairwoman DELAURO and all of the appropriators for their work. We know how important it is if you are going to do something in life, this year, 2021, in the aftermath of COVID–19, this is the year to do it with the appropriations bill. This is the year to do it. Again, my theme: a sense of dignity.

And where does that take me now? Well, I must deviate for a moment, Mr. Speaker, to just indicate that I think the Biden-Harris team has brought to America a sense of compassion. It has turned anger and ugly words into reaching out to people where they are. That could mean people who oppose them. But they reach out to them where they are, and they reach them with a sense of understanding and acceptance that they must cast leadership for all of America, even if people disagree with them.

So my good friend was here on the floor—I am sorry that he has left—but I want to emphasize that Vice President KAMALA HARRIS is doing an excellent job on some very tough issues. She is meeting on voting rights and meeting with any number of persons. I want to remind America that Texas Democratic State representatives who had some medical mishaps here or medical circumstances with COVID–19—no one is immune—are still here fighting so that we can have voting rights.

She has met with all of them. She is deeply engaged in making sure that we work together as a Congress to get voting rights done along with the Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman BEATTY and all of us as Members who are standing ready. So she is doing an excellent job. And I will tell you, living on the border myself, living in Texas, in the region, having gone to the border over and over again, she is doing a job that should be done that others are not doing, getting into the weeds and understanding what the President's

path should be as we go forward on immigration reform.

She has been to the Northern Triangle. That is the heart of where the issues start, and they are working to discern how they can best stop the massive flow of migrants, immigrants, who are in fear of their lives living in the countries that they are living in. These are tough issues, and I just want to say thank you to Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, because some people misunderstand and think that it is just an easy thing to do.

My word from Texas on her trip was excellent, and that people were receptive to her intellect, her compassion, and her willingness to get the job done. And the job will be done.

So as I say that, I indicated this will be a night about human rights. And so I want to give you a little education about legislation that we are so pleased about. Can you imagine, H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans having nearly 200 sponsors, cosponsors of individuals who have come from many parts of the country. And so I am speaking to my colleagues who happen to be Republicans, and I want to give them the opportunity to realize just what this bill is.

I heard someone say ''restoration,'' and I heard someone say ''repair,'' and they are right. My good friend, the Honorable BARBARA LEE, we are working in tandem together, working in tandem on H. Res. 19, which is reconciliation and restoration, and then the bill, H.R. 40, legislation to create a commission that would study effectively slavery, and as well then develop reparation proposals. Again, restoration, repair.

Let us remove ourselves from any sort of shackle on the question of reparations. Let us be understanding of someone else's pain, someone else's history; that is, in fact, American history. So I hold up this bill, because I said I would do show and tell, H.R. 40. Look at the pile of Members here as original cosponsors, and they have been coming on and on, and I want to just say thank you to my friends and colleagues who have thoughtfully felt the need to say how do we heal America's systemic racism; and how do we heal institutional racism; how do we ignore what is, in fact, truth.

Now, I think most of you know I could not stand here without saying thank you to the 415 Members of Congress who voted along with the United States Senate on Juneteenth. Do you realize that Juneteenth is the first time America has acknowledged the history of slavery? In 1865, those of us west of the Mississippi just got the word from the Union soldiers with General Granger that we were free by General Order No. 3.

Juneteenth is a commemoration of that. And I want everyone to know that, frankly, 47 States have already been celebrating in their own way Juneteenth. After 38 years, we have a new Federal holiday called Juneteenth, which gives America and little schoolchildren the opportunity to ask their dad or their teacher: What is Juneteenth? That was holding people in bondage, but it was setting them free.

After the bloodiest war, brothers against brothers, the Civil War, where Abraham Lincoln so emotionally indicated: ''A house divided cannot stand,'' but General Granger came and Sam Collins held a magnificent celebration on June 19 in Houston, in Galveston, in that region where I represent, and the mural was unveiled by a magnificent artistic team led by Reginald Adams out of Third Ward, Texas, which is Houston, which is where my congressional district is, and it told the story of the freedom of these slaves. And we repeated General Order No. 3 which says, ''equality of personal rights'' but the biggest thing it said was, ''the slaves are free.'' And that we insist upon equality of rights. That is all that H.R. 40 is about.

Are we to deny equality of rights? That was in General Order No. 3. That is what the President, unfortunately, being assassinated, President Abraham Lincoln sent General Granger down to read to the slaves who had worked and been beaten for 2½ more years.

It is important that we not ignore what slavery was all about. This is the whelped and beaten back and scarred back of a slave. Let us be clear. Bondage, we are the only group of Americans that have been held in bondage in this Nation, and we have been held or were held in bondage longer than this country has been a nation. For 246 years, we were held in bondage, and we only celebrated our 245th birthday.

So I am here to be able to, very briefly, run you through a brief history. Let me do this. Let me first of all talk about the words of Gary Abernathy, who proudly says that he is a conservative.

And Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining, please?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 14 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate it, only to make sure that I can now flow with the concept of the time.

But the headline reads: ''Why I support reparations—and all conservatives should.''

I know my friends are listening here on the other side. Gary Abernathy. And I will take some excerpts from this. He acknowledges that he is a conservative. And I can venture to say that his credentials can be documented.

But he says, in spite of the bill that I have offered—has an apology—he takes note of that, he even indicates that he may not be that enthusiastic about that. But he says, ''In fact, it could be argued that the idea fits within the conservative philosophy,'' meaning that the notion of reparations is worth discussing because he says, ''In fact, it could be argued that the idea fits the conservative philosophy.''

He goes on to say, ''But it is undeniable that White people have disproportionately benefited from both the labor and the legacy of slavery, and—crucially—will continue to do so for generations to come.''

None of this is said with anger. It is only setting forth facts. When slavery was abolished after a bloody Civil War, African Americans were dispersed into a world that was overtly hostile to them. ''Reconstruction efforts were bitterly resisted by most Southern Whites, and attempts to educate and employ former slaves happened only in fits and starts.''

Remember, this is a group of people in the millions who simply were set free. Freedom is precious. We cannot deny how precious freedom was, how sweet it was, but they were given nothing; nothing to start their lives, and they came into the hostility of people who really didn't want them to be free. That was the bulk of the South, and many parts of the North. ''The government even reneged on its '40 acres and a mule' pledge. After slavery, prejudice and indifference continued to fuel social and economic disparity.''

Be reminded of the whipped back of this Black man, this slave. And there were whipped backs of women and children. They lived through this through no fault of their own. They worked and toiled in the fields. They made cotton king. They built the economic engine of this Nation. They created a transatlantic slave trade. They sent millions of dollars from the South to the Wall Street banks, and we built America.

They built this place where I stand, the United States Capitol, with their bare hands, and they built the White House. What else could they have built?

And so when slavery was abolished, there was silence. It has been represented that there is a gap of $17,600 shows the median Black household net worth, to a $174,000 wage of the average American or White family.

When parents offered gifts to help children buy a home, avoid student debt, or start a business, those children are more able to retain and build on their wealth over their lifetimes. I think we just saw a very unique occasion today regarding space. I would not in any way say anything but congratulations, but one of those persons paid $27 million to be on that historic moment. Calculate that. It is a personal payment. It wasn't government.

And, again, I celebrate the occasion, but juxtapose that against where we are or where African Americans are. Randall Robinson made the point that even affirmative action would never close the economic gap. ''Blacks, even middle-class Blacks, have no paper assets to speak of. They may be salaried, but they're only a few months away from poverty if they should lose those jobs . . . ''

And many times the ravages of discrimination and segregation are intertwined in law, and they may lose their jobs.

And so this conservative author believes in reparations. And he believes that this can be done with a fair amount of dollars, but there is more to it, as you will hear me say, because it is not about money.

He concludes by saying: ''It is a tenet of conservatism that a level playing field is all we should guarantee. But that's meaningless if one team starts with an unsurmountable lead before play even begins.''

I think LBJ said: If you want to tell people about a fair race, meaning a running race, and one fellow or lady has shackles around their ankles and the whistle blows, get ready, go, it is not a fair race because one runner is freed and has all of the elements of freedom, and the ability to do great things, and one is running with leg irons on.

So as we look at how we can as a nation, a community come together, I don't know how many times I want to raise the question that we are not doing this in anger. H.R. 40, first introduced by John Conyers, is an international concept. It just means repair. It means doing the right thing, healing, dealing with injustices. It will not be painful.

But let me tell you why this legislation is not painful, because it is a study that will give us a roadmap and it will be done with academicians and those who are appointed by government leaders, and they will be balanced and they will be responsible and they will be thorough.

□ 2000

Why do we think we need it?

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the article from Gary Abernathy, Washington Post contributing columnist.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 22, 2021]

OPINION: WHY I SUPPORT REPARATIONS—AND ALL CONSERVATIVES SHOULD

(By Gary Abernathy, Contributing columnist)

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D–Wash.) is among the progressive lawmakers whose blunt, liberal outspokenness regularly annoys me. Recently, she particularly upset me while discussing the latest congressional study of reparations for descendants of enslaved people, when she said, ''If you through your history benefited from that wrong that was done, then you must be willing to commit yourself to righting that wrong.'' Only this time I was bothered because her comments hit home. Like most conservatives, I've scoffed at the idea of reparations or a formal apology for slavery. I did not own slaves, so why would I support my government using my tax dollars for reparations or issuing an apology? Further, no one in the United States has been legally enslaved since 1865, so why are Black people today owed anything more than the same freedoms and opportunities that I enjoy?

I remain unconvinced that an apology would have much real value, but the more substantive notion of reparations is worth discussing. In fact, it could be argued that the idea fits within the conservative philosophy. We'll come back to that. But it is undeniable that White people have disproportionately benefitted from both the labor and the legacy of slavery, and—crucially—will continue to do so for generations to come.

When slavery was abolished after a bloody civil war, African Americans were dispersed into a world that was overtly hostile to them. Reconstruction efforts were bitterly resisted by most Southern Whites, and attempts to educate and employ former slaves happened only in fits and starts. The government even reneged on its ''40 acres and a mule'' pledge. After slavery, prejudice and indifference continued to fuel social and economic disparity.

The result is unsurprising. As noted by scholars A. Kirsten Mullen and William A. Darity Jr., co-authors of ''From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century,'' data from the 2016 Survey of Consumer Finances showed that median Black household net worth averaged $17,600—a little more than one-tenth of median White net worth. As Mullen and Darity write, ''white parents, on average, can provide their children with wealth-related intergenerational advantages to a far greater degree than black parents. When parents offer gifts to help children buy a home, avoid student debt, or start a business, those children are more able to retain and build on their wealth over their own lifetimes.''

Black author and activist Randall Robinson has argued that even laws such as those on affirmative action ''will never close the economic gap. This gap is structural. . . . blacks, even middle-class blacks, have no paper assets to speak of. They may be salaried, but they're only a few months away from poverty if they should lose those jobs, because . . . they've had nothing to hand down from generation to generation because of the ravages of discrimination and segregation, which were based in law until recently.''

In addition to the discrepancy in inherited wealth, even conservatives should be able to acknowledge that Whites enjoy generational associations in the business world, where who you know often counts more than what you know—a reality based not so much on overt racism as on employment and promotion patterns within old-school networks that Blacks lack the traditional contacts to consistently intersect.

For now, support for reparations is anemic. A House Judiciary Committee bill creating a commission to merely study the idea was opposed last week by 17 Republicans, though all 25 Democrats on the committee voted for it; and just 1 in 5 respondents in a Reuters/Ipsos poll last June agreed that the United States should use tax dollars for reparations—not shocking, when a price tag of $10 trillion has been suggested.

The cost can be debated, along with the mechanics of a compensation package. But in the current drunken haze of government spending, appropriating trillions for the noble purpose of bringing Black Americans who remain economically penalized by the enslavement of their ancestors closer to the fiscal universe of White citizens surely seems less objectionable than some recent spending proposals.

It is a tenent of conservatism that a level playing field is all we should guarantee. But that's meaningless if one team starts with an unsurmountable lead before play even begins.

It's not necessary to experience ''White guilt'' or buy into the notion of ''White privilege,'' a pejorative that to me suggests Whites possess something they should lose, when in fact such benefits should extend to all. Supporting reparations simply requires a universal agreement to work toward, as Jayapal said, ''righting that wrong.''

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a Washington Post article, ''U.N. rights chief: Reparations needed for people facing racism.''

[From the Washington Post, June 28, 2021]

UN RIGHTS CHIEF: REPARATIONS NEEDED FOR PEOPLE FACING RACISM

(By Jamey Keaten)

GENEVA (AP)—The U.N. human rights chief, in a landmark report launched after the killing of George Floyd in the United States, is urging countries worldwide to do more to help end discrimination, violence and) systemic racism against people of African descent and ''make amends'' to them—including through reparations.

The report from Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human rights, offers a sweeping look at the roots of centuries of mistreatment faced by Africans and people of African descent, notably from the transatlantic slave trade. It seeks a ''transformative'' approach to address its continued impact today.

The report, a year in the making, hopes to build on momentum around the recent, intensified scrutiny worldwide about the blight of racism and its impact on people of African descent as epitomized by the high-profile killings of unarmed Black people in the United States and elsewhere.

''There is today a momentous opportunity to achieve a turning point for racial equality and justice,'' the report said.

The report aims to speed up action by countries to end racial injustice; end impunity for rights violations by police; ensure that people of African descent and those who speak out against racism are heard; and face up to past wrongs through accountability and redress.

I am calling on all states to stop denying—and start dismantling—racism; to end impunity and build trust; to listen to the voices of people of African descent; and to confront past legacies and deliver redress,'' Bachelet said in a video statement.

While broaching the issue of reparation in her most explicit way yet, Bachelet suggested that monetary compensation alone is not enough and would be part of an array of measures to help rectify or make up for the injustices.

''Reparations should not only be equated with financial compensation,'' she wrote, adding that it should include restitution, rehabilitation, acknowledgement of injustices, apologies, memorialization, educational reforms and ''guarantees'' that such injustices won't happen again.

Bachelet, a former president of Chile, hailed the efforts of advocacy groups like the Black Lives Matter movement, saying they helped provide ''grassroots leadership through listening to communities'' and that they should receive ''funding, public recognition and support.''

The U.N.-backed Human Rights Council commissioned the report during a special session last year following the murder of Floyd, a Black American who was killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis in May 2020. The officer, Derek Chauvin, was sentenced to 22-1/ 2 years in prison last week.

Protests erupted after excruciating bystander video showed how Floyd gasped repeatedly, ''I can't breathe!'' as onlookers yelled at Chauvin to stop pressing his knee on Floyd's neck.

The report was based on discussions with over 340 people—mostly of African descent—and experts; more than 100 contributions in writing, including from governments; and review of public material, the rights office said.

It analyzed 190 deaths, mostly in the U.S., to show how law enforcement officers are

rarely held accountable for rights violations and crimes against people of African descent, and it noted similar patterns of mistreatment by police across many countries.

The report ultimately aims to transform those opportunities into a more systemic response by governments to address racism, and not just in the United States—although the injustices and legacy of slavery, racism and violence faced by African Americans was clearly a major theme.

The report also laid out cases, concerns and the situation in roughly 60 countries including Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Colombia and France among others.

''We could not find a single example of a state that has fully reckoned with the past or comprehensively accounted for the impacts of the lives of people of African descent today,'' Mona Rishmawi, who heads a unit on non-discrimination in Bachelet's office. ''Our message, therefore, is that this situation is untenable.''

Compensation should be considered at the ''collective and the individual level,'' Rishmawi said, while adding that any such process ''starts with acknowledgment'' of past wrongs and ''it's not one-size-fits-all.'' She said countries must look at their own pasts and practices to assess how to proceed.

Rishmawi said Bachelet's team found ''a main part of the problem is that many people believe the misconceptions that the abolition of slavery, the end of the transatlantic trade and colonialism have removed the racially discriminatory structures built by those practices.

''We found that this is not true,'' said Rishmawi, also denouncing an idea among some ''associating blackness with criminality . . . there is a need to address this.''

The report called on countries to ''make amends for centuries of violence and, discrimination'' such as through ''formal acknowledgment and apologies, truth-telling processes and reparations in various forms.''

It also decried the ''dehumanization of people of African descent'' that was ''rooted in false social constructions of race'' in the past to justify enslavement, racial stereotypes and harmful practices as well as tolerance for racial discrimination, inequality and violence.

People of African descent face inequalities and ''stark socioeconomic and political marginalization'' in many countries, the report said, including unfair access to education, health care, jobs, housing and clean water.

''We believe very strongly that we only touched the tip of the iceberg,'' Rishmawi said, referring to the report. ''We really believe that there is a lot more work that needs to be done.''

Ms. JACKSON LEE. This report came from the United Nations because reparations is a universal concept of repair, repairing, and human rights. This report from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights is big stuff. It ''offers a sweeping look at the roots of centuries of mistreatment faced by Africans and people of African descent, notably from the transatlantic slave trade.''

Does that sound familiar? Back and forth across the ocean.

''It seeks a 'transformative' approach to address its continued impact today.''

In its report, it says: ''I am calling on all states to stop denying, and start dismantling, racism; to end impunity and build trust; to listen to the voices of people of African descent; and to confront past legacies and deliver redress.''

This is what this report from the United Nations has said.

It goes on to say: ''Reparations should not only be equated with financial compensation.''

This is what I have been saying. I say that when I go on the floor and ask for my colleagues to support it. Thank goodness we understand it. We get it. I am looking for my Republican friends to join us.

''Adding that it should include restitution, rehabilitation, acknowledgment of injustices, apologies, memorialization, education reforms, and 'guarantees' that such injustices won't happen again.''

Does that sound unfair?

''We could not find a single example of a state that has fully reckoned with the past or comprehensively accounted for the impacts on the lives of people of African descent.''

This individual, who was head of the unit on nondiscrimination, said: ''Our message, therefore, is that this situation is untenable.''

This is the report from the U.N.

''A main part of the problem is that many people believe the misconceptions that the abolition of slavery, the end of the transatlantic trade, and colonialism have removed the racially discriminatory structures built by those practices.''

Absolutely wrong. The report found that this is not true, ''also denouncing an idea among some 'associating blackness with criminality.''' That has gone on in many places around the world, including the United States.

This report also ''decried the 'dehumanization of people of African descent' that was 'rooted in false social constructions of race' in the past to justify enslavement, racial stereotypes, and harmful practices as well as tolerance for racial discrimination, inequality, and violence.''

Do we realize that that hurts all of our children? Children who are White and non-White are hurt by the definitions of color and Africans and people of African descent.

We face inequalities, meaning those of African descent, and '''stark socioeconomic and political marginalization' in many countries, the report said, including unfair access to education, healthcare, jobs, housing, and clean water.''

What the commission could do is to give peace and understanding of the very fact of what would be a positive response to this question of discrimination.

I want to add some real scientific evidence that I am not here on the floor complaining. I am giving an opportunity, along with the infrastructure bill, along with the budget reconciliation, because I am on the Budget Committee, along with voting rights, after 30-some years when this bill was first introduced in 1989, after the Japanese received reparations in 1988, of which we supported.

Thank you to the Japanese American Association. They are strong supporters of H.R. 40. They got reparations for their false and unfair internment in the 1940s during World War II. We celebrated it. We worked with them and helped them construct that, those who were in Congress at that time.

John Conyers filed this bill shortly after 1989, and I am honored to have been given this challenge and opportunity by him upon his retirement. I will not let the Nation down. I say the Nation because a definitive study is worthy. It I might show you that the idea of reparations is to suggest a continued, systemic impact, a continued, systemic impact that is going on, even in this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this article that is part of the Harvard Medical School's continuing coverage of medicine, and you would not believe it.

[From Harvard Medical School, Feb, 10, 2021]

ANTI-RACIST EPIDEMIOLOGY—RESEARCH SUGGESTS REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY COULD HAVE REDUCED COVID–19 INFECTIONS AND DEATHS IN U.S.

(By Jake Miller)

This article is part of Harvard Medical School's continuing coverage of medicine, biomedical research, medical education and policy related to the SARS-Co V–2 pandemic and the disease COVID–19.

Civil rights activists have long called for monetary reparations to the Black descendants of Africans enslaved in the United States as a financial, moral, and ethical form of restitution for the injustices of slavery.

Now, a study led by Harvard Medical School researchers suggests reparations could also have surprising public health benefits for Black individuals and the entire nation.

To estimate the impact of structura inequities between Black and white individuals, the researchers set out to capture the effect of reparation payments on the Black-white wealth gap in the state of Louisiana.

Their analysis, published online on Feb. 9 in Social Science & Medicine. suggests that if reparations had teen made before the COVID–19 pandemic, transmission of SARS–CoV–2 in the state's overall population could have been reduced by anywhere from 31 percent to 68 percent.

The work was done in collaboration with the Lancet Commission on Reparations and Redistributive Justice.

''While there are compelling moral and historical arguments for racial-injustice interventions such as reparations, our study demonstrates that repairing the damage caused by the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow racism would have enormous benefits to the entire population of tbe United States,'' said study senior author Eugene Richardson. assistant professor of global health and social medicine in the Blavatnik Institute at Harvard Medical School.

The disproportionate effects of COVID–19 on racial minorities—Black individuals in particular—have been well documented. Black people get COVID–19 at a rate nearly one and a half times higher than that of white people, are hospitalized at a rate nearly four times higher, and are three times as likely to die from the disease, according to the latest estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The greater disease burden among Black people has caused tremendous loss of life and

unspeakable suffering across these already vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. Notably, these effects have also spilled over and are driving transmission rates of the virus in the overall population, the study authors said.

Addressing the structural inequalities at the roots of this disparity through monetary reparations would not only radically decrease the impact of COVID–19 among the people who received reparations, tbe authors said, but would reduce the overall toll of the disease on a broader scale, benefiting the entire population. The findings, the researchers said, powerfully underscores the truly global nature of the pandemic and the notion that a society is only as strong as its most vulnerable members.

''If we extrapolate these results to the entire United States, we can imagine that tens or hundreds of thousands of lives would have been spared, and the entire nation would have been saved much of the hardship it has endured in the last year,'' said Richardson, who is also the chair of the Lancet Commission on Reparations and Redistributive Justice.

For their analysis, tbe researchers paired sophisticated data analytics and computational tools with commonly used epidemiologic modeling methods to calculate the impact of structural racism on infection rates among Black and white populations in Louisiana. They chose Louisiana as an exemplar of the impacts of structural racism in the U.S. because it was one of the few states that reported infection rates by race in the early stages of the pandemic. For a control group, the researchers chose the relatively egalitarian population of South Korea.

The researchers noted that although modeling is used to understand many factors in the spread of an infectious disease, such as differences in infection risk based on whether passengers on a train sit with windows open or closed or individual variations in mask-wearinq habits, it has rarely been used to capture the effects of social factors that can create vast disparities between populations, such as those seen between Blacks and whites in the U.S.

Richardson's recent book Epidemic illusions explores the ways conventional epidemiology is constrained from proposing solutions that address the root causes of health disparities derived from the combined weight of centuries of racism, imperialism, neoliberal politics, and economic exploitation. One of the goals of the paper is to challenge the narrow ways people who work in medicine and public health measure and think about problems and solutions and to broaden the public imagination, thus opening new conversations about what challenges and opportunities are worth considering in global health and social science, Richardson said.

The study examined the initial period of the outbreak, before infection control measures were implemented, so any differences in infection rates between populations at that time would have been driven mainly by differences in the social structures, the researchers said.

For example, Louisiana has a population heavily segregated by race, with Black people having higher levels of overcrowded housing and working jobs that are more likely to expose them to SARS–CoV–2 than white people. In comparison, South Korea has a more homogenous population with far less segregation.

To probe how such structural inequities impact transmission of SARS–CoV–2, the researchers examined infection rates over time for the first two months of the epidemic in each location. During the initial phase of the outbreak in Louisiana, each infected person spread the virus to 13 to 2.5 more people than an infected individual durinq the same phase of the outbreak in South Korea, the analysis showed. The study also showed it took Louisiana more than twice as long to bring the early wave of the epidemic under control as South Korea.

Next, the researchers used next-generation matrices to gauge how overcrowding, segregation, and the wealth gap between Blacks and whites in Louisiana could have driven higher infection rates and how monetary reparations would affect viral transmission.

The model showed that greater equity between Blacks and whites might have reduced infection transmission rates by anywhere from 31 percent to 68 percent for every person in the state.

This research comes at a time when many Americans are already thinking about the larger societal costs of structural racism, the researchers said. They noted, for example, that the nationwide movement to protest police brutality against Black people has been fueled by many of the inequitable outcomes exemplified so painfully by the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S.

''This moment has made it possible for a lot of people who had no reason to think about these inequalities to be very aware of them,'' said study co-author and Lancet reparations commissioner Kirsten Mullen, who was a member of concept development team for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

ANTI-RACISM IN ACTION

Richardson said that the research was designed to explore how reparations payments might have altered the trajectory of the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S. and how a different response to the disease could have helped mitigate the disparities fueled by social conditions that are vestiges of slavery. Such conditions, Richardson noted, include ongoing discrimination and structural racism in the form of redlining, overcrowding, over-incarceration, and the heightened use of lethal force in policing experienced by Black people.

Richardson said that historian and anti-racist scholar Ibram X. Kendi's description of the differences between racism and anti-racism were helpful in designing the study. According to Kendi, a racist policy is any policy that produces or sustains inequality or promotes the power of one racial group over another, whereas an anti-racist policy is any measure that produces or sustains equity between racial groups.

Richardson said that one important goal of the project was to attempt to harness the power of mathematical modeling for an anti-racist response to the coronavirus and beyond.

''When you look at a formula for transmissibility, it looks like an objective calculation,'' he said. ''But where is lethal policing in that formula?''

Richardson noted that it was important to call attention to the systemic and structural elements of racism that can get lost in simplified models of disease.

WHAT ARE REPARATIONS?

Mullen and study co-author William Darity, who recently published a book on reparations and have written in the press about the case for using reparation payments to fight COVID–19, defined reparations as a program of acknowledgement, redress, and closure for a grievous injustice. In this case, Mullen said, the atrocities are associated with periods of enslavement, legal segregation and white terrorism during the Jim Crow era, and racial strife and violence of the post-Civil Rights Act era, including ongoing inequities in the form of over-policing, police executions of unarmed Black people, ongoing discrimination in regard to incarceration, access to housing, and, possibly most important, the Black-white gulf in wealth.

Successful reparations programs include three elements: admission of culpability on behalf of the perpetrators of the atrocity; redress, in the form of an act of restitution; and closure, wherein the victims agree that the debt is paid and no further claims are to be made unless new harms are inflicted.

In this case, Mullen said, reparations would take the form of financial restitution for living Black individuals who can show that they are descended from at least one ancestor who was enslaved in the U.S. and that they self-identified as Black on a legal document at some point during the 12 years prior.

The financial restitution is designed to help close the Black-white wealth gap. Darity noted that it is important to distinguish wealth from income. Wealth is how much you own, and income is how much you earn. Greater wealth translates to greater stability for individuals and families across time. Greater wealth is also more strongly associated with greater well-being than greater income, Darity said, and disparities in wealth manifest as health disparities.

Wealth is more strongly associated with familial or individual well-being,'' said Darity, who is the Samuel DuBois Cook Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at Duke University and a Lancet reparations commissioner. He noted that, according to the Federal Reserve Board 2016 Survey of Consumer Finances, the average Black household had a net worth $800,000 lower than the average white household, and that Black people, who represent 13 percent of the U.S. population, only own 3 percent of the nation's wealth.

''This dramatically restricts the ability of Black Americans to survive and thrive,'' Darity said.

To assess the effect of reparation payments on the trajectory of the pandemic, the researchers based their calculations on a model that would pay $250,000 per person or $800,000 per household to descendants of enslaved individuals—one of several proposed reparation models.

EVERY TRANSMISSION IS A SOCIAL TRANSMISSION

''Every transmission has a social cause,'' said study co-author and Lancet reparations commissioner James Jones, associate professor of Earth System Science and a senior fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University.

For a brief moment when AIDS was in the spotlight during the late 80s and early 90s, people interested in social behavior became interested in mathematical modeling of disease, Jones said. While that interest largely waned, the COVID–19 crisis has highlighted the need to think about social science, inequality, social structure, behavior patterns, and behavior change, as well as how they fit together with how we understand and respond to epidemics, Jones said.

Even the simplest model must account for a rudimentary social structure, Jones said. At its most basic, this can be represented with a generalized estimate of how likely an infected person is to come into contact with a susceptible person. He explained that this number, R0 or ''R-naught,'' is the average number of people an infected individual transmits the virus to. When R0 is less than one, no epidemic is possible because the number of people infected decreases. When R0 is greater than 1 an epidemic is possible. R0 also determines the total number of people who could potentially become infected or how many people would need to be vaccinated to end the epidemic. It can also be

used to calculate the so-called endemic equilibrium—which determines whether a disease will continue to exist within a population, simmering constantly in the background or bubbling up seasonally, like influenza.

''That's the theory of infectious disease control in a single parameter,'' Jones said.

That seeming simplicity can make it hard to focus on the complex ways that infectious diseases move through the real world, the researchers said.

''It's important to highlight that R0 is not simply a function of the pathogen,'' Jones said. ''It's a function of the society.'' Social and environmental factors like mobility, segregation, and the nature of the built environment help determine rates of infection, he said.

This is one important reason that diseases don't hit all people the same. Global R0 is an average of very different R0s for different groups of people. Some groups are more likely to interact only with members of their own group, some groups are more likely to come in contact with infected people, and some are more susceptible to the disease for other reasons, Jones said.

In this case, the researchers used mathematical models to help understand the differences in R0 for Black people and white people in Louisiana and to help think about how things would change if racism were less prevalent in America.

Absent those interventions, the researchers noted that Black Americans remain at an elevated and inequitable risk of becoming infected and dying during the COVID–19 pandemic and that this inequity will continue to fuel the pandemic for all Americans.

''Increasing equality would have huge benefits on infection rates for everyone,'' said co-author Momin Malik, who was a data science postdoctoral fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University at the time the study was conducted.

This research was supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study (grant R01 GM130900), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (grant K08 AI139361), National Institute of Minority Health Disparities (grant R01 MD011606), National Science Foundation Division of Social and Economic Sciences (grant 1851845), Institute of Education Sciences (grant R305A190484), and the Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence Fund.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. It states: ''Civil rights activists have long called for monetary reparations,'' this report opens up. This is a scientific, vetted report from the Harvard University Medical School. It is titled ''Anti-Racist Epidemiology: Research suggests reparations for slavery could have reduced COVID–19 infections and deaths in the U.S.'' This was published online on February 10.

It says: ''To estimate the impact of structural inequities between Black and White individuals, the researchers set out to capture the effect of reparation payments on the Black-White wealth gap in the State of Louisiana.'' This is an important report.

''The disproportionate effects of COVID–19 on racial minorities—Black individuals in particular—have been well documented. Black people get COVID–19 at a rate nearly one-and-a-half times higher than that of White people, are hospitalized at a rate nearly four times higher, and are three times as likely to die from the disease, according to the latest estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

''The greater disease burden among Black people has caused tremendous loss of life and unspeakable suffering across these already vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. Notably, these effects have also spilled over and are driving transmission rates of the virus in the overall population.''

They did their study in many places, but I will read a portion. ''The study examined the initial period of the outbreak, before infection control measures were implemented, so any differences in infection rates between populations at the time would have been driven mainly by differences in the social structures.''

''Louisiana has a population heavily segregated by race, with Black people having higher levels of overcrowded housing and working jobs that are more likely to expose them,'' and they found that if reparations had been given, they would have done better.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by just saying that you see a picture of the Tulsa race riot. That is why I stand here today to say that Tulsa Greenwood needs reparation. H.R. 40 needs to pass. Why don't we do it together?

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

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Ethics:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: On June 18. 2021. the Committee on Ethics (Committee) received an appeal from Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of a fine imposed pursuant to House Resolution 38 and House Rule II, clause 3(g). The appeal was received after the Committee adopted its written rules.

A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal.

Sincerely.

THEODORE E. DEUTCH,
Chairman.
JACKIE WALORSKI,
Ranking Member.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Ethics:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: On June 16. 2021, the Committee on Ethics (Committee) received an appeal from Representative Ralph Norman of a fine imposed pursuant to House Resolution 38 and House Rule II clause 3(g). The appeal was received after the Committee adopted its written rules.

A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal.

Sincerely.

THEODORE E. DEUTCH,
Chairman.
JACKIE WALORSKI,
Ranking Member.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Ethics:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, Washington. DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: On June 15. 2021, the Committee on Ethics (Committee) received an appeal from Representative Thomas Massie of a fine imposed pursuant to House Resolution 38 and House Rule II, clause 3(g). The appeal was received after the Committee adopted its written rules.

A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal.

Sincerely,

THEODORE E. DEUTCH,
Chairman.
JACKIE WALORSKI,
Ranking Member.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1638. A letter from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Rescission of Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents: Notice of Vacatur [NS-2021-0012] (RIN: 0584-AE87) received July 13, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–1639. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Calculation of the Endowment Factor for Allocations to Historically Black Colleges and Universities Under Section 314(a)(2)(A) of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (RIN: 1840-AD63) received July 13, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–1640. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-111, ''District's Opportunity to Purchase Amendment Act of 2021'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1641. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31374; Amdt. No.: 3960] received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1642. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0293; Product Identifier 2017-SW-052-AD; Amendment 39-21610; AD 2021-13-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1643. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Great Falls, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0209; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ANM-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1644. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D Airspace and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Nashville, TN; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0701; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ASO-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1645. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule -Amendment of Class E airspace; Great Falls, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1126; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ANM-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1646. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Dillon, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0210; Airspace Docket No.: 21-ANM-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1647. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31376; Amdt. No.: 3962] received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1648. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Anaktuvuk Pass, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0225; Airspace Docket No.: 20-AAL-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1649. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31373; Amdt. No.: 3959] received July 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1650. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Agreement Between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (USMCA) Implementing Regulations Related to the Marking Rules, Tariff-Rate Quotas, and Other USMCA Provisions [USCBP-2021-0026; CBP Dec. 21-10] (RIN: 1515-AE56) received July 13, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. KAPTUR: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4549. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–98). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4550. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–99). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. CRIST (for himself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 4545. A bill to protect the rights of legally incompetent adults who are the subject of a legal guardianship or conservatorship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself and Ms. CHENEY):

H.R. 4546. A bill to assist those subject to politically motivated charges in Turkey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. ALLEN):

H.R. 4547. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish additional criteria for determining when employers may join together in a group or association of employers that will be treated as an employer under section 3(5) of such Act for purposes of sponsoring a group health plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BARR, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MOONEY, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas):

H.R. 4548. A bill to amend the Consumer Protection Act of 2010 to grant the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection the authority to regulate certain acts and practices using processes and procedures consistent with and similar to those in place at the Federal Trade Commission, to encourage greater communication amongst regulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4551. A bill to amend the U.S. SAFE WEB Act of 2006 to provide for reporting with respect to cross-border complaints involving ransomware or other cyber-related attacks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. RYAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 4552. A bill to establish a Department of Agriculture loan program to support mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities for veterans of the Armed Forces to become farmers or ranchers; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. CROW, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Ms. CHENEY):

H.R. 4553. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4554. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide grants to support for States to identify and act on racial disparities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 4555. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a public education campaign across all relevant programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase oral health literacy and awareness; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 4556. A bill to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to find that certain rates for electricity are inherently unjust and unreasonable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CARSON, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 4557. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow the Secretary of State to make available to the public certain records pertaining to the refusal of a visa or permit based on an alien's involvement in corruption or human rights abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DELGADO (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 4558. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the deduction for health insurance costs in computing self-employment taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 4559. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to enhance the readiness of the Department of Defense to challenges relating to climate change and to improve the energy and resource efficiency of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 4560. A bill to require an annual report on cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 4561. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to certify, before removing an entity from the entity list, that the entity is no longer involved in activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States and that removing the entity from the list does not pose a threat to allies of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BUCK, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. FALLON, and Ms. HERRELL):

H.R. 4562. A bill to sanction the parents and guardians of unaccompanied alien minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 4563. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to make debts for student loans dischargeable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4564. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to require the Federal Trade Commission to publish on the website of the Commission documents to be voted on by the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 4565. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. DELGADO):

H.R. 4566. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to award grants to States to implement a tick identification pilot program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. KIND, Mr. DELGADO, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 4567. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a household well water testing website, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4568. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to provide additional appropriations for, and oversight of, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 4569. A bill to require that only two alternatives be considered with respect to certain proposed collaborative forest management activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 4570. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 4571. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 4572. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an age rating adjustment to the applicable percentage used to determine the credit for coverage under qualified health plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. ROSENDALE, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. COLE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 4573. A bill to establish a categorical exclusion to improve or restore National Forest System land or public land or reduce the risk of wildfire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mrs. BOEBERT):

H.R. 4574. A bill to expedite certain activities related to salvage operations and reforestation activities on National Forest System lands or public lands in response to catastrophic events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 4575. A bill to amend the VA MISSION Act of 2018, to expand the peer specialist support program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to all medical centers of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BUSH, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 4576. A bill to allow Americans to receive paid leave time to process and address their own health needs and the health needs of their partners during the period following a pregnancy loss, an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, a failed adoption arrangement, a failed surrogacy arrangement, or a diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility, to support related research and education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Reform, and 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. QUIGLEY (for himself and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 4577. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Park District Community Support Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 4578. A bill to expand the H-2B visa program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COLE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 4579. A bill to establish an arbitration process pilot program as an alternative dispute resolution process for certain objections or protests to qualified forest management activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and 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. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4580. A bill to amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide recovery payments to seasonal and perishable crop growers who experienced low prices caused by imports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 4581. A bill to provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in honor of Mamie Till-Mobley, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 4582. A bill to amend the definition of State in title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4583. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand the requirement for States to suspend, rather than terminate, an individual's eligibility for medical assistance under the State Medicaid

plan while the individual is an inmate of a public institution, to apply to inmates of any age; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 4584. A bill to establish a categorical exclusion for certain forest management activities relating to early successional forests and a categorical exclusion for certain activities relating to outdoor recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SUOZZI (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 4585. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for flexible giving accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 4586. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with respect to risk-based examinations of Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 4587. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise certain regulations in relation to the Medicare shared savings program and other advanced alternative payment arrangements to encourage participation in such program, 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. WILD (for herself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 4588. A bill to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to establish a regional technology and innovation hub program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 41. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. FALLON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H. Res. 540. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the motivations of the members of the Texas Legislature who have fled to the Nation's capital from Texas and urging the Sergeant at Arms of the House, the United States Capitol Police, and Department of Justice to cooperate with the Texas Department of Public Safety in their efforts to return these members to Texas; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. CARSON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CHU, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. NEWMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. LEE of California):

H. Res. 541. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of July as ''Muslim-American Heritage Month'' and celebrating the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. YOUNG):

H. Res. 542. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2021 as ''American Grown Flower and Foliage Month''; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. CROW, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H. Res. 543. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 20, 2021, as ''National Heroes Day'' to honor the sacrifices of everyday heroes who save lives and improve their communities; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-54. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 4, supporting Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ML-55. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Wyoming, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, requesting Congress and the federal government to reverse federal orders and actions that inhibit the safe development of oil and gas in Wyoming and that negatively and disproportionately impact Wyoming citizens and industries; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-56. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 3, requesting the federal government to respect state sovereignty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. CRIST:

H.R. 4545.

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

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, and Amendment XIV to the Constitution

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 4546.

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. WALBERG:

H.R. 4547.

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

Artide I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States), Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes), and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 4548.

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

Article, 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4551.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

Article I, section 8 of the United State Constitution, which grants Congress 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. BOST:

H.R. 4552.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 4553.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4554.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 4555.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 4556.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4557.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DELGADO:

H.R. 4558.

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. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 4559.

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

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18
The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:
H.R. 4560.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 12

By Mr. GIMENEZ:
H.R. 4561.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:
H.R. 4562.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.R. 4563.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII

By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 4564.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:
H.R. 4565.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. KATKO:
H.R. 4566.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 4567.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 4568.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. McCLINTOCK:
H.R. 4569.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution:
The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws 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. MILLER of Illinois:
H.R. 4570.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Executive the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2:
The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:
H.R. 4571.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S.C.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:
H.R. 4572.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article, Section 8, Clause 1: which gives Congress the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States.
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: which gives Congress the power to regulate commerce among the several states.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:
H.R. 4573.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, clause 2 provides Congress with the power to ''dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States.''

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:
H.R. 4574.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PETERS:
H.R. 4575 .
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 4576.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:
H.R. 4577.
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. RICE of South Carolina:
H.R. 4578.
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. ROSENDALE:
H.R. 4579.
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. RUIZ:
H.R. 4580.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUSH:
H.R. 4581.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SABLAN:
H.R. 4582.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:
H.R. 4583.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, clause 1 of the Constitution; and
Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. STAUBER:
H.R. 4584.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof,''

By Mr. SUOZZI:
H.R. 4585.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. WAGNER:
H.R. 4586.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. WELCH:
H.R. 4587.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer therof..

By Ms. WILD:
H.R. 4588.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII—Necessary and Proper Clause

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3: Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 19: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 25: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 40: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 82: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 124: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 228: Mr. McCLINTOCK and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 263: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 413: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 421: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 463: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 503: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 623: Mr. RUSH and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 708: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 761: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 816: Mrs. McBATH.
H.R. 825: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 852: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 997: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 1012: Ms. BUSH, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 1057: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1066: Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. SCHRIER, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 1115: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 1155: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 1179: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 1229: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 1259: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1273: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1277: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 1283: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1284: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 1304: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1346: Ms. CHENEY.
H.R. 1348: Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1378: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 1494: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1504: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1560: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 1592: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1630: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1667: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 1693: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 1697: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 1745: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 1854: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 1861: Mr. STAUBER and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1901: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1916: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 1956: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. BASS, Ms. Barragán, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2007: Mr. TRONE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2021: Mr. EVANS, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2035: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2056: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2079: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2119: Ms. ADAMS and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2124: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2127: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 2146: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2151: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2184: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2188: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 2192: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2193: Mr. SABLAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CRIST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2214: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2222: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2227: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 2238: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2244: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 2249: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2255: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 2294: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 2326: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 2362: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 2379: Mr. ARMSTRONG and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2421: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2424: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2483: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2660: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 2730: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2734: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 2773: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H.R. 2789: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 2811: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. KIND, and Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 2817: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2848: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2891: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2975: Mr. KIND and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 3001: Mr. GROTHMAN and Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3015: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 3031: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 3076: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3085: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. BOURDEAUX, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 3095: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3096: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 3134: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 3135: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3143: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 3148: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3164: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3179: Mr. KELLER and Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 3191: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 3196: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3235: Mr. BERGMAN and Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 3256: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 3269: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BOST, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3281: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 3294: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. CRIST.
H.R. 3306: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3343: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3348: Mr. BACON, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3362: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 3372: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma.
H.R. 3431: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3440: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 3446: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3449: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 3452: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3455: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3474: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 3488: Mr. EVANS and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 3493: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 3517: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3519: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3537: Mr. EVANS, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. LATURNER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CASE, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 3538: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COLE, Mr. PENCE, and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 3564: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3577: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. KINZINGER.
H.R. 3580: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 3614: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3648: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3679: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3685: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RYAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3704: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 3710: Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 3716: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3732: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3783: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LAMB, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3802: Ms. CHENEY and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3807: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 3811: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 3820: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 3824: Ms. BUSH and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3855: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3870: Mr. PETERS and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 3897: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3919: Mr. LONG, Mr. CASE, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3933: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3952: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 3959: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 3961: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3966: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3967: Mr. RUSH, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. HAYES, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 3985: Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 4005: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 4031: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 4042: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4059: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4067: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4071: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MAST, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. MANN, Mr. ROY, Mr. HILL, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. MOONEY, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4096: Mr. BABIN, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 4104: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4105: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 4126: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 4129: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 4131: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. CHU, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H.R. 4173: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. NEWMAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4181: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 4188: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4190: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 4237: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 4300: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4310: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4311: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4313: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 4330: Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4338: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PAYNE, and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4341: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 4370: Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 4375: Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 4380: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 4390: Ms. WILD, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 4391: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4395: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 4406: Ms. CHU and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4435: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 4443: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4444: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4454: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 4471: Mr. SOTO and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 4516: Mr. TIFFANY and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4518: Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. BIGGS.
H. Res. 75: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H. Res. 97: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H. Res. 109: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H. Res. 114: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H. Res. 214: Mr. WALBERG.
H. Res. 231: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H. Res. 240: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H. Res. 318: Mr. ROUZER.
H. Res. 336: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. CICILLINE.
H. Res. 376: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. DEUTCH.
H. Res. 397: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Mr. BERGMAN.
H. Res. 484: Mr. BOST.
H. Res. 496: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H. Res. 500: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H. Res. 529: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H. Res. 530: Mr. ALLEN.
H. Res. 534: Mr. GOODEN of Texas and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H. Res. 536: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H. Res. 538: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CHU, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. CLEAVER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Res. 289: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021 No. 127

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who has ordained the seasons of our lives, thank You for the steadfastness of Your mercy and long suffering.

Today, inspire our lawmakers to open themselves to the gift of Your presence, remembering that You are always with them. Where there is fear, give courage. Where there is anxiety, give peace. Where there is despair, give hope. Where there is sadness, give joy. May our Senators joyfully encounter You on a daily basis. Lord, inspire them to hear Your words and obey Your precepts.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for decades, both parties have shared a desire to invest in our Nation's infrastructure. It is one of the few issues here in Washington where our two parties can consistently work together, and it has been years since Congress passed a significant stand-alone investment. We are hoping to change that this year.

Nearly a month ago—a month ago—a bipartisan group of Senators came together, along with the White House, and agreed on a framework for a bipartisan infrastructure bill. So last night I moved to set up a process for the Senate to consider that bipartisan framework.

On Wednesday, the Senate will take the first procedural vote on a shell bill, merely a vehicle to get the whole process started. It is not a final deadline for legislative text. It is not a cynical ploy. It is not a fish-or-cut-bait moment. It is not an attempt to jam anyone. It is only a signal that the Senate is ready to get the process started, something the Senate has routinely done on other bipartisan bills this year.

All a ''yes'' vote on the motion to proceed means is simply that the Senate is ready to begin debating a bipartisan infrastructure bill—no more, no less. We have waited a month. It is time to move forward.

My colleagues have heard me speak for months about making progress on two different tracks of infrastructure. After the group of Senators reached a deal with the White House, I endorsed it and I announced I wanted to put their agreement on the floor of the Senate in July. This week's vote is an honest attempt to get something done, to get the ball rolling on the Senate floor.

That is why I am giving the maximum amount of flexibility to our Senate colleagues who are negotiating this bill. If the bipartisan group can finalize the text of their agreement by Thursday, I will offer it as the pending substitute amendment. If, for whatever reason, the bipartisan group isn't ready with their final text by Thursday, I will offer an amendment consisting only of the bipartisan infrastructure bills that have already gone through our Senate committees and are actually the core of the bipartisan infrastructure framework. They are the water bill, the highway bill, the rail and safety bill, and the energy bill.

All of them are bipartisan, all of them have gone through committee, and all of them received overwhelming Republican votes. Why wouldn't our Republican colleagues want to move to proceed to debate that bill, at the very minimum, even if we don't have agreement on the broader bipartisan bill?

Just to go over the record, the Environment and Public Works Committee reported the water bill, passed by voice vote, unanimous, in committee and then 89 to 2 on the Senate floor. The Environment and Public Works Committee reported the highway bill, passed by 20 to 0. The Commerce Committee reported the rail and safety bill, passed by 25 to 3. And the Energy and Natural Resources Committee report of the energy bill passed 13 to 7.

So once again, to repeat, this week's vote is an honest attempt to get something done, to get the ball rolling on

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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the Senate floor, after a month, after the agreement was reached by the bipartisan group and the White House. That is why I am giving the maximum amount of flexibility to our Senate colleagues who are negotiating the bill. If the bipartisan group can finalize their agreement by Thursday, I will offer it as the pending substitute amendment, as I mentioned before. I just wanted to repeat that so people hear it loud and clear.

The bills I mentioned are the lowest common denominator and the most agreeable starting point, a package of bipartisan bills that nearly all the Senators have already supported this year, a package of bills that the bipartisan group is using as the basis of their framework. And once it is on the floor, we can then debate, amend, and work from there. It is not the final word.

There will be no doubt many Senators would want to offer additional items from the bipartisan framework or other issues: from transit to broadband, to resiliency, and more. And, of course, if the bipartisan group finalizes their product over the weekend, Senators can offer it as an amendment at that point, and I will make sure that that amendment is in order.

Let me repeat. Even if the text of the bipartisan framework isn't ready by Thursday and we agree to make the package of bipartisan bills that I mentioned the starting point, Senators can still work on the bipartisan framework and offer it as an amendment later on.

The bottom line is very simple. If Senators agree to start debate, there will be many, many opportunities for the bipartisan group to make their agreement the base of the bill. But if Republican Senators refuse to start debate, they would be denying the Senate an opportunity to consider the bipartisan amendment.

And this is not a new process. We have used it regularly here in the Senate, on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. On both of those, the Senate agreed to start debate, just to proceed on a base bill, a shell bill. It took several weeks of amendments before everyone was ready to move forward, eventually and successfully. Both measures passed with significant bipartisan support.

If we did it there—on the anti-Asian hate bill, on the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act—we can do it here. There is no reason we can't do it here with infrastructure.

Look, Senators of good will on both sides want to finish the bipartisan infrastructure bill before the August recess. That is certainly my goal. But in order to finish the bill, we first need to agree to start. Let me repeat that. But in order to finish the bill, we first need to agree to start. That is the first step.

Let's all agree to start. That is what this week's vote is about, and I hope my Republican colleagues will join us in beginning debate.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on another matter, right now, there is a fire burning in Oregon the size of New York City. A heat wave recently rolled through the Pacific Northwest that melted power lines and cracked roadways in two. Hurricanes and flooding in the East have battered one community after the other. Earlier this year, a snowstorm engulfed the typically scorching State of Texas and claimed the lives of hundreds—hundreds—of people. And, of course, we saw what happened in Europe with the flooding.

These extreme, once-in-a-century weather events are now commonplace. The dangers of climate change are here, and they are real. Fighting climate change will take not only new technologies and new ways of thinking but something more basic: It will take people—people, lots of people—working together to fight climate change from the ground up.

This morning, I joined with my Democratic colleagues from the House and Senate to push a bold, new approach to fighting climate change that will help create thousands of good-paying jobs in the process: the Civilian Climate Corps, CCC.

The idea at the core of the Civilian Climate Corps harkens back to the New Deal, when hundreds of thousands of Americans were put to work on conservation and infrastructure projects across the country. During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt needed ways to put Americans to work and to do it fast, and he found a way to do it while having those workers do something enormously productive for their country: building public works and dams and bridges and airfields and flood and forest-fire prevention.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, as it was called at the time, was a brilliant idea—a success—that should be harnessed once again, this time to fight climate change.

The bottom line: We need a CCC for the 21st century. We can put Americans to work on climate and resiliency projects. We can put Americans to work on clean energy initiatives across the country. We can put Americans to work helping poorer and more disconnected communities handle the challenge of climate change. And we can create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, particularly focusing on the poorer communities, the communities of color that have been left out in the past.

The Civilian Climate Corps can be one of the largest employment projects and one of the largest environmental projects at the same time. I believe the Senate should work to make this a reality this year. I believe the CCC, the Civilian Climate Corps, should be one of the pillars of the American Jobs and Family Plan. As majority leader, I will ensure that CCC will be included in the upcoming budget reconciliation package in as big and bold a way as possible.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, later, the Senate will pass a long-overdue fix to the Crime Victims Fund to help Americans stitch back their lives after falling victim to violent crime.

As hard as it is to suffer the trauma of a violent crime, survivors almost always face enormous financial hardship in the immediate aftermath. Just think about healthcare or mental health services for victims of human trafficking or sexual assault, emergency housing for victims of serious domestic abuse, legal fees for those who try to pursue justice for the crime committed against them. Those services can cost tens of thousands of dollars. So for nearly 35 years, the Justice Department has operated a Crime Victims Fund that uses money from Federal convictions and fines to help survivors of violent crime. It is a simple idea. It has helped thousands and thousands of Americans during the most challenging moments of their lives.

But today, this popular and effective program is in danger of going into the red. Compared to 5 years ago, the Crime Victims Fund could fall to less than one-twentieth—one-twentieth—of its former size by the end of the next fiscal year. Well, the Senate is not going to abandon Americans who survived violent crimes. Today, the Senate will pass legislation to replenish the Crime Victims Fund and set it on a path toward long-term stability. The Crime Victims Fund has been a beacon of hope and healing for countless survivors over the decades. With today's vote, survivors of violent crime can rest assured that it will continue to be that beacon of hope and healing for decades more to come.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2382

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2382) to authorize the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on nonreimbursable basis, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will now be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER ANN ABRUZZO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on President Biden's nominee to serve as general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board.

There actually shouldn't be a vacancy in this position. When President Biden took office, the person serving as the NLRB's top lawyer was still in the middle of a term to which the Senate had confirmed him. He was doing his job, serving the country, and had no intention to skip out of his responsibilities early.

But less than 30 minutes after pledging to heal and unify the country in his inaugural address, President Biden broke precedent and threatened to fire Peter Robb unless he resigned prematurely that very day.

At the very first instant that the new President's statements about norms, institutions, and governance ran up against the demands of the far left—well, the decision didn't take very long. Where Senate confirmation and fixed terms were supposed to create independence, this administration just wanted partisan loyalty.

Unfortunately, this was not an isolated incident. It has actually been a pattern. This small world of independent agencies has offered us actually a case study in the gap between the administration's unifying rhetoric on the one hand and its divisive actions on the other.

Back in March, the Biden administration took aim at another Senate-confirmed official, the general counsel for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. This time, a full 2 years before her term was set to expire. Sharon Gustafson had been engaged in important work, particularly in defense of religious freedom in the workplace. But the President didn't want to wait for our system to play out properly. He broke with norms and he fired her.

Just this month, we witnessed the firing of Andrew Saul, the head of the Social Security Administration. Listen to this. He was just 2 years into a 6-year term. Mr. Saul had kept a critical agency functioning through a historically challenging year. He was not some partisan hack. We are talking about someone the Senate confirmed with 77 votes—77 votes—a bipartisan supermajority for Mr. Saul.

But powerful liberal interests got the President's ear. They wanted their own hand-picked insider. Norms and precedents had to go out the window. Now, the American people deserve to trust in the independence of crucial watchdog agencies like these, but with these firings, this administration has instead decided to explore frontiers in partisan hardball.

We just spent years listening to the left and the media express outrage over personnel decisions and dismissals, many of which amounted to a heck of a lot less than the three I just mentioned.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, later today, the Senate is set to do some bipartisan legislating.

Back in 1984, Congress passed a Victims of Crime Act, which includes an important Federal program called a Crime Victims Fund. When criminals who commit Federal crimes are charged fines and penalties, some of that money flows into this fund. It goes to State-level programs that help crime victims with services, like counseling and emergency shelters. It also helps compensate the victims directly with their expenses, like medical costs, mental health, funeral expenses, and lost wages. Some of the money also goes specifically to fight child abuse.

This fund needs to rest on firm financial footing, but right now it doesn't have that firm footing. Its balance has been shrinking fast. Congress needs to act to prevent big cuts to victims' services, particularly in rural areas.

A number of Senators on both sides have come together and produced bipartisan reforms that will strengthen the program and keep assistance flowing to the survivors of Federal crimes.

The junior Senator from Pennsylvania has a further amendment to make sure the program can't be used as part of budgetary shell games that deliberately cloud Federal accounting. I will support both Senator TOOMEY's amendment and our colleagues' legislation later today.

But on this subject, for goodness' sake, elected officials should not just be racing to replenish the Crime Victims Fund before it runs out. Leaders at local, State, and Federal levels should be acting to confront the surge in violent crime that is plaguing our Nation.

For about a year now, the political left has grown obsessed with the notion that police officers are inherently bad, policing is inherently evil, and what vulnerable neighborhoods really need is less enforcement of the laws.

As one House Member has informed us:

> Defunding police means defunding police.

Another put it this way:

> Defunding the police isn't radical, it is real.

Well, academic research has confirmed something troubling. The broad anti-police backlash that sometimes follows high-profile, police-involved incidents subsequently leads to less safety, more crime, and more murders. Sure enough, murders have shot up in cities and communities all across our country.

My hometown of Louisville has seen 66 percent more homicides than we had seen by this time last year—66 percent more. Last year was a record year for carjackings and yet Louisville is on pace to match it once again. The city's police department is short more than 200 sworn officers due to low recruitment, low morale, and resignations.

Leaders should be working to contain this damage, but instead of delivering a sober, responsible message, many of the most prominent Democratic politicians instead grabbed their megaphones and amplified the anti-police sentiment as loud as possible.

As I have noted before, attacking and insulting the police is not just a bad strategy for public safety across the board; the data shows it is an especially disruptive approach to advancing racial justice.

The truth is this:

> Larger police forces save lives and the lives saved are disproportionately Black lives.

That is another expert study.

So I am glad the Senate will take the important step today of reforming and strengthening the Crime Victims Fund. It certainly belies any notion that we can't legislate in a bipartisan way. We absolutely can and we do. When a bipartisan outcome is what the Democratic majority leader truly wants, it actually makes it possible.

But I wish anti-crime, pro-police, pro-public safety attitudes and policies could be just as bipartisan at the State, local, and Federal levels as today's vote will likely be. Standing up for law enforcement and the innocent people they protect should never be limited to one side of the aisle.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I heard the Republican leader on the floor just moments ago talking about the dismissal of some individuals by the Biden administration and their replacement, and his complaint that this violated the norms and the precedents of the U.S. Senate.

There are certainly two words I would offer in response to that assertion: Merrick Garland.

I would offer those words to the Republican leader as a reminder of what he did when there was a vacancy on the highest Court in the land, the U.S. Supreme Court. Antonin Scalia passed away, and a vacancy occurred. It was the last year of the Obama administration.

Tradition suggested that that President of the United States, duly elected and in office, had the responsibility and the opportunity to fill the vacancy, and so he offered as his nominee Merrick Garland from the DC Circuit court.

What happened to Merrick Garland's nomination? What was the norm and precedent? Well, there would be a hearing and a consideration of that nomination and a vote in the U.S. Senate.

That process was stopped in its tracks by one leader, the Republican leader of the U.S. Senate from Kentucky.

So when he talks about norms and precedents and creating and filling vacancies, he has forgotten that he made history in a very unusual way: by violating the most basic norm and precedent that the U.S. Senate had the responsibility to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. And the President of the United States, duly elected, was not a lameduck in the last year of his administration.

The second issue which was raised by the Republican leader this morning dealt with the phrase ''defunding the police.'' I have rejected that phrase from the first time I heard it. I couldn't imagine anyone thinking that this was a sensible policy to follow when it came to the security of our homes and our communities.

I can't speak for anybody else in the Senate, but in the awful circumstance when one is called on to dial 911, you certainly hope that the police will answer and that they will be there if they are needed. Defunding them lessens that possibility, and I am not a person who supports that.

I want the very best police and law enforcement. I want them well trained, and I want them to follow norms and conduct that are respectful of American values. But defunding the police is not something I have ever embraced or ever will.

But it is interesting to hear that argument from the Senator from Kentucky. He said that, in a way, you would be insulting and attacking the police by taking that position. One could argue that, but I would suggest to him that, in his position, stopping the creation of a commission to investigate what happened in this Chamber on January 6 and what happened to 140 members of law enforcement in the Halls of the U.S. Capitol on the same day is not respectful of the police itself.

We have had a plea—a direct plea from the men and women in uniform who guard us in this building to have an investigative commission determine what was behind that insurrectionist mob of January 6 and what we need to do to avoid it in the future. That commission and its prospects were stopped cold by the Republican leader from Kentucky. That is a fact.

In terms of being respectful of law enforcement, allowing that commission to be created—a bipartisan commission—to get to the bottom of that horrible incident, that embarrassing incident in the history of the United States, is the least we can do to respond to what the police who guard us have asked for.

I might add one other element while we are on the discussion of law enforcement and protecting America. We have a special security supplemental appropriation that was created by Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, which appropriates the funds to pay the National Guard units who left their families and came here to protect us, and to pay the Capitol Police for the expenses they incurred on January 6 to fortify this Capitol against any future insurrectionist mob. That supplemental appropriations bill, which should have been passed routinely weeks ago, is still languishing for lack of agreement on the Republican side.

If you want to be respectful of law enforcement, whether they are men and women in uniform, in police units, or the National Guard, wouldn't you pay them for the services they have rendered to protect this Capitol and to protect the United States of America?

I call on the Republican leader: Instead of making a speech on the floor, call the Republican ranking member on the Senate Committee on Appropriations and ask him to waste no time in showing respect for law enforcement and to pass that security supplemental.

NOMINATION OF KENNETH ALLEN POLITE, JR.

Mr. President, on another topic, this week, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Kenneth Polite. President Biden has nominated him to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

As an experienced prosecutor who has served his community throughout his career, Mr. Polite is certainly qualified for this important position. From 2013 to 2017, Mr. Polite served as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. While in this role, Mr. Polite's office prosecuted several large, violent, criminal organizations. He held local corrupt politicians accountable and stopped more human traffickers than during any prior U.S. attorney's term in office.

Prior to serving the people of Louisiana, Mr. Polite served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, which is a very busy and important office. There, he took on organized crime, fought corruption, healthcare fraud, and identity theft.

In addition to his extensive experience as a public servant, Mr. Polite also has a remarkable personal story. Born to teenage parents, he spent his youth in public housing projects in New Orleans before moving to the Lower Ninth Ward as a child. He graduated high school as the valedictorian of his class, and he went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Harvard and his law degree from the well-respected Georgetown University. After law school, Mr. Polite initially went into private practice, but he was inspired to become a prosecutor after his half brother was tragically killed by gun violence.

Throughout his career, Mr. Polite has always given back to the community that raised him. He has served on the boards of numerous community organizations and schools in New Orleans, and Mr. Polite's track record as an even-handed public servant has earned him support from across the aisle.

In 2011, he was appointed by a Republican Governor of Louisiana, Bobby Jindal, to serve on the Louisiana Civil Service Commission.

Then, last month, the Republican Attorney General of Louisiana, Jeff Landry, publicly voiced his support for Mr. Polite's nomination to this position in the Department of Justice. In a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Landry wrote that, while serving as U.S. attorney, ''Mr. Polite was not only an effective crime fighter, but he was also an invaluable member of the community.''

Mr. Polite is an outstanding nominee for this critical role at the Justice Department. You should have been in the Judiciary Committee, which the Presiding Officer serves on, when his nomination came up. The praise that he won from the two Republican Senators of Louisiana is an indication of this man's popularity and of his value to Louisiana and to our country. I hope that he will receive the same broad bipartisan support in the full Senate, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Mr. Polite's nomination.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, last week was an important day for literally millions of Americans because the child tax credit

went into effect on July 15, and many were awakened to the good news that their checking and savings accounts had been increased because of this new child tax credit.

It was part of the American Rescue Plan, the proposal by President Biden to get America back on its feet. You remember that plan, almost $2 trillion. It was an important infusion into our economy. Money within that plan was being spent on the administration of vaccines across America. In addition to that, money was available for small businesses to receive forgivable loans. And this provision, that of enhancing the child tax credit, was an important part of it as well.

We have had tax credits in the past for families with children, but this was an especially important one because it was fully refundable, which meant it went to the lower-income families who might not have had enough income to merit a tax responsibility. This now is fully refundable, so there is no tax responsibility necessary to receive the payment. It also was a benefit that extended beyond poor and low-income families to middle-income families across America. Some of these families with this payment of $300 a month for each child under the age of 6 and $250 a month for those between 6 and 17 would receive resources which they desperately need to make certain that their children have a fighting chance.

We are especially proud of the fact that this infusion of cash into the hands of many families will literally mean it will lift them above the poverty line in America. Almost half of the kids in poverty will be spared that by this tax credit. So it has a direct and important impact.

I had a press conference last Friday in Chicago with one of the parents who will be benefited by this. Her name is Susana Salgado. She is a mother of three—an 11-year-old, a 16-year-old, and a 23-year-old. Her family relies on her husband's income. He works as a restaurant worker in Chicago to pay the bills, but when the pandemic hit, his hours were cut drastically. A return to normal remains elusive for people like Susana Salgado because, at the same time the family's livelihood vanished, their cost of living increased.

During the pandemic, as parents know well, schooling moved into the home and the high-speed internet connection became an absolute necessity for her kids to keep up in school. Thanks to the enhanced child tax credit, Susana can finally afford her monthly internet bill. It sounds like a small thing, but if the alternative is a child falling behind a grade in school, it is a critical family decision. That means her two younger children can keep up with their studies and her oldest son can remain in college. Something as basic as that can mean the difference in a young child's progress in his life.

So I salute President Biden for the American Rescue Plan, which helped to distribute vaccines across America, helped small businesses get back on their feet, and is helping millions of Americans and children and families as of this day. I am sorry that there was not one single Republican vote in support of that proposal, but I believe it was money well spent and continues to benefit this country. We have a lot of work to do in this country.

I will close by saying this: I was on radio shows this morning in downstate Illinois. Chicago, and the Chicagoland, area have been able to get vaccinated to a level where they are starting to breathe a little easier in anticipating children going back to school in the fall, businesses reopening, and people getting out and about. You can just feel it in the air. Yet that is not the case all over the United States.

The City of Los Angeles, I understand, is opposed to a new mask requirement, which, unfortunately, evidences the fact that there are still too many infections these days related to COVID–19. Unfortunately, as Dr. Fauci and others have said, these infections are reflected in people who have not yet been vaccinated, by and large, and it is an indication that we can't let up on our effort to continue vaccinations across America. It is the only way to successfully put this pandemic to rest and return to normal life in America.

To those who are not vaccinated, I am sure they are not watching C–SPAN for advice, but I hope they will turn to a doctor or a nurse or to someone they trust in the community and hear about the safety of these vaccines, which have been safely administered to millions of people across the United States.

If each and every one of us accepts our personal responsibility to get vaccinated to protect ourselves, our families, those we love, and those all around us, we will finally bring this pandemic to an end. At this point, there are many, many who are still holding back. I hope they will reconsider that position.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators CORNYN, GRASSLEY, and I be allowed to complete our remarks before the scheduled rollcall votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been all political theater all the time lately as the Democrats attempt to manufacture a crisis that will allow them to pass their partisan Federal takeover of State election law.

There was President Biden's overwrought speech in Philadelphia last week warning that election laws being passed in various States are ''the most dangerous threat to voting and the integrity of free and fair elections in our history.''

That is right, in our Nation's history.

Apparently, post-Civil War voter suppression laws and poll taxes and other atrocities don't hold a candle to what is happening today in places like Georgia, where—the horror—only election officials will be able to hand out water to those in line at the polls.

Then, of course, there were the Texas Democrats' antics as they flew to Washington via a private jet to shut down the Texas Legislature and prevent election legislation from being passed there, and the Senate Democrats' field hearing in Georgia yesterday to highlight the supposed horrors of Georgia's mainstream election law.

In his speech last week, President Biden mentioned stopping the spread of disinformation, which is an ironic statement when the Democrats are engaging in one of the most massive campaigns of disinformation we have ever seen, because—and let's be very clear—the narrative the Democrats are peddling, which is that States are engaging in a massive campaign of voter suppression, is simply false.

In other years, I doubt whether any of the State voting laws that have been passed would have been more than a blip in the national news because they are nothing more than ordinary, mainstream updates to State voting guidelines. The Georgia law that has provoked so much Democratic hysteria is not only squarely in the mainstream when it comes to State election laws, but it is actually, in some ways, more permissive than voting laws in some Democratic-led States.

A piece in the New York Times, hardly a newspaper that carries water for Republicans, concluded that the voting provisions of the Georgia law are ''unlikely to significantly affect turnout or Democratic chances.''

In fact, the piece notes that Georgia's law could ''plausibly even increase turnout.''

Meanwhile, the Washington Post Fact Checker column noted again: ''The law does not put up roadblocks to Black Americans registering to vote.'' That from the Washington Post Fact Checker.

And yet Democrats have repeatedly asked us to believe that this law is ''Jim Crow on steroids'' and part of ''the most significant test of our democracy since the Civil War.'' Those are quotes, actual quotes, from Democrats.

That is right, since the Civil War. Apparently, segregation and the horrors of Jim Crow are nothing compared to Georgia's adjustment of its regulations on no-excuse absentee voting, which isn't even allowed in some Democrat-led States like New York.

It is almost comical, except that it is not, because there is nothing funny about Democrats irresponsibly evoking the horrors of Jim Crow to convince Americans that reasonable reforms to election laws are really a dastardly plot to suppress votes.

There is nothing amusing about Democrats attempting to deceive the

American people in order to pass their election legislation because that is exactly—exactly—what Democrats are doing.

Democrats have been determined to pass H.R. 1, their Federal takeover of State election law, since 2019. Back in 2019, of course, they told us we needed it because our democracy was broken, but then the 2020 elections happened and, lo and behold, Democrats won, and all of a sudden our democracy was working fine—a record turnout, I might add, in the 2020 election, the largest since the year 1900.

But Democrats still want to pass H.R. 1, now because, as both the Speaker of the House and the House Democratic whip have openly admitted, they think it will improve their electoral chances, and so they have manufactured a crisis in the hope of convincing the American people of the need to pass Democratic legislation.

There is a reason that Senate Democrats haven't managed to pass H.R. 1 so far, and that is because it is a terrible bill. The bill would seize power from States when it comes to regulating and administering elections, an authority that States have held, literally, since the founding.

It would implement public funding of political campaigns, which would mean that billions of government dollars, money that belongs to the American taxpayer, would go to funding yard signs and attack ads—I am sure something the American taxpayers would be really happy to see.

It would impose onerous new requirements and restrictions on political speech. It would open up private Americans to retaliation and intimidation simply for making a donation to support a cause that they believe in.

It would effectively eliminate States' voter ID requirements. It would politicize the IRS by allowing the IRS to consider organizations' beliefs when deciding whether or not to grant them tax-exempt status, and the list goes on.

No less an organization than the American Civil Liberties Union opposed—opposed—H.R. 1 in the last Congress because the bill would ''unconstitutionally burden speech and associational rights.''

Let me just repeat that for emphasis. The American Civil Liberties Union opposed this legislation because it would ''unconstitutionally burden speech and associational rights.''

In his speech last week, President Biden expressed concern about States like Georgia ''moving from independent election administrators who work for the people to polarized state legislatures and partisan actors who work for political parties.''

It made me wonder if the President even knows what is in H.R. 1 because H.R. 1 would make the Federal Election Commission, the primary enforcer of election law in this country, into a partisan body.

Instead of an independent Commission, evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans, the FEC would become, to borrow the President's words, a partisan actor that works for political parties.

If the President is concerned about independent election administrators becoming partisan actors, perhaps he should take a look at revising his party's legislation.

Since they have so far been unable to get their partisan election takeover through the Senate, Democrats are now threatening to include election measures in the partisan tax-and-spending bill that they are planning to force through Congress using rules which allow them to evade objections from the Senate minority.

Their idea is to provide financial incentives for States to adopt Democrats' preferred election standards. I suspect it is an abuse of Senate budget rules that will hopefully not make it through the legislative process. But it is another disturbing sign of how committed Democrats are to shoving through their partisan election measure.

For the sake of our democracy, let's hope that they will continue to be unsuccessful.

While I am mentioning free speech and troubling narratives coming from the White House, I want to mention the White House Press Secretary's comments last week.

The Press Secretary noted that the Biden administration is ''flagging problematic posts for Facebook that spread disinformation'' and later stated that if individuals are banned on one social media platform, they should be banned on all platforms. Wow.

Now, there is no question that private companies have the right to moderate activity and content on their platforms—although, for the sake of the free exchange of ideas and a culture of freedom of speech, they should be very transparent, principled, and accountable about doing so.

We all remember the backpedaling that recently occurred when media and social media realized that they might have too hastily censored the theory that the coronavirus originated in a Wuhan lab.

But while private companies have a right to police information on their sites, the government cannot be in the middle of colluding with social media platforms to censor Americans' speech. And the Biden administration has no business telling Facebook or Twitter whom they should ban from their platforms.

We condemn governments in other countries, like the Chinese Communist Party, that do exactly this. We condemned the Cuban Government just last week for shutting down their population's access to the internet in the face of widespread protests.

If the government gets into censoring disinformation on social media, as compared to, say, terrorist propaganda, where does it end?

As we are rapidly finding out, ''disinformation'' tends to mean whatever those with censorship power want it to mean.

Is the Biden administration going to start pushing social media companies to censor anything that contradicts its narrative on the supposed voting rights crisis? Is it going to suggest that anyone defending States' election laws is spreading misinformation?

The best way to counter misinformation about lifesaving vaccines is not censorship; it is broadly sharing more persuasive and more accurate information.

The White House Press Secretary's casual admission of a Presidential administration actively monitoring Americans and colluding with social media companies to censor information is deeply troubling, and I am concerned that the Biden administration is moving us down the road toward government control of Americans' speech.

I would like to see the White House worrying about its own campaign of disinformation on State voting laws. That would be a better use of its time than trampling on freedom of speech by censoring Americans' activities on social media.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday, the majority leader teed up the first procedural vote on an infrastructure bill that no one has seen yet.

Our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have been hard at work for weeks negotiating in good faith to get a balanced agreement on an issue that virtually everyone supports. Infrastructure is not a partisan issue.

But at this time, we have no details about how this deal would achieve our common goals. There is no bill text. We don't know what is in and what is out, no information about how it will be paid for and no score from the Congressional Budget Office to tell us whether the proposed pay-fors are credible.

Now, we have been through an extraordinary pandemic, during which we have done some pretty extraordinary things when it comes to spending at the Federal level.

I think the closest equivalent to the pandemic is World War II. Of course, this was a domestic war or battle against the virus, trying to deal with the public health consequences and the economic consequences as well.

I voted for trillions of dollars of Federal spending, something I never thought I would do in the face of an emergency, a global emergency.

But there is no emergency that exists for an infrastructure bill. This is part of the bread and butter of what governments do at the local level, the State level, and at the Federal level, and it is simply irresponsible and reckless to borrow more money from future generations and to throw gasoline on the fire that is already burning when it comes to inflation in pursuit of a bill

that everybody will probably, ultimately, if given enough and opportunity, will ultimately come up with a negotiated bipartisan outcome.

I also am not going to vote to proceed to a bill that my constituents, the 29 million people I represent—they don't know what is in the bill either.

Well, all this doesn't sound like a recipe for success. These are the types of things that typically would be ironed out before you bring a bill to the floor. It is obvious this legislation is not ready for prime time, not even close.

As I said, the specifics of the bill are still being negotiated by our colleagues, of course, with the White House. We are days away from having the opportunity to read a bill, let alone provide the Congressional Budget Office the opportunity to calculate the cost.

Republicans and Democrats may disagree on a lot these days, but I hope we could all agree that it is not wise to advance legislation before you know what is in it.

That is why it is so baffling to me that the majority leader, the Senator from New York, is forcing a vote on this bill before it is even ready.

Of course, that raises a very significant question. Why in the world would he do that? Why is he rushing through with the final stage of what has been a productive bipartisan process?

The only logical conclusion I can come up with is he wants this bill and this bipartisan effort to fail.

Why else would he push forward with a vote when he knows it is doomed from the start?

I believe the Senator from New York wants this vote to fail because he really wants to go the partisan route; namely, the big, ugly, multitrillion dollar spending spree that BERNIE SANDERS and others have been advocating.

He doesn't need Republican votes to do that, and he can implement some of the most radical policies on the far left's wish list, things like the Green New Deal, massive tax hikes, crippling new economic regulations.

It is pretty obvious that has been the goal all along. Why else would the President himself say, once he negotiated a bipartisan deal: Well, I am not going to sign this bipartisan deal until we pass our partisan wish list. There is now $3 trillion proposed. It is for the same reason NANCY PELOSI said she is not going to let the bipartisan bill, even were we to pass it, see the light of day until she knows that the $3 trillion tax-and-spending spree is successful, which will require all 50 Democratic Senators plus the Vice President.

It is just strange to me to see a designed-to-fail strategy, unless it is for some political purpose.

So, Senator SCHUMER, if you are listening, please don't do it. Call off the vote. Let the bipartisan group finish their work. Don't set up a vote that will fail just because you want to appease the far left of your party, because if the vote happens and we don't have bill text or a cost estimate by the time it rolls around, it will necessarily fail.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

Mr. President, on another matter, for more than four decades, the Crime Victims Fund has provided critical funding for survivors, victims, and their families. In Texas and across the country, this funding provides lifesaving support and services for survivors. It supports shelters that provide refuge to victims of domestic violence. It enables critical programming at rape crisis centers and legal services at child advocacy centers. It provides direct compensation for victims and their families in the wake of serious trauma.

I could go on and on naming the countless ways that the Crime Victims Fund supports vital services in our communities, but one of the most remarkable aspects about the Crime Victims Fund is that none of it comes from taxpayers. It is all covered by criminal fines and penalties.

The only downside of this funding stream is that it comes with a fair amount of uncertainty. There is no guaranteed amount that will be deposited into the fund each year, and recent years have brought far less money than is needed by the demand.

In fiscal year 2020, for example, the funding disbursement decreased by 25 percent, and crime victims service organizations have been told to expect even more cuts. We can't let that happen. It is time to address these shortfalls in the Crime Victims Fund and safeguard critical resources for victims and survivors.

I have been proud to work on a bipartisan basis with Senators GRAHAM, DURBIN, and a long list of colleagues to restore this critical funding through the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act. This legislation brings critical new funding sources to the Crime Victims Fund without asking the American taxpayer to do more.

It makes important changes to the Crime Victims Act which will send more money to the States for crime victim compensation programs and gives States more flexibility to spend the money when and where needed.

As I said, this legislation has broad bipartisan support. More than 60 Senators have cosponsored the bill, and it has been endorsed by 1,700 organizations, including 120 in Texas alone. These absolutely outstanding organizations and law enforcement stand behind the crucial commonsense reforms of the VOCA Fix Act and have called on Congress to pass the bill. So I hope we can deliver soon.

This afternoon, I expect the Senate to vote on the VOCA Fix Act to protect the solvency of this vital funding. The Crime Victims Fund brings justice to survivors, victims, and families in the wake of serious trauma. This legislation will protect the solvency and longevity of that fund and reverse the devastating funding cuts we have seen in recent years.

I hope we can send this legislation to the President's desk as soon as possible so critical programs across the country can continue to serve our communities.

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. GRASSLEY. 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 Iowa.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to discuss an issue that I have raised during the course of multiple Republican and Democrat administrations. This is a problem that crosses political boundaries, whether you have a Republican or Democrat President. That issue is responding to legitimate and valid congressional oversight requests.

In my time as a public servant, I have seen my fair share of unresponsive government, sometimes downright obstructive government. I have seen it rear its ugly head from decade to decade. There is nothing more eroding to public faith than an unresponsive executive branch that believes that it only answers to the President and not to the U.S Congress and perhaps, most importantly, we the people.

Based on my interactions with the Biden administration's Justice Department and its component Agencies—specifically, the FBI—the current officials in charge of those Agencies are, at best, unresponsive public servants. That goes all the way to the top, to the President, because the buck stops there.

As I say to many nominees, either you are going to run your Department or the Department runs you. Right now, it looks like the Justice Department is running the Attorney General's office, and that is a great big shame.

I voted to confirm the Attorney General. I had high hopes he would follow through on his public statements of ridding the Department of political infection. Instead, I fear he has taken the Justice Department to new politically charged heights.

To date, I haven't received a full or complete response to a single oversight request from the Justice Department. As one example, on February 3 of this year and March 9 of this year, Senator JOHNSON and I asked the Department about Nicholas McQuaid. Mr. McQuaid is the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, of which Mr. Polite will be taking his place upon confirmation.

McQuaid was employed by a law firm until January 20 of this year and worked with Christopher Clark, whom Hunter Biden reportedly hired to work on his Federal criminal case.

This arrangement poses a clear potential conflict.

A core function of congressional oversight is to ensure that governmental Departments and Agencies are free of conflicts of interest. That is especially so with the Justice Department and the FBI. If conflict infects them, those investigations and prosecutions, the very purpose of the Department's existence, could be undermined.

So I have requested a recusal memo for McQuaid. I have also requested to know, as a threshold issue, whether one even exists. Attorney General Garland won't answer.

Now, can you believe that? Here we have a Federal criminal case that implicates the President's son, and the Attorney General won't even answer Congress as to whether or not an employee of his Department who has an apparent conflict is recused from that matter?

It certainly looks like the Garland Justice Department is doing all that it can to protect the President's son.

Let me remind the Attorney General that I was the one who led a transcribed interview with President Trump's son. For all of the grief that Trump and his family got from the Democrats, at least that family showed up and answered the questions of legitimate congressional oversight.

Early on in the Attorney General's tenure, I instructed my oversight staff to work diligently and, of course, in good faith with their counterparts at the Justice Department. My staff have done the phone calls. They have had the meetings. They have sent emails, many of which go unanswered. My staff has done this all in good faith.

At my level, I have made every effort to get the Attorney General on the phone to discuss my oversight requests. It took him 2 months to get on the phone with me for a one-on-one call. I found out just the other week that Attorney General Garland's staff never told him of my request to speak with him. This omission is a dereliction of duty by the Department staff, to keep something like that from the Attorney General. Like I said, either you run the Department, or the Department runs you.

This type of unresponsive conduct has consequences. These consequences might not be immediate, but eventually, as I have seen over the years, ultimately the consequences arrive. The more their government tries to hide from them, the more the American people lose faith in government institutions. With such bad government conduct, I don't blame the people for losing faith. The fault is with the government, not the American people. After all, we work for the American people; they don't work for us. It is sad to say, but many in Washington, DC, don't understand that very fundamental precept of our constitutional Republic.

My fellow Senators, this type of conduct from the Biden administration and the Justice Department is unacceptable. But it isn't just this administration or this Justice Department; it is something I have seen too long under both Republican and Democratic Presidents, and it will have long-term consequences for the integrity of our governmental institutions.

In light of the Department's consistent failure to respond to my oversight requests, I will object to any unanimous consent request that Kenneth Polite be confirmed as Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division. I do not do so on the basis of his credentials, which I don't question; I do it as a message to the Attorney General that he needs to improve DOJ's interaction with the Congress.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

Mr. President, on another matter, we will soon be voting on the Victims of Crime Act. I was an original cosponsor of that act when the Senate Judiciary Committee developed the legislation years ago. I appreciate the opportunity to work with Senators DURBIN, GRAHAM, and other Judiciary Committee colleagues this year on amendments to this landmark law.

The principle behind this statute is very simple. It is that fines and penalties collected by the Department of Justice from those who are convicted of committing Federal crimes should be used to help those who are victims of the crimes.

Because the fund relies solely upon fines and other assessments paid by Federal criminals, not from the taxpayers, it does not add to the deficit. So any of these expenditures are very fiscally responsible.

The money in this fund helps at least 6,800 local organizations, examples like rape crisis centers and child advocacy centers. So this money provides needed services to millions of crime victims across the country each year. The fund supports crisis hotline counseling or medical care or other services to these crime survivors, but it also does things like providing lost wages, courtroom advocacy, temporary housing, and there are a lot of other services that come from this money.

Since its enactment, billions of dollars have flowed through the Crime Victims Fund to our States and our communities to help support victim assistance programs. More than three decades after its inception, the fund is still working, but deposits into the fund have declined significantly in recent years. So obviously the continuation of some of these programs is less effective or even in doubt when the money available for them is not certain to be there. This is an issue of why this bill is before us, the VOCA Fix Act. This bill would resolve this problem of not enough money going into the fund.

Why is the money not going into the fund? The issue stems from Federal prosecutors' increasing reliance upon no- or deferred-prosecution agreements rather than upon conviction. The money collected by the Department of Justice in these settlement agreements, then, is not attributed to the Crime Victims Fund the same way as if it had gone through the court process and people had been convicted.

Among other provisions, the bill makes a deposits fix to preserve the Crime Victims Fund; in other words, to overcome the fact that these no- or deferred-prosecution agreements—that money doesn't now go into those funds. It requires that the money from the no- or deferred-prosecution agreements must go into the fund rather than the General Fund. The bill also changes the match requirements for State and local grant programs that rely on this statute.

Providing this fix will enable crime survivors in my State of Iowa and across the Nation to continue to have these services available in their communities. I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. President, the last point I want to make is a very short one.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, the definition of ''filibustering'' is this: ''Filibustering includes any use of dilatory or obstructive tactics to block a measure by preventing it from coming to a vote.''

Now, this is exactly what Texas Democrats are doing by fleeing their State to avoid a majority vote on an election reform bill. This group of Texas legislators flew to Washington, DC, where they are hypocritically demanding that the Senate abolish its tradition of extended debate so national legislation can be passed on the slimmest of majorities. And you can't get any slimmer than a 50–50 Senate.

The Senate majority leader called these legislators brave and courageous for their dishonest filibuster in the Texas Legislature, while they denounce the filibuster at the national level.

Texas is a very large and diverse State, but the United States is made up of 50 different States, plus territories, spread over a great distance. If the majority ought to not be allowed to rule in Texas, then how can they justify breaking the rules and traditions of the Senate to impose the will of 50 percent of the country on the other 50 percent?

So let's be very clear. As I have said before, the false, evidence-free claims of widespread voter suppression are as damaging as false claims of widespread voter fraud and thus need to stop. The reality is that each State is different, so it makes sense that States will have different voting processes.

Discrimination in voting is illegal. It is a Federal crime, and thank God it is a Federal crime. Beyond that, diversity in our Nation is a strength, not a weakness.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 195, Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Luján, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Portman
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Rosen
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Cassidy	Luján	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tillis
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The yeas are 57, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 246, Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Luján, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Tim Kaine, John W. Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Patty Murray.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of four years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Ms. SINEMA assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of four years.

RECESS

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:12 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON POLITE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote take place immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Polite nomination?

Mr. COONS. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Cassidy	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). 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 majority whip.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

VOCA FIX TO SUSTAIN THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1652, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1652) to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2121, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Toomey amendment be called up, as modified with the changes at the desk, and that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN], for Mr. TOOMEY, proposes an amendment numbered 2121, as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure adequate funding in the Crime Victims Fund is disbursed to victims, their families, and their advocates each year)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. POINT OF ORDER.

Section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20101) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c)(1) Sums deposited in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be available for expenditure under this chapter for grants under this chapter without fiscal year limitation, in accordance with paragraph (2). Notwithstanding subsection (d)(5), all sums deposited in the Fund in any fiscal year that are not made available for obligation by Congress in the subsequent fiscal year shall remain in the Fund for obligation in future fiscal years, without fiscal year limitation.

''(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (C), it shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider a provision in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for all or a portion of a fiscal year, or an amendment thereto, amendment between the Houses in relation thereto, conference report thereon, or motion thereon, that would cause the amount of annual disbursals from the Fund to be below the annual average amount that was deposited into the Fund during the 3-fiscal-year period beginning on October 1 of the fourth fiscal year before the fiscal year to which the disbursal level applies.

''(B) If a point of order is raised by a Member under subparagraph (A), and the point of order is sustained by the Chair, the provision shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

''(C) A point of order shall not lie in the Senate or the House of Representatives under this paragraph if the difference between the amount in the Fund as of September 30 of the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year to which the annual disbursals described in subparagraph (A) relates and the amount available for obligation through the annual disbursals described in subparagraph (A) is not more than $2,000,000,000.

''(3) Paragraph (2) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required in the Senate to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under paragraph (2).

''(4) This subsection is enacted by Congress—

''(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with those rules; and

''(B) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.''.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:15 today the Senate vote on the Toomey amendment and on the passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, as provided for under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Montana.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today, I rise to bring attention to new revelations about President Biden's nominee to head the Bureau of Land Management, Tracy Stone-Manning's involvement in a tree-spiking incident in Idaho, and to share why I oppose her confirmation.

I would have welcomed having a nominee with such strong ties to Montana to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and, until recently, I believed, as did most Montanans, based on her testimony before the Montana State Legislature, back in 2013, that her role in the tree-spiking crime was minimal, her actions were helpful, and she helped bring criminals to justice.

Unfortunately, new information has revealed that this simply was not the case. In fact, rather than bringing criminals to justice, Ms. Stone-Manning assisted in helping them evade justice for years—for years.

I am going to lay this out because I think it is important that the facts are shared before this body. First, it reveals that she withheld the truth from investigators for several years. Second, it reveals that she harshly criticized Federal law enforcement at the very same time she was refusing to tell them the truth. And, third, it reveals that she has not taken responsibility or expressed remorse for not speaking the truth much, much sooner.

I know many of my colleagues are probably just tuning into Ms. Stone-Manning's involvement in a tree-spiking crime committed in 1989 while she was a member of an ecoterrorist group called Earth First!

The picture that she and her advocates have painted about her involvement in this crime is that she was the innocent hero who helped put bad people in jail. Well, in recent weeks, we have learned there is a lot more to this story. It is very alarming. It is very disturbing on many levels.

Ms. Stone-Manning stated to the Montana State Legislature that a rather frightening man approached her with a letter while she was on campus. Come to find out, that man wasn't a stranger. It was her roommate and someone whom she described to the court during the 1993 trial as someone who was in her main circle of friends.

Ms. Stone-Manning stated that she simply mailed the anonymous letter—that she simply mailed it. But in reality, and as we have since found out and as we have explored court records in Idaho, this information had not come out, except in the last 45 days.

The investigation later revealed that this letter had not only been collaboratively composed, but after waiting for a few days, it was typed by Ms. Stone-Manning on a rented typewriter, which, according to her very own testimony, was because she wanted to avoid having it on her own computer and avoid having any fingerprints that could be traced back to her.

The words that Ms. Stone-Manning typed and mailed are explicit. It is not what you type and send to protect people. They are what you say to frighten people.

I am going to read this letter—it is not very long—that Ms. Stone-Manning typed on a rented typewriter and personally mailed. It says:

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being sent to notify you that the Post Office Sale—

If I can add, the Post Office Sale was a timber sale. They labeled it the ''Post Office Sale.''—

in Idaho has been spiked heavily.

The reasoning for this action is that this piece of land is very special to the earth. It is home to the Elk, Deer, Mountain Lions, Birds, and especially the Trees.

The project required that eleven of us spend nine days in God awful weather conditions spiking trees. We unloaded a total of five hundred pounds of spikes measuring 8 to 10 inches in length. The sales were marked so that no workers will be injured and so that you assholes know that they are spiked. The majority of trees were spiked within the first ten feet, but many, many others were spiked as high as a hundred and fifty feet.

I would be more than willing to pay you a dollar for the sale, but you would have to find me first and that could be your WORST nightmare.

Sincerely, George Hayduke

P.S. You bastards go in there anyway and a lot of people could get hurt.

The text of that letter was never made public until very recently, just in the last 45 days. Montanans never had the opportunity to read what Ms. Stone-Manning typed on the rented typewriter and sent until just a few weeks ago.

The letter is chilling and it makes you think that, if Ms. Stone-Manning was really concerned about the tree spiking, she could have gone to the authorities immediately in 1989, when this occurred.

We also now know she had firsthand knowledge about the perpetrators. She knew who did it. She knew all of the details about the crime. She knew who spiked the trees.

By the way, why do you spike trees? Why do you put these great big spikes in the trees? That is because, if a logger comes in with a saw and their blade hits it, they could be severely injured. If one of these logs comes through a sawmill, the sawmill operator can be severely injured, as has actually happened. We have had some severely injured individuals because of the tree spiking. This was the ecoterrorism going on several years ago.

But she withheld this information from law enforcement in 1989, even after she was subpoenaed by a grand jury for her hair, her handwriting, and fingerprint samples. She didn't report it to law enforcement in 1990, not in 1991, not in 1992. In fact, she condemned the FBI for investigating her in the first place, despite the fact that she knew all the details of the crime. In fact, she claimed being investigated by the FBI was ''degrading'' and that the ''government does do bad things.'' She compared her treatment to how the Government of Panama would treat someone.

Ms. Stone-Manning said all of these things and played the victim, despite knowing all the details and players of the crime, despite having had the opportunity for 4 years to put bad people behind bars. What Ms. Stone-Manning did was actively obstruct an investigation.

At no time, by the way, did Ms. Stone-Manning ever come forward from her own volition. Now, she only came forward after there was a break in the investigation. This is now in 1993, after another suspect identified her involvement and after her attorney struck an immunity deal, not before she was caught.

In fact, one of the men she had the opportunity to put behind bars during the time she remained silent went on to commit an act of—this man that she remained silent on went on to commit an act of domestic violence. Her cooperation with law enforcement could have prevented this.

None of her actions show any kind of remorse. They didn't then and they still don't now. Ms. Stone-Manning has not expressed regret for her false and disparaging characterization of Federal investigators.

This deception and misrepresentation of her involvement, coupled with her clear violation of Senate Ethics rules while she served as a U.S. Senate staffer, leave the public with no reason to trust her judgment, her leadership capabilities, or her ability to remain pragmatic when making decisions on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management.

Ms. Stone-Manning has lost her credibility, and to move forward with her nomination would cause more controversy and distrust for the leadership at the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Senate, and the Biden administration.

You see, there are 10,000 employees at the Bureau of Land Management who report to the Director and they need to have that trust, as well.

President Obama's former Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Bob Abbey, has concluded that Stone-Manning's ''questionable past'' brings what he said ''needless controversy'' to the Agency. Obama's very own Director of the Bureau of Land Management said that her involvement in the tree-spiking crime should disqualify Stone-Manning and the Biden administration needs a new nominee.

I agree with Mr. Abbey because, in Montana and the West and all America, we need a Director of the Bureau of Land Management who can garner public trust, bring folks together, and lead with integrity.

Throughout the confirmation process, I have given Ms. Stone-Manning a fair shake, an opportunity to answer questions about important policies that impact our Montana way of life. However, over the course of the last few weeks, this new information has come to light and has led me to now actively and publicly oppose her nomination.

The controversy surrounding this nomination is not and should not be about party-line politics. Montanans care about trusting those in public service, about integrity. The public trust surrounding Ms. Stone-Manning has been wrecked. Her ability to be the Director that the Bureau of Land Management needs has been compromised beyond repair.

As this nomination draws more attention and some continue to contend that her actions were commendable, I hope all my colleagues will give full consideration to the facts laid out here today. I urge my colleagues, especially those who represent western States, to join me opposing this nomination. I would urge the Biden administration to pull Ms. Stone-Manning's nomination. Nominate someone to lead the Agency who can garner the public trust and one who can lead the Agency without the significant controversy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

CRIME VICTIMS FUND ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when the pandemic began last year, Americans across the country were faced with more than one public health crisis. While we all feared contracting COVID–19 outside of our homes, the most vulnerable members of our community feared a danger lurking within the home or, certainly, in the neighborhood—violent crime.

During the first several weeks of the pandemic, police departments across America reported a significant increase in arrests or calls related to domestic violence. And reports of hate incidents and crimes increased, as well, particularly those targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander, or what is known as the AAPI community.

Nearly 4,000 of these hate incidents were reported during the first year of the COVID–19 pandemic. AAPI women comprised the majority of the victims.

In my home State of Illinois, some of these victims of violent crimes have an indispensable resource they can turn to. It is known as KAN-WIN, a nonprofit that supports survivors of violence, particularly women and members of the immigrant community. KAN-WIN offers a 24-hour hotline, legal advocacy, transitional housing, sexual assault services, and many more resources to survivors of violent crimes. They also offer programming to support children who have grown up in a traumatic environment.

During the pandemic, organizations like KAN-WIN have been a beacon of hope for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. But these beacons of hope are at the risk of growing dark, unless we in this Senate today take immediate action by passing the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act. This legislation, which I am proud to have introduced with Republican Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, will replenish the Crime Victims Fund, which Congress established in 1984 with the passage of the Victims of Crime Act, known as VOCA.

The Crime Victims Fund helps abused children, survivors of domestic violence, and other victims of violent crime access the professional services they desperately need. It also assists victims with expenses like medical bills, counseling, funeral costs, loss of wages. And, importantly, the Crime Victims Fund supplies grants to thousands, literally thousands of victim service providers across the Nation, like KAN-WIN.

In KAN-WIN's case, the Crime Victims Fund pays for the salary of their Children's Advocate. That advocate reached out to my office and wrote the following: ''The entire Children's Program at KAN-WIN will have to be eliminated'' if the VOCA Fix to sustain the Crime Victims Fund does not pass the Senate. Without this legislation, ''linguistically and culturally sensitive services and counseling, education assistance, economic assistance, medical assistance, art activities that help regulate children's emotions, parent-child relationship assistance, and other case management services'' will be cut.

The kids who receive help from KAN-WIN are far from the only people who would be hurt if the Crime Victims Fund runs dry. Children's Advocacy Centers in Illinois report that a significant cut in VOCA funding would result in more than 1,500 children being deprived of services they need to overcome trauma.

The Chicago Children's Advocacy Center writes: ''One of the most important uses of VOCA funds is for mental health therapy for sexually abused children.'' Without that funding, they will have to ''cut the number of children we provide therapy to and more children would go without life-changing treatment to heal from their abuse. Even a small cut in VOCA would mean up to 100 children would go without healing services.''

We have a serious problem across America—and I have seen in Illinois, particularly in the city of Chicago—of gun violence. There are so many guns. The city is awash in guns. Too many young people get their hands on them every day.

The Fourth of July weekend, 104 people were shot in the city of Chicago. 104; 19 died. Last weekend, 50. The numbers are staggering. We have a mass shooting in the city of Chicago every weekend. It has become, sadly, expected. It breaks your heart.

I went to the juvenile facility of Cook County several years ago and talked to the counselors who are meeting with the adolescents who have been charged in these gun crimes. Some of these adolescents spend a year or two in that facility waiting for trial. I asked these counselors: Who are these kids? What has happened to them to the point where they can take a gun and just shoot wantonly into a crowd, killing infants and children and grandmothers and innocent people?

The counselor said to me: There are many things. There are hardly any serious mental illnesses that you can think of that we don't find in these kids. But the one thing we find, Senator, consistently is they are the victims of trauma.

Now, by classic definition, trauma is some physical injury, but trauma today is viewed in a much larger context. It goes back to a template that was established by Kaiser Permanente and the CDC called adverse childhood experiences—ACEs for short. Most psychologists and child counselors know exactly what I am talking about.

ACEs, these adverse childhood experiences, can be as simple as witnessing a violent crime or returning to a home where the parent is not a positive force—perhaps the only parent is drug-addicted or an alcoholic or not home at all—or having a situation in which you are never sure where home is. So many kids in school talk about moving back and forth from one relative to another. All of these things take their toll on little kids. It is part of the traumatic experience.

These counselors of these gun-toting adolescents at the Cook County facility say that over 90 percent of them are victims of trauma. Stop and think: Is it possible that that simple thing that happened in a child's life could have that kind of impact? Well, I am afraid it is. For many of us, just to think back on your childhood, of the most memorable moment in your childhood—I hope it is a good memory, one that you smile with, but it could be a terrible memory, too, the loss of someone you love or some other tragic event. Well, that is what has happened to these kids. This trauma in their lives runs the risk of changing them and even making them potentially dangerous to the innocent people they live around.

That is why, when we talk about the Victims of Crime Act and giving these kids counseling, a child who witnesses a domestic violence incident in the home, where their mother is being beaten or worse, how in the world do you erase that from your memory? You only hope that you can find someone—some mentor, some counselor—who can talk you through it. That is what the VOCA does. The victims of crime have an opportunity to access those professional services before they do the damage that they do.

So how did we get to this point where we are even debating whether to fund this? Why is the Crime Victims Fund so dangerously close to running out of money when we know we need it so much?

It comes down to how the fund is funded. See, the money for the victims of crime doesn't come from taxpayer dollars. Traditionally, it comes from criminal fines, penalties, forfeited bail bonds, and special assessments collected by the Federal Government. Historically, these criminal fines have accounted for the largest portion of the funding, but in recent years, deposits in the Crime Victims Fund have dropped significantly as the Justice Department has increasingly used deferred prosecution and nonprosecution agreements. Monetary penalties from these deferred prosecutions and nonprosecution agreements are currently deposited into the General Treasury, not into the Crime Victims Fund. As a result, the shift in sentencing has resulted in a devastating impact on the fund.

That is why the bipartisan, bicameral coalition of lawmakers has worked with advocacy organizations to write a fix to the VOCA law to sustain the Crime Victims Fund. Our bill would stabilize the Crime Victims Fund by redirecting monetary penalties from deferred prosecutions and nonprosecution agreements to the victims and service providers that desperately need the financial support.

If you think that is an easy and obvious fix, you don't understand Congress. To have all of the different committees of jurisdiction take a look at it and all of the Members take a look at it and to come up with a solution, it doesn't happen every day. One of the reasons it happened here in the Senate is that one of my colleagues, whom I want to put in the RECORD as a major positive force, Senator TAMMY BALDWIN of the State of Wisconsin. She took a real personal interest in this, and I thank her for it. She brought us together and came up with a solution and worked out the details—and there were many—until we could all agree. I thank her personally and specifically during the course of this opening remark.

The reduced deposits into the fund have had a devastating impact. She knew it. I knew it. Everyone does. As of this year, victim assistance grants have been reduced by more than $600 million nationwide, and even more catastrophic cuts are looming if we don't fix it today. So far in 2021, this Crime Victims Fund has already missed out on nearly $550 million in deposits. We are not even halfway through the year. Imagine how much more money this fund is going to lose if we don't pass this bill.

There is no time to waste. Every day that goes by, we miss an opportunity to help replenish this fund. More importantly, we miss an opportunity to help a crime victim. It may be a medical bill. It could be a funeral cost. It could be counseling for that child whom I described earlier. Missing that opportunity may mean that the life of that child will never quite be the same.

The Senate must immediately pass this bill. The House already did it in March—in March. It is time for us to get around to it. So, with broad bipartisan support in the House, we should be inspired in the Senate by our bipartisan coalition backing the bill. Sixty-three Senators—forty-two Dems, twenty-one Republicans—not bad. We have all come together for the VOCA fix.

Over the past few months, an objection has prevented us from moving forward on this legislation. We have been literally waiting for weeks to pass this bill. Today, we have a chance to do it and to send it to the President's desk. That is why, this afternoon, we are going to take two votes. The first is on an amendment from Senator TOOMEY. It doesn't address the substance of the programs that I mentioned; it addresses the budget process. There is mention, of course, in this bill, but his change would reach far beyond any single piece of legislation. We will consider it. I will be opposing it, and others will get their chance to vote. Then we will face final passage on the House-passed bill.

A broad coalition of victims' rights advocates, service providers, and law enforcement organizations are urging the vote I just described against the Toomey amendment and for the final bill. They recently wrote to us, saying: ''The VOCA Fix Act is a narrowly tailored, carefully negotiated, technical fix bill to address the immediate needs of survivors, and the Senate must act now to pass this critical legislation without any amendments. . . . Every delay allows potential funds that should be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund to serve victims to instead be deposited into the General Treasury. The House passed the VOCA Fix Act more than four months ago with overwhelming bipartisan support; we urge the Senate to similarly pass the House-passed VOCA Fix Act, as is, immediately.''

More than 1,700 national, regional, State, Tribal, and local organizations are begging us to do this and do it today so we can send it to the President and ensure that the victims are able to maintain access to the services they desperately need. We owe it to the victims to get this done.

I see my colleague on the floor who is the cosponsor of this bill with me. He was the Senate Judiciary Committee's chairman in the previous Congress, and I have that honor in this Congress. I am glad that we could get together, a Democrat and a Republican, again. We have cosponsored things before, and we will continue to. I want to thank Senator GRAHAM for his leadership and in joining on this effort. I think it is a good one, and we need more of them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM. I thank Senator DURBIN.

Madam President, it has been a pleasure working with Senator DURBIN on this to, hopefully, get it over the line this afternoon. I think most Americans, if they understood what we were trying to do, would be enthusiastically behind the effort.

As for the deferred prosecution and nonprosecution agreements, the revenues from those procedures—for lack of a better word—go into the General Treasury, not the Crime Victims Fund, and we are fixing that. We have had a reduction in funds available in South Carolina. We have lost $3.2 million for VOCA crime victims funding for the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers' 27 members. Because of this quirk in the law, the Crime Victims Fund is at a historic low, and it is affecting operations in the field.

Attorney General Alan Wilson has been great to work with. With Senators FEINSTEIN and GRASSLEY, we have been a team on this on the Judiciary Committee.

Senator DURBIN went through the ins and outs of what we are doing here. I just want to add this: This was not easy. There are a lot of stakeholders in this, and there are a lot of committees of jurisdiction.

I want to thank Senator BALDWIN, who has been a driving force behind it. That is absolutely true. All of the committees could have easily said no, but this is one time we wanted to get to yes because the lack of funding is beginning to affect the operations of groups that are just indispensable when it comes to providing relief to crime victims.

I would urge a ''yes'' vote. This has been a bipartisan process from day one. It has been going on about a year. It is now time to correct the quirk in the law to get these funds over to the Crime Victims Fund from the General Treasury.

Senator TOOMEY's amendment, I will oppose. I appreciate Senator TOOMEY very much, but I think that most of the groups and all of the law enforcement groups are opposed to the Toomey amendment, and I will reluctantly do so.

I hope we can get a really big vote on final passage because we need to prove to the American people that we can do things together. There is nothing that should bring us together more than helping victims of crime and making sure this fund has the resources it deserves to provide the treatment needed. This rise in crime has made this more relevant, not less.

As for Senator DURBIN, as always, I have enjoyed working with him, and we will continue to find common ground where we can. So I urge a ''yes'' vote on its final passage here in a couple of hours.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Indiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today because, in a practical place like the State of Indiana, believe it or not, we actually balance our budget every year. We have commonsense things in place that if you are going to receive some benefits of some sort, maybe you do something where we can help to get you to where you do not need the benefits.

In this case, this is again something that was not broken and is now being fixed in a way that takes enterprising States like the State of Indiana, like Texas, like Arizona, places that wanted the ability in administering their share of Medicaid, to have ways to try to get folks into a position where they could get back on their feet, seek work, and do things that would make sense for trying to maybe earn their way into that benefit somewhat.

Do we believe Washington has all the answers? I think that is what you believe when you get rid of something that was working in many places.

I am in the camp that, as much as I know the Federal Government has to weigh in and do things, but if the argument is that we have been knocking it out of the park here, that we have been getting things done that really work, if it wasn't done in the context that of every dollar we spend here, we borrow 23 cents—and in the time I have been here, 2 and a half years, have been probably the loudest voice on trying to fix healthcare.

Part of that issue is in my own party, where I think we are apologists for a broken healthcare industry. The other side of the aisle wants to just spend money to try to fix it without fixing the underlying issues that drive so many of the problems in this country, where we deal with them in a sustainable way in our State governments, in our local governments. If we take away that flexibility, then we are defaulting to a system that has not been solving the problems.

Today, we are here specifically talking about the Medicaid Program. The way it works currently, the Federal Government pays for half the benefits, and the States pay for half the benefits. The Social Security Act authorizes a framework of flexibility so enterprising, innovative States can maybe do something to bring down the cost of these programs and wean us off the need for them primarily in the long run.

Since President Biden has taken office, several State waivers that were previously approved under the Trump administration have been revoked. It has happened in Texas. It has happened in Arkansas. It has happened in Arizona. And now they are coming after a place like Indiana that has a system that works so well that we are even in the process of giving some revenues back to our citizens this coming year, where revenues were so far above forecast, we are still taking care of issues at the State level and doing what we ought to be considering: returning resources to the taxpayer.

This isn't even that. This is trying to retain the flexibility where it has been working. It is called the Gateway to Work Program, and it is not like it is overbearing. It just requires 20 hours per month of work, job searching, school, or community service. It was designed in a way that engages the individual needing the benefit and that can improve their quality of life over the long run.

It has had a long history. The pilot was first approved by CMS in 2007. It has been renewed as recently as 2018. Yet the Biden administration, right now, by taking these actions—these flexibilities would have been in place until 2025. It is stopping prematurely what I believe is essential if we are going to ever live within our means here, finding better ways to do it and more sustainable ways to pay for it. We should have that flexibility.

With this in mind, I will introduce the Let States Set Medicaid Requirements Act. This legislation will empower States to have the flexibility that they have had that has been making progress. It will encourage behaviors that will improve healthcare outcomes. It has precedence in other Federal programs when it comes to earning unemployment benefits or food assistance. This bill is commonsense policy that I think needs to be put into place so that flexibility cannot arbitrarily be taken away.

I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, for everything from emergency room visits to mental health care, Medicaid funding is vital to the health of our most

vulnerable citizens. More than 4 million of my constituents, including half of all the children in the State, depend on the stability of the State's Medicaid Program.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has put the healthcare of these individuals in jeopardy by rescinding a previous approval of Texas's 1115 waiver extension. Basically, that waiver would allow the State to manage the program in a way that maximizes the benefit and save money where possible, mainly through managed care.

Now, those are some pretty bureaucratic terms, the 1115 waiver, but here is the short of it: Texas stands to lose $11 billion to provide healthcare for underserved patients as a result of this unilateral and unjustified rescission by the Biden administration. All of this was done for an unconstitutional purpose: to force Texas to accept the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion—something the Supreme Court of the United States has said they cannot constitutionally force. Two anonymous Federal officials, in a Washington Post story, reported as much in a recent story.

I said earlier, when this happened to Texas, that if the administration can do it to Texas, they can do it to anyone, any State in this Chamber. My friend Senator BRAUN's home State of Indiana and Senator YOUNG's State of Indiana now is the latest victim, and I appreciate their commitment to ending this game of political chicken.

These actions not only unjustifiably jeopardize the health of millions of vulnerable people, they also erode the trust States have when they negotiate with the Federal Government, where apparently a deal is not a deal. States will never view their Federal partners as working in good faith if these agreements are invalidated by a successor administration.

If we don't stand up against these reckless actions now, which State will be next? It may not be a Medicaid 1115 extension. It may be some other policy by the Biden administration. But how far in this case will this administration go to commandeer State resources in forcing a Medicaid expansion?

I am proud to stand alongside of Senator BRAUN and Senator YOUNG in the fight to protect the healthcare of the most vulnerable Americans in my State and across the country.

I yield to the junior Senator from Indiana. I beg your pardon, Mr. President; maybe the senior Senator or—never mind.

Mr. YOUNG. I thank my colleague very much for his reflections on what is really at stake here, Mr. President.

Last month, the Biden administration's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services notified the State of Indiana that it was withdrawing approval of the State's Gateway to Work Program. So what does this actually mean to rank-and-file Hoosiers? Well, it means that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has decided to revoke Indiana's ability to determine appropriate work requirements and appropriate community engagement expectations for Medicaid recipients in our State. It means that this administration regards work as some form of punishment, and efforts to transition to a position of self-reliance are somehow inappropriate.

Now, we Republicans believe in people. We believe in people. We believe in self-reliance. We believe that the vast majority of Americans, Americans of modest means, don't want to be trapped in Government programs.

Medicaid should ideally be a service which is a temporary support for people who really need it. The goal should be to prepare individuals for a life of dignity, and that includes securing a vocation, finding a measure of self-reliance in life.

Now, Indiana wasn't the only State to receive this bad news. Arizona officials also received word that their Medicaid work expectations were being revoked. Just a few months ago, this administration likewise pulled all work expectations from the States of Arkansas, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Indiana's Gateway to Work Program, again revoked by CMS, would have merely asked Medicaid recipients to report 20 hours of work or volunteer or school or other activities every month. This is really important. These community engagement activities are designed to improve quality of life, to improve the quality of the recipient's life over the long-term and to help Hoosiers transition from Medicaid to full employment. This is what people want.

When we think of the American dream, we think of the ability to go out and start a family and be part of a larger community and to be able to meaningfully participate in a nation's civic life and to secure a vocation.

Most would regard the goals of Indiana's Gateway to Work program as commendable. However, according to CMS, this program would result in significant coverage losses and harm to beneficiaries—harm to beneficiaries—a misleading statement that ignores the extensive list of individuals exempt from this requirement: students, pregnant women, the medically frail or the incapacitated, those with disabilities, and a bunch of others.

Now, luckily for Hoosiers, the State of Indiana had not yet implemented the Gateway to Work program at the time of CMS's notice because of the unique challenges presented by the pandemic; meaning that Medicaid recipients would not face immediate disruption of their benefits.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for other Americans across the country. And we are here to fight for them. This includes Texas, where the administration's decision to revoke that State's waiver put in jeopardy healthcare for 4 million Americans. That doesn't sound very compassionate to me.

Up to this point, Medicaid waivers have allowed the States the ability, the freedom—the freedom under our federalist system—to test new policy approaches within the Medicaid Program, allowing them to design and improve their programs in ways that best fit their own populations and maybe serve as models for other States where successes are elicited and proven.

But with the Biden administration's recent actions, with their one-size-fits-all mandates and mindset, States will now need to be on guard. CMS may decide to revoke its waiver authority at any given time. This means any attempt by a State to improve its Medicaid Program carries a serious risk of disrupting healthcare for the program's beneficiaries if that innovation could ultimately be revoked. God forbid we try and improve a government program. But I guess Medicaid is perfect, and we can't find room for improvement. Certainly, we can't rely on the States to come up with improvements. Any improvements that might be made would have to come from Washington, DC. This is the sort of mindset we seem to be dealing with.

But for a nation that has always valued quality and innovation in healthcare, for Americans who believe we should empower all of our citizens, and for leaders who believe we have a responsibility to provide the least among us the necessary tools to stand on their own two feet, this is an unsustainable situation.

So I urge my colleagues to act now and stand up for their State's ability to set their own Medicaid requirements that meet the needs of their own citizens.

And with that, I yield to my esteemed colleague from Indiana, who has been working very hard on this issue, Senator BRAUN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my bill, which is at the desk. Further, I ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, first of all, I want to say about my two colleagues, I have very much enjoyed talking healthcare with the Senator from Indiana, the lead sponsor of this. We have had a lot of very productive discussions about the role of healthcare in America.

I strongly support the proposition that the Federal Government doesn't know all the answers here. Sometimes my friends say I am the Senator from innovation because I am always trying to promote innovation. That is what section 1332 is all about.

My other colleague from Indiana is a very valued member of the Finance Committee. So I want it understood that I think Indiana Senators, they are 100 percent straight shooters who I enjoy talking healthcare with.

Let me say, respectfully, why I have a difference of opinion with respect to this issue.

My sense is that what my colleagues from Indiana want to do is based on a premise that comes from the Trump administration, which I think is flawed. The premise is that those on Medicaid really don't work and don't want to work.

Having run the legal aid program for the elderly before I came to the Senate and was codirector of the Oregon Gray Panthers—and, again, it is a good discussion. People have differences of opinion. I think those on Medicaid overwhelmingly—overwhelmingly would like to be able to work and do work, and that is what the difference of opinion is here.

As I understand it, Senator BRAUN wants States to have the authority to condition access to Medicaid on work. Now, his colleague from Indiana noted some exceptions and the like, which sounds like it is of some value, but the basic proposition is conditioning access to Medicaid on work.

It has been my experience—and I have made a practice of it over the years, having been in public life, to go back and talk to people on Medicaid. I think overwhelmingly they want to and do work.

It seems to me, as we emerge from the economic effects of the COVID crisis—and my colleague and I are going to work, for example, on unemployment insurance, where I hope, again, to bring flexibility to the States. For example, my colleague on the Finance Committee knows that we certainly had a lot of serious technology issues with respect to the unemployment insurance programs of the States. So one of the areas I will propose, as we continue our work this year, is that the 53 systems should have a uniform baseline. And I think we are going to have good support, Democrats and Republicans, on it. The key feature will be, of course, giving States the flexibility to innovate, consistent with having a uniform baseline.

So I want my colleagues, both of them, to understand—Senator BRAUN, who I have had some good conversations with, with respect to healthcare; and Senator YOUNG, who is on the Finance Committee—I very much look forward to working with both of them on these healthcare issues.

For the reasons that I am describing today, I am objecting at this time. But I think there are a lot of areas where both parties can come together with respect to healthcare. For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, my friend from Oregon, we have had a discussion not only on this particular issue. I respect his point of view. And I think we both agree, though, that when it comes to healthcare, it is something that is breaking the bank in this country.

When it is 20 percent of our GDP, and it is 10 to 12 percent in most other developed countries, it has got to be a problem with the underlying industry and the way government has gone about trying to address it.

I am one in my own business, 13 years ago, who declared that no one should go broke because they get sick or have a bad accident, and then took the tools that were out there with a system that didn't give you many to work with, have found a way to make it sustainable, to put skin in the game for my own employees, to get them to get better care for themselves, and to do things that weren't the same things we have been doing, which have not improved the situation.

Medicaid is paid for half by States, half by the Federal Government. I think it does entitle States to have more flexibility on account of it. But what I would ask my colleagues on my side of the aisle is to look at holding the industry more accountable by being competitive, transparent, engaging the healthcare consumer, and that the other side of the aisle doesn't just push through for spending more Federal dollars, where the proof is in the pudding. Neither approach has been working.

It is a tapeworm on the economy. Warren Buffett has got it correct. We need to put our heads together.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

H.R. 1652

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, just about a month ago, I was on the floor. Senator DURBIN from Illinois was here. We were on the floor at that time to ask for unanimous consent to pass legislation to fix a technical issue with the VOCA deposit.

As my colleagues will remember, VOCA is designed to help sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act, or that is the legislation that we had introduced at that time. Just to refresh memories, I would like to reiterate why this fix to the victims fund is so essential.

Effectively, what we are talking about here is stability; sustainability; and, really, certainty.

I had an opportunity in late June to host a roundtable with members from the victim services groups from around the State. We were focused on the impact of the VOCA deposit issue specific to Alaska and what it meant for those who provide the services for victims, whether these are the child advocacy centers, whether these are the domestic violence shelters and the centers, abused women networks. But I was really blown away by the testimony from so many in these organizations. They were facing a 36-percent cut to the VOCA funds in just this past fiscal year.

When you think about what the impact of cuts at 36 percent means to any organization, it is, obviously, very, very limiting. But for some of these organizations, we are talking about a quarter of their budget. A quarter of their annual budget could be lost just like that.

What they shared with me was that this was everything for them. This was the difference of being able to answer the phone from somebody who has been abused; is in an awful, tragic situation; doesn't know where to go, and they phone that number and there is nobody to take that call, nobody to respond, nobody to save those lives.

It is a matter of not just having the individual there to answer the phone, but, again, when we think about the types of services that are provided by these victim services organizations, they are there for, truly, the most vulnerable at an exceptionally vulnerable moment in their lives.

I was able to hear from those who were gathered at this roundtable, to hear firsthand on the increases in victimization that we have seen in my home State of Alaska during this past year, as we have seen this impact from COVID. But the impacts of this increase on our providers have really been astounding.

Alaska CARES, for example, saw a 173-percent increase in children hospitalized in the pediatric ICU for serious physical abuse and fatal neglect.

Think about that. They had a 173-percent increase in these kids who are being hospitalized, and they have said they were seeing significant brain trauma, significant brain injury. I heard about unprecedented increases that we are seeing in child torture, which our child advocacy centers are witnessing firsthand. Really, when you think about that, it has to just haunt you to the core.

The Alaska chapter of Volunteers of America, which receives VOCA funds to provide at-risk youth and children with vital mental health services, shared a story. They introduced me to Alice.

Alice is a teen who experienced numerous traumatic events in her young life, including child sexual assault and neglect. By receiving services through VOCA, she is pulling her life together. She is learning coping skills, learning to make those positive choices.

So when we think about the role that these victim services play, these providers who, again, are there for truly the most vulnerable at the most vulnerable times that they may face, it should make us want to do everything we can to ensure that they have the resources available for them.

The longer Congress delays this inevitable fix, the larger cuts victim services in Alaska and in every State in our Nation are going to face. I think

we all recognize this has been a difficult time, but for those who are trying to serve victims through a global pandemic, it has really been so much harder. It has been 10 times harder. Our providers are exhausted. They are burned out. And now they are faced with massive cuts.

Now, my colleague from Pennsylvania has some legitimate budget concerns that he hopes to address through an amendment we will take up later today. His concerns with changes in mandatory spending are valid, and I respect that, but this VOCA fix legislation is not the mechanism to address these concerns. I fear that if his amendment should pass, it will delay and perhaps derail this much needed fix.

Again, we are hearing from victims. We are hearing from survivors. We are hearing from victim service organizations. They are asking us—they are asking us—they are begging us for a fix now to the VOCA deposit. I am not hearing too many of them ask for CHIMP reform. The use of CHIMPs is controversial. Our legislation, which would fix the VOCA deposit, is not.

We cannot fail the many who dedicate their lives to serving victims and survivors. There was an Alaska organization at the VOCA roundtable who said it very neatly. She said: It is a representation of our values as a society how we help those who are most vulnerable.

We have the ability today to do what is right, so I would urge my colleagues to vote aye on the VOCA Fix Act.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator HYDE-SMITH and I be allowed to use a prop or two during our next presentation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, thank you very much.

My first prop is a front-page story from the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal on Thursday, July 1, 2021. It says:

> Hail State! Bulldogs are national champions. Mississippi State celebrates after winning the College World Series 9–0 against Vanderbilt after the deciding Game 3 on Wednesday in Omaha. See full coverage: Sports, 1B.

That is my other prop, and that headline says:

> Best in Show. Decisive win delivers first national title for the Mississippi State Bulldogs.

Senator HYDE-SMITH and I could not be more delighted to rise this afternoon and recognize Mississippi State University and their baseball team on their first national championship in school history in any sport.

The Bulldogs had been to the College World Series 11 times in the past, and that in itself is a remarkable achievement. They even got to the championship series once in 2013. But this year was the year it all finally came together under Head Coach Chris Lemonis.

They say good pitching wins baseball games, and in this case, it certainly helped Mississippi State win the College World Series.

The hype had been building around MSU by the time they arrived in Omaha in mid-June. After beating Texas and then Virginia and then again beating Texas on a walk-off hit in the bottom of the ninth, the Dawgs advanced to the championship round to face Vanderbilt.

The Bulldogs dropped the season opener, but the next day, on the strength of pitching from Houston Harding and Preston Johnson, who combined to throw a four-hitter, State bounced back with a 13-to-2 victory. They carried that momentum into game 3, where Will Bednar and Landon Sims took the mound and held Vandy to one single hit. The Bulldogs won in a 9-to-0 shutout to bring the national title home for the first time ever to Starkville, MS.

I want to offer my congratulations to Mississippi State Head Coach Chris Lemonis, who was named Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper.

Congratulations are also in order for Will Bednar, who won Most Outstanding Player at the College World Series and outfielder Tanner Allen, the SEC Player of the Year. He was also named the American Baseball Coaches Association National Player of the Year.

In addition, six Bulldogs were named to this year's College World Series All-Tournament Team: Logan Tanner, Luke Hancock, Lane Forsythe, Tanner Allen, Rowdey Jordan, and Will Bednar.

I want to commend the Mississippi State Bulldogs team for their tireless work throughout this season and for their outstanding achievement. They have made Mississippi State and the entire Magnolia State of Mississippi proud.

In the words of the late Jack Cristil, the voice of the Bulldogs for many, many years, you can wrap this one up in the maroon and white.

I yield to my colleague from Mississippi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am so pleased to join my colleague in congratulating Mississippi State University's baseball team on its recent 2021 NCAA College World Series championship, the first NCAA championship in school history.

Mississippi State capped off its extraordinary season by defeating an incredibly talented Vanderbilt University team 9 to 0 in game 3. My house was full. We were all cheering. Their impressive and remarkable run through this year's College World Series is a testament to the rich tradition of the MSU baseball program, which has now appeared in 12 NCAA College World Series in its history, including most recently 3 consecutive series. The inspiring performance of this baseball team continues to be celebrated all over our State. Maroon is everywhere.

I truly appreciate the hard work, skill, and dedication that earned these athletes the first NCAA Division I baseball championship for Mississippi State, which are aptly described in the accompanying resolution.

We take pride in the legacy and inspiring example of these young men and their coaches. Thank you for such a wonderful and historic season. Hail State.

(Rings cowbell.)

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose Democrats' latest multitrillion-dollar spending spree.

It has only been 4 months since the Democrats passed a $1.9 trillion spending bill, and it was done through Congress on a party-line vote. Not a single Republican voted for the bill. The Democrats put the whole thing on a credit card. The bill is going to be paid for by our kids and our grandkids, and they are going to have to pay for it with interest.

To me, that bill was completely unnecessary. It was a big payoff to the people who run the Democratic Party—$86 billion for union bosses, hundreds of billions for bankrupt blue States, and free vacation time for DC bureaucrats. There was a big expansion of Medicaid. There was an even bigger expansion of ObamaCare. Millions of dollars went for so-called climate justice.

The bill flooded the country with cash, and it did so without adding goods or services to the country. So what happens? Well, prices go up. It is no wonder that prices have gone up since Joe Biden took office.

Experts from both parties warned that the so-called stimulus bill would actually cause inflation, and that includes President Obama's economic adviser Larry Summers. Critics also included former Obama economic adviser Jason Furman. I want to make sure I get the quote right. He said: ''I don't know any economist that was recommending something the size of what [we passed].'' Didn't know a single economist who recommended it.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said we don't need any stimulus funding. Well, that didn't stop the Democrats. The Congressional Budget Office said our economy would be back to normal, they said, this summer without a dime of additional spending.

Democrats, of course, ignored the experts. They got their hands on America's credit card, and they just couldn't resist using it.

One measure of inflation is now the highest it has been in nearly 30 years.

Filling up a pickup truck in my home State of Wyoming—and I was there again this past weekend—is now about $25 more expensive than it was the day Joe Biden was inaugurated. For 3 months in a row, prices have gone up faster than wages. In effect, the American people, because of the inflation exceeding wages and growth, have taken a pay cut.

Two things I hear about every weekend in Wyoming: one, the cost of things, and then I hear from small businesses trying to hire people, trying to get people back to work.

We know, nationally, nearly half of all the unemployed people have been making more money by staying at home than they would have by going to work. That is because Washington Democrats continue to pay them unemployment bonuses on top of the unemployment earnings that they make in their own State. States have unemployment programs to compensate people who are out of work, but Washington Democrats said: Not enough. We are going to pay everybody a big bonus on top of that.

At the end of June, a poll estimated that 1.8 million people were staying home from work because they were making more money not working than they would make by working. These people aren't lazy. They are logical. They see what the incentives are. Democrats are printing money, and people are not going to work because they are getting paid to stay home. No wonder that we have inflation combined with a record number in this country of unfilled jobs.

Both inflation and worker shortages were created by this Democratic spending bill. It seems the Democrats still haven't learned basic economics, and now the Democrats are getting ready to make the same mistake all over again. This time, it is even on a bigger scale. The Democrats are spending taxpayer dollars like it is Monopoly money.

Democrats are getting ready to cram another bill through Congress on another party-line vote, ignoring all the warning signs. Even the Treasury Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, Janet Yellen, admitted last week—she said ''several more months of rapid inflation''; ''several more months of rapid inflation.''

Democrats see the inflation and say: Don't worry about it. We will just send you another government check. Democrats seem to want the entire country getting a government check.

The latest spending spree massively expands ObamaCare, just like the last one. This new spending spree would lower the age of Medicare even though life expectancy has gone up since Medicare was created.

This reckless spending spree would also give amnesty to millions and millions of illegal immigrants. The amnesty includes nothing to strengthen our borders. That is where the work needs to be done. It just creates more incentives to come here illegally. No wonder we are seeing the highest numbers of illegal aliens in 20 years, right now. Many illegal immigrants have admitted they came here because Democrats promised to give them government benefits: free healthcare, plus the assurance that they could stay in this country.

The spending spree is larded up with giveaways to the Democrats' favorite groups: union bosses, trial lawyers, leftwing professors. It includes taxpayer funding for full-time professional climate activists.

So this morning, this very morning, Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ of New York and 80 other Members and Democrats sent a letter to Senator SCHUMER demanding funding of these activists. Senator SCHUMER went straight to the floor, and he said he would include it.

Now, these full-time climate activists would get a government paycheck, free healthcare, free childcare, free college tuition, free housing—part of the Democrats' goal of replacing middle-class jobs with government checks.

The majority leader came to the floor and talked about hiring hundreds of thousands of climate activists—a climate corps. Think about all the activists against the Keystone Pipeline, against drilling in the Arctic. They would now be paid by the Federal Government.

This bill that we are going to be considering, the budget that the Democratic Party is bringing forth, also includes supersizing the Internal Revenue Service. In total, the bill is the single most expensive spending bill in the history of this Nation. It costs almost as much as America's entire role in World War II. It might not be infrastructure, but it is a bullet train to socialism.

This new spending bill raises taxes. Yet it gives carve-outs to rich people in blue States and owners of electric vehicles.

Let me be very clear. Not one Republican is going to vote for this budget bill—not one in the House, not one in the Senate—not for this loaded, reckless spending spree with all the taxes included. That is why all it takes is one Democrat in the Senate or a handful in the House to stop this freight train to socialism.

This means all eyes will now be on the Democratic caucus. CHUCK SCHUMER and NANCY PELOSI want absolutely every one of them to walk the plank. One Democrat could stop this sprint to socialism, stop this massive amnesty, stop these crippling tax increases. If none do, every single Democrat will be held responsible for the consequences of their actions.

The consequences mean more inflation, with higher costs of gas, goods, groceries, more worker shortages, and more debt for our Nation. Democrats did enough damage with their last spending blowout. The new spending spree is twice as big, and the timing is even worse.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1652

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to speak about the legislation we are going to be voting on later today, including an amendment that I have, and it has to do with the Crime Victims Fund. And I just want to explain and remind my colleagues just how important the Crime Victims Fund is.

This is a very, very major funding source for people who do some of the most important work in America. I know. I have met these folks. I have toured their facilities all across Pennsylvania. I am referring to the advocates for victims of crimes. And these advocates, my goodness, the heinous and horrendous crimes that they guide people's recovery from—I am at a loss for words to describe what these folks do often for children, often for very vulnerable people who are victims of these heinous crimes.

Well, thank God there are people who dedicate their lives, professionals who dedicate their lives to helping people with their recovery, to helping people who are victims to cope with what can be horrific reliving of the experience when they have to recount it to law enforcement or go through physical exams and on and on. It is very, very difficult work, and it is very, very important to help completely innocent victims get through what is undoubtedly the worst experience in their lifetime.

So the Crime Victims Fund provides resources for the people who help the victims of crime and for victims themselves. It is important to point out that the fund is funded entirely by the proceeds from criminal penalties. There is no taxpayer money in this fund. There never has been. It is entirely from criminal penalties.

And there is a statute that created this account in the Federal Government that requires the money that goes into it, these criminal penalties, to go to the victims and their advocates. But it doesn't say when the money has to go, and so that gave rise to a serious problem that developed.

For years, it turns out that money that was put into this fund—money from criminal penalties that went into the fund—didn't go to victims, didn't go to the advocates for victims. It was intentionally withheld because we had these crazy budget rules that created an incentive to withhold it.

The way the budget rule worked is, if there was money in the fund that did not go to the victims of crime and their advocates, as it is supposed to, under the budget rules, you could pretend that that was a savings, and it would therefore allow you to spend more money in other areas. It was effectively a way to circumvent spending caps, and that is how it was used.

Year in and year out, money was systematically withheld from victims of

crime and their advocates, and it was a big problem. I will give you a sense of scale. In 2014, for instance, only $745 million was obligated, despite a balance of $9 billion. There was over $8 billion in funding that was supposed to go to crime victims and their advocates intentionally withheld. In 2013, only $730 million was obligated out of a little over an $8 billion balance. There was over $7 billion intentionally withheld.

From 2001 to 2014, the value of the funds—the money going in—increased by almost 600 percent. Funding for victims of crime and their advocates increased by 39 percent.

This was wrong. It was an abuse. It was based on an arcane and ridiculous budget rule, and it had a very, very deleterious effect. So when I discovered this, I began fighting this aggressively. It was brought to my attention by the people who serve victims of crime.

These groups came to me and asked me to help them in the struggle for them to get the resources they needed to meet the unmet needs of victims of crime all over my State and, I am sure, all over the country.

For instance, in 2015, the National Children's Alliance sent me a letter, and they said:

> The [Crime Victims Fund] caps have been set too low; deposits—

Meaning the criminal penalties going into the fund—

> have skyrocketed while disbursements have remained almost flat. . . . We look forward to further working with you to make all of the statutory changes needed to update the VOCA Crime Victims Fund and in turn better meet the needs of all victims and survivors of crime.

In 2016, the Court Appointed Special Advocates wrote:

> Since 2000, when Congress began capping disbursement from the Crime Victims Fund to prevent fluctuations in deposits, funding has not kept pace with the needs of victims, including the growing population of child victims in America.

In 2015, I got a letter from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and they said:

> The most frustrating thing for someone who has done policy work is that there is money available for these unmet needs.

That is all true. There was money available. It was because money was deposited into the fund. It was just being systematically withheld from the victims of crime and their advocates.

But I got the message, and I think these folks were exactly right. So in response to these groups, I began working closely with appropriators on both sides of the aisle to address this problem and worked extensively with Senator SHELBY and his staff. The fact is, since about 2015, appropriators, the folks who control the effective allocation of this, have voluntarily obligated appropriate levels of disbursements since 2015, and the chart illustrates this very clearly.

Everything to the left of the green line is prior to 2015. You can see these very, very low levels—less than $1 billion every year—despite huge amounts of money being poured in; and then afterwards, starting in 2015, large, large increases in disbursements from the fund. Very, very important.

This has changed the circumstances for advocates of crime. They have grown enormously. I know this. In Pennsylvania, they have been able to hire more counselors. They have been able to open more facilities to treat and to help these victims of crime.

This is tremendous progress, but there is no guarantee that it is going to continue. So I have sought to make this simple principle: The idea that the money flowing into the fund should also flow out of the fund to the victims. I have tried to make this a permanent arrangement.

Now, let me be very clear. I am not trying to change budget rules. I am not trying to reopen some general budget. This is one egregious example of a category of budget flaws, and I am not trying to change it. I would love to change that. I should qualify that. I am trying to change it in other venues, but not here, not today. Today, all I am trying to do is something very, very narrow and very specific, and that is to make sure that victims of crimes and their advocates get the money they are supposed to get. It is really and truly as simple as that.

I have introduced legislation to do just this, repeatedly—you know, legislation that would simply require that we appropriate the appropriate dollar amounts each year. It was reported favorably out of the Senate Budget Committee in 2015. It was unanimously adopted in the congressional Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.

So there is broad bipartisan support for this idea. But we have never been able to get it across the finish line. Again, I am not trying to change all the budget rules, just this one fund. I just want to make sure that crime victims get the money that the statute says they are supposed to get.

The Senator from Illinois, I believe, is the Senator who has introduced legislation that would create a new category of resources for the Crime Victims Fund, and that is specifically to add deferred and nondeferred prosecution agreement payments to the Crime Victims Fund. So it wouldn't be just criminal judgments. It would also be these prosecution agreements.

I fully support that money going into the Crime Victims Fund. It is a new, important source of revenue that can help to serve these victims of crime. There are no tax dollars involved. I support this goal. I support this legislation. I just want to make sure that we don't go back to these days, that weren't so terribly long ago, when money going into the fund stayed in the fund because it served people's purposes.

And that is a problem I have with the underlying legislation in its current form. That legislation has no requirement whatsoever that any increase in funding will actually be matched by an increase in outflows for victims and their advocates.

You see, making the fund bigger doesn't by itself guarantee that there will be any more money for victims of crime or their advocates. Ensuring that money goes into the fund is just not enough. We saw this. We need to ensure that more money is actually leaving the fund and going to victims, not remaining unspent so as to offset some other category of spending, who knows what.

I was appreciative back in 2018 for the endorsement from the National Organization for Victim Assistance, who wrote:

> A permanent solution is needed. . . . There is no mechanism to stop Congress from diverting money from victims in the future, should it choose to do so.

Well, my amendment solves this problem. It is very simple. It would just require a reasonable minimum level for victims and advocates based on the amounts that have been deposited into the Crime Victims Fund from both of the sources.

As I say, Congress has been adhering to this voluntarily since 2016. What my amendment would do is it would simply create a point of order. If legislation came to the floor that violated this principle and that went back to these days of withholding—intentionally withholding—money that should be going to victims of crime, then that legislation would be subject to a point of order. Now, 60 Senators could override that point of order, but at least it would create the presumption and an incentive for appropriation legislation to actually provide the funding to victims and their advocates that it is supposed to.

I should also be clear. The policy only creates a spending floor. It would be at the discretion of the appropriators first and Congress as a whole later to decide if they wanted to disburse more money than what the floor contemplates, but the floor would at least prevent the worst of these abuses.

So you can imagine my surprise when some of the folks who are big advocates for putting more money into the fund are adamantly opposed to my language that would actually require that money to also come out of the fund and go to the intended beneficiaries.

You have to ask yourself, Why would someone oppose such a requirement? It is hard not to think that maybe one of the reasons that some people are adamant that they not be required to actually disburse this money is maybe they are thinking about going back to what used to happen routinely around here.

Remember, if the money is withheld from victims, if we go back to when the money didn't make it out the door to victims, why, that amount that is withheld can be spent on other things, and that is a powerful incentive for a

lot of folks around here. You can see how it was done.

Now, I have heard people say, some of my opponents say: Don't worry. We have no intention of diverting any of this money. Just trust us, they say.

If they have no intention of diverting the money, then why are they so adamant that they not be required to disburse it to its intended beneficiaries?

Well, we don't really have to speculate anymore because the President of the United States, President Biden, has been very clear about his intentions. In his budget, he has explicitly called for withholding this money from victims. It is right here in black and white. You don't have to be creative here. You don't have to be conspiratorial. The President has declared to the world in a published budget that he wants to withhold the money from crime victims. In fact, he laid it out there. It is in table S–8 of his budget.

I think this is a well-founded concern that we might go back to that practice. And in any case, if nobody wants to go back to that practice, then why wouldn't they agree to a requirement that this money actually be disbursed?

Now, over the course of debating this, much has been made of a letter that has been signed by some victims' organizations. Let's look at this for what it is. Organizations that depend overwhelmingly on congressional appropriations are asked to sign a letter by the very people who control whether or not they get funding, and the letter is advocating against codifying the stable increased funding that would benefit those folks.

I think we know what is going on there. I want to thank the many groups that are supporting this amendment: the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, Heritage Action, FreedomWorks, the R Street Institute, Taxpayer Protection Alliance, Americans for Prosperity, and others.

But, folks, this isn't complicated and it isn't about overhauling budget rules and it isn't about anything that is terribly complicated or arcane. It is about ensuring that crime victims and their advocates get the money they are supposed to get.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support this amendment and make sure that the neediest and some of the most vulnerable among us—victims of crime—receive the increased funding they deserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will oppose this amendment today. I base it on my experience as an advocate for victims of crime that began when I was a prosecutor, certainly during the time when I was the Vice President of the National District Attorneys Association and on their executive board.

If you look at the Victims of Crime Act Fix bill, it has passed the House. It would deposit the proceeds in deferred prosecution agreements and nonprosecution agreements into the Crime Victims Fund. And I mention this because in recent years, deposits into the fund have shrunk significantly. They actually threatened the ability to sustain payments to crime victims.

Senator TOOMEY's amendment would create a point of order if expenditures from the Crime Victims Fund fall below the 3-year average. The current 3-year average is $583 million, assuming the CBO estimate of collections in fiscal year 2021 is $750 million.

The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agency Subcommittee, Appropriations, has worked to ensure the release of the fund is more than the 3-year average. For example, in fiscal year 2021, the CJS bill allows spending of $2 billion—$2.015 billion out of the fund. Now, that is $1.5 billion more than the 3-year average of fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020.

I mention all of this because I support the crime victims. I spent a career supporting and advocating for them. I did that, as I said, before I was in the Senate, when I was a prosecutor.

But this amendment offered by Senator TOOMEY impinges on the ability of the Appropriations Committee to do its job. If it were adopted, here is what would happen. It would create a point of order. It would delay the movement of any appropriations bill that the Crime Victims Fund is part of.

I just put over on the—talking about the average—we have been releasing more than the 3-year average of the fund over the last several fiscal years, but then there could be a time when there is not enough funds to keep it sustainable.

And that is why we are here to vote on the underlying bill, the VOCA Fix Act. That would direct deposits from nonprosecution agreements and deferred prosecution agreements to go into the Crime Victims Fund so we can continue to spend out of the fund at or above current levels. And without it, the spending would continue to fall.

Victims groups like the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence are asking for clean passage of this act.

I went down through it and looked at the various States. I mention a couple: the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Children's Advocacy Centers of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape authored an opinion piece on July 5. They ask for clean passage of the VOCA Fix Act.

By the way, this bill also has nearly 60 cosponsors, including a number of my Republican colleagues like Senators MURKOWSKI, GRAHAM, CORNYN, and GRASSLEY. And the Senate bill is identical to the one before us, H.R. 1652.

Now, if we don't include amendments, if we pass this bill, we can get it to the President for signature immediately. We can help to ensure deposits into the Crime Victims Fund. That means all crime victims are going to be helped. I want that passage without an amendment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families, Council of State Governments, Futures Without Violence, and numerous others be placed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 13, 2021.

Hon. MEMBER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: The organizations below, comprising the national VOCA stakeholder workgroup, are writing today to urge you to support a floor vote on the House-passed H.R. 1652, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 (''VOCA Fix Act'') by allowing a vote on the bill. We further urge you to vote in favor of the VOCA Fix Act and to oppose controversial amendments.

The bipartisan and bicameral VOCA Fix Act, introduced in the Senate as S. 611 by Senators Durbin, Graham, Baldwin, Grassley, Feinstein, Cornyn, Klobuchar, and Murkowski, is a narrowly-focused, carefully negotiated technical fix to address an immediate crises—massive cuts to Victim of Crime Act (''VOCA'') victim service grants and insufficient funding for victim compensation.

VOCA grants are funded by monetary penalties associated with Federal criminal convictions—they are not funded with taxpayer money. In recent years, deposits into the VOCA's Crime Victims Fund (''CVF'' or ''the Fund'') have dropped dramatically, due to the Department of Justice's increasing reliance on deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements (DPAs/NPAs). Unlike criminal convictions, monetary penalties associated with DPAs/NPAs are deposited into the General Fund of the Treasury—they do not go into the Crime Victims Fund, despite being outcomes based on the same crimes.

The VOCA Fix Act fixes this discrepancy by making a technical fix to deposit monetary penalties associated with DPAs/NPAs into the CVF instead of the General Fund, in alignment with the original intent of the statute. It also increases funding for state victim compensation programs and includes other provisions outlined in this letter of support, signed by more than 1,710 national, regional, state, Tribal, and local organizations and government agencies.

The VOCA Fix Act passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, but it has stalled in the Senate due to attempts to use the non-controversial VOCA Fix Act to force a vote on the controversial use of Changes in Mandatory Programs (''CHIMPs'') in the Appropriations process. Recognizing the critical need to pass the VOCA Fix Act without further delay, Senators are pursuing a consent agreement to vote on both the VOCA Fix Act and an amendment by Senator Toomey relating to the use of the VOCA CHIMP. We urge you to support a floor vote on the VOCA Fix Act by letting the unanimous consent agreement to go through. Upon the acceptance of the consent agreement, we urge you to vote in favor of the VOCA Fix Act.

We also urge you to vote against Senator Toomey's amendment to limit the use of the VOCA offset by requiring Appropriators to release the average of the past three years' deposits from the CVF annually. We recognize Senator Toomey's desire to help survivors, but his amendment is not the best

way to do so. While on the surface, this proposal may seem reasonable, it actually has the potential to be harmful. The average of the past three years' deposits was less than $500 million. If there was no balance in the Fund to offset the low deposits, victim service grants would have been $200 million—a cut of 95% compared to four years ago. The cuts to grants over the last few years have been catastrophic, but a cut of 95% would completely decimate the entire victim service infrastructure. The $2 billion balance allowed by Senator Toomey's amendment is less than yearly disbursement over the past five years and is insufficient to meet the needs of survivors.

It is also important to note that funding is not being diverted from victims to pay for other programs, as stated by those seeking to amend the VOCA Fix Act. When the CVF is used as a paper offset, funds are not transferred to pay for other programs—they remain in the Fund. Moreover, despite claims to the contrary, Appropriators are not hoarding money in the Fund to use as an offset. Over the past several years, they have reduced the balance in the Fund from $13 billion in Fiscal Year 2017 to an anticipated $2.5 billion at the end of this fiscal year by increasing grants to victim service providers. While $2.5 billion may seem like a large balance, in actuality, it would only cover one year's VOCA grants at Fiscal Year 2020 levels, which were already at a five-year low. The amendment has the potential to bring down future funding bills and cause a government shutdown, and a bill with this language would not pass the House of Representatives. We ask that you join us in opposing this amendment.

Victims, survivors, and victim service organizations are telling us that they are cutting services, laying off staff, and even closing. They are asking for the VOCA Fix Act—they are not asking for CHIMP reform. While we wait for passage, survivors and advocates have watched criminal settlements totaling more than $545 million directed towards the General Fund rather than into the Crime Victims Fund this calendar year, because this technical fix has not passed. Ultimately, there may be merit in holding a conversation about the structure of Congressional spending bills, but the VOCA Fix Act is not the appropriate forum. The use of CHIMPs is controversial; the VOCA Fix Act is not.

The VOCA Fix Act is a narrowly tailored, carefully negotiated technical fix bill to address the immediate needs of survivors, and the Senate must act now to pass this critical legislation without any amendments. On behalf of a broad and committed group of national, regional, state, Tribal, and local stakeholders, we urge you to support a vote on the VOCA Fix Act, to vote in favor of the VOCA Fix Act, and to vote against the Toomey amendment. Every delay allows potential funds that should be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund to serve victims to instead be deposited into the General Treasury. The House passed the VOCA Fix Act more than four months ago with overwhelming bipartisan support; we urge the Senate to similarly pass the House-passed VOCA Fix Act, as is, immediately.

For more information, contact Denise Edwards, Rachel Graber, Terri Poore, Monica McLaughlin, Daisy Pagan, and Dan Eddy.

Respectfully,

Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities, Council of State Governments Justice Center, Futures Without Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, National Children's Alliance, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Criminal Justice Association, National District Attorneys Association, National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Organization for Victim Assistance, National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault, Ujima, Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community.

Mr. LEAHY. I urge a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I join Senator LEAHY and others who have come to the floor this afternoon to urge clean passage of the VOCA Fix Act so that we can secure greater deposits into the Crime Victims Fund and ensure continued support for crime victims.

I am currently the chair of the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee. Senator MORAN from Kansas is my ranking member. Before that, Senator MORAN was chair of the committee, and I was the ranking member. Together, we have committed to a target of spending from the fund at a minimum of the 3-year average of collections. That is a practice that was started by former Appropriations Committee and CJS Chair Senator Mikulski, along with Senator SHELBY, back in 2015.

All deposits made into the Crime Victims Fund should stay in the fund. Our subcommittee directs the amount that is released by the Justice Department from the fund for victim services. But every dollar stays in the fund and is available in future years if it is not used for victim services.

If Senator TOOMEY's amendment passes, if appropriations bills contain less than the 3-year average, either the entire cap falls, depleting the fund in one fiscal year or, more likely, the appropriations bill would be stopped from moving forward on the floor.

Now, I appreciate what Senator TOOMEY is trying to do. He wants to address budget reform and the impact of mandatory spending, but this is not the way to do that. That needs a thoughtful process that goes through the committee that there is debate on. This should not be done as an amendment to a bill that is at a process that is critical to help the victims of crime.

Victims groups and direct service providers are asking for the clean passage of this act, the VOCA Fix Act. They are urging us to vote no on Senator TOOMEY's amendment.

We have all heard from victims groups requesting clean passage of this bill. I have heard from individuals and organizations from across New Hampshire, as Senator LEAHY said, organizations like the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Granite State Children's Alliance which both benefit from the Crime Victims Fund because they get funding for those people who are injured.

This bill has already passed the House. If we pass this legislation today without amendment, it can be quickly signed into law, and we can get these much needed changes to shore up collections into the fund so that the victims of crime can get the help that they need. It will make a meaningful impact to ensure there is adequate funding for survivors now and in years to come.

I would urge a ''no'' vote on the Toomey amendment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, before we proceed to a vote on final passage of the VOCA Fix Act, on which I teamed up with Senators DURBIN, GRAHAM, and other members of the Judiciary Committee, we first will turn to the Toomey amendment.

This amendment is loosely based on a bill introduced by Senator TOOMEY in 2015. That 2015 measure, entitled the ''Fairness for Victims of Crime Act,'' would have created a budgetary point of order against legislation that required the Crime Victims Fund to disburse less than the average amount collected by the Fund over the previous 3 fiscal years.

The Senate held a field hearing on this legislation, which was introduced by Senator Toomey, the same year. The Budget Committee, of which I am a member, then approved the legislation by unanimous voice vote. I still support the premise behind this bill, which is to promote fairness for crime victims and restore the original intent of the Victims of Crime Act.

Some years ago, appropriators placed an arbitrary cap on the amount of money that could flow out of the Crime Victims Fund each year. The imposition of this cap meant not only that billions of dollars accumulated, unspent, in the fund in later years, but also that this sum could be used as an offset to support other projects backed by congressional appropriators. Meanwhile, the availability of so much unspent money in the Crime Victims Fund made it an extremely tempting target for budget dealmakers. On one occasion in 2015, during the Obama administration, budget negotiators simply rescinded at least a billion dollars of the fund for a budget deal.

As noted by Senator TOOMEY today, the President's budget proposal for the coming fiscal year indicates that he proposes to rely on $26 billion in the Crime Victims Fund and cancellations in the Children's Health Program to offset an equivalent amount in new discretionary spending. Table S–8 to the President's budget shows that this is the intention.

Every last penny brought into the Victims of Crime Act Fund is supposed to help victims rather than serve as a funding gimmick for other projects supported by appropriators and the White House. It is for this reason that I support the Toomey amendment.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is there a scheduled vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. To the Senator from Illinois, it is scheduled for 5:15.

Mr. DURBIN. The first vote is on the Toomey amendment followed by a vote on passage of the bill, amended or unamended?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. DURBIN. I would just say in conclusion—and I thank the Senator from New Hampshire and the Senator from Vermont for their comments on this measure.

If you listen carefully to the Senator from Pennsylvania, there is one thing he did not say. He did not say that any surplus in this fund was spent for another purpose.

He seems to worry about the allocation of the balance each year of the fund. I would think a fiscal conservative would want to make certain that the money spent is spent properly, not overspending in some years and underspending in others.

That is exactly what the appropriators are asking for here, the ability to moderate and to regulate the amount of money as it is spent, as it is needed. That seems like a pretty fiscally conservative point of view and a responsible one.

I urge my colleagues to follow the advice of the Senators from Vermont and New Hampshire and to oppose the Toomey amendment and support the passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, my understanding is that I would have 1 minute to close out debate on this; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute, and the Senator is recognized.

Mr. TOOMEY. Could I claim that minute now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. TOOMEY. Thank you very much.

Listen, it is very clear that we have very broad agreements on a provision in this legislation that will dramatically increase the money that goes into the fund. What my colleagues on the other side of the aisle object to is a requirement that the money actually go out of the fund to the victims and their advocates.

And we know that, systemically, money was withheld from this fund for years, and we know that President Biden has stipulated in his current budget that it must happen again.

I am simply saying, if we all agree that this nontaxpayer money coming from criminal penalties and nondeferred agreements, if it is supposed to go into this account, the Crime Victims Fund, which I support, it should actually have to go to the victims of crime and their advocates.

If my amendment passes, this bill could be passed by the House later that same day or the next day. It could be on the President's desk before the end of the week, easily. If it were to pass and be signed into law, then we would be assured that appropriation bills would be brought to the floor with the proper allocation done. So I urge the support of my amendment, and then the adoption of the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am not going to read the lengthy statement from the coalition of victims' rights advocates and law enforcement organizations opposing the Toomey amendment and the many organizations that have asked us to vote no on the amendment and yes on the Victims of Crime Act.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the entire statement.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 13, 2021.

Hon. MEMBER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: The organizations below, comprising the national VOCA stakeholder workgroup, are writing today to urge you to support a floor vote on the House-passed H.R. 1652, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 (''VOCA Fix Act'') by allowing a vote on the bill. We further urge you to vote in favor of the VOCA Fix Act and to oppose controversial amendments.

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VOCA grants are funded by monetary penalties associated with Federal criminal convictions—they are not funded with taxpayer money. In recent years, deposits into the VOCA's Crime Victims Fund (''CVF'' or ''the Fund'') have dropped dramatically, due to the Department of Justice's increasing reliance on deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements (DPAs/NPAs). Unlike criminal convictions, monetary penalties associated with DPAs/NPAs are deposited into the General Fund of the Treasury—they do not go into the Crime Victims Fund, despite being outcomes based on the same crimes.

The VOCA Fix Act fixes this discrepancy by making a technical fix to deposit monetary penalties associated with DPAs/NPAs into the CVF instead of the General Fund, in alignment with the original intent of the statute. It also increases funding for state victim compensation programs and includes other provisions outlined in this letter of support, signed by more than 1,710 national, regional, state, Tribal, and local organizations and government agencies.

The VOCA Fix Act passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, but it has stalled in the Senate due to attempts to use the non-controversial VOCA Fix Act to force a vote on the controversial use of Changes in Mandatory Programs (''CHIMPs'') in the Appropriations process. Recognizing the critical need to pass the VOCA Fix Act without further delay, Senators are pursuing a consent agreement to vote on both the VOCA Fix Act and an amendment by Senator Toomey relating to the use of the VOCA CHIMP. We urge you to support a floor vote on the VOCA Fix Act by letting the unanimous consent agreement to go through. Upon the acceptance of the consent agreement, we urge you to vote in favor of the VOCA Fix Act.

We also urge you to vote against Senator Toomey's amendment to limit the use of the VOCA offset by requiring Appropriators to release the average of the past three years' deposits from the CVF annually. We recognize Senator Toomey's desire to help survivors, but his amendment is not the best way to do so. While on the surface, this proposal may seem reasonable, it actually has the potential to be harmful. The average of the past three years' deposits was less than $500 million. If there was no balance in the Fund to offset the low deposits, victim service grants would have been $200 million—a cut of 95% compared to four years ago. The cuts to grants over the last few years have been catastrophic, but a cut of 95% would completely decimate the entire victim service infrastructure. The $2 billion balance allowed by Senator Toomey's amendment is less than yearly disbursement over the past five years and is insufficient to meet the needs of survivors.

It is also important to note that funding is not being diverted from victims to pay for other programs, as stated by those seeking to amend the VOCA Fix Act. When the CVF is used as a paper offset, funds are not transferred to pay for other programs—they remain in the Fund. Moreover, despite claims to the contrary, Appropriators are not hoarding money in the Fund to use as an offset. Over the past several years, they have reduced the balance in the Fund from $13 billion in Fiscal Year 2017 to an anticipated $2.5 billion at the end of this fiscal year by increasing grants to victim service providers. While $2.5 billion may seem like a large balance, in actuality, it would only cover one year's VOCA grants at Fiscal Year 2020 levels, which were already at a five-year low. The amendment has the potential to bring down future funding bills and cause a government shutdown, and a bill with this language would not pass the House of Representatives. We ask that you join us in opposing this amendment.

Victims, survivors, and victim service organizations are telling us that they are cutting services, laying off staff, and even closing. They are asking for the VOCA Fix Act—they are not asking for CHIMP reform. While we wait for passage, survivors and advocates have watched criminal settlements totaling more than $545 million directed towards the General Fund rather than into the Crime Victims Fund this calendar year, because this technical fix has not passed. Ultimately, there may be merit in holding a conversation about the structure of Congressional spending bills, but the VOCA Fix Act is not the appropriate forum. The use of CHIMPs is controversial; the VOCA Fix Act is not.

The VOCA Fix Act is a narrowly tailored, carefully negotiated technical fix bill to address the immediate needs of survivors, and the Senate must act now to pass this critical legislation without any amendments. On behalf of a broad and committed group of national, regional, state, Tribal, and local stakeholders, we urge you to support a vote on the VOCA Fix Act, to vote in favor of the VOCA Fix Act, and to vote against the Toomey amendment. Every delay allows potential funds that should be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund to serve victims to instead be deposited into the General Treasury. The House passed the VOCA Fix Act more than four months ago with overwhelming bipartisan support; we urge the Senate to similarly pass the House-passed VOCA Fix Act, as is, immediately.

For more information, contact Denise Edwards, Rachel Graber, Terri Poore,

Monica McLaughlin, Daisy Pagan, and Dan Eddy.

Respectfully,

Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities, Council of State Governments Justice Center, Futures Without Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, National Children's Alliance, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Criminal Justice Association, National District Attorneys Association, National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Organization for Victim Assistance, National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault, Ujima, Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2121

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2121, offered by the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. TOOMEY.

Mr. TOOMEY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 40, nays 60, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Barrasso	Hagerty	Rounds
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Burr	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Paul	Wicker
Daines	Portman	Young
Ernst	Risch	
Grassley	Romney	

NAYS—60

Baldwin	Hassan	Ossoff
Bennet	Heinrich	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Peters
Blunt	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Hoeven	Rosen
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Capito	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Collins	Luján	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Moran	Warnock
Fischer	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden

The amendment (No. 2121) was rejected.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. PADILLA. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Lankford	Sinema
Cassidy	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Peters	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 100, the nays are 0.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 1652) was passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN WAGNER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the U.S. Postal Service always provides outstanding service during every election, but 2020 was something unseen in more than a century. Last year, USPS had to manage processing nearly 66 million ballots, countless safety concerns, and a hostile administration. And as expected, it met these challenges with incredible efforts and determination. A big part of that strength came from the National Association of Postal Supervisors, or NAPS. What started as 50 postal supervisors dedicating themselves to helping their fellow supervisors more than a century ago has become a critical force during our election. They have kept our Nation connected through the mail, and in 2020, they helped keep us connected to our democracy.

With a membership of 27,000, NAPS local ballot ambassadors helped postal leadership process millions of ballots during this pivotal election. Leading the effort was NAPS national president Brian Wagner. I am grateful for his leadership and service. He has served in NAPS for more than 25 years, and in August, he will be retiring from his position. I would like to share his amazing story with you.

Brian was a paperboy while growing up in Peoria, IL. Right out of high school, he joined the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier. It was a perfect fit; Brian just enjoys people. He loves connecting with his neighbors and naturally made friends all along his route. A lifelong lover of ice cream, Brian was happy to have The Spotted Cow ice cream shop on his route as well. Brian even met his wife Carol when he was a letter carrier. Carol ran the mailroom of a business on Brian's route.

While working as a letter carrier, Brian worked hard on his formal education. He earned an associate's degree in business from Illinois Central Junior College, a bachelor's degree in finance from Illinois State University, and an MBA from Illinois State, all while still completing his route every day. Brian and Carol married after he graduated.

In 1990, Brian joined NAPS. He joined NAPS because be knew that being a postal worker was a wonderful job with benefits that were worth fighting to keep. Others deserved to have the same opportunities he had. He began representing NAPS members in 1994 when members elected him president of the Heart of IL Branch 255. Throughout the years, he has served as NAPS secretary/treasurer, central region vice president, and NAPS Illinois State area vice president.

In August 2016, Brian was elected NAPS national president and has been a consistent fighter for postal supervisors. His dedication to NAPS is incredible. Brian even celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary at a NAPS convention. He has been in their corner through these especially tough times in the last several years.

This summer, Brian will retire from his role. He will have more time to travel, practice for his marathons, and watch his beloved St. Louis Cardinals play baseball. In addition, he will be able to spend time with his sons Justin and Ryan and dote on his new grandchild. I have heard Idaho and Hawaii are on the docket for travel plans. I hope he will also find time to enjoy his favorite mint chocolate chip ice cream at The Spotted Cow.

Wishing our best to one of our best.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME ON JULY 19, 2021

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2382. A bill to authorize the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on nonreimbursable basis, and for other purposes.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following messages from the President of the United States were transmitted to the Senate by Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries:

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13441 OF AUGUST 1, 2007, WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—PM 11

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To The Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2021.

Certain ongoing activities, such as Iran's continuing arms transfers to Hizballah—which include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems—serve to undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 20, 2021*.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13882 OF JULY 26, 2019, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN MALI—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in Mali declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019, is to continue in effect beyond July 26, 2021.

The situation in Mali, including repeated violations of ceasefire arrangements made pursuant to the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali; the expansion of terrorist activities into southern and central Mali; the intensification of drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, human rights abuses, and hostage-taking; and the intensification of attacks against civilians, the Malian defense and security forces, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and international security presences, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13882 with respect to the situation in Mali.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 20, 2021*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 30, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolutions and bill:

S.J. Res. 13. Joint resolution 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''.

S.J. Res. 14. Joint resolution 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''.

S.J. Res. 15. Joint resolution 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''.

H.R. 2441. An act 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.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled joint resolutions and bill were signed on June 30, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Vice President.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 826. An act to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea.

H.R. 2931. An act to provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threats to, the electric grid, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3119. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY) announced that on today, July 20, 2021, he has signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 26. An act to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, to correct a provision on the prohibition on the use of a reverse auction, 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. 826. An act to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2931. An act to provide for certain programs and developments in the Department of Energy concerning the cybersecurity and vulnerabilities of, and physical threats to, the electric grid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3119. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2382. A bill to authorize the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on nonreimbursable basis, 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–1365. A communication from the Director of the Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Occupational Exposure to COVID–19; Emergency Temporary Standard'' (RIN1218–AD36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1366. A communication from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2021 Adjustment of the Penalty for Violation of Notice Posting Requirements'' (RIN3046–AB17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1367. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1368. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Financial Assistance by PBGC'' (RIN1212–AB53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1369. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report to Congress on the Use of Mandatory Recall Authority Submitted Pursuant to Section 206 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, Public Law 111–353''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1370. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1371. A communication from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Eightieth Financial Statement for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1372. A communication from the Special Counsel, Office of the Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2020''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1373. A communication from the General Counsel, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2020 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1374. A communication from the Officer, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2020 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1375. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–98, ''Coronavirus Business Assistance Income Tax Relief Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1376. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–99, ''Coronavirus Public Health Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1377. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–110, ''Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1378. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to fourteen (14) legislative recommendations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–1379. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 2020 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1380. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General Technical, Organizational, Conforming, and Correcting Amendments to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations'' (RIN2126–AC33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1381. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Compliance Date for Entry-Level Driver Training'' (RIN2126–AC25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1382. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2014 Quadrennial Regulatory Review—Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996'' (DA 21–656) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1383. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Schenectady, New York'' ((DA 21–700) (Docket No. 21–127)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1384. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Bristol, Virginia'' ((DA 21–695) (Docket No. 21–128)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1385. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Peoria and Oswego, Illinois'' ((DA 21–702) (Docket No. 21–54)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1386. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Freeport, Illinois'' ((DA 21–701) (Docket No. 21–152)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1387. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Compliance Dates for Medical Examiner's Certification Integration'' (RIN2126–AC18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1388. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments of Parts 73 and 74 to Improve the Low Power FM Radio Service Technical Rules'' (FCC 21–70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1389. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1390. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1391. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by

Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited) Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1392. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1393. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1394. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1395. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1396. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Support and Services (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics) Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1397. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1398. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1399. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1400. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1401. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1402. A communication from the Assistant Division Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementing Section 10(a) of the Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act (TRACED Act)'' (FCC 21–75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1403. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pilot Records Database'' (RIN2120–AK31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1404. A communication from the Senior Trial Attorney, Office of Aviation Consumer Protection, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Traveling by Air With Service Animals'' (RIN2105–AE63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1405. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1406. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Shafter, CA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1407. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Bakersfield, CA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1408. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1409. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1410. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1411. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1412. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1413. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1414. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1415. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. Turbofan Engines'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1416. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1417. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1418. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1419. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Engine Alliance Turbofan Engines'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1420. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1421. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1422. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited) Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1423. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1424. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1425. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1426. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Worcester, MA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1427. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Wareham, MA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1428. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Sioux City, IA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1429. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Newburyport, MA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1430. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Neosho, MO'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1431. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Michigan, MI'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1432. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Huron, SD'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1433. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Framingham, MA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1434. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Dubois, PA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1435. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Doylestown, PA'' (RIN2120–AA66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1436. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1437. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1438. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1439. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Mooney International Corporation Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1440. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1441. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1442. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1443. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1444. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1445. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1446. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1447. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1448. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a.'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1449. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1450. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. (Type Certificate Previously Held by WALTER Engines a.s., Walter a.s., and MOTORLET a.s.) Turboprop Engines'' (RIN2120–AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2383. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2384. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semiquincentennial anniversary of the establishment of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2385. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate for renewable fuel; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2386. A bill to amend the VA MISSION Act of 2018, to expand the peer specialist support program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to all medical centers of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2387. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the deduction for qualified business income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2388. A bill to require the designation of composting as a conservation practice and activity, to provide grants and loan guarantees for composting facilities and programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2389. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants to reduce the quantity of food waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2390. A bill to allow Americans to receive paid leave time to process and address their own health needs and the health needs of their partners during the period following a pregnancy loss, an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, a failed adoption arrangement, a failed surrogacy arrangement, or a diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility, to support related research and education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2391. A bill to provide for clarification and limitations with respect to the exercise of national security powers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2392. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow the Secretary of State to make available to the public certain records pertaining to the refusal of a visa or permit based on an alien's involvement in corruption, transnational repression, or human rights abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2393. A bill to clarify that a state has the sole authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing on Federal land within the boundaries of the State; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2394. A bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2395. A bill to require an annual feasibility report on cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 2396. A bill to promote ethics and prevent corruption in Department of Defense contracting and other activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2397. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to extend eligibility for child's benefits until age 26 for certain individuals who are at least half-time students

at a post-secondary school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 2398. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to accommodate certain facilities within rights-of-way on Federal-aid highways; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2399. A bill to provide Federal student loan relief for teachers who work in a military impacted community; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2400. A bill to establish a process for the Board on Geographic Names to review and revise offensive names of Federal land units, to create an advisory committee to recommend Federal land unit names to be reviewed by the Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2401. A bill to reauthorize the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2402. A bill to establish a pilot program to incentivize employee ownership in defense contracting; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2403. A bill to assist those subject to politically motivated charges in Turkey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 2404. A bill to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 307. A resolution congratulating the Mississippi State University baseball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I baseball championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 308. A resolution commending and congratulating the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team for winning the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association football National Championship; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 99

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 99, a bill to implement equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

S. 127

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 163

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 163, a bill to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 350

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill 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.

S. 355

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to provide immediate relief for patients from certain medical debt collection efforts during and immediately after the COVID–19 public health emergency.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 656

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, 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.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

S. 888

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 888, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1295, a bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government.

S. 1337

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1337, a bill to address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 1543

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1543, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

S. 1660

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1660, a bill to expand access to health care services for immigrants by removing legal and policy barriers to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1669, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

S. 1687

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1707, a bill to ensure that the Department of Defense achieves a clean audit opinion on its financial statements.

S. 1720

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1720, a bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1797

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1797, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to expand the funding authority for renovating, constructing, and expanding certain facilities.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1872

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1872, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1935

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1935, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an extension of the period of eligibility under the Department of Veterans Affairs training and rehabilitation program for veterans with service-connected disabilities by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes.

S. 1936

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1936, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes.

S. 1973

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1973, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct testing, removal, and remediation of perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances at all military installations, formerly used defense sites, and State-owned facilities of the National Guard in the United States.

S. 2032

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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. 2161

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2161, a bill to modify the restriction in section 3326 of title 5, United States Code, relating to the appointment of retired members of the Armed Forces to positions in the Department of Defense to apply to positions at or above the GS–14 level.

S. 2166

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2166, a bill to provide that certain orders of the Federal Communications Commission shall have no force or effect until certain conditions are satisfied, and for other purposes.

S. 2230

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2230, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the carbon oxide sequestration credit.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to fund projects to restore and modernize National Laboratories, and for other purposes.

S. 2233

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2233, a bill to establish a grant program for shuttered minor league baseball clubs, and for other purposes.

S. 2238

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2271

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 2332

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2332, a bill to place a moratorium on large concentrated animal feeding operations, to strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to require country of origin labeling on beef, pork, and dairy products, and for other purposes.

S. 2333

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2333, a bill to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, and for other purposes.

S. 2334

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2334, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for large-scale water recycling and reuse projects, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make certain modifications to the Cooperative Watershed Management Program, to provide emergency drought funding, and for other purposes.

S. 2364

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for demonstration grants and create a Federal Work Group to reduce and prevent the incidence of teen dating violence.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2371

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2371, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to enhance the readiness of the Department of Defense to challenges relating to climate change and to improve the energy and resource efficiency of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 274

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution designating July 24, 2021, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''.

S. RES. 303

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 303, a resolution supporting the people of Cuba in their demands for freedom and the fulfillment of basic needs and condemning the Communist regime in Cuba.

AMENDMENT NO. 2121

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2121 proposed to H.R. 1652, a bill to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2385. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate for renewable fuel; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President: I rise today to reintroduce bipartisan legislation. The ''Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act of 2021'' is cosponsored by Senators PAT TOOMEY, BOB MENENDEZ, and SUSAN COLLINS and would end the corn ethanol mandate in the Renewable Fuel Standard.

The mandate requires annual increases in the amount of renewable fuel that must be blended into the total volume of gasoline refined and consumed in the United States.

Our bill would amend the Renewable Fuel Standard to remove the volume requirements for corn ethanol while leaving in place the requirement that oil companies use low-carbon advanced bio fuels, including cellulosic biofuel and biodiesel.

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) was initially included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and subsequently amended in 2007. The RFS sought to reduce our dependence on oil and increase production of biofuels for transportation. It requires gasoline and diesel producers to blend increasing volumes of renewable biofuels in their supply.

The law includes separate volume requirements for four categories of biofuels: 1) unspecified (completely filled by corn ethanol, also called the ''corn ethanol mandate''); 2) advanced biofuels; 3) cellulosic biofuel; and 4) biodiesel.

The EPA is authorized to reduce the required volumes if supply does not match the statutory volume. Every year since 2014, the total production of all ethanol exceeded the ''blend wall''—the amount of ethanol that can safely be blended into the fuel supply, which is about 10% of gasoline. A blend beyond 10% ethanol can damage car engines.

Unfortunately, rather than encourage the development of more advanced biofuels with lower carbon emissions, the RFS has resulted in a market flooded with ethanol, which has higher carbon emissions than other advanced biofuels.

This year oil companies will be required to use 33 billion gallons of renewable fuel, and next year the requirement will increase to 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel.

The original law requires that an increasing portion of this mandate be met using low-carbon advanced biofuels that are not derived from corn starch and reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent.

However, last year, 15 billion gallons of the statutory requirement was met using corn ethanol.

The corn ethanol mandate is unwise and unworkable for several reasons.

First, the corn ethanol mandate results in 40% of the U.S. corn crop being used for fuel and not food, nearly double the rate compared to before the RFS was passed. Ethanol production requires 38 million acres of land—an area larger than the state of Illinois—which could be used to feed 150 million people.

We should prioritize our agriculture and land use toward feeding people and combating the climate crisis, not perpetuating it, particularly when severe drought threatens crops throughout the West.

Second, the corn ethanol mandate has increased the price of corn and products made from corn, such as livestock feed. This has made it more expensive for families to put food on their table.

Third, corn ethanol production achieves little to no reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over regular oil and poses other environmental risks, including deforestation, habitat destruction and diminished water quality or availability due to cropland expansion.

Finally, as fuel economy standards and increased vehicle electrification drive down gasoline consumption, the RFS mandate exceeds the limit at which ethanol can be blended safely into the fuel supply—roughly 10% of total gasoline consumption.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's final 2013 rule establishing renewable fuel standards, the ''EPA does not foresee a scenario in which the market could consume enough ethanol . . . to meet the volumes . . . stated in the statute.''

The Congressional Budget Office confirmed this judgment in a June 2014 report, saying that the statutory goal of escalating corn ethanol volumes would be ''very hard to meet in future years.''

The Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act would make necessary fixes to the Renewable Fuel Standard, reducing our reliance on corn ethanol.

Our bill would address the blend wall directly, thereby allowing EPA to continue increasing volumes of lowcarbon advanced biofuels.

It would also maintain important provisions that encourage the development of low-carbon advanced biofuels, like cellulosic ethanol, algae-based fuel and biodiesel.

This would increase the market for the innovative, nascent, domestic industry that this statute was designed to support.

The Federal corn ethanol mandate no longer makes sense when better, lower-carbon alternatives exist. I urge my colleagues to join us in passing this important legislation to eliminate the corn ethanol mandate in the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2395. A bill to require an annual feasibility report on cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print my bill for introduction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The bill's purpose is to require an annual feasibility report on cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

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 ''Taiwan Partnership Act''.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) continue to support the development of capable, ready, and modern defense forces necessary for Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability by increasing exchanges between senior defense officials and general officers of the United States and Taiwan at the strategic, policy, and functional levels, consistent with the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115–135; 132 Stat. 341), especially for the purposes of—

(A) improving the interoperability of the military forces of the United States and Taiwan;

(B) improving the reserve force of Taiwan; and

(C) expanding cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(2) expand and strengthen Taiwan's capability to conduct security activities, including traditional activities of the combatant commands, cooperation with the National Guard, and through multilateral activities; and

(3) using appropriate authorities and consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96–8; 22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), seek to develop a partnership between the National Guard and Taiwan as a means of maintaining a sufficient self-defense capability.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL FEASIBILITY REPORT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND TAIWAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 15, 2022, an annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as defined in section 101 of title 10, United States Code) a report on the feasibility and advisability of enhanced cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan.

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

(1) A description of the cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan during the preceding calendar year, including mutual visits, exercises, training, and equipment opportunities.

(2) An evaluation of the feasibility of enhancing cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan on a range of activities, including—

(A) disaster and emergency response;

(B) cyber defense and communications security;

(C) military medical cooperation;

(D) Mandarin-language education and cultural exchange; and

(E) programs for National Guard advisors to assist in training the reserve components of the military forces of Taiwan.

(3) Recommendations to enhance such cooperation and improve interoperability, including through familiarization visits, cooperative training and exercises, and co-deployments.

(4) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 307—CONGRATULATING THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 307

Whereas, on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, the Mississippi State University baseball team won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the ''NCAA'') College World Series at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha, Nebraska;

Whereas, by defeating Vanderbilt University 9-0, the Mississippi State University baseball team became the first team in Mississippi State University history to win an NCAA National Championship, wrapping it in maroon and white;

Whereas the Mississippi State University baseball team has appeared in 3 consecutive NCAA College World Series, totaling 12 appearances in school history;

Whereas on June 20, 2021, the Mississippi State University baseball team recorded 21 strikeouts, which set an NCAA College World Series single-game team record;

Whereas Will Bednar was named the 2021 NCAA College World Series Most Outstanding Player;

Whereas catcher Logan Tanner, first baseman Luke Hancock, shortstop Lane Forsythe, outfielders Tanner Allen and Rowdey Jordan, and pitcher Will Bednar were named to the 2021 NCAA College World Series All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Tanner Allen was named the 2021 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year and the 2021 American Baseball Coaches and Rawlings Sporting Goods National Player of Year;

Whereas Head Coach Chris Lemonis was named the 2021 National Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper;

Whereas Chris Lemonis is the first Division I head coach to reach the NCAA College World Series in his first 2 seasons as head coach of a program in the Super Regional era and just the fifth all-time in NCAA history;

Whereas Dudy Noble Field at Polk-DeMent Stadium on the campus of Mississippi State University holds the NCAA Division I baseball on-campus attendance record and regularly attracts record crowds;

Whereas the Mississippi State University baseball team under the leadership of Head Coach Chris Lemonis displayed outstanding dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the 2020–2021 season; and

Whereas the Mississippi State University baseball team has brought great pride and honor—

(1) to Mississippi State University;

(2) to loyal fans of Mississippi State University; and

(3) to the entire State of Mississippi: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Mississippi State University baseball team, including the athletes, coaching staff, administration, faculty, students, and alumni, on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I baseball championship;

(2) recognizes Mississippi State University for its excellence as an institution of higher education; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Mississippi State University, Dr. Mark Keenum;

(B) the Athletic Director of Mississippi State University, John Cohen; and

(C) the Head Coach of the Mississippi State University baseball team, Chris Lemonis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 308—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BLUE DRAGONS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 308

Whereas, on Saturday, June 5, 2021, the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team (in this preamble referred to as the ''Blue Dragons'') defeated the Snow College Badgers by a score of 29 to 27 in the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association (in this preamble referred to as the ''NJCAA'') National Championship game;

Whereas the 2021 NJCAA National Championship is the first in the history of the Blue Dragons' football program;

Whereas the Blue Dragons were the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference regular season champions;

Whereas the Blue Dragons finished the 2021 season with a perfect 8-0 record;

Whereas, during the championship game, the Blue Dragons overcame a 14 point deficit to take the lead in the fourth quarter;

Whereas quarterback C.J. Ogbonna entered the game in the third quarter to lead the Blue Dragons on 3-straight scoring drives to take the lead;

Whereas linebacker Tre Pinkney intercepted a pass late in the fourth quarter to seal the victory for the Blue Dragons;

Whereas Tye Edwards, Ivan Thomas, Kingsley Ugwu, Aric Harris, Jurriente Davis, and Roterius Torrence were named as NJCAA All-Americans; and

Whereas first-year Head Coach Drew Dallas was named the NJCAA National Coach of the Year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team for winning the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association football National Championship;

(2) recognizes the players, coaches, and staff of the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Hutchinson Community College, Carter File;

(B) the Athletic Director of Hutchinson Community College, Josh Gooch; and

(C) the Head Coach of the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team, Drew Dallas.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 11 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 mee during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committe on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

The Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, AND BILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise once again to call for every Senator to have the chance to vote on the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act. It is time for us to move serious crimes, like sexual assault and murder, out of the chain of command and put them in the hands of the most capable people in the military to do this: independent, impartial, highly trained uniformed prosecutors.

I want to first acknowledge and express my gratitude to my colleagues on the Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel who recognize the importance of this legislation and this morning voted to include it as an amendment to the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee markup of the NDAA.

The reason we are calling for this reform is because our current system is just not working for our servicemembers. It is not delivering justice on the values of justice and equality that they have sacrificed so much to defend. We are here to serve them. Any reform that we should make should be made with their best interests in mind.

So while I am glad that so many of our colleagues are now looking for ways to help survivors of sexual assault in the military, we must help them by starting to listen to them and what they are saying about the justice they want delivered.

If we move just sexual assault and related crimes out of the chain of command, we are ignoring the voices of the very people whom we are trying to help. Survivors have asked for all serious crimes to be taken out of the chain of command. They have told us time and time again that they do not want to be further isolated, further diminished, by being given special treatment. They do not want to have a separate judicial system. The request is clear: Do not create a pink court, a court that will be perceived by other servicemembers as only serving women. While we know that many sexual assault survivors are men, the perception in the military will be reality, and it will be seen as marginalizing and minimizing women servicemembers.

It is our obligation to listen to the men and women we are serving and to do our job. Creating a bifurcated system will not only silence survivors' voices; it will silence the voices of the enlisted servicemembers who have asked us to provide basic fairness.

Our servicemembers recognize that, intentionally or not, a commander who knows both the accuser and the victim cannot remove bias from decision making. Our servicemembers have told us that they lack faith in the current system, which leaves serious crimes and, potentially, serious sentences with commanders who are not trained lawyers.

We have to listen to the men and women in uniform who have asked us to ensure that their cases will be decided by an independent, highly trained military prosecutor if they are going to face prosecution that can lead to more than a year of confinement.

I ask my colleagues who are in favor of moving just sexual assault and related crimes out of the chain of command: Why should some crimes be handled by better lawyers than others? Don't we want all serious crimes to be given serious consideration by a JAG with criminal justice experience? Don't all of our servicemembers deserve a professionalized judicial system?

As Senator HAWLEY, a former prosecutor, this morning in our subcommittee hearing, said:

> [W]hen we have service men and women who have had serious crimes committed against them—felony crimes, as are addressed in this bill—it is absolutely imperative that: justice is done to these men and women, is done for them; that the procedures and standards that they can expect are uniform and predictable; [and] that trained military prosecutors make the final call as to whether or not . . . these cases will go forward for prosecution. And the reason for that is we want the evidence to be weighed by the prosecutor—the individual, the woman or the man—who is going to be presenting this to a jury, to a judge in the system. . . . That's a predictable system. I think it is one that both defendants and victims can support because the rules are uniform—it's across the board, it's is analogous to our civilian system but still, of course, stays within the military system of justice.

Many of our colleagues brought renewed attention to the need for military justice after the tragic murder of SPC Vanessa Guillen. Her case shows us that a bifurcated system that leaves some crimes with prosecutors and some crimes with commanders will not deliver justice.

Specialist Guillen was sexually harassed by one soldier and then murdered by another. If we remove just sexual assault and related crimes from the chain of command, only her harasser's case would be handled by a prosecutor. Her murderer's case would not. It would be left in the hands of the same command that so deeply mishandled her case that her murderer was able to flee the base and end his own life. Her family, as a consequence, will never have justice.

We have heard from voices inside the Pentagon who have resisted this change for far too long. We cannot let them continue to drown out the voices of the people in the military justice system whom they are supposed to serve. We must listen to the voices of the enlisted. They have asked us to make this reform and to put all serious crimes in the hands of highly trained, impartial, professional military prosecutors.

That is what the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act would do. Every day it is delayed is another day our servicemembers' voices are silenced. It is time to listen to them and bring this legislation to the floor for a vote.

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 that time, the Senate vote on the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I first want to begin by complimenting my friend and colleague Senator GILLIBRAND of New York, who has been working diligently—and we all know it—for 10 years, a decade, on this issue, particularly the issue of sexual assault and the related crimes in our military. There is nobody who has been more focused on it, and I applaud her for her relentless efforts—relentless. And I have a lot of respect for her.

She has been coming to the floor every night here for the last 3 or 4 weeks and trying to move her bill. I am going to talk about her bill a little bit more and why I and others, in a bipartisan way—the chairman of the Armed Services, the ranking member of the Armed Services, and others—have been coming to the floor to object.

But I also want to say that I care deeply—deeply—about this issue for two very important reasons. No. 1, the issue of sexual assault, domestic violence, is an enormous problem in America but is a huge problem in my State, the great State of Alaska. And since my time as attorney general and now my time as a U.S. Senator, I have been very focused on these issues. And I think, again, Senator GILLIBRAND has done an outstanding job, not just on the military ones but on a whole broad-based number of these kinds of bills that focus on the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. And I have been proud to work with her on a number of them—my bills, her bills—some of which have become law.

So as Alaska's Senator, I have been 100-percent focused on this issue for American society, certainly for Alaska, which is a big, big problem that continues to impact millions of Americans and tens of thousands of my constituents. So we need to do something about it. I agree, not just for the military but for the country. And I am committed to continuing the work; for example, my ''Choose Respect'' series of bills that we have here in the U.S. Senate that I am working on with Senator GILLIBRAND.

The other reason I care about this issue—and there is no monopoly, by the way, on people who care about the troops—is that I have a 28-year career in the U.S. Marine Corps and still serving. I have been a commander, and I care deeply about every single member in the military, the challenges of sexual assault that we have, which are very real, which, again, Senator GILLIBRAND has done such a good job to highlight and to have good order and discipline in our military, which is part of the UCMJ, which is one of the reasons why this issue has taken so long and has been a challenge.

Now, the issue that Senator GILLIBRAND is talking about right now, we will be debating in the full committee in the Armed Services starting tomorrow. Actually, we are starting today, as she mentioned, in the Personnel Subcommittee today. This, again, a lot of the credit—most of the credit—I give to Senator GILLIBRAND on this issue.

We will have a fulsome debate, probably all day, on this issue tomorrow. And if her bill, which is often understood as removing these issues of sexual assault and violent crimes relating to sexual crimes, was the bill that will be passed tomorrow, I will be supportive, removing that out of the chain of command. That is what many, many Senators—and I have had discussions with them—believe that the primary focus of her legislation is and has been. She has convinced now the Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States and the members of the Joint Chiefs. And if that is what the bill was, she would have very, very broad-based support. And I applaud her for that. That victory would be hers more than anyone's. In terms of legislation, of course, I think it will help our troops. Will it ultimately solve this problem, which is a problem in our country and in our military, a huge problem? I think it will help.

My view, as someone who understands the military well, is that it is not going to be solved until we have leaders who take this issue very seriously. That is what we need more than anything, and I think our leadership in the military is starting to do this, but more needs to happen.

So that would be what most of us think has been the focus of her legislation for 10 years and what would be the result likely to come out of committee as early as tomorrow, carving out these issues, not creating pink courts but creating a professional class of prosecutors and defense attorneys who know these issues, which are often challenging. Senator GILLIBRAND knows this. ''He said, she said'' kinds of accusations often are at the heart of these horrible crimes. And to have that for men and women—so there is no pink court there, by the way—to have that class of cases removed from the chain of command for all of the reasons she and others have been arguing, if that is the result tomorrow, I think it is going to get strong bipartisan support and support from the administration.

Unfortunately, that is not where the bill is. As she is now indicating, this bill would remove all crimes, all felonies—1 year in jail, anything; a bar fight, anything. In terms of the commander's ability to have good order and discipline, all of that under this legislation would be covered—1-year felony. And in many people's view—in my view, certainly—and in the chairman of the committee's view, and the ranking member's view, and many others, this is a hugely broad reworking of the UCMJ, probably one of the most dramatic reworkings of the Uniform Code of Military Justice ever.

Now, why are Senator GILLIBRAND and others making the argument? What she has been doing—she didn't come down here today, but I have been reading her speeches. She has been essentially saying we need this broad carve-out for every crime, every felony in the chain of command because of racial problems in the military.

This is a new argument. She and I have talked about it. This is a dramatic argument. This is essentially saying what she said in a recent speech: It is ''necessary''—1 year more—''because the current military justice system is simply not delivering justice, especially not to servicemembers of color.'' This is a big claim.

What Senator GILLIBRAND has been doing with her previous legislation—8 to 10 years of data to back it up on the sexual assault issues. Again, I applaud her on that. She has been dogged. She has gotten data. She has searched for data herself. But this new argument basing this whole broad-based revamping of the whole UCMJ based on the fact that she is now claiming the military justice system of the United States cannot serve minority members has not been backed up by data—has not been backed up by data.

She cites three studies, recent studies. Again, this is a new argument. A lot of my colleagues say: Whoa. I didn't sign up for that bill thinking it was based on some kind of broad-based systemic racism in the military. But that is the new argument. We need to get that right before we claim that every member of the military, every commander, is somehow a racist. Even the studies that she has now focused on are saying that disparity is not proof of racial discrimination.

The U.S. Air Force—one of the studies that she has talked about says:

> While the presence of disparity alone is not evidence of racism, discrimination, or disparate treatment, it presents a concern that requires more in-depth analysis.

I fully agree with that.

Last year, when we were debating the NDAA, there was an issue that came to my attention about how we had very senior military members, four-star generals, who were not making the rank. We have a Service Chief right now, General Brown, who is the first African-American Service Secretary, Indian Services. When I talked to him, that was disturbing to me. I put forward legislation saying: Why is that? What is going on with our military? Let's figure that out.

What I am saying to Senator GILLIBRAND is and what the Air Force is saying is, if this is a problem, let's figure that out.

The GAO study that she cites says this:

> These findings show an association for disparities at particular stages of the military justice process, but are inconclusive regarding other stages. However, GAO's findings of racial disparities, taken alone, do not establish whether unlawful discrimination has occurred, as that is a legal determination that would involve other corroborating information and supporting statistics.

Again, is there a challenging disparity right now that Senator GILLIBRAND has been highlighting? I believe so. Is it proof that the UCMJ is somehow systemically racist and needs this broad-based change? That is what she has been arguing on the Senate floor.

Unlike her other argument on sexual assault and the crimes that we have seen over the years where there is 8 to 10 years of data that we have all been looking at—again, a lot to her credit—this is something that needs much, much more data before we make broad-based claims. For example, some of those who are supporting her bill sent out this supporting blog post that they said was supporting the legislation, the broad-based legislation. This was from the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. This has been put out by staff to support her broad-based legislation. It says:

> Almost all military disciplinary action occurs at the discretion of military officers, and with over 75% of the officer corps [being] white, systemic bias is not just a function of military justice, it's a foregone conclusion.

That is a pretty broad statement. That is a pretty broad statement. Where is the data to back that up? In essence, because you are a White commander, you are not going to give justice to minorities? I find that offensive as a commander who has commanded all kinds of Alaska Natives, African Americans, Hispanics, Whites.

So we can't base this broad-based legislation—all felonies—on this relatively new claim that does not have data supporting it that somehow we need to revamp the entire UCMJ because White commanders are racist. I don't think we should do it.

I want to work with Senator GILLIBRAND on these and other issues tomorrow. It will be an important debate. I am hopeful that the years of her hard work and data on this issue are going to result in a carve-out for sexual assault and related crimes of violence that will be bipartisan. It will be supported by the Secretary of Defense, the Service Secretaries. Again, I think Senator GILLIBRAND will deserve an enormous amount of credit for her determination over a decade to make that happen. But with regard to the broader legislation that she has asked for unanimous consent on, for the reasons I just discussed, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, my colleague has made some serious misstatements and allegations in his remarks.

I never said White commanders are racist, nor would I ever. In fact, all I have done is cite 3 years of evidence published by the Department of Defense about disparities in sentencing and punishment, with the Marines, for example, having 2.61 times more likely to be punished for Black servicemembers versus White servicemembers. It is DOD data. It is DOD information.

As the Senator knows, this bill was written 8 years ago, and the reason it was written with a bright line was for three reasons.

The first is that our allies already have done this. They created a bright line of felonies for both plaintiffs' and defendants' rights—the UK, Israel, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, and Australia. They did this because they believed servicemembers deserve basic civil liberties. The commander is not a trained lawyer. They thought a trained military prosecutor should make those decisions for serious crimes.

We were told by every military justice expert available that to do anything less than a bright line would be a terrible disservice to the UCMJ, that bright lines work, that bright lines are necessary, and that having the bright line be a punishment of more than a year would serve the servicemembers better.

Second, we heard from servicemembers, particularly female servicemembers. And I know there is a lot of mansplaining in this body, but JONI ERNST is the only female combat commander Republican in this body. TAMMY DUCKWORTH is the only female combat veteran Democrat in this body. They helped to write this legislation, and when they wrote it, they said this: They said women in the military are often marginalized, and the perception, dear colleague, is that although men are sexually assaulted, more often than not, it is the women who come forward. More often than not, they will associate a sexual assault procedure and process that is unique to be specialized treatment.

JONI ERNST is not only a combat veteran, she is also a sexual assault survivor. So I don't think you can put yourself in her shoes, nor should you try to. This is legislation that she worked hard over the last 6 years with me on to tailor it, to narrow it.

Bar fights are excluded specifically because JONI ERNST knows as a commander that bar fights are prevalent, and we don't want to have to deal with bar fights when we are talking about serious felonies. They are carved out. They are carved out as to all military crimes.

The reason why this bright line of felonies protects servicemembers is because—you know this, dear colleague. You know that in domestic violence cases, often other serious crimes are at play. We have a case where a boyfriend and girlfriend—the girlfriend breaks up with the boyfriend, and he shoots her dead. Her case would not be taken to a special commander—excuse me—a special prosecutor because she was murdered.

Vanessa Guillen. Her case would not have the benefit of a special prosecutor because she was murdered.

We have another case just published last week, a domestic violence case where a servicemember is beating his wife. A neighbor hears the screams and intervenes to try to protect her. The servicemember shoots the neighbor, who is killed. The commander decides that that is a stand-your-ground case, and he decides not to prosecute, and all that happens is that servicemember is moved. He is moved. So the next time he is beating his wife and she finally reports, that evidence of the murder isn't even in his case file. It is nowhere to be found. So they don't protect her. She doesn't get special review.

You need other serious crimes to be part of this; otherwise, they won't necessarily get the proper review. I know that you don't want to include serious crimes like check fraud or stealing or arson because you are like, what does this have to do with sexual assault? The truth is, in many cases of domestic violence, arson is used to cover up the crime. In many cases, when you have a domestic violence victim, 99 percent of them, their spouse or their partner used money as a way to isolate them. They use it to create dominance. They will steal her money. They will steal her credit card. If you don't have a specialized prosecutor look at the case, the commander might say: You took her checkbook; stop doing that. That is ridiculous. He won't even know this is something that happens in domestic violence cases all the time.

There are a lot of reasons. We wrote it this way because the military experts told us.

The issue of race has come up recently because the DOD started taking data. But the Air Force, you must know, started taking data about 20 years ago. In 1972, the Nixon administration had a task force specifically about this issue and found disparities. All we have done is cited the disparities as confirmation that if you fix the whole system, maybe you can fix other problems too.

But make no mistake, it was written this way initially specifically to end sexual violence. This Commission that President Biden asked for and Secretary Austin supports, every crime they looked at, every single one, they took and said it had to be taken out of the chain of command, not just sexual assault but sexual harassment, domestic violence, child abuse, trafficking of children, all of these related things. They looked at these and said these kinds of cases all need to be taken out. They didn't look at murder. They didn't look at the other serious crimes because it wasn't their mission.

I stand ready to work with you, Senator SULLIVAN, on a bipartisan, commonsense solution, but to say that just

because you have the chairman and the ranking member, that somehow you have the moral authority here—I disagree. I disagree because we have 66 Members on this bill and another 5 or 6 who would vote for this. So that is about 70 Members who have stated they want to do this bright line.

I have been very forthright with every Senator whom I have spoken to about why this bill is written the way it is. We don't want to marginalize women. We don't want them to be perceived as getting special treatment. We just want to professionalize the whole system.

I can tell you, when we talk to commanders who are fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and they have to do the analysis of a highly complex crime, it distracts them from the work of training troops and winning wars. So why not give these hard issues, just the felonies, to the smartest military prosecutor we can find?

Why not fix the system for all plaintiffs and all defendants? Why just draw out just one set of plaintiffs and one set of defendants?

I know this will not undermine good order and discipline because Secretary Austin said, taking out sexual assault-related crimes does not undermine good order and discipline; it does not undermine command and control. When asking the Chairwoman of this Commission whether taking out serious crimes would undermine command and control, she said absolutely not. So I believe this is the right answer. I have believed it was the right answer for 8 years.

Every year, I have asked my colleagues to look at the bill, study the bill, give me questions on the bill. When colleagues have wanted to shave off crimes because they thought they didn't rise to the level of a serious crime, like a bar fight, we have taken it out. We took out all military crimes because the commander has a unique understanding of those crimes. We have worked so hard for 8 years to do this one solution, and to imply that it is all new or it is only about this one set of data is so inappropriate and wrong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I just want to again compliment my colleague from New York, who has worked this issue hard. It is an emotional issue. I think we all have good intentions on this issue. We all want to get to the right answer for men and women in the military as it relates to these crimes and still have a force. As she said, it is the best military fighting force in the world.

I think we are going to have a good debate on this tomorrow, and I am certainly committed to continuing to work with Senator GILLIBRAND on these issues as they relate to the military and as they relate to the civilian world. They are enormously important, and I take them very seriously.

Again, I want to applaud her for her passion, her focus, her commitment. We wouldn't be this far in this debate at all if it weren't for her, and I have a lot of respect for that.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I just want to thank the Senator and my colleague for his tireless work on this issue, and I do stand ready to work with him because I know how much he cares about the issue. He has led great reforms in his State of Alaska, and I believe, if his voice were lent to this issue, it would be unanimous.

So I thank the Presiding Officer, and I thank my colleague from Alaska.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOONERS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 291.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 291) congratulating the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's College World Series.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 291) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 24, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

CONGRATULATING THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 307, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 307) congratulating the Mississippi State University baseball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I baseball championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 307) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BLUE DRAGONS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 308, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 308) commending and congratulating the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team for winning the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association football National Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 308) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 21; 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; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Jenkins nomination; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the

Senate vote on confirmation of the Abruzzo nomination; that the cloture vote on the Jenkins nomination occur immediately upon disposition of the Abruzzo nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Jenkins nomination, all postcloture time expire at 2:30 p.m.; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator RUBIO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida.

CUBA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, we have heard more about Cuba in the last week than probably the 10 years that I have been here combined.

And yesterday we heard from the White House. The White House was having some sort of a meeting and conference call and came out and said that they are going to be looking at remittances and increasing and making it easier to get money to relatives in Cuba.

That is not surprising. The people in charge of Cuba policy at the White House, at the National Security Council, and at the State Department—the people in charge of Cuba policy have long been advocates for dialogue with the regime and an economic opening to the regime. They have been for getting rid of the embargo and that sort of thing.

I think it is important, given the fact that I recognize that most people in this country and in the Senate don't follow this issue on a regular basis, that we address that. Because the fundamental question being put to us is—so the people of Cuba are suffering. The people of Cuba are going through a difficult economic time. I would argue that they have done so for 62 years—why don't we get rid of the embargo? It would make life easier for them.

And I want to address it. I want to address it especially to those who are not as familiar with this issue.

First of all, let me begin by saying there are no American ships blockading Cuba, surrounding the island of Cuba. In fact, Cuba, frankly, does not have an embargo in the way people think.

Cuba trades with the whole world. For example, Cuba, every year, exports $1.2 billion, which doesn't sound like a lot, but it is a lot for an island of 11 million people. OK?

They export $461 million to China; $127 million to Spain; $65 million to the Netherlands; $64 million to Germany. This is not a country that is isolated. They trade with every country in the world.

They import $5.3 billion a year. With Spain alone, they export—they import, I am sorry, $1 billion from Spain; another $790 million from China; $327 million from Italy; $285 million from Canada and from Russia.

So they import 5—over $5 billion. They export over $1.2 billion. Cuba is not isolated. They trade with every country—this regime trades with virtually every country on the planet.

You know who else they trade with? The United States of America. Cuba trades with the United States of America. They import almost $280 million a year; almost as much as they do with Canada and Russia. And no one accuses Canada and Russia of having a blockade on Cuba.

Sixty-six percent of the chicken that is eaten in Cuba, which is the staple protein in Cuba, comes from the United States. Half their soybeans come from the United States.

There is only one blockade in Cuba, and it is the blockade that this regime has imposed upon its people.

Now, yesterday, the President announced—or the White House announced they are going to stand up some remittances group to try to figure out: So how do we make it easier for relatives to send money to their relatives on the island of Cuba?

Well, that work group is going to not have a long time to meet. They are not going to have to meet for very long because U.S. law allows that now. It is not illegal to send money to your relatives in Cuba.

The only thing that is prohibited is you can't send the money—you can't send the money through this bank that the Cuban military set up in Panama. That is the only thing that is prohibited.

And to the extent money can't reach the people of Cuba, it is because they refuse to allow anyone other than that bank to do these remittances.

And, by the way, they have prohibited depositing dollars. Here is how it works for them: You send your relative $100. They take 10 percent of it. Then they take the dollars—they don't let them deposit it. They pocket the dollars, and they give them this worthless Cuban currency. So they have the dollars so they can buy things for themselves and on the global market.

So the blockade, to the extent that there is something that is preventing remittances directly to the Cuban people, it is not U.S. policy; it is regime policy. They are the ones who need a work group.

How about this argument that there is a blockade on travel? If only more American tourists could go to Cuba.

By the way, Cuba is already filled with Canadian tourists and Italian tourists who enjoy 5-star accommodations. And I will be frank, many of them go there—these sick, disgusting men who go there to hook up with a 16- or 17-year-old girl.

But that said, they talk about travel to Cuba. Well, let me tell you something. Travel is allowed now. An American can go to Cuba. You just can't stay at a military-owned hotel or eat at a military-owned restaurant or shop at a military-owned store. You can stay at the private homes of people who rent them out on Airbnb. You can do that. You can eat at a restaurant that is owned by a private person. You can shop at stores that are owned by private people.

The reason why they have nowhere to stay, nowhere to eat, and nowhere to shop is not U.S. policy. It is that the Cuban regime won't allow privately owned hotels, privately owned shops, privately owned stores. They won't allow it—privately owned restaurants. They are the ones who have a blockade on travel, not the United States.

What about medicine? That is another thing they have put out there. This is so cruel. We don't allow medicine in.

Do you know what the Cuban regime announced last week? This is what they announced on their national television: We are going to lift the ban on the importation of medicine.

What? You mean there was a Cuban ban, a regime ban on importing medicine? Yes, there was. They are the ones who weren't allowing medicine in. And to the extent they were allowing it in, they were putting a tariff on it. So there is no blockade on medicine. We sell them medicine.

And you can donate medicine, unlimited amounts, under U.S. law. If there is a blockade on medicine, it is the regime's blockade.

The other one I hear is the internet. I support the internet. Why don't we allow—I had somebody say this to me yesterday: Why don't we allow American companies to go and provide internet, then they would have internet? It is the embargo.

And these people don't know what they are talking about. They literally are just parroting stupid, ridiculous talking points, because the law in the U.S. on trade with Cuba specifically exempts telecoms. AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, every American telecom could go into Cuba tomorrow and offer phone and internet service.

You know why they can't? Not our law. It is the Cuban regime because they want to control that.

And you see a pattern here. Blockade on travel, blockade on private ownership of business, blockade on bringing in medicine, blockade on bringing in money. Why?

Because the Cuban regime wants to control people. They don't want an individual Cuban to have a paycheck that they earn for themselves. They want what little you have to come from them because if you don't do what they tell you, they can take it from you. That is what they want.

They don't want you to have internet companies offered by AT&T and Sprint

and Verizon or anybody else because they want to be able to shut it off when you are saying things they don't like and things against them.

Same with medicine. They use all of these things as a tool. It is hard to fathom because we live here, but they use all of it as a tool. You want medicine? Are you posting stuff on the internet? Are you saying things against the regime? Are you speaking out? Are you not participating in these acts of repudiation that we force people to do? Because if you don't, you are not going to get your medicine.

And they certainly don't want the cash flowing around. They don't want independent ownership. They don't want the people of Cuba to have liberty. This is all about control, all about control.

And, by the way, in the law that codified the embargo, it has a clause that automatically triggers the end of the embargo. And you want to know what this tough standard is that is in the law? Free the political prisoners, free press, free and fair elections, multiparty elections. If the regime does those three things, the embargo ends automatically, automatically.

There is no embargo on Cuba. There is an embargo on Cuban regime, an embargo on companies they own, because what they wanted to do is they wanted to take the Obama opening, funnel all that money through their companies—people say there are Spanish companies that own hotels. They don't own the hotels in Cuba. The regime owns the hotels.

These hotel chains that open in Cuba on the beaches, they don't even pay their employees. They pay the Cuban Government. The Cuban Government pays the employees. Control.

So the bottom line is this: Anybody who stands up and says there is an embargo, there is a blockade by the United States, and it is cruel and it is causing all these problems is one of two things: They don't know what they are talking about and they are just parroting some talking point or they are liars. Those are the only two options.

This is not about an embargo. The people of Cuba did not take to the streets, did not have their heads cracked open, did not have their kids arrested and put in jail. Mothers, tomorrow, plan to march in Cuba because they don't know where their children are; arrested. They don't know where their kids are.

They broke into homes. They grabbed 16-year-old boys, they gave them a bat. They said: You are going halfway across the country to beat people up in the street.

They didn't stand up against all those things because of an embargo or because they wanted remittances. They stood up because they wanted liberty, libertad. That is what they wanted. That is what they are telling us.

Why don't we listen to them? They have told us what they want. They want libertad. They want liberty. And if there are any people on this Earth that should understand that, it should be Americans.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:15 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ANDREW PHILIP HUNTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE BRUCE D. JETTE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LAURIE E. LOCASCIO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY, VICE WALTER G. COPAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CARYN R. MCCLELLAND, OF CALIFORNIA, 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 BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.

MICHAEL J. MURPHY, 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 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

HOWARD A. VAN VRANKEN, OF CALIFORNIA, 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 BOTSWANA.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JAMES D. RODRIGUEZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, VICE JOHN LOWRY III.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 20, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KENNETH ALLEN POLITE, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 20, 2021 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

MICHAEL A. BROWN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND SUSTAINMENT, VICE ELLEN M. LORD, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON APRIL 12, 2021.

JAVIER M. GUZMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JOSEPH H. HUNT, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON APRIL 28, 2021.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance, a non-profit based in Taylor, Michigan. Their over two decades of service and dedication to southeast Michigan's workers, businesses, and to the local community is worthy of commendation.

Since its founding in 1996, The Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) has helped countless Michigan residents find jobs each year. Through their partnership with local employers, hosting of job fairs and talent development programs, SEMCA has given thousands of job seekers the skills they need to succeed. Their youth programs and career planning tools have helped prepare the next generation for successful careers, and their veterans programs have ensured that those who served our country can find employment when their service is over and return home to Michigan. SEMCA has helped dozens of local businesses fill employment vacancies and has stimulated business development and encouraged entrepreneurship in our community.

SEMCA has provided Michigan residents with the skills and training they need to succeed in an ever-changing world. Those who come to SEMCA for support leave possessing the training and knowledge needed for them to get employed and begin their journey towards a lifelong career to benefit not only themselves, but their whole family. SEMCA's work has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Michiganders and has contributed to the economic rejuvenation of southeast Michigan, in the 12th district and beyond.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance. We are grateful for their impactful work and wish SEMCA continued success in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 209, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 826 Divided Families Reunification Act, I would have voted Yea.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF HANFORD'S 130TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the birthday of my hometown, the City of Hanford.

The City of Hanford is celebrating the 130th birthday of its historic community. In 1877, the Southern Pacific Railway laid lines from the small towns of Goshen to Coalinga, and their path crossed through a Chinese sheepherder's small camp. This camp was the foundation of the present-day City of Hanford, which was named after James Madison Hanford, the auditor of the railroad.

James Madison Hanford advanced the small community by offering sales of town lots and grew Hanford to more than just a settlement. With the contribution of the railroad, Hanford became the trading center of the area and eventually, the bustling Central Valley town it is today. Today, Hanford has a population of 60,000 residents and is an agricultural and industrial hub within the region. Hanford is home to a diverse and growing population that not only honors their history but looks forward to the bright future.

The City of Hanford has worked hard to uphold the strong traditions and unique sense of community throughout its growth. Beloved historic sites throughout the city help citizens to remember the past while flourishing new enterprise demonstrate a promising future. It is an honor to represent my lifelong home and community, and I look forward to Hanford's continued prosperity.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the City of Hanford on its 130th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BYRON BERLINE

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, Byron Berline, a genius of bluegrass music, passed away on July 10, 2021, after a lifetime of sharing his amazing talent on the fiddle and mandolin with millions of people worldwide.

Byron was born on July 6, 1944 in the small town of Caldwell in the 4th District of Kansas where he began to play the fiddle at age five.

After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Byron quickly rose to musical fame, winning three national fiddle competitions and becoming a much sought-after recording artist, studio musician, member of the National Fiddler Hall of Fame, and frequent festival favorite. Berline performed with the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, The Eagles, John Denver, Willie Nelson, Elton John, Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, Bill Monroe, and many other notable and international musicians. His talent was also featured on TV and movie soundtracks including Back to the Future Part II and Star Trek, to name a few.

Byron Berline's biggest fans were the thousands of people who attend the annual Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas, where Byron was a favorite performer on stage and in the campgrounds. He leaves a legacy of five decades of live and recorded music and joyful memories for all those who were blessed to enjoy his gift of fiddling.

EMERGENCY REPORTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1250, the Emergency Reporting Act, bipartisan legislation I co-authored to improve how the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reports on and learns from the impact of natural disasters on our telecommunications networks.

The human impacts of disasters are worsened when our communications infrastructure is not resilient and this is an issue Californians know all too well. On October 28, 2019, 874 cell towers were out in California, caused by wildfires and power shutoffs. My constituents were panicked about not being able to call 9–1–1 during emergencies, receive emergency alerts, download evacuation maps, or check-in on loved ones. This horrific situation led my good friend, Congresswoman MATSUI, and me to work on this legislation.

H.R. 1250, the Emergency Reporting Act, requires the FCC to hold field hearings after disasters, issue preliminary and final reports about each disaster, and ensure 9–1–1 centers know when outages will impact calls they may receive.

Wildfires are becoming more intense and more frequent because of climate change. Last year, the CZU Lightning Complex Fire burned 86,509 acres in my Congressional District, making it the 12th most destructive fire in California history. Seventy-seven thousand of my constituents were evacuated and the fire destroyed nearly 1,500 homes, businesses, and other buildings.

I've long called on FCC leadership to visit California and hold field hearings following the wildfires and associated power shutoffs, and many of my colleagues from California have done the same. We need to learn from every disaster, especially by listening to and learning from local public safety leaders, municipal, county, and state officials, and members of the communities impacted. This should be required.

Last Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing on February

27, 2020 on the Emergency Reporting Act. On March 10, 2020, the Subcommittee marked up the Emergency Reporting Act, and the full Committee did so on July 15, 2020. On September 21, 2020, the full House passed the bill via voice vote. Sadly, the Senate did not take up this critical bill.

On February 25, 2021, the legislation was reintroduced by Reps. DORIS MATSUI, MIKE THOMPSON, JARED HUFFMAN, GUS BILIRAKIS, and myself. Senators KLOBUCHAR and BURR have companion legislation in the Senate.

H.R. 1250 is critical legislation for Californians impacted by wildfires. It will also help those on the Gulf Coast victimized by hurricanes, Midwesterners who've had their communities destroyed by tornadoes, and those in the Northeast who have experienced far too many superstorms.

I urge my House colleagues to once again vote for the Emergency Reporting Act and urge the Senate to do so as well.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) POST 805 IN O'FALLON, ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of SGT. Charles A. Fricke VFW Post 805 in O'Fallon, Illinois. On July 25, 1921, 25 members of the United States of America VFW established the Erwin L. Dann VFW Post 805 in Waterloo, which moved to East St. Louis and consolidated with two other posts in 1927. Sergeant Dann, a Waterloo native, was 22 years old when he was killed during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on September 26, 1918. A generation later, a separate group of East St. Louis veterans returned home from World War II and established SGT. Charles A. Fricke VFW Post 8475 on October 15, 1946. Sergeant Charles A. "Chub" Fricke was one of 18 employees of the city's Alcoa Aluminum Ore Factory who perished during the war. He was mortally injured by a mortar shell during the Battle of Anizo, passing away four days later at the age of 20. On April 29, 1987, the two posts were consolidated into one, based in O'Fallon. In order to preserve the legacy of both posts, they maintained the number from the longer-tenured post, 805, and carried the name from the other, SGT. Charles A. Fricke. Today, SGT. Charles A Fricke VFW Post 805 has about 600 members and is the largest VFW Post in the 14th District of the Department of Illinois. Several times over the last 100 years, VFW Post 805 has been designated as an All-State and All-American VFW Post, including in 2021. In 2018–2019, Post 805 was selected as one of 61 posts out of 6200 worldwide to be recognized as a National Outstanding Community Service Post. One of the most active and successful VFW Posts in Illinois, members work together to serve and support fellow veterans, their families, and the community. They have organized blood drives and maintain one of the most active and prestigious Honor Guard and Color Guard teams in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the SGT. Charles A. Fricke VFW Post 805 on their milestone Centennial Anniversary. On behalf of Southern Illinois, I thank them for their service, and happy anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, my flight was delayed three hours causing me to depart North Carolina after the vote began. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

APPRECIATING DONALD RUMSFELD

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America has lost a Patriot with the death of former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the youngest Secretary when serving in the Gerald Ford Administration and the eldest in the George W. Bush Administration. His service has been successful in protecting American families by defeating terrorists overseas. The Wall Street Journal on July 1st, editorialized his dedication for America:

DONALD H. RUMSFELD

Few men have had more consequential careers in public and private life than Donald Rumsfeld, the senior adviser to three Presidents and business executive, who died Tuesday at age 88.

A conservative Midwesterner, he served in the Navy and won a seat in Congress from Illinois in 1962. Richard Nixon spotted his talent and brought him in as an adviser. His star rose quickly and he became chief of staff and then secretary of Defense for Gerald Ford, the youngest Pentagon chief at age 43.

Outside of politics, Rummy, as he was sometimes known, was the CEO of G.D. Searle, the pharmaceutical firm, from 1977–1985 and advised Gilead Sciences in its early days as a director and chairman of the board.

Rumsfeld was most controversial during his second stint as Defense secretary in managing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He pressed the military to refine its invasion plans that in both cases achieved their goals quickly and with few casualties. But he underestimated the strength and nature of the insurgency in Iraq, and he failed to change strategy. President George W. Bush didn't help by failing to settle disputes between State and Defense. Mr. Bush replaced Rumsfeld in 2006 to implement the surge that prevented a U.S. defeat.

Rumsfeld didn't suffer naifs, or journalists, gladly. But we always enjoyed the give and take and learned a great deal listening to him. He was a patriot willing to challenge recalcitrant bureaucracies, which we need more of today.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF ROBERT BROWDER

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Springfield Township Police Chief Robert Browder for his service to our community.

Chief Browder began his career in law enforcement in 1986 as a Police Dispatcher, before being sworn in as a Police Officer with the Golf Manor Police Department in 1988.

After spending over two decades in law enforcement, he was promoted to Assistant Police Chief of Springfield Township. He served as Assistant Police Chief for 10 years, overseeing all department operations, before being promoted to Chief of Police in 2015.

Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Browder has served the Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police as Treasurer in 2016, Vice President in 2017, and President in 2018.

In addition to his service in law enforcement, Rob is a dedicated husband and father. His accomplishments throughout his career attest to his integrity, perseverance, and moral strength.

Chief Browder served with diligence and honor throughout his career. I thank Rob for his service to our community. I wish him the best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING GARRETT L. RESSING ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to join me in recognizing Garrett L. Ressing for his thirty years of outstanding federal service as a civilian attorney for the Department of the Navy's Office of the General Counsel (OGC). He lives in Southern Maryland, in the Fifth District, and I am honored to represent him and so many other talented and hardworking federal civilian employees in Congress.

Since he began his distinguished career with OGC in l990, Garrett has held several attorney positions. Notably, he became a member of the Senior Executive Service in November 2008. In April 2015, he was selected to serve as the Deputy General Counsel, and in March 2019 he was designated Principal Deputy General Counsel. During his tenure in this last position as the Navy Department's most senior career attorney, Garrett twice served as the Acting General Counsel of the Navy—a presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed position—from March 2019 to January 2020 and again from January 2021 to August 2021.

Garrett excelled at advising the Secretary of the Navy during an unprecedented global pandemic. He provided steady leadership during a time of major change within the Department of the Navy and furnished crucial legal and operational advice necessary to move the Navy

forward in light of an increasingly complex global security environment. Garrett has distinguished himself as an attorney who worked tirelessly to provide proactive, accurate, and innovative legal advice on legally complex, sensitive issues impacting operations, procurement, fiscal matters, labor, ethics issues, environmental concerns, and intelligence law. Furthermore, he has demonstrated an unmatched record of leadership while overseeing the provision of legal advice by more than 800 civilian and military attorneys within OGC, ensuring the successful execution of Navy and Marine Corps missions worldwide.

Throughout his career, Garrett has received various awards for his outstanding contributions to the Navy, the Department of Defense (DoD), and our nation. These include the Department of the Navy Meritorious and Superior Civilian Service Awards, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, and other performance-related accolades.

Madam Speaker, I offer Garrett my congratulations on retiring from federal service after a career of great contribution to our Nation's defense and to the well-being of all those who have served in the Navy. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing Garrett L. Ressing as he reaches this milestone and in wishing him all the best in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COMMANDER MERLE SMITH

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today in honor of the life of the late Commander Merle James Smith Jr., the first Black graduate of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Academy in New London, CT, and the first Black officer to command a warship in close quarters combat. Commander Smith passed away June 16, 2021, at the age of 76. It was an honor to know Commander Merle Smith and bare witness to all the incredible milestones he achieved in his life. He was a true patriot who always placed others before himself.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina to retired Army Colonel Merle James Smith Sr. and Jacqueline T. Smith, Merle grew up in many cities across the United States as well as Germany and Japan. He graduated from Aberdeen High School in Maryland before choosing to attend the Coast Guard Academy in 1962 to play football under the coaching of Otto Graham, the former professional Cleveland Browns quarterback player.

Graduating with a degree in marine engineering in 1966, Officer Smith's first assignment was to serve aboard the *Minnetonka* as a communication officer. He went on to command the Coast Guard Cutter, *Cape Walsh*, for two years before joining forces in Vietnam where he commanded the USCG Cutters *Point Mast* and *Point Ellie*, and made history serving as the first Black commanding officer in close quarters combat. He commanded these ships through more than eighty fire support missions during the successful Operation Market Time, which halted the movement of supplies into South Vietnam. For his heroic service, Commander Smith earned a Bronze star, a Navy Meritorious Unit Citation, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Vietnam Campaign Medal, among several other accolades.

After returning from the war, Commander Smith was stationed at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. There, he attended George Washington University's School of Law where he met his wife of 47 years, Lynda. Upon graduating with a Juris Doctor, Commander Smith moved back to Connecticut to resume his activities at the Academy, this time as a professor in Jaw. As expected, Commander Smith excelled in his role as a professor and gained notoriety for his ability to keep his students engaged. Commander Smith went on to teach for 13 years and after enriching the minds of thousands of cadets—Commander Smith retired from this role and his active duty service in 1979. Commander Smith's service to our nation however continued at the Coast Guard Reserves for nine years as Commander of the Coast Guard Reserve. Commander Smith simultaneously was recruited by our nation's largest submarine manufacturer, General Dynamic Electric Boat, to join their legal team. Commander Smith worked at Electric Boat for 16 years and made his way up to Chief Council before officially retiring in 1995. From beginning to end, awe inspiring is the only way to really describe what was Commander Smith's career and life. To memorialize all he did for our nation—the Coast Guard Academy announced it will rename its Military Officers Club in honor of him and here in D.C.—our very own National Museum of African American History and Culture proclaimed that they will set up a special exhibit in honor of Commander Smith and his life.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents who are as humble, dutiful, and distinguished as Commander Smith. While we mourn his passing, we can take pride in his legacy which will continue to echo through the United States Coast Guard community as an example to our future military leaders. Please keep Commander Smith's family—his loving wife Lynda, children Merle J. Smith III, Chelsea, and Danielle—in your thoughts as they now carry his memory forward. I ask that the entire House join me in recognizing his life and service to our nation.

MORE FUNDING FOR POLICING

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce legislation that gives this House an opportunity to provide more funding for policing.

My bill does this by allowing the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa to be treated as two separate entities for the purposes of the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. Currently, the Marianas and American Samoa are lumped together for funding, unlike the other U.S. insular areas—Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands—which are treated as individual jurisdictions, as are all fifty States.

By fixing this inequity in funding for police in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa, we can help our men and women in blue receive the necessary training and equipment they need to keep our communities safe. Making this change will also provide more funding to support prosecutors and the courts, as well as justice-related initiatives aimed at crime prevention.

Local law enforcement is increasingly the first line of defense against the evolving security threats our country faces. We must do all we can to recognize the vital role of our police in maintaining public safety.

The gentlelady from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and the gentleman from Hawaii, Mr. KAHELE, are original cosponsors of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

THE AMERICAN IDEAL

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recently, I received an impassioned letter from Elizabeth Bradley of Bessemer City, North Carolina, about the American ideal.

In her letter she writes, "The American ideal is the revolutionary thought that it is not by government, nor wealth, nor any human intervention that people have rights, but by the divine power of God."

Ms. Bradley is exactly right, Madam Speaker.

The American ideal has withstood the test of time because of those who put their faith in God's plan rather than their own.

Madam Speaker, let us never forget that we are one nation under God, and the freedoms we proudly espouse are a gift that He has bestowed upon us.

THE AMERICAN IDEAL

My name is Elizabeth Bradley, and I am 18 years old. Recently the President challenged anyone to define America, claiming that it could not be done. I felt lead to write this short essay, not only defining what is truly American and outlining the most basic steps towards restoring us to our former glory. I encourage the reader to share the ideas presented in this essay at any and every opportunity, and I thank the reader in advance for taking the time to read them.

It comes upon my conscience this day, July 2, 2021, to make note of the American Ideal, which is the very thing that has been the cornerstone of my upbringing and second only in my very identity to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am inclined to write this not only for myself but for the multitude like me who are filled with anguish at the state of the nation in which we live. I struggled in my younger years with the idea that my country is so divided against itself. I have many times over feared the self-division or conquering of the U.S. by a foreign power. But it occurs to me now that America is not and never, in concept or reality, has been a particular plot of land. The United States as we call it is only the land in which the American Ideal has been allowed to flourish. And while it will be a dismal day when the current government and land are inevitably overrun, America is not a thing that can truly be destroyed. America is an idea, a rather great one, in which people are

by Providence allowed to protect and fight for their God given rights.

The American ideal is the revolutionary thought that it is not by government, nor wealth, nor any human intervention that people have rights, but by the divine power of God. And it is for this very reason that we have been uniquely and divinely blessed thus far in our pursuits as a nation. It is my firm belief that it was no man, but God Himself who turned the tide of the American revolution. Through a myriad of miracles, lives improbably saved, and weather, God lead an army of untrained and largely uneducated patriots to the most unlikely victory in all of human history. God's plan for America was vested in the very foundation of its ideals and laws. The American ideal acknowledges the fact that ''All men are created equal'' and that ''They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights''. The American ideal puts the liberty and responsibility of preserving life, enjoying liberty, and the pursuit of happiness on the people of a nation. In turn the government respects those rights and protects them. It is made clear in the American Ideal that these certain rights; among them being free speech, freedom of religion, freedom to keep and bear arms, privacy from government intervention and the right to a fair trial and fair treatment throughout any judicial proceedings, among others; are not capable of being given or taken away at the hands of any man but given by God alone in His mercies and through the provision of death of Jesus Christ.

The American Ideal is one, and governmentally the only one, that is constructed in a way that can glorify God. It is for this reason that God has supported this great American experiment. It is my unfavorable duty at this point to note that the governmental body of these United States has long strayed from this ideal and its purpose. Through centuries of corruption and societal changes, some of which were necessary and some of which were orchestrated by the enemy to divide our people, American society has forgotten its foundation in Providence. The government, which is now lead by a people who are led by partisan politics, is a shell of what it used to and rightly should be. The leaders of this nation have taken to voting only for what they believe will get them reelected. Worse than that, some leaders in this nation have decided to vote in accordance with whatever will oppose God's Truth and the Providential American Ideal. The enemy has not only taken hold in the government but in all aspects of the American life. Business, entertainment, and even many churches have fallen short of God's plan for this nation. Wealthy and vicious people now monopolize almost all forms of communication and consumers allow themselves to be silenced. Churches no longer speak Gods Truth, but pander to a modern audience that insists upon the acceptance and glorification of sin. The doctrines of free speech and religion have been distorted and abused in a way that benefits those who are against the common people. The poor are intentionally kept down for the political gain of those who oppress them most. And the enemy, with his many minions in this world are attempting to erase God's name from the societal conscience of Americans.

The hope that we may all hold to is in this verse ''If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land.'' 2 Chronicles 7:14. We the people, who believe in the American Ideal by nature are God's people. We must take heed, not only of the hope held in this verse but also of the effort that we must put in to achieve this goal. We must humble ourselves. We must not be blinded by our pride, in ourselves, our party affiliation, or in our own ideas. Conversely, we must humble ourselves and ask only what God would have us do, think, say, or vote. We must seek God's plan for us and our nation through prayer, and we must be vigilant in this effort. We must pray for forgiveness for our collective sins, and we must turn from those things which we hold dear that we know are not morally right. We must turn both from personal sin and do all we can to hinder our national sins. If we are to hold onto the nation that we love, and properly protect the American Ideal we must, as a people, place our faith in the sole Almighty God of Israel and America.

While it appalls and amazes me that there are those that do not hold this nation and this Ideal the way I do, I often feel that there are a precious few that see the American Ideal the way I do. In recent times many of those who claim the title of patriot are unwilling to give up even the smallest convenience to divest power from those who seek to oppress us. Our forefathers, and in fact many influential women of the American Revolution began their revolution by giving up their dearest luxuries. It may not seem so dear a cost to us now to give up the drinking of tea, but what if Amazon Prime was put in that place? How many are truly willing to give up something, never mind everything to make the American Ideal once again thrive? And, while there is much explosive drivel strewn across the internet about patriotism, I challenge the reader to find a single person who is both unwilling to stop buying from Google and willing to give their very life for the cause.

Nevertheless, this is written not to discourage the truly American people but to bring them hope. The essence of America is within the hearts and minds of those who know and believe the American Ideal. The belief in God given freedoms, personal liberty and the responsibilities therein, and the truth that any man can become successful when the proper work is put in; that is the American Ideal. And this Ideal can not be lost, it can not be altered, and it can not be destroyed. No matter how hard the enemy tries, he can not destroy what God has created and blessed. The battle is won against the Washington oligarchy, against the immoral CEOs, against those who seek to silence us, against the bitter hatred among brothers, against the sex culture, against drug culture, against Satan himself. It is done. Therefore, I urge the reader to get on your knees tonight and pray over this nation. Pray with confidence in the One you are speaking to. Pray for the leaders of our churches, schools, and government. Pray over what roll God has for you in the next chapter of this American experiment, put on the armor of Christ and stand prepared for the coming battle.—Elizabeth S. Bradley

PRESERVING HOME AND OFFICE NUMBERS IN EMERGENCIES ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 678, the PHONE Act, a simple but powerful bill to ensure that Americans who lose their homes in natural disasters do not also lose their home phone numbers.

Last year, the CZU Lightning Complex Fire burned 86,509 acres in my Congressional District, making it the 12th most destructive fire in California history. Seventy-seven thousand of my constituents were evacuated, and the fire destroyed nearly 1,500 homes, businesses, and other buildings.

This figure includes nearly 1,000 families in my district who couldn't return home because their home was destroyed. The PHONE Act helps these families and thousands of other American families who lose their homes in wildfires and other disasters.

The PHONE Act has three parts. First, if the President issues a major disaster declaration and a governor designates a disaster area, phone numbers in that designated area cannot be reassigned for one year. Second, if someone in the disaster area needs more than a year, they can get a one-year extension because rebuilding can take years. Third, the bill allows consumers to cancel phone service without a cancellation fee if their home is inaccessible or uninhabitable. The bill also prohibits resubscription fees if consumers get phone service somewhere else in the area.

Some may ask why we need all of this for a simple phone number. One of the first things parents teach their children is their phone number. Many of us still remember our parents' home phone numbers. While many are opting to live with just cellphones, it's important to consider who depends on landlines: older Americans and retirees who often have multiple doctors, caregivers, and loved ones using long-held phone numbers.

Congressman MIKE THOMPSON authored the bill to help the survivors of the Atlas and Tubbs fires that ravished his Congressional District in 2017. Thousands lost their homes and were further frustrated to learn they also lost their phone number, because phone companies had given the numbers away.

The bill is carefully drafted to plug a small gap in the law, but this gap means the world to our constituents for whom this bill is written to protect.

Last Congress, the bill was marked up on March 10, 2020, by the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology and on September 9, 2020, by the full Energy & Commerce Committee. At both markups, I offered amendments to ensure the bill would have broad, bipartisan support and would be as effective as possible. On September 29, 2020, the House passed the bill by voice vote. Sadly, the Senate did not consider the measure.

I urge my House colleagues to pass this bill once again and urge the Senate to take it up and pass the bill as well.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN KLEIN FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF VERMONT

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor my friend Stephen Klein, who is retiring from his job as Chief Fiscal Officer to the Vermont State Legislature. Stephen joined the staff of the Vermont Legislature in 1992 as a Fiscal Analyst and, in

1993, was appointed Chief Fiscal Officer. The nonpartisan Joint Fiscal Office provides fiscal analysis, budget evaluation, performance oversight and fiscal policy support for the Appropriations, Finance, Ways & Means and Tax Committees and for the Vermont Legislature as a whole. In his capacity as Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen has directed the budget and tax staff for the Vermont House and Senate for the past 28 years.

With rapid fire speech, Stephen has educated generations of Vermont legislators on the complexities of the Vermont budget process. As President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate, I had the pleasure of working with Stephen to craft budgets for the State of Vermont and, like many before and after me, marveled at his intricate knowledge of Vermont state government, tax policy, the budget, and the economy. Stephen has gained the trust of legislators through his facility with his subject matter and his generous willingness to explain it.

Stephen's contributions have extended beyond Vermont. He served as president of the National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices in 1998 to 1999 and was a member of National Conference of State Legislatures' Executive Committee from 2002 to 2005. From 2009 to 2017, Stephen served on the Advisory Board of the New England Public Policy Center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, providing advice on research content and direction to policy makers in the New England region. From 2014 to 2017 Stephen served on the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Committee.

In 2013, Stephen was the recipient of the Steven D. Gold Award, given annually by the National Tax Association, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The 2013 award was presented by the NCSL. The award honors professionals who have made significant contributions to state and local fiscal policy.

In addition to his professional commitments, Stephen has volunteered tirelessly in his community, serving on the board of the local food cooperative in Montpelier, as Treasurer of the Green Mountain Club, and as Treasurer for the local synagogue. Stephen also serves as a guest lecturer at the Vermont Law School.

Mr. Klein attended the University of California, Berkeley; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Northeastern University School of Law. He served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and Honduras in the early 1970s.

Stephen's friendly demeanor, sage observations and ubiquitous presence have made him a well-known and welcome fixture under the Golden Dome. He will be greatly missed. I wish him all the best in his retirement and look forward to seeing him out on Vermont's hiking trails.

HONORING DWANA BRADLEY

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dwana Bradley as Iowan of the Week. Dwana is a mother, a business owner, an educator, and a long-time community advocate. She believes education is the key to life, which speaks to her passion and career as a teacher.

Dwana received a bachelor's degree in child and family services from Iowa State University, a master's degree in elementary education and literacy from Drake University, and a specialist's degree in administration. She went on to graduate from the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, and for almost seven years she worked as a reading interventionist with Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) to help students reach their potential. In 2019, she was elected to the Des Moines School Board and currently serves as the chair of the board.

Dwana did not let the COVID–19 pandemic slow her drive to educate young Iowans. As chairwoman, she serves in an outreach role to help underserved communities attain higher education and is working to stem the negative impact of COVID–19 on students, especially those who were already struggling in school or falling behind.

Dwana also owns Iowa Urban Media, a community-focused publishing company, and is the editor-in-chief for the Urban Experience Magazine, a monthly publication that shares news in the African American community and seeks to empower voices through positivity. Her journalism promotes education, an open dialogue, and a space to have important conversations about issues affecting Iowans. She passionately believes that these conversations are a crucial step towards achieving justice.

In addition to her commendable career in education, Dwana is an active advocate. She is the executive director of Iowa Juneteenth and chairs a committee for Iowa Juneteenth Observance, volunteers on the DMPS attendance committee, and still makes time to direct the choir at True Bible Baptist Church.

As executive director of Iowa Juneteenth and chair on a committee for Iowa Juneteenth Observance, she helps put on events, educate the public, and celebrate with Iowans across the state for the annual commemoration of Juneteenth: the date the last enslaved African Americans were granted freedom in 1865, ending slavery in the United States. Just this week, Congress finally passed a bill to formally recognize Juneteenth National Independence Day as a federal holiday after decades of activism from Americans.

As we recently gathered to observe Juneteenth and join in community celebrations and educational events, let us thank Dwana and her team for their efforts to bring Iowans together to share stories, experiences, and history with one another. She is a fantastic educator, a proud voice in the community, and a fervent advocate for uplifting Iowans. Please join me in honoring Dwana Bradley as our Iowan of the Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr MAST. Madam Speaker, my flight into Washington, D.C. was delayed due to bad weather causing me to miss a vote on 7/19/2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

REMEMBERING JASON G. THOMAS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jason G. Thomas for his ten years of service with the House's Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Logistics & Support. It is with a heavy heart that I share the news that he passed away in September 2020 at the young age of forty. Jason was a constituent of mine from Maryland's Fifth District.

Jason began his career with the CAO in January 2015, joining the Logistics & Support group responsible for moving furniture and carrying out the massive effort every two years of moving offices during the Congressional transition. Prior to his time with the CAO, Jason worked with District Movers, where he gained a strong understanding of logistics and organization, which served him well in his House employment.

Among his many hobbies, Jason had a love of acting, he enjoyed mechanics, he was an avid football fan, and he proved a very talented drummer. He was a graduate of the Massanutten Military Academy. Jason's coworkers and friends remember him for his infectious smile and incessant positive attitude. Some of the sentiments they shared after he passed away included that: 'He was always smiling,' and 'What a great guy.' Also: 'He would always greet you with a smile and a hello and was such a light to be around.'

Prior to his death, Jason was being recognized for his exceptional service while confronting the challenges of the COVID–19 pandemic. He was tasked with helping to assist with the enormous job of processing the distribution of thousands of laptops and electronics to House Members and staff who were suddenly required to work remotely. The Asset Management Department specifically requested Jason by name, not only because of his talent but also because of his sunny disposition and positive attitude while performing his duties. He was soon to be recognized for his contribution to this effort by former Chief Administrative Officer Phil Kiko.

Jason lived in Clinton, Maryland, and is survived by his parents, Henry and Idena Thomas, his three sisters—Sonya, Tanya, and Yolanda—and his three young children, fourteen-year-old Kason, thirteen-year-old Juatez, and ten-year-old Karen.

Madam, Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jason G. Thomas for his service and contributions to this House. I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to, the Thomas family for their tremendous loss. The gifts of Jason's life and his tremendous dedication to service, family, and community will always be remembered.

HONORING COMMISSIONER DEAN COX

HON. CHRIS STEWART

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD a letter signed by the

Utah Congressional delegation to honor the life and service of my dear friend, Commissioner Dean Cox of St. George, Utah, who passed away on July 7, 2021. I have known Commissioner Cox, and his wife LaRene for years. They are the kind of family who set a high standard for public service and involvement. Dean was a great public servant, a wonderful neighbor, and a fantastic friend. He is sorely missed.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2021.

LARENE COX,
St. George, Utah.

DEAR LARENE COX AND FAMILY: We write to offer our sincere condolences and honor a great pillar of southern Utah, Commissioner Dean Cox. His years of diligent public service to his community and family will be felt for decades to come. He will be dearly missed.

Commissioner Dean Cox devoted his life to serving others and set an example of measured and thoughtful leadership throughout his life. He gave of his time and talents generously and had a way of bringing people together to complete essential projects for the benefit of all in Washington County.

Dean's local knowledge and diverse experiences secured him as a vital and trusted voice for the community. We revere Dean's willingness to share his love of flight and knowledge of radio operation to protect his community through service as volunteer emergency responder. As a small business owner, he showed the way to invest in the future of his community. His ever willingness to serve taught us compassion for, and devotion to beloved neighbors, which is a legacy that will live on in Washington County, the State of Utah, and beyond.

We are grateful to you for your sustaining love and support to Commissioner Dean Cox throughout his life and career. You will continue to carry on the legacy of friendship and kindness that together you set during his lifetime. We will miss working with Dean and are grateful for the time we spent with him as a friend, neighbor and dedicated public servant.

Our hearts go out to you as we keep you and your family in our prayers and hope for you to find comfort during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Senator MIKE LEE.
Representative CHRIS STEWART.
Representative BLAKE MOORE.
Senator MITT ROMNEY.
Representative JOHN CURTIS.
Representative BURGESS OWENS.

HONORING CAPTAIN TIMOTHY CRONIN

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I have the honor of serving Florida's First Coast, with a constituency filled with our nation's heroes. It is my distinct privilege to rise today and speak about one of my own Coast Guard constituents, Captain Timothy Cronin.

Captain Cronin currently serves as the Commanding Officer of the National Security Cutter *Hamilton* in North Charleston, South Carolina, and has served his country with distinction for 25 years. On July 23rd of this year, he retires and returns home to his wife Kristan and children Kaleigh, Connor, Cooper, Parker and Davis.

Since the Coast Guard's founding in 1790 by Alexander Hamilton, Americans have relied on our guardsmen to protect our nation's maritime interests. The Coast Guard has secured our sovereignty in times of war and peace, and safeguarded the American public during times of national catastrophe.

Captain Tim Cronin has served on six cutters, commanding three of them. He departs the service after leading the great crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Hamilton*—a state of the art National Security Cutter bearing the name of the Service's founder. In his two years commanding the *Hamilton*, Captain Cronin seized over 13 tons of illegal drugs worth $316 million, removed 41 drug traffickers from the water, and led his crew through the Covid–19 pandemic.

Most recently, he took his crew over 5,000 nautical miles from home to the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea. There, he conducted training with NATO and Black Sea allies in the face of Russian aggression, enforcing the rule of law and the steadfast commitment of the United States to our friends in the region. He operated in a global environment and proved once again how powerful and important our Coast Guard is to the world.

While his retirement is a loss to the Service, his legacy will continue to live on in the Coast Guard men and women he served with over the last 25 years. They have undoubtedly benefitted from his leadership, genuine compassion for others, and commitment to the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion lo duty.

Captain Cronin, those whom you've led now have the watch. I wish Captain Cronin fair winds and following seas as he starts a new chapter in his life. Bravo Zulu on a job very well-done.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing this great American and Coast Guardsman for his selfless service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD RAINEY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

MR. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Richard "Dick" Rainey.

Dick was born in Oregon in 1938. His parents were loggers, so Dick grew up spending a lot of time outdoors. Following high school, Dick joined the United States Navy and served for four years. He then pursued a career in law enforcement and joined the Compton Police Department. In 1964, Dick moved to Contra Costa County where he joined the Sheriff's Office. He spent 28 years there and was promoted through the ranks, but also continued his education and earned an associate's and bachelor's degree while working. In 1978, Dick was elected as the Contra Costa County Sheriff. During his tenure as Sheriff, he oversaw the construction of new jails in Martinez and Richmond.

When he retired as Sheriff, Dick turned to politics. He represented parts of Contra Costa and Alameda counties in both the California State and the California State Senate. He then went on to serve as a Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the George W. Bush Administration.

Dick is remembered as a compassionate, genuine man who dedicated his life to helping others. In his personal life, he enjoyed traveling and spending quality time with his children and grandchildren.

Sadly, Dick passed away this month. He was a mentor to me, and he will be dearly missed. Please join me in honoring Dick Rainey for his leadership and many contributions to our community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 22

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1425, to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition, and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, S. 1428, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products, S. 1388, to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, S. 1435, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, and the nominations of Gustavo A. Gelpi, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Angel Kelley, to be United States District Judge for the

District of Massachusetts, Christine P. O'Hearn, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Helaine Ann Greenfeld, of Maryland, and Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SR–325

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.

SD–106

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor, and Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, both of the Department of the Interior, and Shalanda H. Baker, of Texas, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Samuel T. Walsh, of New York, to be General Counsel, and Andrew Eilperin Light, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Affairs), all of the Department of Energy.

SD–366

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine frameworks to address future pandemic risk.

SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Space and Science

To hold hearings to examine space situational awareness, space traffic management, and orbital debris, focusing on solutions for emerging threats.

SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine current issues adversely affecting environmental justice populations.

SD–406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine American workers in a 21st century economy, focusing on the right to organize.

SD–430

JULY 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine implementation and enforcement of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, focusing on one year after entry into force.

SD–215

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine pipeline cybersecurity, focusing on protecting critical infrastructure.

SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of the Interior.

SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, and Lee Satterfield, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary (Educational and Cultural Affairs), both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD–G50/VTC

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine building on lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic, focusing on the path forward.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine resources and authorities needed to protect and secure the homeland.

SD–342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine America under cyber siege, focusing on preventing and responding to ransomware attacks.

SD–226

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Robert Luis Santos, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, and Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD–342

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), and Donald Lu, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, all of the Department of State, and Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

SD–G50/VTC

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 1652, VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4953–S4989

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2383–2404, and S. Res. 307–308. **Pages S4979–80**

Measures Passed:

VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act: By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 272), Senate passed H.R. 1652, to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, by the order of the Senate of Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4962–74**

Rejected:

By 40 yeas to 60 nays (Vote No. 271), Durbin (for Toomey) Modified Amendment No. 2121, to ensure adequate funding in the Crime Victims Fund is disbursed to victims, their families, and their advocates each year. **Pages S4962–74**

Congratulating University of Oklahoma Sooners: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 291, congratulating the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's College World Series, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4987**

Congratulating Mississippi State University: Senate agreed to S. Res. 307, congratulating the Mississippi State University baseball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I baseball championship. **Page S4987**

Congratulating Hutchinson Community College: Senate agreed to S. Res. 308, commending and congratulating the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team for winning the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association football National Championship. **Page S4987**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, with respect to Lebanon; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–11) **Page S4975**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019, with respect to the situation in Mali; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–12) **Page S4975**

Abruzzo and Jenkins Nominations—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. **Page S4961**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 50 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. EX. 269), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4961**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, July 21, 2021; that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo; that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins occur immediately upon disposition of the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins,

all post-cloture time expire at 2:30 p.m., on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. **Pages S4987–88**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 56 yeas 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 270), Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Pages S4955–61**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 268), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4961**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Andrew Philip Hunter, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Laurie E. Locascio, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

Caryn R. McClelland, of California, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

Michael J. Murphy, of New York, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Howard A. Van Vranken, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana.

James D. Rodriguez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training. **Page S4989**

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Michael A. Brown, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, which was sent to the Senate on April 12, 2021.

Javier M. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General, which was sent to the Senate on April 28, 2021. **Page S4989**

Messages from the House: **Page S4975**

Measures Referred: **Page S4975**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S4976**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4976–79**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4980–82**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4982–83**

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S4983–84**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—272) **Pages S4961, S4974**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:15 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4987–88.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support approved for full committee consideration, those provisions which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel approved for full committee consideration, those provisions which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration, those provisions which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration, those provisions which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration, those provisions which fall within the jurisdiction of the subcommittee, of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITIES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine 21st century communities, focusing on climate change, resilience, and reinsurance, after receiving testimony from Abdollah Shafieezadeh, The Ohio State University, Columbus; Rachel Cleetus, Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Franklin W. Nutter, Reinsurance Association of America, and Jerry Theodorou, R Street Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Roger Pielke, Jr., University of Colorado, Boulder.

FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development concluded a hearing to examine preserving and improving Federally assisted housing, including S. 265, to establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, and S. 2092, to permanently authorize the Native Community Development Financial Institutions lending program of the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Dave Jacobs, National Center for Healthy Housing, Columbia, Maryland; Jennifer Keogh, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Sharon Vogel, Cheyenne River Housing Authority, Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Karen Erika Donfried, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (European Affairs and Eurasian Affairs), Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary (African Affairs), and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation, and Anne A. Witkowsky, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (Conflict and Stabilization Operations), and to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, all of the Department of State, and Paloma Adams-Allen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

MODERNIZING THE STATE DEPARTMENT

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development concluded a hearing to examine modernizing the State Department for the 21st century, after receiving testimony from Stephen E. Biegun, former Deputy Secretary of State, Marcie Ries, former United States Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Albania, and Annie-Marie Slaughter, New America, all of Washington, D.C.

COVID–19 RESPONSE: A FEDERAL PERSPECTIVE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a Federal perspective on the COVID–19 response, focusing on the path forward, after receiving testimony from Rochelle P. Walensky, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Janet Woodcock, Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, and Dawn O'Connell, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

NOMINATIONS

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Stacey A. Dixon, of the District of Columbia, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, and Thomas Andrew Monheim, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

DRUG OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Caucus concluded a hearing to examine the Federal response to the drug overdose epidemic, after receiving testimony from Regina LaBelle, Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Tom Coderre, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Nicole Alexander-Scott, Rhode Island Department of Health, Providence; Keith Humphreys, Stanford University, Stanford, California; and Steve Gurdak, Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program, Annandale, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 4545–4548, 4551–4588; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 41; and H. Res. 540–543, were introduced. **Pages H3752–54**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3755–57**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4549, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–98); and

H.R. 4550, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–99). **Page H3752**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Underwood to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3673**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3679**

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2021: H.R. 1870, amended, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize strengthening of local transportation security capabilities by assigning certain officers and intelligence analysts to State, local, and regional fusion centers in jurisdictions with a high-risk surface transportation asset and improving the timely sharing of information regarding threats of terrorism and other threats, including targeted violence. **Pages H3681–83**

Suspending the Rules and passing bills and agreeing to the resolutions en bloc: Pursuant to section 7 of H. Res. 535, Representative Hoyer made a motion to suspend the rules and pass the following bills en bloc, and therefore the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions would be vacated to the end that all such motions would be considered as withdrawn: H.R. 678, H.R. 1036, H.R. 1079, amended, H.R. 1158, H.R. 1250, H.R. 1754, H.R. 1833, amended, H.R. 1850, H.R. 1871, H.R. 1877, amended, H.R. 1893, H.R. 1895, H.R. 2118, H.R. 2795, amended, H.R. 2928, H.R. 2980, amended, H.R. 3003, H.R. 3138, amended, H.R. 3223, H.R. 3263, and H.R. 3264, and agree to the resolutions H. Res. 277 and H. Res. 294, by a yea-and-nay vote of 319 yeas to 105 nays, Roll No. 212. **Pages H3683–08, H3715–30**

Consumer Protection and Recovery Act: The House passed H.R. 2668, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to affirmatively confirm the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to seek permanent injunctions and other equitable relief for violations of any provision of law enforced by the Commission, by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 214. **Pages H3730–38**

Rejected the Rodney Davis (IL) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 217 nays, Roll No. 213. **Pages H3736–37**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–11 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill. **Page H3730**

H. Res. 535, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2467), (H.R. 2668), and (H.R. 3985) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 211, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 210. **Pages H3708–15**

Communication from the Committee on Ethics: Read a communication from the Committee on Ethics regarding an appeal received from Representative Greene (GA) of a fine imposed pursuant to H. Res. 38, which was received after the Committee adopted its written rules. A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal. **Page H3751**

Communication from the Committee on Ethics: Read a communication from the Committee on Ethics regarding an appeal received from Representative Norman of a fine imposed pursuant to H. Res. 38, which was received after the Committee adopted its written rules. A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal. **Page H3751**

Communication from the Committee on Ethics: Read a communication from the Committee on Ethics regarding an appeal received from Representative Massie of a fine imposed pursuant to H. Res. 38, which was received after the Committee adopted its written rules. A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal. **Page H3751**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13882 with respect to the situation in Mali is to continue in effect beyond July 26, 2021—referred to the

Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–49). **Page H3740**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2021—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–50). **Page H3740**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3714–15, H3715, H3729–30, H3737 and H3737–38.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NON-GOVERNMENTAL VIEWS ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Non-Governmental Views on the Fiscal Year 2022 Department of Defense Budget''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMISSION ON SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled ''The Findings and Recommendations of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military''. Testimony was heard from Kathleen H. Hicks, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; and the following Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military officials: Lynn Rosenthal, Chair; Meghan Tokash, Member; Major General James Johnson (Retired), Member; and Kyleanne Hunter, Member.

CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITIES: INVESTING IN THE DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions; and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a joint hearing entitled ''Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce''. Testimony was heard from Jessica Fay, State Representative, House of Representatives, Maine; and public witnesses.

STOPPING DIGITAL THIEVES: THE GROWING THREAT OF RANSOMWARE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Stopping Digital Thieves: The Growing Threat of Ransomware''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING BACK A BETTER, MORE EQUITABLE HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AMERICA: OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Building Back A Better, More Equitable Housing Infrastructure for America: Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development''. Testimony was heard from Marcia Fudge, Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HISTORIC PROTESTS IN CUBA AND THE CRACKDOWN ON FREE EXPRESSION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration and International Economic Policy held a hearing entitled ''Historic Protests in Cuba and the Crackdown on Free Expression''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S.-EUROPEAN COOPERATION ON CHINA AND THE BROADER INDO-PACIFIC

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation; and Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber held a joint hearing entitled ''U.S.-European Cooperation on China and the Broader Indo-Pacific''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TAKING TO THE SKIES: EXAMINING TSA'S STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING INCREASED SUMMER TRAVEL

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled ''Taking to the Skies: Examining TSA's Strategy for Addressing Increased Summer Travel''. Testimony was heard from Darby LaJoye, Executive Assistant Administrator for Security Operations, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; and Michael Ondocin, Executive Assistant Administrator for Law Enforcement/Federal Air Marshal Service, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing on H.R. 442, the ''Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act''; and H.R. 3496, the

"Urban Indian Health Providers Facilities Improvement Act". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE POTENTIAL FOR A CIVILIAN CLIMATE CORPS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing entitled "Examining the Potential for a Civilian Climate Corps". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4125, the "Keep the Watchdogs Running Act"; H.R. 1508, the "Guidance Clarity Act"; H.R. 4465, the "Federally Funded Research and Technology Development Protection Act"; H.R. 564, the "Comprehensive Paid Leave for Federal Employees Act"; H.R. 2994, the "Accountability for Acting Officials Act"; H.R. 4448, the "Administrative Law Judge Competitive Service Restoration Act"; H.R. 3533, to establish occupational series for Federal positions in software development, software engineering, data science, and data management; H.R. 4393, to require the Directors of the Courts Services and Offender Supervision Agency of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency to reside in the District of Columbia; H.R. 4469, the "AI in Counterterrorism Oversight Enhancement Act"; H.R. 4470, the "Made in America Pandemic Preparedness Act"; H.R. 2842, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 4th Street in Petaluma, California, as the "Lynn C. Woolsey Post Office Building"; H.R. 3539, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna, Guam, as the "Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office"; H.R. 3579, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 East Main Street in Maroa, Illinois, as the "Jeremy L. Ridlen Post Office"; H.R. 3613, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 Trumbull Street in Saint Clair, Michigan, as the "Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest Post Office Building"; H.R. 4168, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6223 Maple Street, in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Jackson French Post Office"; and H.R. 4030, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 800 6th Street in Paso Robles, California, as the "Reverend Ruben Franklin Tate, Jr., Post Office Building". H.R. 564, H.R. 2994, H.R. 4125, H.R. 4393, H.R. 4469, H.R. 4470, H.R. 1508, H.R. 4448, H.R. 4465, and H.R. 3533 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2842, H.R. 3539, H.R. 3579, H.R. 3613, H.R. 4168, and H.R. 4030 were ordered reported, without amendment.

SPECTRUM NEEDS FOR OBSERVATIONS IN EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Spectrum Needs for Observations in Earth and Space Sciences". Testimony was heard from Andrew Von Ah, Director, Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

STRENGTHENING THE CYBERSECURITY POSTURE OF AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Strengthening the Cybersecurity Posture of America's Small Business Community". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BRIDGING THE GAP: IMPROVING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE U.S. AVIATION WORKFORCE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled "Bridging the Gap: Improving Diversity and Inclusion in the U.S. Aviation Workforce". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ISAKSON-ROE AT SIX MONTHS: AN UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Isakson-Roe at Six Months: An Update on Implementation of Education Improvements". Testimony was heard from Charmain Bogue, Executive Director, Education Services, Department of Veterans Affairs.

MICROELECTRONICS: LEVERS FOR PROMOTING SECURITY AND INNOVATION

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Strategic Technologies and Advanced Research, held a hearing entitled "Microelectronics: Levers for Promoting Security and Innovation". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENHANCING COMMITTEE PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH CONSENSUS BUILDING

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing on "Enhancing Committee Productivity through Consensus Building". Testimony was heard from Representatives DeGette and Upton; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine Navy and Air Force weapons systems divestments, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine cybersecurity vulnerabilities facing our nation's physical infrastructure, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine U.S. Policy on Turkey, 11:15 a.m., SD–G50/VTC.

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine combatting climate change in East Asia and the Pacific, 2 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 1275, to amend the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to make improvements, and the nominations of Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Elizabeth Merrill Brown, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, and Roberto Josue Rodriguez, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, and David M. Prouty, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, to hold hearings to examine disparities in life expectancy, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 1797, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to expand the funding authority for renovating, constructing, and expanding certain facilities, S. 1895, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award additional funding through the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program of the Indian Health Service, and H.R. 1688, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine immigrant farmworkers and feeding America, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, hearing entitled ''The U.S. Wood Products Industry: Facilitating the Post COVID–19 Recovery'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled ''Review of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command'', 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections; and Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, joint hearing entitled ''Phasing Out Subminimum Wages: Supporting the Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment for Workers with Disabilities'', 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4369, the ''National Centers of Excellence in Advanced and Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Act''; H.R. 654, the ''Drug-Free Communities Pandemic Relief Act''; H.R. 2051, the ''Methamphetamine Response Act of 2021''; H.R. 2379, the ''State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act of 2021''; H.R. 2364, the ''Synthetic Opioid Danger Awareness Act''; H.R. 2355, the ''Opioid Prescription Verification Act of 2021''; H.R. 4026, the ''Social Determinants of Health Data Analysis Act of 2021''; H.R. 3743, the ''Supporting the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration Act''; H.R. 550, the ''Immunization Infrastructure Modernization Act''; H.R. 1550, the ''PREVENT HPV Cancers Act of 2021''; H.R. 951, the ''Maternal Vaccination Act''; H.R. 4387, the ''Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act of 2021''; H.R. 3742, the ''Vaccine INFO Act''; H.R. 2347, the ''Strengthening the Vaccines for Children Act of 2021''; H.R. 3894, the ''CARING for Social Determinants Act of 2021''; H.R. 4406, the ''Supporting Medicaid in the U.S. Territories Act''; H.R. 2685, the ''Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act''; H.R. 3919, the ''Secure Equipment Act of 2021''; H.R. 4028, the ''Information and Communication Technology Strategy Act''; H.R. 4032, the ''Open RAN Outreach Act''; H.R. 4045, the ''FUTURE Networks Act''; H.R. 4046, the ''NTIA Policy and Cybersecurity Coordination Act''; H.R. 4055, the ''American Cybersecurity Literacy Act''; and H.R. 4067, the ''Communications Security Advisory Act of 2021'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, hearing entitled ''Banking the Unbanked: Exploring Private and Public Efforts to Expand Access to the Financial System'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets, hearing entitled ''Bond Rating Agencies: Examining the 'Nationally Recognized' Statistical Rating Organizations'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism, hearing entitled ''People to People: Examining Grassroots Peacebuilding Efforts Between Israelis and Palestinians'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1693, the ''EQUAL Act''; H.R. 4035, the ''Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2021''; H.R. 3372, the ''The One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act

of 2021''; and H.R. 4435, the ''Fight Notario Fraud Act of 2021'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled ''Examining the President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Proposal for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Building Back with Justice: Environmental Justice Is Central to the American Jobs Plan'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''Silent Killer: The Rising Problem of Extreme Heat in the U.S.'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, hearing entitled ''SBA's Role in Climate Solutions'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''Review of Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs'', 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled ''Moving Forward: Evaluating Next Steps for the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program'', 2 p.m., HVC–210 and Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled ''The Global Challenge of Forced Labor in Supply Chains: Strengthening Enforcement and Protecting Workers'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Warfighter Support, hearing entitled ''Military Intelligence Program Budget Overview Hearing'', 9:30 a.m., HVC–304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine Rodchenkov Act enforcement at the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins.

At 2:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3684, INVEST in America Act (the legislative vehicle for the infrastructure framework).

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 21

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 2467—PFAS Action Act of 2021.

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