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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. WILLIAMS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 21, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NIKEMA WILLIAMS 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.

SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. I rise as a person who is proud to live in a country where we celebrate the ideal of liberty and justice for all; government of the people, by the people, for the people.

I rise today with grateful thoughts on my mind and in my heart. I rise with gratitude. I am thankful to those persons, the many, who have signed on to H. Res. 517.

H. Res. 517, Madam Speaker, is a resolution that would allow us to remember slavery, Slavery Remembrance Day.

Slavery Remembrance Day would be a day that we would set aside, not for celebration, but for commemoration, for memorialization, to remember the atrocities that were imposed upon people, human beings, how they were made chattel. Slavery Remembrance Day.

And for those who may not be aware, we have a 9/11 Remembrance Day. We have a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We have a Holocaust Remembrance Day. But we don't have a Slavery Remembrance Day.

Hence, on August 20 of this year, we will commemorate the first Slavery Remembrance Day, because it was on that day in 1619 that the White Lion landed in this country with some 20 persons who were held in captivity as slaves. Slavery Remembrance Day.

So I am rising today to thank the many persons who have already signed on to the resolution. And I want you to know that we will be sending you something very special, something comparable to this. It will have the resolution cited on one side of the page. Each of your names will be highlighted on the other side of the page. And each of you will have a special place for your name that will be highlighted.

This is historic, and we have to treat it as such. This is something that those who will look back on this time through the vista of time, they will look, and they will conclude that we did not forget, that we made it a point to remember that those who, unfortunately, don't learn the lessons of history sometimes repeat history.

We never want to repeat slavery. Hence, we will have a Slavery Remembrance Day resolution.

THE AMERICAN DREAM IS ALIVE AND WELL

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, 2 miles down the road from this very Chamber, in 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and proclaimed his vision for the future:

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Nearly 60 years later, radical far-left Democrats are doing everything possible to eliminate this dream through the implementation of critical race theory.

Instead of equality, critical race theory frames race, not character, as the focal point of the human construct, implying that one's racial identity defines who they are and who they will ever be.

To these CRT believers, your fate has already been decided by your skin color.

To the average American living outside the swamp bubble, this idea is ludicrous.

Everyday Americans have seen individuals of all races and backgrounds succeed. They know hard work and character are the biggest determinants of success, and the American Dream is alive and well for everyone.

But critical race theory wants to poison our classrooms by pushing an agenda which revolves around race, not character. They want to teach young minds that racism persists even if no individual or institution acts in a racist way or holds any racist beliefs.

This toxic teaching squashes hope, stifles growth, and fuels anger and despair.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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What began as a theory for civil rights lawyers to debate has transformed into harmful messages that ultimately seek to further divide our Nation.

CRT and The 1619 Project have no place in our schools, our workplaces, or our military.

Our Nation's founding principles of equality and freedom are worth fighting for and protecting. While our Nation isn't perfect, we always strive for that more perfect Union. We have made progress in the last 100 years and are still the greatest Nation in the world. This progress would be lost should we allow the divisive, racist rhetoric of critical race theory into our classrooms.

As a mother and a former teacher, I believe our education system is at its best when we inspire our young people to be all they can be and share with them the principles showcased in America's traditional motto, "e pluribus unum," which means, out of many, one. That is the unique greatness of our country, the idea of being a melting pot of people from different countries, races, and backgrounds, but we become one as Americans.

Our schools should never stifle the growth of our children, belittle them based on the color of their skin, or teach them that they themselves or their families are racist regardless of their individual beliefs.

The American Dream is alive and well and should be fanned into flames, not crushed by critical race theory's restrictive and damaging rhetoric. That is the last thing our children need.

Since critical race theory has entered the national discussion, Missourians and parents across the country have expressed strong disdain for teaching our students that this country is inherently racist and that minority groups are unable to succeed within our country's current systems and institutions.

Today, I stand by those parents. I cannot condone an education system that teaches students to be ashamed of our country and to judge each other based on the color of our skin. And I believe neither would Martin Luther King, Jr. Our kids deserve better.

PAYMENT PAUSE FOR STUDENT LOANS SHOULD BE EXTENDED

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, last January, in one of his first executive orders, President Biden extended the student loan pause on monthly payments through the end of September.

This order allowed all direct student loans issued by the Federal Government through the U.S. Department of Education, again, to have a grace period during the recession that we are still experiencing. Even with a good job

growth last month, 800,000 jobs added to the economy, a 5.6 percent unemployment rate, and having people starting to again recover, the need for that pause was blindingly obvious.

A couple weeks ago, myself and Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY wrote to President Biden and the Secretary of Education calling on the President to extend that pause again. We are about 60 days away from all these student loans snapping back with very high interest rates, and again, at a time when the economy is still recovering.

Madam Speaker, this is exactly what the Small Business Administration did for disaster loans issued during COVID when they extended the grace period allowed of 1 year, when those loans were issued during COVID, to have that grace period extended into 2022. That was a smart, wise move recognizing that this is the wrong time to add debt burden on individuals and businesses as the U.S. economy starts to recover.

Again, we understand that at some point we are going to have to have a return to student loan debt payments, but, again, there are additional reasons why this pause makes sense.

Two of the largest debt servicers, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, which services a large number of student loan debts, announced a couple of weeks ago they are withdrawing from the program, which means that borrowers are going to be shifted to new servicers, as well as the New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation.

So again, the dislocation and the change that is happening with student loan servicers are additional reasons why the President and Secretary Cardona should agree to our request.

Moving forward, it is time for Congress to act to fix some of the problems within the student loan space.

Congressman DUSTY JOHNSON and I, on a bipartisan basis, back in January, introduced the Recognizing Military Service in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Act. A companion bill in the Senate was introduced by Senator RUBIO and Senator HASSAN.

Again, the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program was created back in 2007 basically to allow teachers, nurses, people serving in the military, cops—who will, again, make 10 years of payments on their student loans while holding down public service jobs—to be eligible for discharge of their student loan debt.

The last administration butchered this program. People who, again, for 10 years abided by the rules were refused and denied student loan discharge, including people serving in the military.

Our bill will untangle that bottleneck, will recognize that people who are on Active Duty overseas, away from their families, who again, were allowed a grace period in terms of monthly payments, those months will be credited towards public service loan forgiveness. It has been endorsed by

every veteran service organization from VFW to the Iraq and Afghan War Veterans, and again, is a smart bipartisan bill which will help a population of people who perform the highest form of public service; namely, wearing the uniform of this country.

We should also, as Congress, change the law to allow people to refinance down the interest rate on their student loan debt. When these loans snap back, we are looking at 6 percent, 7 percent, 8 percent interest on legacy student loan debt.

The rest of the economy with a zero percent benchmark at the Federal Reserve is refinancing debt on homes, on consumer loans, on auto debt, but student loan borrowers are trapped unless Congress acts.

H.R. 3024 allows the Department of Education to refinance down the interest rates on student loan debt so that people, again, in a very low-interest rate environment—and the chairman of the Federal Reserve announced the other day he is going to keep the benchmark at zero through 2021. Student loan borrowers should get the benefit of those low interest rates just like every other middle class family that refinances their home or their consumer debt.

So, extend the pause. Let's fix the problems in the meantime. Congress can act.

The millennials, the young people of this country deserve our help, both to act with the tools that we have, and also, calling on the administration to provide an additional grace period just like we did for small businesses.

HONORING DOUG WRIGHT

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

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a law enforcement officer from Summerville, South Carolina, who spent his career ensuring the safety of South Carolina residents and our neighborhoods.

Doug Wright began his career in 1997 by joining the Summerville Police Department. He has since dedicated over 20 years of his career to protecting our community, and I can think of no better thing to do today than to recognize the good work that our law enforcement does every single day in our communities and keeping us safe.

Through his career, Doug has worked diligently as a patrol team watch commander, uniform patrol division commander, and supervisor of the K-9 unit. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention Doug's 6 years as a Marine reservist.

In April, Chief Wright was promoted to chief of police for Summerville after serving as deputy. The vote by town council members was unanimous. This is a glowing endorsement of the work that Doug has done in his career for Summerville over the last 20 years.

Most recently, last week I was honored to award Chief Wright with a commendation from Congress for his work, and I was also able to watch and witness some of the less-than-lethal work that the Summerville Police Department is doing with the BolaWrap during that time.

Chief Wright exemplifies service in the Lowcountry in South Carolina's First Congressional District.

A NOTABLE RESCUE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and highlight a notable rescue that took place off the coast of South Carolina's First Congressional District.

Many of us in the Lowcountry took for granted tropical storm Elsa when it hit our shores.

On July 7, as Elsa was beginning to strengthen at the beginning of this season's hurricane season, a family of six was visiting the Lowcountry from West Virginia. They were caught in 6-foot waves north of St. Helena.

That afternoon, the family had sailed their 21-foot Carolina skiff to tiny Otter Island from Edisto Beach.

As the weather worsened and the wind picked up, the boat drifted off the island into stormy waters.

Unfortunately, there was no SOS system available to the family, and the father actually decided to jump in the water and swim out for help after spotting a shrimp boat. The emergency was radioed in, and Skipper Clay Emminger of Beaufort Water Search and Rescue answered the call of duty.

Ultimately, the Coast Guard was able to reach the family, despite deteriorating visibility, and a woman and four female children were hoisted to safety in a Dolphin helicopter.

I am pleased this family was rescued, and I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, and South Carolina's Department of Natural Resource.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING GREGG RUSSELL

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the efforts and talents of Hilton Head's very own folk musician and, indeed, a South Carolina legend by the name of Gregg Russell.

For 40 years, Gregg has highlighted and delighted families around the Old Liberty Tree at Harbor Town in Hilton Head Island.

While these days Gregg is singing songs for families and children, he shared the stage with many celebrities over the years. He even wrote the hit song, "Come Away Home" about Hilton Head Island, which inspired the movie of the same name.

His performances are renowned to locals and tourists alike who visit Hilton Head Island, and he has received a nomination for an Angel Award and won Best Children's Live Action Video in 2000.

Gregg doesn't just contribute with his music to our community, through

his charity, Hilton Head Heroes, Gregg and his wife, Wendy, provide needy and sick children every year with a vacation to Hilton Head Island as well.

On Gregg's 40th year anniversary—and it actually might be a few more than that—I am happy to draw attention to his career here on the House floor and thank him for everything he has done for the Hilton Head Island community.

PFAS ACTION ACT

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the PFAS Action Act, a bill that I am proud to cosponsor and that will address a critically important issue in my district and across the country, PFAS contamination.

This bill will take bold action to address PFAS contamination and it contains a number of provisions in particular that will affect our smallest communities; and I want to share those today.

From the very early days when I became a Member of Congress, one of the issues that my residents were talking about more than anything else was the need to access clean water. In particular, Michiganders are concerned about increasing levels of PFAS and other toxic chemicals that we are continuing to find in our drinking water.

In Michigan, water is our identity. We are the home of the Great Lakes, and protecting our water and our waters is one of the most bipartisan issues you will find in the State of Michigan.

I have always believed that environmental security is homeland security, because it is about the safety and security of our kids and the preservation of our way of life in Michigan.

If you can't take your grandchildren fishing in the lakes you grew up on, or can't safely hand your child a glass of water without knowing they might get a learning disability, that is a threat to your family.

We have kicked the can down the road long enough when it comes to finally addressing the PFAS issue, and I am happy to stand here today to fight for a bill that will make a real difference in people's lives when it comes to clean water.

Today, the House is going to vote on several amendments that I drafted and introduced and come directly from on-the-ground conversations I have had with residents in my district. Here is a story for you:

In Michigan, roughly 25 percent of our households get our water from private wells, including myself and my family farm. And even though there is a great deal of public reporting on PFAS contamination in our public water sources, those of us who have private wells do not have a ton of access to best practices, information, how we test.

So back in 2020, I went on a wells and waterways tour in my district and hosted an evening in Davisburg, in Oakland County, right before COVID came to us to talk directly with people who have private wells about how we can make sure that our water is protected, clean, safe, and tested.

The response was overwhelming. We had 150 people on a weekday to talk about how we protect those of us on private wells. Most people do not have the resources, information, or tools they need to get their private wells tested.

These questions led to a bill that I am proud to cosponsor called the Test Your Well Water Act, which ended up being included in the PFAS Action Act. It requires the EPA to set up a website with information for residents on private wells, including how to get your water tested, treatment options, and financial assistance to help homeowners afford the necessary treatment.

I also wrote an amendment to the PFAS Action Act to ensure that this website also contains information about the health risks associated with PFAS. My goal was to create a resource that would be able to answer the questions I received from my constituents a little over a year ago in Davisburg.

The fight to protect safe drinking water for all Michiganders actually starts usually with local advocacy from people in our districts who are directly impacted by that PFAS contamination. This includes people like Stacy Taylor.

Stacy is a resident of my town of Holly, Michigan, and she gets her water directly from a well on her property. When she and her husband started experiencing serious health effects, she suspected there may be PFAS in her water supply.

Stacy conducted intense research on her well and Holly's history, digging through old documents, deeds, and maps to figure out where the problem may lie. When she presented her findings to our office—and she was diligent about coming to find me everywhere I was in the district—we reached out to the State agency that is responsible for testing our water sources in Michigan, and it turns out Stacy was right. There was PFAS in her water supply—in our water supply.

But discovering the contamination isn't the end of the story. We have to make sure that our towns and cities can clean up these chemicals and provide their residents with clean water, even our smallest communities.

Because of Stacy's dogged advocacy and countless other local folks across my district, one of my amendments to the PFAS Action Act will beef up assistance to local and community governments that would otherwise really struggle to pay for PFAS cleanup. The cost can often be prohibitive.

The stories my constituents have shared have helped shape this bill to be more effective and impactful. In the

richest and most powerful country on Earth, we have to have the ability to provide clean water to our citizens. We have to be able to lead healthy lives, and that certainly includes guaranteeing a clean water supply.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the PFAS Action Act, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILLY BARKER

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

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very distinguished American and longtime public servant of the people of Southeastern North Carolina as well as the United States Congress.

Billy Barker has served this institution for 24 years, 18 years for former Congressman Mike McIntyre and 6 years with me as agriculture field director.

He also served a number of years for North Carolina's longtime Commissioner of Agriculture, the late Jim Graham. Following more than three decades of serving the citizens of North Carolina, Billy recently retired from his work in public service.

Billy was one of my first hires after I was elected to Congress in 2014. He is a great friend who has been an incredibly valuable source of information for me and many others. The contributions he has made to the agriculture community and our farm families cannot be measured. Sometimes it was help on a pressing issue with USDA; other times, it was just a friendly visit to talk local scuttlebutt and take a break from the stresses on the farm.

It is no exaggeration to say that North Carolina's farm economy wouldn't look the same without Billy's hard work and influence. Through numerous hurricanes and other storms, the COVID-19 pandemic, and every other challenge, Billy Barker has been a constant presence on the ground, providing our farm families and rural communities a steady hand to guide them through recovery and ensuring they have the resources they need.

Without question, the citizens of North Carolina are better off for his service. I wish him a well-deserved retirement and a relaxing and rewarding next chapter of life. I am grateful for his service to the State, and I am proud to call him my friend.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SUTTER, CEO OF NORTH CAROLINA PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime friend, Bob Sutter, who will be retiring after serving 28 years as the CEO of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association.

Prior to his lifelong career in agriculture, Bob honorably served his country for 2 years in the U.S. Navy

and 5 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve. From there, he worked for the USDA Farm Service Agency, and then later took the helm of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association as its CEO in 1993.

Bob has made countless contributions to the North Carolina agriculture community, everything from the formation of the National Peanut Board, educating the public on health benefits of peanuts, and advocating for research to improve yields. He leaves behind a successful legacy of helping peanut farmers and their families establish and maintain successful farms that support our Nation's abundant food supply.

Bob has also been a leading voice for North Carolina producers when it comes to developing strong national farm policy. His advocacy in the halls of Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government, as well as the State legislature and beyond, has been critical to the development and implementation of policies that have helped many of our farmers survive major challenges and succeed—whether they were caused by the weather, trade distortions, or the market.

Bob has had a remarkable career, and on behalf of the agriculture community and the fine citizens of North Carolina, I thank him for his dedicated service to the State and to the many farm families he has represented all these years. I wish him and his wife, Sylvia, the best as they move into their next chapter of life.

HYDE AMENDMENT

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the long-standing Hyde amendment. For nearly 45 years, the Hyde amendment has received support from Republicans and Democrats alike. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understood that no taxpayer money should be used to fund abortion. Every President since Jimmy Carter has signed the Hyde amendment into law, including President Obama.

As a Senator, President Biden was a strong supporter of the amendment. Yet, in his latest budget proposal, he removed Hyde protections that would enable taxpayer funding support for abortions, meaning that tax dollars taken from those who oppose it will now be used for just that. Regardless of where one stands on the issue, it is fundamentally wrong to take taxpayer dollars of someone who is opposed to abortion and use their hard-earned tax dollars to fund the same.

On the question of life itself, the Hyde amendment is credited with saving more than 2.4 million innocent lives from abortions since 1976. It is our moral obligation to fight for and protect the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves, the lives of those who are no different than our own.

I call on my colleagues to pass H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, to stand up for pro-life Americans, preserve the Hyde amendment, and ensure taxpayer dollars are not used to fund abortion.

PANDEMIC OF THE UNVACCINATED

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I have two unrelated topics that really got me going this morning.

The first is vaccinations. Over 40 percent of Americans are still not vaccinated. I mean, come on, what is going on? We need to wake up, America. We need to get vaccinated.

People are saying, "I want to live free or die." Well, people are living free and other people are dying. We need to get everyone vaccinated. Cases are rising every day. It is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

Madam Speaker, 97 percent of hospitalizations are unvaccinated; 99 percent of the COVID deaths are unvaccinated. We need to wake up.

There are people using social media poisoning the American people's minds and jeopardizing their health in the process. We need to work together to convince people that vaccinations are safe and that it makes sense to get vaccinated.

I want to applaud STEVE SCALISE and MITCH MCCONNELL for getting vaccinated and promoting it to the American people. We need everyone in this body to please do the same. You need to get vaccinated, not only for yourself, not only for your family, do it for other families, do it for the country, do it so the economy can stay strong.

Please, get vaccinated.

DACA PROGRAM

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, the second topic I would bring up is the Dreamers; the DACA program.

So many families are living every day with so much stress and anxiety because of their immigration status.

Last week, a Federal judge ruled that DACA must end, causing more anxiety and stress for these families. Congress should fix this. Give a pathway to legalization and citizenship, for Dreamers, for TPS recipients, and for the farm workers and other essential workers that make our country work. This is personal for me.

Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, August 22 of 1921, my father was born in a small medieval village on the mountains of Southern Italy. He immigrated to the United States as a young boy. He was the first kid from the neighborhood to go to college. He fought in World War II as a navigator on a B-24 and got the Distinguished Flying Cross. He came home and went to Harvard Law School on the GI Bill.

□ 1030

My father would always say, "What a country." He went on to live a great American success story. So, like I said, this is personal for me.

Twenty-seven years ago, I served as the young mayor of my hometown, the city of Glen Cove, New York. I addressed the growing issue of new immigrants from Central and South America who were gathering on street corners looking for work by creating the

first day-workers site anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America in 1994.

I relied on a fundamental American principle: All men and women are created equal. It is not that all men and women with a passport are created equal, or all men and women with a green card are created equal. Every human being should be treated with human respect and dignity, and we have failed to address this problem for 30 years.

Those same men who gathered on the street corners 27 years ago now have their own businesses, own their own homes, and their children went to school with my children.

One Dreamer graduated high school with my daughter, went on to graduate from college with a degree in biomedical engineering, got a master's degree in biomedical engineering, and is now pursuing a doctorate in the same subject. But, now, he is suffering every day, worrying about his immigration status, worried about how this court ruling will affect him and his family.

Dreamers have been shaken yet again. Let's fix this. Let's do it. Dreamers are ready to live the same American success story that my father lived.

Let's give Dreamers, TPS recipients, farmworkers, and other essential workers a path to citizenship, and let's do it now.

STANDING WITH PEOPLE OF CUBA

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

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Cuban people and in opposition to communism.

In the last week, we have seen thousands of people in Cuba rise up in protest against the decades-long communist regime that has oppressed millions.

Since these protests began, more than 100 people have been detained by the communist government or have been reported missing. In response to these protests, the government has shut down communications, turning off internet service to their own people.

When I see what is happening in Cuba, I am reminded again why America is the greatest country on Earth. In our country, a first-generation Korean American can build an American Dream here and become a Congresswoman. In our country, we respect and value our freedom of speech and expression.

My parents fled North Korea and the country's communist rule. My family knows what it was like to have to wait in line for basic necessities. That is not how people deserve to live, and that is how the people of Cuba are forced to live every day under communist rule.

We should stand with the people of Cuba. I stand with those fighting for freedom, justice, and democracy.

ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the crisis on our

southern border. As an immigrant to this country, I strongly support legal immigration and a system that is grounded in the rule of law.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. They add to the rich fabric of our country. However, we are also a nation of laws. The crisis on our southern border is not law and order.

As a Representative from California, a border State, I often hear from my constituents about their concerns with the chaos at our border created by the Biden administration's policies. The security of our borders and enforcement of our immigration laws are vital to the safety and security of our Nation.

We must contain this crisis and make it clear to the people that to come to America, you must do it legally.

REIMBURSE NATIONAL GUARD IMMEDIATELY FOR CAPITOL RESPONSE MISSION

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

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, "Always Ready. Always There." That is the motto of our National Guard, our citizen soldiers, who, since 1636, have been prepared at all times as the first line of defense for our country.

When a natural disaster strikes—hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When a human-made disaster strikes—chemical spills, large-scale electrical power outages—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When States and local governments get overwhelmed because of situations beyond their control, who do those Governors, mayors, and State legislatures call? They call the National Guard.

When a global health pandemic cripples the country, who do we call? We call the National Guard.

And when an assault on our Nation's Capitol, a deadly insurrection, happens, who do we call to protect this hallowed beacon of democracy, to ensure a safe, peaceful transfer of power can occur? We called the National Guard.

Every single time—"Always Ready. Always There"—the National Guard has answered the call. Our National Guard keeps us safe and has done so since the inception of our democracy.

Following the deadly January 6 insurrection and leading up to the inauguration of our President and Vice President on January 20, Congress called upon the National Guard, and an unprecedented 26,700 guardsmen from across the country were deployed to secure our Nation's Capitol and protect the very lawmakers and staff that work in this Capitol.

The Guard then continued to serve and support civil authorities in Washington, D.C., for the next 137 days. They left their families. Many took un-

expected leave from their civilian jobs during a health pandemic to report to our Nation's Capitol. They stood watch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, many times in the frigid cold in the dark of night.

Many of us got to know them personally. We brought them food, coffee. We met them on the ramp at Andrews Air Force Base. We took pictures on the Capitol steps. We shook their hands and thanked them and their families for their service.

Our National Guard fulfilled their duty bravely and completed their mission. Now, it is Congress' turn to not only pay our respects but pay the bill that is due. What bill? What am I talking about? Well, it cost \$521 million to protect our Nation's Capitol for those 137 days.

National Guard leadership, adjutant generals, and State Governors sent their guardsmen to our Nation's Capitol with the promise that those funds would be repaid in a timely manner. As a result, the Army and Air National Guard paid for the Capitol Response mission and fronted the money from their own fiscal year 2021 funding. Time is of the essence, and we must pay them the money that we owe immediately and before August 1.

The reality is, if we fail to issue reimbursements by August 1, there will be real consequences. The National Guard Bureau has already sent out notices to States regarding canceling the remaining annual training days and/or canceling August and September drills. If training is canceled, several thousand guardsmen will not have enough service time this fiscal year to receive credit for a good year toward military retirement.

Approximately 2,000 functional and occupational training schools will be canceled, affecting their readiness, pay, and career progression. Ground vehicle and rotary wing operations and maintenance will be halted. Air National Guard flying operations will be negatively impacted, as they just only now begin the recovery from the effects of the pandemic. The 54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade combat training center rotation next month, in August, will be canceled.

Without reimbursement by August 1, it will take years to recover our readiness, which will be immediately impacted and decrease by up to 20 percent.

Those are some of the operational and readiness impacts of not meeting that August 1 deadline. But the real damages, Madam Speaker, are the profound personal impacts, which will have an immediate effect on the morale of those soldiers and airmen, their families, and retention across the 54 States and territories.

The increased psychological stress on our National Guard servicemembers and families in an already highly stressed environment is absolutely unacceptable. They are being asked to suffer, to sacrifice, because this body,

Congress, is unable to meet its end of a good-faith agreement with State leaders fully expecting to be reimbursed and not having to “take it out of hide,” which is what the National Guard is being asked to do now.

To put it simply, guardsmen—and I hear from them every single day—are in absolute disbelief that after all they have done this last year, answering our Nation’s call, this is how they are being treated.

Madam Speaker, today is July 21. We have 11 days. We must take immediate action. I urge all of us in Congress to swiftly come to an agreement on an appropriations emergency bill that includes full reimbursement of \$521 million for our National Guard by August 1. That is the least we can do for our citizen soldiers and their families who are always ready and always there.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHARLES “CHUCK” POETTCKER

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles “Chuck” Poettcker who passed away suddenly on Saturday.

I had the honor of calling Chuck a friend. And I know that he is leaving a legacy that has impacted so many.

A U.S. Army veteran, Chuck served in the 101st Airborne Division stationed at Camp Evans in South Vietnam. At just 20 years old, he and his unit were given orders for a rescue mission in Laos. They were tasked with rescuing two door gunners and recovering the bodies of a downed helicopter pilot and co-pilot. Because of his heroic actions during the mission and journey back to safety, Chuck was awarded the U.S. Army Bronze Star.

A man of faith, Chuck prayed that if he made it out alive, he would dedicate his life to building something of value for others. He did just that.

He returned home and began a career as an apprentice carpenter, taking night classes in construction management at what is now the Southwestern Illinois College. He went on and founded Poettcker Construction, leading the company for 41 years. Today, the company employs over 200 families across 26 States.

He was also committed to his community and giving back to the Metro East area there in southern Illinois through numerous charities.

Madam Speaker, my prayers go out to Chuck’s wife, Linda, and his family and many friends during this difficult time.

SUPPORTING APPRENTICESHIPS FOR VETERANS

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I also rise today to talk about the fact that when I ran Bost Trucking company for 10 years, many of our hardest workers and most trusted employees shared something in common. They were veterans.

The military teaches servicemembers invaluable skills, leadership, team-

work, and dedication to compete and complete the missions that they are assigned. But many veterans are facing challenges in finding work after COVID-19 shutdowns. That is why I have introduced the Veterans’ Agricultural Apprenticeship Act.

This bipartisan bill will help connect out-of-work veterans with farmers and ranchers who are in need of on-the-farm labor. It will help farmers and ranchers expand their operations while also offering the veterans new skills and career paths once they return home.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. LAWSON) and our bipartisan group of 15 additional cosponsors for supporting this critically important bill. I hope that more of our colleagues will join us in helping advance a win-win solution to an ever-growing problem.

INVESTING IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I stand today before this deliberative body to talk about the importance of rural infrastructure; more specifically, watershed and flood control infrastructure.

Our Nation’s watershed dams play a critical yet silent role in many of our daily lives. Across the Nation, watershed projects provide an estimated annual benefit of \$2.2 billion in reduced flood and erosion damage and improving wildlife, habitat, recreation, and water supply for more than 47 million people.

In my home State of Oklahoma alone, there are more than 2,000 watershed dam projects that help Oklahomans meet a myriad of public needs: public safety, water supply, soil health, and fish and wildlife management, just to name a few.

□ 1045

In fact, the country’s first upstream flood control dam, Cloud Creek Site No. 1, was built right in the backyard of my district in Washita County. Built in 1948, following the passage of the Flood Control Act of 1944, the dam allowed for the preservation of farmland, wildlife, and several municipal services.

Fast forward to today, and many of our country’s 12,000 watershed dams have exceeded their designed lifespan. Like so much of the public infrastructure investments across this country, our watershed dams are aging and need to be upgraded to remain safe and continue to provide benefits for generations to come.

Seeing the need to rehabilitate many of our dams, in 2000 I authored the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments which have provided important investments to help countless dams in need of repair.

After more than two decades of funding through the Small Watershed Re-

habilitation Amendments, more than \$900 million has been appropriated for rehabilitating aging dams. In the 2018 farm bill alone, we provided \$50 million per year in mandatory funding for watershed rehabilitation and management.

I am proud to mark the 20th anniversary of the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments being signed into law this past year, but we must not delay the continued need to rehabilitate and repair other aging dams and water infrastructure. These silent sentinels are vital to public safety, economic prosperity, community viability and must not be allowed to fail.

We learned a lot of lessons 20 years ago in passing the dam rehabilitation bill. Now we must continue this mission as we debate and consider infrastructure legislation.

Madam Speaker, to aid in these efforts, I include in the RECORD the brought forth report at [damsafety.org \smallwatershed](https://damsafety.org/smallwatershed).

In closing, as Congress negotiates on how best to invest in our Nation’s infrastructure, we must continue to invest in the rehabilitation of these aging public works.

It is time to put the lessons of past appropriate investment to good use and build the capacity of a new generation to protect critical infrastructures for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY J. BURKE

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and success of Timothy J. Burke, who retired from the Omaha Public Power District on July 2 after serving the company for 24 years. He began his career with OPPD in 1997 as vice president and in 2015 took over as the company’s 12th President and CEO.

During his time with OPPD, Tim faced some tough challenges, but with his tenacity and great leadership skills, he overcame them all.

Burke’s tenure as CEO will be remembered as one of transition. He made several decisions early on that set the future for OPPD. When he became the CEO, OPPD initiated utility-wide lean financial work to make the utility financially efficient and strong. Burke also made what he called the most difficult decision he ever made or had been involved with, recommending the closure of Fort Calhoun Nuclear Generating Station due to financial concerns and economies of scale at the country’s smallest nuclear plant.

In addition, under Burke, the company continued to achieve financial stability and 5 straight years of no general rate increase—which is amazing—which is now in its fifth year of no rate increases. Further, Burke’s time at OPPD included a transition to more renewable energy and the commitment to be a net zero-carbon emitter by 2050.

Throughout his career, Burke has remained active in local and industry organizations. His recent involvement includes the American Public Power Association, Large Public Power Council, Nebraska Power Association, the Business Ethics Alliance trustee, and the past chair and executive committee of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and United Way of the Midlands. He has also been heavily involved with Offutt Air Force Base and STRATCOM and has served as chair of the STRATCOM Consultation Committee. He is on the executive committee of the Offutt Air Force Base Advisory Council, and he has been a civic leader with the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Air Force Global Strike Command Civic Leader program.

I had 16 assignments in the Air Force and found the local community around Offutt to be the most supportive and welcoming of all, and Tim embodies that patriotic welcoming spirit to the fullest.

Family is extremely important to Tim. He and his wife, Terri, have three sons, five grandchildren, and a sixth grandbaby on the way.

Post retirement, Tim is looking forward to first spending more time with his family and then finding ways to keep himself busy in the local area. He has been heavily involved in the local area, and I am sure he will continue to do so, and we need him.

On top of all of this, one of Tim's passions is music, especially playing with his Irish pub band, the Shenanigans, with two of his sons. Burke is an exceptional leader and a skilled communicator and has served the Omaha area with honor and distinction.

We thank Tim for his time with OPPD and for keeping the power on for those living in southeast Nebraska.

HYDE AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to President Biden's budget proposal for its exclusion of the Hyde amendment, which for 45 years has protected Americans from forced financial complicity in abortion and abortion services.

When Congress passed the Hyde amendment in 1976, our country's lawmakers had the sense and decency to agree that if abortions were going to take place in this country, then at least dissenting Americans wouldn't get stuck with the bill. Forcing people to pay for the killing of babies with their tax dollars is unconscionable. That is why the Hyde amendment was passed.

Now, the President wants to revoke this protection, as if his \$6 trillion budget—which would blatantly require us to raise taxes or print money unto bankruptcy—wasn't already disastrous enough.

I believe that life begins at conception and that unborn children in our

country have a right to live. Every Member of Congress should, but one does not need to in order to support the Hyde amendment, which prohibits the Federal Government from forcing the American public to do something that we should never ask them to do: pay for abortions.

HUTCHINSON FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the First District's Hutchinson Community College football team on their National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship.

Earlier this month I spoke on this very floor about playing eight-man football in rural Kansas. I indicated there were clear winners and losers in the game. On June 5, 2021, the Blue Dragons finished the regular season as clear winners, undefeated, and ranked number one. On top of that, first year Head Coach Drew Dallas went on to be named the 2020 through 2021 NJCAA Football Coach of the Year.

This is the program's first national championship and third undefeated season. The talent, time, and effort that these student athletes put into playing football while obtaining a college education is remarkable.

Congratulations again to the Hutchinson Community College football team and to Coach Dallas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY CAZILLO III

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anthony Cazillo, III, who passed away last month at the young age of 26 years old.

Anthony made an exceptional impact in his short life in the lives that he touched and in the community that he lived. He served as a township supervisor in Pequea Township, Lancaster County, and he was running for reelection this year.

To serve in elected office at such a young age speaks to the life of service that Anthony lived and the passion that he had for improving his community. One of Anthony's goals as a supervisor was to "make Pequea Township boring again." This is just one example of his wit, his sense of humor, and I believe indicative of the servant's spirit that he carried as a local elected official.

Anthony was a graduate of Millersville University and the Penn Manor School District. He is survived by his wife, Katelyn; his parents; and his sisters.

My condolences and prayers of comfort are with the Cazillo family, his friends, and all those who grieve for Anthony.

I was really thankful to have gotten to know him in recent years. We certainly wished that Anthony could have been with all of us longer, but we do

give thanks for the time spent with him.

UTZ'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an iconic business and household brand name from Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

Utz Brands of Hanover—the "Snack Food Capital of the World"—is celebrating its 100th year in business and now has the fifth generation of family members as part of the company.

Founded as Hanover Home Brand Potato Chips by Bill and Salie Utz in 1921 with just \$300, the company used hand-operated equipment to produce up to 50 pounds of potato chips per hour from their home.

Quickly outgrowing the volume they were able to produce from their home, the company changed its name to Utz Potato Chip Company and purchased land to build their first factory on Carlisle Street in Hanover in 1947.

Fifty pounds of potato chips per hour in 1921 has grown to 5.5 million pounds of snacks produced each week. Utz Brand operates 15 factories in the United States, generating over \$1 billion in sales annually. The company's headquarters and six manufacturing facilities, as well as 1,800 employees who staff those facilities, call Pennsylvania's 11th District home.

Utz is certainly one of the key families and companies that have earned Hanover the moniker of the "Snack Food Capital of the World." They have made an extraordinary impact on the community that I represent through their business and charitable efforts.

I want to congratulate them on this remarkable milestone of 100 years in business and wish them continued success in the next century as well.

EIGHTEEN DAYS FOR H.R. 18

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of life and our Nation's unborn children.

For over 40 years, the Hyde amendment has kept taxpayer money from funding abortions, and it is estimated to have saved at least 2.4 million lives.

Polling consistently shows that a majority of Americans oppose being forced to pay for abortions with their tax money. This is something that we all should be able to agree on. However, House Democrats recently passed a spending bill for the Department of Health and Human Services that, for the first time since 1976, does not include the Hyde amendment.

H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, would make the prohibition against Federal funding for abortions permanent and government-wide.

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.

Life is a precious gift, and we must do all that we can to ensure that we defend the unborn who have no voice to speak for themselves.

RECOGNIZING VFW POST 7814

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Thomas-Fields Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7814, which was founded on July 11, 1946.

When African-American veterans of World War II returned to their homes in the Staunton-Augusta area, they were, unfortunately, excluded from their local VFW Post. Following their denied admittance, a group of 42 veterans then applied for a charter to organize their own post, which would carry the namesakes of Charles Thomas and Glenwood Fields, two African Americans from Staunton who died while serving their country in World War II.

Since its formation, the Thomas-Fields Post has been an active civic organization in the African-American community of Staunton and Augusta County, as well as playing an active and significant role in local area veterans' activities.

While the post welcomes all veterans, it continues to highlight the heritage of African-American and minority veterans who have served our Nation.

Recently, Post 7814 was recognized as a Meritorious Post by the State VFW Federation for its outstanding work over the last 5 years and was also named an All-American Post by the National VFW Council for the first time in its history.

The Thomas-Fields VFW Post is to be commended for its work in our community and their efforts to aid those who served. I congratulate them on this historic milestone and wish them another successful 75 years.

□ 1100

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for the Cuban people who have taken to the streets to protest the oppressive Communist regime there, a regime that has stripped them of their basic human rights.

Since its inception 62 years ago, the Communist Party has caused immeasurable harm and created unbearable conditions in Cuba.

Cuba's people want freedom. They want to provide for their families and know that their kids will be safe and healthy—and Cuba is not that place, and it hasn't been that place for far too long.

Right now, its people are facing widespread power outages, the most severe food shortage since the 1990s and inflation rates nearing 500 percent.

In an effort to contain the truth about what is really going on, the government cut off its citizens' access to the internet to silence the dissent.

Instead of trying to address the issues plaguing the island nation, they have, instead, decided to suppress those voicing concern. Since the protest began, more than 100 people have been

detained or have gone missing, including artists, peace activists, and priests. It should be no surprise that Cubans are marching in the streets demanding their rights.

We have all seen the images of people waving American flags and fleeing in makeshift boats overflowing with folks willing to risk their lives to experience freedom. They want what we are so blessed to have, and, yet, there is a segment of our society bent on pushing the United States toward the failed notion of communism and socialism. It is mind-boggling.

We must stand strongly for freedom, stand firmly with the people, and stand boldly with a free Cuba.

DEFENDING THE UNBORN

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of the precious lives of our unborn. Last week, my colleagues in the Appropriations Committee voted to authorize taxpayer-funded abortions by passing a spending bill that omits the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment prohibits taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortions and it has saved an estimated 2.5 million lives. It has been included in every appropriations package since 1976 until now. The move to eliminate Hyde is another blatant attack on the sanctity of life, following this administration's budget proposal that has also failed to include the Hyde amendment and other pro-life policies in Federal programs.

This is a crucial moment for all of us to uphold the inherent dignity of human life. Every unborn child should have the right to life. There are few greater priorities. I will continue to do everything in my power to protect the vulnerable, to safeguard taxpayer consciences, and to preserve the sanctity of life. We must protect the Hyde amendment.

LIBERTY FOR CUBA

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for liberty, for freedom. For over 60 years, the Cuban people have been oppressed by the worst impulses of a brutal regime and the failed promises of Communist propaganda. What we are seeing today is those people are saying "enough is enough." The Cuban people are shouting "libertad" for freedom, waving American flags and rising up to finally demand independence and autonomy over their own lives.

Cuba is showing us in real time. In fact, they are showing the world in real time that massive government control over society simply does not work, and how its demise quickly spirals into deadly conditions of poverty, starvation, and hopelessness.

I recently had the chance to speak to a Cuban American and a Cuban. Their stories are horrific about the atrocities that their own government is using,

the violence, that they are using to control the society.

This is causing enough desperation that Cubans will stare down their oppressors in the streets. They will risk their lives, crossing treacherous waters on homemade rafts to reach the shores of America, the shores of freedom.

The truth is clear: The United States remains the beacon of freedom and democracy around the world. We must do everything in our power to keep it that way and valiantly support liberty at home and abroad.

FLEEING OF TEXAS DEMOCRATS

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment in the dereliction of duty of Texas Democrats who last week in the State legislature decided to flee the State to keep the Texas House from taking any action during the special session.

This stunt, complete with private jets and plenty of congratulatory media coverage, slows the passage of initiatives including: family violence prevention, property tax relief; support for our teachers; and a widely supported bill to strengthen election integrity.

The majority of Texans support safeguarding our elections. Unfortunately, colleagues in the Texas House are peddling lies about the election integrity bill. In reality, this measure merely disbands COVID-19 voting protocols that had never been used prior to 2020, while creating a more secure voting process.

Showing ID, proving who you are in a State and Federal Government election allows thousands of people to enter illegally every single day, and ending voting at 4 o'clock in the morning. It is time for the media and the Washington elites who are cheering on this charade to see it for what it really is: political theater. Texans deserve better.

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 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy God, with confidence, we approach Your throne of grace, praying for Your protection over us this day. Deliver us from all that seeks to undo our noble responsibilities.

Save us from our adversaries who attempt to thwart our best efforts, whose

words target our integrity, and whose anger and prejudice will not yield to reason. We pray Your deliverance.

Save us from our cultural rancor. In this country where we are quick to take sides, reckless in our judgment of the other, and have found ourselves mired in doubt, confusion, mistrust, and hopelessness, we pray Your deliverance.

Save us from ourselves, for we are as culpable as those we accuse. Forgive us our shortsightedness, our self-preservation, our hardened hearts, and our lack of faith. When we cling to our own certainty and rightness, we pray Your deliverance. Then call us to hold fast to Your righteousness, that we may once again thrive in the confidence and the hope we find only in You.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, last year, in my hometown of Buffalo, New York, we experienced a 90 percent increase in gun violence; 355 people were involved in this.

As of July of this year, 46 people have lost their lives to gun violence. This morning, the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force heard from experts in community violence interventions. These experts affirmed what we know; that gun violence in our country is tearing families and neighborhoods apart. Their testimony adds support for our efforts to provide \$5 million in the American Rescue Plan Act funding to groups in Buffalo to prevent and reduce violence before it occurs.

This funding will support trusted messengers, good messengers, credible messengers; a coalition of peace-

keeping organizations who will work on our streets to stop violence before it occurs.

Congress passed the American Rescue Plan to deliver relief to communities ravaged by the pandemic. Now our communities are facing a spike in violence that began during the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, they need help, and they need help now.

INFLATION IS TAXATION

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impact of rising inflation on American consumers.

The Consumer Price Index jumped by 5.4 percent this year through June, the largest year-over-year gain since 2008. From the higher cost of gas, to the higher price of used cars, to the price of food at your local grocery store, small businesses and Americans are paying more for goods and services, due in large part to government spending during COVID-19 and now Democrats' reckless economic agenda.

It is as simple as this: Inflation is taxation.

As a small business owner for 50 years, I can tell you these increased prices are creating challenges for consumers whose budgets are being stretched thinner and thinner every single month.

The Democrat solution to all of this? Ram through a partisan \$3.5 trillion package that will further increase taxes on the American people and completely disregard rising inflation.

It is pretty simple.

Raising taxes, less jobs.

Lower tax, more jobs.

Congress must return to some fiscal sanity and Democrats must resist the temptation to spend our way out of this situation, as rising inflation and the growing national debt become an unrelenting enemy.

In God we trust.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise on the 200th day of the House Democrats delivering for the people.

Madam Speaker, over the years, I have had the opportunity to mentor young girls from hard-pressed families, and I will tell you this, they taught me more than I ever could teach them. And I learned that even with mothers working two jobs, there were weeks of just peanut butter in their pantry and having to move place to place just to find affordable rent.

That is why I celebrate the historic expansion of the child tax credit in the American Rescue package, because it

has the power to lift millions of children out of poverty, give them the futures they deserve. It is going to help our families thrive and our economy to recover. We can build back better by lifting our children.

HONORING JIM STABERG

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks here, I want to wish my eldest daughter, Karlyn Tiffany, a happy birthday.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and resident of my district in Wisconsin. Jim Staberg of Hudson served in the Army from March of 1943 to June of 1946, and again September 1950 to July 1952.

During his first tour of duty, Mr. Staberg was originally assigned to the Army band, but as America was drawn into World War II, he found himself reassigned and serving as a gunner during vehicle patrols throughout Europe.

Mr. Staberg was involved in a heroic defensive stand by the Allies against Hitler's last charge at the Battle of the Bulge. He also served at the historic Nuremberg trials following the war, but this was not the end of Mr. Staberg's service.

Jim was shipped off to Korea for a second tour of duty, where he would, once again, defend freedom in the face of communist aggression. After his time in service, Jim married and had three children in Hudson, Wisconsin, which he still calls home today.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful State and Nation, I thank Jim Staberg for his service.

200 DAYS OF WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today marks the 200th day of this Congress and of House Democrats working for the people.

Working together with the Biden administration, we have put our economy back on track, curbed the spread of COVID-19, and put money into the pockets of our constituents. It was only Democrats that voted for the American Rescue Plan, which helped create 3 million jobs, deliver stimulus checks, and extend the child tax credit.

The American Rescue Plan also delivered on one of my most urgent priorities, ending the maternal mortality crisis. Allowing States to extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum care from 60 days to one full year postpartum will save lives.

Outside of the recovery package, we have continued working on other priorities, like advancing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and passing commonsense gun violence prevention measures to protect and improve the lives of everyday Americans.

Madam Speaker, in just 200 days, we have accomplished so much, but rest assured, we are just getting started.

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

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to defend the conscience of American taxpayers. Since 1973, both sides of the aisle have agreed that taxpayers should not be forced to fund the taking of an unborn child's life through abortion. This consensus was enshrined in the Hyde amendment. The Hyde amendment has saved the lives of almost 2.5 million children, including over 65,000 in my home State of North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, President Biden and Congressional Democrats have decided to abandon the Hyde amendment in this year's budget. This is a grave mistake that will cost the lives of more innocent children, and therefore, it must be reversed.

Madam Speaker, let's show that this House stands with life, believes in science, and opposes the evil of abortion.

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 I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois). Under the 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 leaders.

DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, today, we mark 200 days of the 117th Congress and 200 days of delivering for the people.

From day one, House Democrats have prioritized the needs of everyday Americans, working families, and our children. We have delivered transformative, lifesaving legislation that focuses on our recovery from this pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan has been successful in getting shots in arms, workers back to work, and money in the pockets of families, and children back to school. This was one of the biggest jolts to our health and our economy in history, and we cannot let up on our efforts.

We must build on this momentum and pass President Biden's American

Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan, and we must seize this moment, rebuild strong, and rebuild by making bold, sustained investments in our Nation and in our future.

CZECH DEPOT EXPLOSION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month, I was grateful to participate in a Congressional delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly led by Senator ROGER WICKER and Senator BEN CARDIN. It was inspiring to see the extraordinary economic advances of Estonia and Bulgaria.

In Tallinn, Estonia, we were welcomed by the dynamic Prime Minister, Kaja Kallas, and the dedicated Foreign Minister, Eva-Maria Liimets. While in Tallinn, we learned that Russian diplomats had been expelled in April across the Baltics to join the protest of the Czech Prime Minister, Andrej Babis, exposing the irrefutable evidence that two Russian GRU agents were behind the 2014 ammunition depot explosion at Vrbetice, which killed two persons.

The same two Russian agents named by the Czech Republic are suspected by British authorities for poisoning former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018. The Czech Republic has correctly demanded Russia pay for damages.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chalmers and Lori Anne Carr of Titan Farms for their annual delivery of South Carolina peaches to Capitol Hill.

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

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

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

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act. This bill would make the Hyde amendment permanent and government-wide.

Mr. Speaker, Hyde saves lives. For more than 40 years, this amendment has protected vulnerable, unborn life by preventing taxpayer dollars from funding abortions. Named after Illinois Congressman Henry Hyde, the Hyde amendment has enjoyed decades of broad, bipartisan support.

During this time the Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates the Hyde amendment has saved over 2 million lives. I am proud to stand up for vulnerable life. As the father of a beautiful two-year-old girl, I have come to appreciate the sanctity of newborn life in a profound way. We owe it to them, and to each other, to protect their lives in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE). As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1215

SUPPORTING FREEDOM-LOVING CUBANS

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, freedom-loving Cubans have taken to the streets to protest the socialist, Marxist Castro regime that has held a deadly grip over Cuba for 60 years.

Cubans are protesting to secure the blessings of liberty that now so many in this country are showing disdain for. The socialist Castro regime embraces a backward economy that prides itself on taking everything it can from the people until there is nothing left. There are no means for justice, no opportunities for success outside the bounds of tyranny, and no consideration for the God-given rights of their people.

Let this be a lesson to the world and to my socialist colleagues across the aisle. Communism does not work. There is no example in history of any modern society benefiting from Marxist rule, and any attempt to paint socialist and communist dictatorships as anything but cruel is peddling lies and fiction.

The pro-democracy demonstrations in Cuba are sending a powerful message: Communism is oppressive and denies people their basic freedom.

Cubans deserve our strong, unwavering support, and I will always stand up for freedom fighters around the world.

TAX PLAN WILL SET BACK ECONOMY

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns with the far-left tax hikes proposed by the majority.

To help pay for their partisan spending sprees, the President and Democrats in Congress have proposed to double the tax on investment and raise our business tax rate to the highest in the developed world.

On top of this, they wish to repeal the stepped-up basis, a move that will disproportionately hurt family-owned farms and businesses.

The radical tax agenda will stifle investment and slow down our economic recovery at a time when communities

across our country continue to feel the effects of the pandemic and government lockdowns.

It will also hurt American competitiveness abroad and force even more businesses and jobs overseas. Increasing taxes on Americans while prices are rising faster than they have in more than a decade isn't just irresponsible; it is dangerous.

The Democrat tax plan will hurt workers and small businesses, diminish our position as a global business leader, and set our economy back for decades to come.

VACCINATING TO STOP RISE OF DELTA VARIANT

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the issue of vaccinations, vaccine hesitancy, and the rising rates of the COVID-19 delta variant.

For the last few months, I have traveled across my district administering vaccines to Iowans. It has been a pleasure to see my constituents and the entire country have a renewed sense of freedom and begin to return to normal.

But fully engaged living is threatened by the delta variant, which is causing increased hospitalizations and death, especially among those unvaccinated. Those vaccinated have a much milder course of disease.

It is miraculous to have three safe and effective vaccines for COVID-19 so rapidly. However, this speed of development may give some Americans pause. Therefore, it is critical to emphasize that no safety shortcuts were taken and reassure our constituents that they are safe and effective.

Decades of research informed the development of these breakthrough vaccines, and millions have been vaccinated with tremendously low risk. Given the rise in the delta variant, I would once again encourage everyone to get a vaccine as soon as possible so that we continue our path to normalcy and not go back to lockdowns and mask mandates.

This vaccine is how we get back to normal and get our lives back. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to your doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this time to wish the youngest of 10 in our family, Mari-Eleanor Martino, a happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING KATIE NAGEOTTE

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, after postponing 1 year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am excited that, on Friday, the Olympic Games in Tokyo will officially begin.

What better way to mark this occasion than by recognizing the incredible accomplishment of Katie Nageotte, who will be one of the many Olympians competing in this year's summer games.

A native of Olmsted Falls, Katie is a graduate of Olmsted Falls High School and Ashland University who will be representing our community and country in this summer's games, competing in the women's pole vault event.

Her victory at the U.S. trials in the women's pole vault event caps a 5-year campaign to reach the Olympic Games, and she joins an elite list of northeast Ohioans to qualify for the games.

I am incredibly proud of Katie for earning this opportunity to represent not only our community but the United States.

Congratulations to Katie and her family. We look forward to watching her make northeast Ohio proud.

HONORING MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN MEHRMAND

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrmand.

Mr. Mehrmand was a lieutenant general in the Imperial Iranian Air Force.

Prior to the revolution in 1979, Iran and the United States were close allies. U.S. fighter jets were based in Iran, and a number of U.S. military personnel were as well. When the revolution occurred, the U.S. Embassy recommended that all Americans immediately evacuate. Mr. Mehrmand was instrumental in negotiating the evacuation of American citizens from Iran, and ultimately, nearly 5,000 Americans were successfully evacuated from the country.

Unfortunately, Mr. Mehrmand paid a very high price for that loyalty. He was accused as a traitor. He lost his property. Ultimately, he was forced to flee to the United States.

Today, Mr. Mehrmand is 92. He lives in my district in California, and he is proud to be a United States citizen.

I join my colleagues in thanking Mr. Mehrmand for his service to the people of the United States and his loyalty to the people with whom he served.

REMOVING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY IS MISGUIDED

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was in my mom's home county of Madison County last week to announce the details of my new bill, the Local Law Enforcement Protection Act, H.R. 4500.

I made this announcement standing alongside the respected men and women of our local law enforcement

departments across the region, including our great Madison County sheriff, Todd Hood.

My bill protects those who protect our communities every day by prohibiting States and localities that roll back or eliminate qualified immunity from receiving certain Federal grants.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives to defend our homes, families, and our neighborhoods. They face real danger. In 2020, 264 police officers were killed tragically in the line of duty. As of July 2021, that number already stands at 148.

As the defund the police movement goes mainstream in liberal cities and State capitals, and failed progressive policies like bail reform make our streets less safe, it is more important now than ever to stand with our law enforcement officers.

Police should always be accountable to the communities they serve, but they should never be subjected to unfair attacks or harassment simply for doing their job. Efforts to remove qualified immunity are misguided and ultimately hurt honorable officers who serve with integrity.

That is why I introduced this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

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

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Hyde amendment and urge us to be warriors for human dignity and human value.

We must cherish every person's unalienable human right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With technology today, we can look into the womb and watch the development of a baby day by day. Doctors are able to administer lifesaving care to babies before they are born. It is a miracle to witness, and it is proof that life begins at conception.

Our laws should reflect this science and the truth. For decades, my colleagues across the aisle, including President Joe Biden, agreed. I urge them to join us to protect life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 21, 2021, at 9:13 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1652.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

GLORIA J. LETT,
Deputy Clerk.

PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 535, I call up 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, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 535, 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 House Report 117-95, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 2467

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “PFAS Action Act of 2021”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Designation as hazardous substances.
- Sec. 3. Testing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- Sec. 4. Manufacturing and processing notices for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- Sec. 5. National primary drinking water regulations for PFAS.
- Sec. 6. Enforcement.
- Sec. 7. Establishment of PFAS infrastructure grant program.
- Sec. 8. Listing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous air pollutants.
- Sec. 9. Prohibition on unsafe waste incineration of PFAS.
- Sec. 10. Label for PFAS-free products.
- Sec. 11. Guidance on minimizing the use of fire-fighting foam and other related equipment containing any PFAS.
- Sec. 12. Investigation of prevention of contamination by GenX.
- Sec. 13. Disclosure of introductions of PFAS.
- Sec. 14. Household well water testing website.
- Sec. 15. Risk-communication strategy.
- Sec. 16. Assistance to Territories for addressing emerging contaminants, with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
- Sec. 17. Clean Water Act effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for PFAS.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION AS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall designate perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts, and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and its salts, as hazardous substances under section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9602(a)).

(b) **DEADLINE FOR ADDITIONAL DETERMINATIONS.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall determine whether to designate all perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, other than those perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances designated pursuant to subsection (a), as hazardous substances under section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9602(a)) individually or in groups.

(c) AIRPORT SPONSORS.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No sponsor, including a sponsor of the civilian portion of a joint-use airport or a shared-use airport (as such terms are defined in section 139.5 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)), shall be liable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) for the costs of responding to, or damages resulting from, a release to the environment of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance designated as a hazardous substance under section 102(a) of such Act that resulted from the use of aqueous film forming foam agent, if such use was—

(A) required by the Federal Aviation Administration for compliance with part 139 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) carried out in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration standards and guidance on the use of such substance.

(2) **SPONSOR DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “sponsor” has the meaning given such term in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not later than 60 days after making a determination under subsection (b), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall make the results of such determination publicly available on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(e) REVIEW.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing a review of actions by the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up contamination of the substances designated pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) **MATTERS INCLUDED.**—The report under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of cleanup progress and effectiveness, including the following:

(A) The number of sites where the Environmental Protection Agency has acted to remediate contamination of the substances designated pursuant to subsection (a).

(B) Which types of chemicals relating to such substances were present at each site and the extent to which each site was contaminated.

(C) An analysis of discrepancies in cleanup between Federal and non-Federal contamination sites.

(D) Any other elements the Administrator may determine necessary.

(3) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(A) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on the Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

SEC. 3. TESTING OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

(a) **TESTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 4(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES RULE.**—

“(A) **RULE.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3), the Administrator shall, by rule, require that comprehensive toxicity testing be conducted on all chemical substances that are perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In issuing a rule under subparagraph (A), the Administrator—

“(i) may establish categories of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances based on hazard characteristics or chemical properties;

“(ii) shall require the development of information relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that the Administrator determines is likely to be useful in evaluating the hazard and risk posed by such substances in land, air, and water (including drinking water), as well as in products; and

“(iii) may allow for varied or tiered testing requirements based on hazard characteristics or chemical properties of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or categories of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(C) **DEADLINES.**—The Administrator shall issue—

“(i) a proposed rule under subparagraph (A) not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

“(ii) a final rule under subparagraph (A) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph.”.

(b) **PERSONS SUBJECT TO RULE.**—Section 4(b)(3) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subparagraph (B) or (C)” and inserting “subparagraph (B), (C), or (D)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) A rule under subsection (a)(5) shall require the development of information by any person who manufactures or processes, or intends to manufacture or process, a chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.”.

(c) **PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**—Section 4 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) **PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**—

“(1) **TESTING REQUIREMENT RULE.**—

“(A) **PROTOCOLS AND METHODOLOGIES.**—In determining the protocols and methodologies to be included pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in a rule under subsection (a)(5), the Administrator shall allow for protocols and methodologies that test chemical substances that are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as a class.

“(B) **PERIOD.**—In determining the period to be included pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in a rule under subsection (a)(5), the Administrator shall ensure that the period is as short as possible while allowing for completion of the required testing.

“(2) **EXEMPTIONS.**—In carrying out subsection (c) with respect to a chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance, the Administrator—

“(A) may only determine under subsection (c)(2) that information would be duplicative if the chemical substance with respect to which the application for exemption is submitted is in the same category, as established under subsection (a)(5)(B)(i), as a chemical substance for which information has been submitted to the Administrator in accordance with a rule, order, or consent agreement under subsection (a) or for which information is being developed pursuant to such a rule, order, or consent agreement; and

“(B) shall publish a list of all such chemical substances for which an exemption under subsection (c) is granted.”.

SEC. 4. MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING NOTICES FOR PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2604) is amended—

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

“(7) PFAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), this subsection does not apply to any chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

“(B) DRUGS AND DEVICES.—Paragraph (3) applies to a chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance which is manufactured or processed, or proposed to be manufactured or processed, solely for purposes of—

“(i) scientific experimentation or analysis with respect to a drug or device (as such terms are defined in section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) or personal protective equipment (as such term is defined in section 20005 of the CARES Act); or

“(ii) chemical research on, or analysis of, such a chemical substance for the development of a drug or device (as such terms are defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) or personal protective equipment (as such term is defined in section 20005 of the CARES Act).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—

“(1) DETERMINATION.—For a period of 5 years beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, any chemical substance that is a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance for which a notice is submitted under subsection (a) shall be deemed to have been determined by the Administrator to present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment under paragraph (3)(A) of such subsection.

“(2) ORDER.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(3)(A), for a chemical substance described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Administrator shall issue an order under subsection (f)(3) to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of such chemical substance.”.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS FOR PFAS.

Section 1412(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(16) PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall, after notice and opportunity for public comment, promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which shall, at a minimum, include standards for—

“(i) perfluorooctanoic acid (commonly referred to as ‘PFOA’); and

“(ii) perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (commonly referred to as ‘PFOS’).

“(B) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the validation by the Administrator of an equally effective quality control and testing procedure to ensure compliance with the national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) to measure the levels described in clause (ii) or other methods to detect and monitor perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water, the Administrator shall add the procedure or method as an alternative to the quality control and testing procedure described in such national primary drinking water regulation by publishing the procedure or method in the Federal Register in accordance with section 1401(1)(D).

“(ii) LEVELS DESCRIBED.—The levels referred to in clause (i) are—

“(I) the level of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance;

“(II) the total levels of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(III) the total levels of organic fluorine.

“(C) INCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances on—

“(i) the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i), in accordance with such paragraph; and

“(ii) the list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored under section 1445(a)(2)(B)(i), in accordance with such section.

“(D) MONITORING.—When establishing monitoring requirements for public water systems as part of a national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (G)(ii), the Administrator shall tailor the monitoring requirements for public water systems that do not detect or are reliably and consistently below the maximum contaminant level (as defined in section 1418(b)(2)(B)) for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances subject to the national primary drinking water regulation.

“(E) HEALTH PROTECTION.—The national primary drinking water regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall be protective of the health of subpopulations at greater risk, as described in section 1458.

“(F) HEALTH RISK REDUCTION AND COST ANALYSIS.—In meeting the requirements of paragraph (3)(C), the Administrator may rely on information available to the Administrator with respect to one or more specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances to extrapolate reasoned conclusions regarding the health risks and effects of a class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances of which the specific perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances are a part.

“(G) REGULATION OF ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCES.—

“(i) DETERMINATION.—The Administrator shall make a determination under paragraph (1)(A), using the criteria described in clauses (i) through (iii) of that paragraph, whether to include a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in the national primary drinking water regulation under subparagraph (A) not later than 18 months after the later of—

“(I) the date on which the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances is listed on the list of contaminants for consideration of regulation under paragraph (1)(B)(i); and

“(II) the date on which—

“(aa) the Administrator has received the results of monitoring under section 1445(a)(2)(B) for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; or

“(bb) the Administrator has received reliable water data or water monitoring surveys for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances from a Federal or State agency that the Administrator determines to be of a quality sufficient to make a determination under paragraph (1)(A).

“(ii) PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For each perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances that the Administrator determines to regulate under clause (i), the Administrator—

“(aa) not later than 18 months after the date on which the Administrator makes the determination, shall propose a national primary drinking water regulation for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of

perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(bb) may publish the proposed national primary drinking water regulation described in item (aa) concurrently with the publication of the determination to regulate the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(II) DEADLINE.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Administrator publishes a proposed national primary drinking water regulation under clause (i)(I) and subject to item (bb), the Administrator shall take final action on the proposed national primary drinking water regulation.

“(bb) EXTENSION.—The Administrator, on publication of notice in the Federal Register, may extend the deadline under item (aa) by not more than 6 months.

“(H) HEALTH ADVISORY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Administrator shall publish a health advisory under paragraph (1)(F) for a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances not subject to a national primary drinking water regulation not later than 1 year after the later of—

“(I) the date on which the Administrator finalizes a toxicity value for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(II) the date on which the Administrator validates an effective quality control and testing procedure for the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the requirements of clause (i) with respect to a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances if the Administrator determines that there is a substantial likelihood that the perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances will not occur in drinking water with sufficient frequency to justify the publication of a health advisory, and publishes such determination, including the information and analysis used, and basis for, such determination, in the Federal Register.”.

SEC. 6. ENFORCEMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not impose financial penalties for the violation of a national primary drinking water regulation (as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)) with respect to a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or class of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances for which a national primary drinking water regulation has been promulgated under section 1412(b)(16) of the Safe Drinking Water Act earlier than the date that is 5 years after the date on which the Administrator promulgates the national primary drinking water regulation.

SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF PFAS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1459E. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS AFFECTED BY PFAS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a program to award grants to affected community water systems to pay for capital costs associated with the implementation of eligible treatment technologies.

“(b) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish guidance describing

the form and timing for community water systems to apply for grants under this section.

“(2) **REQUIRED INFORMATION.**—The Administrator shall require a community water system applying for a grant under this section to submit—

“(A) information showing the presence of PFAS in water of the community water system; and

“(B) a certification that the treatment technology in use by the community water system at the time of application is not sufficient to meet all applicable standards, and all applicable health advisories published pursuant to section 1412(b)(1)(F), for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

“(C) **LIST OF ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES.**—Not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall publish a list of treatment technologies that the Administrator determines are the most effective at removing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances from drinking water.

“(d) **PRIORITY FOR FUNDING.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall prioritize an affected community water system that—

“(1) serves a disadvantaged community;

“(2) will provide at least a 10-percent cost share for the cost of implementing an eligible treatment technology;

“(3) demonstrates the capacity to maintain the eligible treatment technology to be implemented using the grant; or

“(4) is located within an area with respect to which the Administrator has published a determination under the first sentence of section 1424(e) relating to an aquifer that is the sole or principal drinking water source for the area.

“(e) **NO INCREASED BONDING AUTHORITY.**—Amounts awarded to affected community water systems under this section may not be used as a source of payment of, or security for (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, any obligation the interest on which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not more than—

“(A) \$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023; and

“(B) \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

“(2) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1), \$25,000,000 are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for grants under subsection (a) to pay for capital costs associated with the implementation of eligible treatment technologies during the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on the date of enactment of this section.

“(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **AFFECTED COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM.**—The term ‘affected community water system’ means a community water system that is affected by the presence of PFAS in the water in the community water system.

“(2) **DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.**—The term ‘disadvantaged community’ has the meaning given that term in section 1452.

“(3) **DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPOSED COMMUNITY.**—The term ‘disproportionately exposed community’ means a community in which climate change, pollution, or environmental destruction have exacerbated systemic racial, regional, social, environmental, and economic injustices by disproportionately affecting indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, or youth.

“(4) **ELIGIBLE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.**—The term ‘eligible treatment technology’ means a

treatment technology included on the list published under subsection (c).

“(5) **PFAS.**—The term ‘PFAS’ means a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom, including the chemical GenX.”

SEC. 8. LISTING OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AS HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS.

(a) **LISTING.**—

(1) **INITIAL LISTING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue a final rule adding perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts, and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and its salts, to the list of hazardous air pollutants under section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(b)).

(2) **ADDITIONAL LISTINGS.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall determine whether to issue, in accordance with section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412), any final rules adding perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, other than those perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances listed pursuant to paragraph (1), to the list of hazardous air pollutants under section 112(b) of such Act.

(b) **SOURCES CATEGORIES.**—Not later than 365 days after any final rule is issued pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall revise the list under section 112(c)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(c)(1)) to include categories and subcategories of major sources and area sources of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances listed pursuant to such final rule.

SEC. 9. PROHIBITION ON UNSAFE WASTE INCINERATION OF PFAS.

Section 3004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6924) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(2) **PFAS WASTES.**—

“(1) **FIREFIGHTING FOAM.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations requiring that when materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or aqueous film forming foam are disposed—

“(A) all incineration is conducted in a manner that eliminates perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances while also minimizing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances emitted into the air to the extent feasible;

“(B) all incineration is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, including controlling hydrogen fluoride;

“(C) any materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are designated for disposal are stored in accordance with the requirement under part 264 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(D) all incineration is conducted at a facility that has been permitted to receive waste regulated under this subtitle.

“(2) **PENALTIES.**—For purposes of section 3008(d), a waste subject to a prohibition under this subsection shall be considered a hazardous waste identified or listed under this subtitle.”

SEC. 10. LABEL FOR PFAS-FREE PRODUCTS.

(a) **LABEL FOR PFAS-FREE PRODUCTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) revise the Safer Choice Standard of the Safer Choice Program to identify the requirements for a pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, or rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or a stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to meet in order to be labeled with a Safer Choice label, including a requirement that any such pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug,

clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating does not contain any PFAS; or

(2) establish a voluntary label that is available to be used by any manufacturer of any pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that the Administrator has reviewed and found does not contain any PFAS.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “PFAS” means a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

SEC. 11. GUIDANCE ON MINIMIZING THE USE OF FIREFIGHTING FOAM AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT CONTAINING ANY PFAS.

(a) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the head of the U.S. Fire Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, and other relevant Federal departments or agencies and representatives of State and local building and fire code enforcement jurisdictions, shall issue guidance on minimizing the use of, or contact with, firefighting foam and other related equipment containing any PFAS by firefighters, police officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders, in order to minimize the risk to such firefighters, police officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders, and the environment, without jeopardizing firefighting efforts.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with the head of the U.S. Fire Administration, shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the guidance issued under subsection (a). Such report shall include recommendations for congressional actions that the Administrator determines appropriate to assist efforts to reduce exposure to PFAS by firefighters and the other persons described in subsection (a).

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the head of the U.S. Fire Administration and other relevant Federal departments or agencies, shall report to Congress on the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant Federal departments and agencies to identify viable alternatives to firefighting foam and other related equipment containing any PFAS.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “PFAS” means perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, and any other perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency determines is used in firefighting foam and other related equipment.

SEC. 12. INVESTIGATION OF PREVENTION OF CONTAMINATION BY GENX.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall investigate methods and means to prevent contamination by GenX of surface waters, including source waters used for drinking water purposes.

SEC. 13. DISCLOSURE OF INTRODUCTIONS OF PFAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The introduction of any perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance by the owner or operator of an industrial source shall be unlawful unless such owner or operator first notifies the owner or operator of the applicable treatment works of—

(1) the identity and quantity of such substance;

(2) whether such substance is susceptible to treatment by such treatment works; and

(3) whether such substance would interfere with the operation of the treatment works.

(b) VIOLATIONS.—A violation of this section shall be treated in the same manner as a violation of a regulation promulgated under subsection 307(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1317(b)).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INTRODUCTION.—The term “introduction” means the introduction of pollutants into treatment works, as described in section 307(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1317).

(2) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term “treatment works” has the meaning given that term in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292).

SEC. 14. HOUSEHOLD WELL WATER TESTING WEBSITE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall establish a website containing information relating to the testing of household well water.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Administrator shall include on the website established under subsection (a) the following:

(1) Information on how to get groundwater that is the source for a household water well tested by a well inspector who is certified by a qualified third party.

(2) A list of laboratories that analyze water samples and are certified by a State or the Administrator.

(3) State-specific information, developed in coordination with each State, on naturally occurring and human-induced contaminants.

(4) Information that, using accepted risk communication techniques, clearly communicates whether a test result value exceeds a level determined by the Administrator or the State to pose a health risk.

(5) Information on treatment options, including information relating to water treatment systems certified by the National Science Foundation or the American National Standards Institute, and people who are qualified to install such systems.

(6) A directory of whom to contact to report a test result value that exceeds a level determined by the Administrator or the State to pose a health risk.

(7) Information on financial assistance that is available for homeowners to support water treatment, including grants under section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) and State resources.

(8) Any other information the Administrator considers appropriate.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, and appropriate State agencies in carrying out this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 15. RISK-COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall develop a risk-communication strategy to inform the public about the hazards or potential hazards of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or categories of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, by—

(1) disseminating information about the risks or potential risks posed by such substances or categories in land, air, water (including drinking water), and products;

(2) notifying the public about exposure pathways and mitigation measures through outreach and educational resources; and

(3) consulting with States that have demonstrated effective risk-communication strategies for best practices in developing a national risk-communication strategy.

SEC. 16. ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES FOR ADDRESSING EMERGING CONTAMINANTS, WITH A FOCUS ON PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Section 1452(t) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f–12) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES.—Of the amounts made available under this subsection, the Administrator may use funds to provide grants to the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam for the purpose of addressing emerging contaminants, with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.”.

SEC. 17. CLEAN WATER ACT EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS AND WATER QUALITY CRITERIA FOR PFAS.

(a) DEADLINES.—

(1) WATER QUALITY CRITERIA.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register human health water quality criteria under section 304(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314) for each measurable perfluoroalkyl substance, polyfluoroalkyl substance, and class of such substances.

(2) EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR PRIORITY INDUSTRY CATEGORIES.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register a final rule establishing, for each priority industry category, effluent limitations guidelines and standards, in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, for the discharge (including a discharge into a publicly owned treatment works) of each measurable perfluoroalkyl substance, polyfluoroalkyl substance, and class of such substances.

(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of each publication made under this section.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall award grants to owners and operators of publicly owned treatment works, to be used to implement effluent limitations guidelines and standards developed by the Administrator for a perfluoroalkyl substance, polyfluoroalkyl substance, or class of such substances.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the administrator to carry out this subsection \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until expended.

(d) NO INCREASED BONDING AUTHORITY.—Amounts awarded to an owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works under this section may not be used as a source of payment of, or security for (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, any obligation the interest on which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) EFFLUENT LIMITATION.—The term “effluent limitation” has the meaning given that term in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

(3) MEASURABLE.—The term “measurable” means, with respect to a chemical substance or class of chemical substances, capable of being measured using test procedures established under section 304(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314).

(4) PERFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE.—The term “perfluoroalkyl substance” means a chemical of which all of the carbon atoms are fully fluorinated carbon atoms.

(5) POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE.—The term “polyfluoroalkyl substance” means a chemical containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom and at least one carbon atom that is not a fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(6) PRIORITY INDUSTRY CATEGORY.—The term “priority industry category” means the following point source categories:

(A) Organic chemicals, plastics, and synthetic fibers, as identified in part 414 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(B) Pulp, paper, and paperboard, as identified in part 430 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(C) Textile mills, as identified in part 410 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(D) Electroplating, as identified in part 413 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(E) Metal finishing, as identified in part 433 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(F) Leather tanning and finishing, as identified in part 425 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(G) Paint formulating, as identified in part 446 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(H) Electrical and electronic components, as identified in part 469 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(I) Plastics molding and forming, as identified in part 463 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(7) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term “treatment works” has the meaning given that term in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292).

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

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) 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. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1230

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021, is a comprehensive package of strategies to regulate PFAS chemicals, clean up contamination, and protect public health. I am proud to support this bipartisan bill which will deliver the tools communities across the country need to get PFAS out of our environment and out of the pathways that lead to our bodies.

PFAS are an urgent public health threat. They are toxic, persistent, and

being found in the environment across the country.

Just how common are they?

A recent report from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry concluded that “Most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS and have PFAS in their blood.” That finding is pretty astounding and incredibly concerning to families across the Nation.

After all, these forever chemicals have long been linked with adverse health effects including cancer, immune system effects, infertility, impaired child development, high cholesterol, and thyroid disease.

Industry has known about these dangers for decades, but we still have no Federal protections from PFAS in drinking water, no limits on PFAS air emissions, no Federal cleanup requirements on PFAS sites, and no limits on dumping PFAS into our waterways. We don’t even have labeling of PFAS ingredients to allow consumers to protect themselves.

Right now, the Environmental Protection Agency is playing catch-up after 4 years of little action by the Trump administration, but this bill will help EPA tackle the complex challenge of PFAS by taking direct action on the two most studied PFAS, PFOS and PFOA, right away, while setting a reasonable timeline to study and evaluate other PFAS. This approach puts the focus on following the science by tailoring testing to relevant subgroups of PFAS and focusing regulation on the riskiest chemicals.

Mr. Speaker, over a decade ago, PFOA and PFOS were voluntarily phased out by industry. While no longer in use, they continue to threaten public health because of widespread environmental contamination. This bill will drive environmental cleanups of that contamination and drinking water treatment, addressing the threat of PFOA and PFOS to communities across the country.

Now, all other PFAS will be tested as appropriate. And where that testing reveals risk, this bill will ensure that EPA takes timely action to prevent and mitigate environmental contamination.

In the meantime, this bill will pause the introduction of untested new PFAS while providing guidance and labels to help first responders and consumers limit their risk.

Mr. Speaker, the longer we delay action on PFAS, the worse the problem becomes. It is time for Congress to act and use every tool available to stop the flow of PFAS pollution into our environment and into our bodies.

A version of this bill was passed overwhelmingly last Congress with significant bipartisan support. It is championed—and I can’t underestimate how much Representatives DINGELL and UPTON of Michigan have worked on this bill. I commend them for their continued leadership.

I also thank Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee Chairman

TONKO and Ranking Member MCKINLEY for their continued support.

We can’t delay any longer. We should pass this bipartisan legislation today.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the PFAS Action Act so that we can finally take action on these dangerous forever chemicals.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “no.”

The decision to oppose H.R. 2467 was not easy, but this version is not the right approach.

PFAS contamination is a serious problem in many congressional districts. That is true for me, too. My district has PFOA and PFOS contamination at Fairchild Air Force Base in Airway Heights, Washington, and I very much want it cleaned up.

I have problems, though, with H.R. 2467’s overwhelming, heavy-handed, and unscientific approach. I am struggling with why this aggressive expansion of Federal power and spending is the best answer that the people’s House can provide.

What does this massive proposal mean, and are we ready to go this far?

I cannot stress this enough: what we are addressing today is not about one, two, or just a handful of legacy chemicals. PFAS are, instead, an enormous and diverse class of manmade chemicals. EPA’s “Master List of PFAS Substances” contains more than 9,000 distinct chemicals, and the definition in this bill would apply to every one of those 9,252 chemicals and their uses.

Since the late fall of 2020, Congress has enacted 31 separate provisions to address PFAS. Congress has compelled cleanup of PFAS at military installations, banned certain uses of PFAS chemicals in products, pushed cooperative agreements for cleanups with States, and authorized \$500 million for removing emerging contaminants, especially PFAS, from drinking water.

Similarly, EPA has advanced nine major regulatory efforts for PFOA, PFOS, and some of the other PFAS chemicals.

EPA Administrator Regan also has commissioned a multiyear review process at EPA to consider any necessary modifications and to identify new strategies and priorities related to PFAS.

I want strong scientific backing for anything that we do to address PFAS chemicals. I am concerned that the mandates in the PFAS Action Act will frustrate EPA’s existing science-based plans. This bill instead will cement policy choices with long-range implications. It will overwhelm EPA’s existing resources to tackle environmental and public health challenges beyond PFAS.

The PFAS Action Act is not a measured approach. It prejudices outcomes,

showing little regard for objective science, risk assessment, transparency, and public input.

For example, the bill requires EPA to make regulatory determinations within 5 years on 9,250 PFAS chemicals—and without public participation.

This impossible deadline is a lawsuit waiting to happen. It requires every manufacturer and processor to conduct comprehensive testing on all 9,252 PFAS. This will overwhelm existing domestic laboratory capacity to focus on any other scientific or public health matter.

Like it or not, some PFAS chemicals have specific properties that aren’t easily addressed with other chemical types, like stability and water, oil, stain, and heat resistance. This makes them crucial in making semiconductors, lithium ion batteries in electric vehicles, solar panels, wind turbine parts, medical devices and drugs, and protective gear for our military and law enforcement.

This bill would create a hostile environment in the United States of America for their manufacture and use. It will create a de facto ban in the marketplace and a boon for trial lawyers. It prevents new PFAS from coming on to the market for 5 years. This will result in the drying up of investment in safe PFAS chemicals and PFAS product purchases. It also will signal to trial courts that all PFAS are hazardous.

It singles out PFAS manufacturers and uses a complex and expensive regulatory approach. It uses an unattainable standard to ban incineration of PFAS-contaminated material. This will federalize local trash collection and clog our Nation’s remaining landfill capacity.

It attaches permanent, open-ended cleanup liability to any person who has ever been associated with PFAS, regardless of whether you were a good actor.

Mr. Speaker, cleanup liability is: “Strict,” so your intent is irrelevant; “Joint and several,” so you are not just responsible for your fair share, you are responsible for everyone’s shares;

And, “retroactive,” so it doesn’t matter if the liability occurred 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, or 50 years ago or even further back.

Given the compliance costs, the sidelining of investment, the endless liability under CERCLA, tort lawsuits, and the inability to make or finance safer replacement chemicals and products, it is not hard to see how H.R. 2467 creates a de facto ban on 9,252 chemicals. It threatens the viability of every industry that needs these chemicals and products that benefit our society.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this bill essentially bans the materials that are necessary for America to win the future. That includes protective gear for law enforcement at a time when violent crime is surging in our country.

In drafting this legislation over two Congresses, the majority never called

EPA to testify on the bill. Now we are left with the opinions of the politicians and the White House, not the career scientists and the experts who will have to implement it. So much for trust the science.

In addition, the Congressional Budget Office has had trouble scoring this bill and a nearly identical bill from last Congress. That is because there are so many PFAS chemicals, and the mandates in this bill have no limits on either the Federal Treasury or the private sector. The bill also poses a significant burden on EPA's time and the lack of additional resources EPA will have to tackle other issues critical to their mission.

We all want to have a good solution to address PFAS contamination, but this bill falls short, unfortunately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in opposing this approach. We can do better.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who has done so much to protect our environment.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his extraordinary leadership as chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I thank him for bringing this important legislation to the floor. I thank Mr. TONKO for his leadership as chair of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee, and I thank Mr. MCKINLEY, the ranking member on that subcommittee.

I respectfully disagree with the ranking member of the full committee, and I will tell you why. I join our colleagues in support of the PFAS Action Act to address the serious public health issue that is a threat; PFAS chemicals, which are contaminating the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat.

First, I salute Representative DEBBIE DINGELL, a crusader in our mission to protect our communities from dangerous PFAS chemicals. I thank, again, as I said, Chairman PALLONE, Chairman TONKO, and Ranking Member MCKINLEY.

Mr. Speaker, PFAS are referred to as "forever chemicals". They are so called because they do not easily break down and even accumulate over time. Right now, they are exposing millions of Americans to health risks ranging from cancer to asthma, and liver disease to thyroid dysfunction.

For babies, they can be particularly devastating with prenatal exposure potentially leading to abnormal growth in utero, low birth rate, and increased risk of childhood obesity and infections. Our distinguished chairman enumerated other threats to the health and wellbeing of the American people.

When people ask me: What are the three most important issues facing the Congress, I always say the same thing: Our children, our children, our chil-

dren, their health, their education, the economic security of their families, and a safe and clean environment where they can thrive in a world of peace in which they can reach their fulfillment.

Mr. Speaker, PFAS chemicals are clearly and seriously harming to our children's health.

A coalition of public health groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Medical Association, and Children's Environmental Health Network, have written: "These ubiquitous substances pose severe health risks across the United States and represent a growing threat to public health."

They further state: "PFAS are particularly dangerous . . . widespread and likely present in the drinking water of tens of millions of Americans."

Further: "Developing infants and children are particularly vulnerable to PFAS exposure. . . ."

"Of concern, almost all fetuses and infants will have some degree of exposure to PFAS. . . ."

"PFAS exposure before birth or in early childhood has been associated with decreased birth weight, effects on renal function and lipid serum levels, and immune system dysfunction."

That statement was from the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Medical Association, and the Children's Environmental Health Network.

In addition to our children and young people, PFAS also poses a serious risk to America's servicemembers. There is an epidemic of contamination on military sites with more than 400 sites across the United States affected.

I have had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of hearing the concerns of many of these families. It is not just about the servicemembers, it is about their children who are affected.

It is unacceptable that the men and women who sacrifice to keep us safe around the world face this danger to their health and that of their children here at home. Yet, despite these obvious and well-known risks, big corporations have for decades failed or refused to prevent their spread.

□ 1245

A new study published last week shows that based on EPA data, an estimated 30,000 industrial sites are known or suspected of using toxic PFAS; 12 times what had been previously estimated. We cannot accept a situation where big special interests' bottom line comes before the public's lives.

To address this crisis, 2 years ago, Democrats crafted strong legislation to rid our communities of PFAS. Many Democrats, and many Members here, played a key role in crafting PFAS-related bills that were included in the bipartisan NDAA agreement reached in the House that year.

I thank Chairman SMITH and the members of the committee. Unfortu-

nately, the GOP Senate then refused to support full protections against PFAS chemicals and cut those key provisions from the NDAA; that is, the National Defense Authorization Act.

Last year, House Democrats passed the PFAS Action Act of 2019, which passed with strong bipartisan support, but did not become law because MITCH MCCONNELL senselessly refused to take it up in the Senate.

Now the Democratic House will, once again, pass the PFAS Action Act and send it to the Senate. We are making clear that this legislation is a priority for the American people, and we will not relent until it is enacted.

This legislation will clean up our communities by designating the two most-studied PFAS as a hazardous substance by the EPA and setting a deadline for the EPA to make designation decisions about all other PFAS chemicals.

Next, it will create new, well-funded grants and partnerships with States to help clean up and remedy sites. It will stem the tide of further contamination with tough new testing, reporting, and monitoring requirements; strict limits on the introduction of new PFAS chemicals; limits on air pollution; banning unsafe incineration; and strong measures to hold contaminating companies accountable.

I spent the time to be so specific because this is such a threat to the health and well-being of our children, our children, our children. I urge a strong vote for this legislation, which honors our first responsibility of Congress, to keep our American people safe.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), an exceptional leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee and a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the bill in its current form. I support the efforts to address dangerous, high levels of PFAS in our drinking water systems and other areas of our environment. That is why I submitted a bipartisan amendment with Mr. SCHRADER that would simply exempt PFAS used to manufacture medical devices and drugs that are approved by the FDA. It was a very limited amendment.

Polytetrafluoroethylene, or PTFE, seen in the graph on the board behind me, is used to treat atrial septal defects, most of the time in young children. Thanks to great advancements in medical technology like this procedure, it is now done in an outpatient setting, rather than open-heart surgery. For years, I did open-heart surgery on people with ASDs, and now they can repair them with a device. This is one device that could be banned.

Vascular grafts to repair aneurysms or bypass blocked arteries are another example. I implanted hundreds of these type of devices in patients. The fact of

the matter is, it has been shown over and over that PTFE in devices poses no risk to people or to our environment. The bill in its current form fails to consider that fact and jeopardizes patient access to lifesaving drugs and devices, leaving physicians and patients with no viable alternative or an inferior alternative. Would anyone want to be treated with an inferior alternative when we are unnecessarily banning the best treatment? I would argue no.

Unfortunately, my commonsense, bipartisan, lifesaving amendment was not made in order. I hope this bill does continue to move through the legislative process and that we can work to address this issue. I urge a “no” vote on this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PALLONE for yielding, and I thank him for his work on this piece of legislation, along with Mrs. DINGELL, a member of the committee. Obviously, the gentlewoman’s deceased husband was chairman of this committee and ranking member for many, many years and was a leader in many respects on addressing environmental challenges. This is an environmental challenge. There is no disagreement on that. There, obviously, is disagreement on specifics.

The gentleman who just spoke, in a very knowledgeable and thoughtful way, said he hopes this legislation moves forward, but he is in opposition to it. I understand he does not want it to pass. But his comment was that, hopefully, this would be perfected in the legislative process.

Now, I do not claim to be, Mr. Speaker, an expert on this chemical. I do know, however, that it affects my district, and every single congressional district in our country is affected by this challenge. That is because every district has faced the challenge of PFAS contamination, which has affected nearly 2,800 communities according to an analysis by the Environmental Working Group. I heard a figure of about 9,200 sites as well from the ranking member.

Like countless other districts in the country, Maryland’s Fifth District, which I have the privilege of representing, contamination has been detected at military installations. We are proud of our military installations. Pax River is a, I think, world leading air test, research, and evaluation center for naval air, as well as other air, including helicopters of the Army. Also in my district is the Naval Research Laboratory, Chesapeake Bay Detachment.

The citizens surrounding them are concerned, rightly, about what the contamination may have done to the water they and their children drink or bathe in. Thankfully, the defense authorization that we enacted in 2019 required our military to transition away from the use of PFAS chemicals in

firefighting fluids, a major source of contamination.

However, the PFAS pollution that has already occurred needs to be cleaned up, and this legislation would set requirements and deadlines for EPA to do so. Our citizens deserve to have that done. We must prevent PFAS chemicals from entering drinking water used by our communities. I think there is no disagreement on that.

PFAS has been called a forever chemical. Apparently, the biological fact of life is that it does not degrade over long periods of time, because they can linger in the human body for a whole lifetime, causing health effects ranging from cancers to reproductive and immune system deficiencies.

For 4 years, the previous administration claimed that it would take action through the EPA to protect Americans from PFAS contamination. Perhaps if they had done so, we wouldn’t have this legislation; but they did not do so. They failed to protect the American people from these harmful chemicals. So the committee has acted in this instance and previously.

Now it is time for Congress to act. Again, I am not an expert on this legislation, but I do know that the committee has carefully weighed how to make sure that we move forward, and in the view of people more expert than I, will not preclude every chemical from being utilized in needed and important items that we use every day in our society, but will provide, because of the designation as a hazardous material, that it be cleaned up where it is necessary to do so.

It ensures that EPA finally takes measures to prevent future release of PFAS chemicals into our environment and clean them up where such contamination has occurred.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me, not just because this is so important to the people living in Maryland’s Fifth District, but because it is critical to all Americans living in each and every one of our districts.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Senate to join us in taking this step to protect Americans’ access to drinking water and look carefully at the issues that have been raised by the ranking member, legitimate issues in the sense that, yes, we ought to make sure that we are doing the right thing and that the good is not outweighed by the bad.

In this instance, I think it is very clear that the good of this bill, the objectives of this bill, and the specifics of this bill, will redound to the benefit of the American people and each and every one of our communities, and I urge my colleagues, therefore, to vote “yes.”

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify that the previous administration, as well as the current administration, has been taking several actions in connection with PFAS; this large group of chemicals. We are talking about 9,252 chemicals; not just one.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), a member of the committee and a problem solver.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working to combat PFAS in the Great Lakes State that, truthfully, led the Nation in PFAS efforts for many years, including with my Michigan colleagues and sponsors of this bill.

Back in 2017, we hosted EPA staff at several contaminated sites in southeast Michigan so they could see firsthand the extent of the problem. We formed the Congressional PFAS Task Force and pushed for essential resources for PFAS research and cleanup efforts.

Many of our efforts have, actually, been enacted into law during the last administration and countless cleanup efforts are currently ongoing at all levels of government. In fact, over half of the provisions in this bill are already underway at EPA.

Unfortunately, other provisions in this bill would require the EPA to take a misguided approach by considering the group of more than 600 PFAS currently on the market, and the thousands of other unknown potential PFAS chemistries as if they were all the same.

Make no mistake, I believe this is a serious problem and it deserves serious solutions, but the bill before us today, although sincerely well-intended, goes too far. H.R. 2467 is so expansive that the CBO was unable to assign it a budgetary score, underscoring the untold cost and liability that it will impose on thousands, if not millions of manufacturers and consumers alike.

H.R. 2467 represents the largest expansion of regulatory authority at the EPA or perhaps any Federal agency in decades. But even more so, this bill will hamstring our small businesses, manufacturers, and water utilities by forcing them to take on so much cost and liability that they will be unable to comply or forced to raise prices and hire armies of attorneys all because Congress decided to substitute its political agenda for objective scientific judgment.

The Great Lakes Water Authority recently wrote to me regarding their concerns about the bill. A leading drinking water and wastewater treatment provider for southeast Michigan communities, Great Lakes Water Authority provides clean drinking water to nearly 40 percent of Michiganders. They told me this bill could likely cause them to be liable for trying to dispose of PFAS even if they are using current best practices.

As many would say, we ought to follow the science by letting the experts at EPA do their jobs and refrain from prejudging outcomes, overhauling existing regulatory structures, and most importantly, crippling our economy. I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

□ 1300

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who has always been so cooperative with us on both this bill and so many others.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for the cooperative work we have done on this bill, clean water bills, and many other issues. It is great to work with him and the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. The health effects that are known, are, you know, just a few things: cancer, kidney disease, pregnancy-related disorders, low birth weights, and immune system repression. But that is just what we know, so I guess we shouldn't worry about this too much.

Once it is in the environment, it breaks down. Once it is in your body, it doesn't go away. You get to certain levels and, then, you are going to start having these health effects. They are forever chemicals.

But, right now, there are no stringent requirements to test or monitor for PFAS. We don't know the extent of the pollution.

This bill is critical to address this legacy and public health risk and put us on a path to addressing the pervasive threat to our health, our citizens, and our environment.

I want to highlight a few sections that fall within the jurisdiction of my committee, the provisions which designate PFAS-related chemicals as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund.

We did put in a very limited exemption, which goes to firefighting at airports. Right now, the foam they use contains PFAS, and if they follow the FAA rules, they won't have liability. But DOD, FAA, and others are researching alternatives for foam retardants, and hopefully, they won't have to use this stuff in the near future.

There are two Clean Water Act amendments that will limit the additional release of PFAS; the first by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), who has been very persistent on this issue, closing a Clean Water Act loophole for discharges. Today, companies can legally discharge almost unlimited quantities of PFAS-related chemicals into rivers, streams, and lakes because the EPA has not set limits for discharging into our aquatic environment. This is unacceptable. The gentleman's amendment will set statutory guidelines for the EPA to act and set those limits.

Section 17 prioritizes the industry sectors with the greatest likelihood of discharging harmful quantities. The gentleman did great work on this. We worked with wastewater utilities and

industry representatives, and they agree with our approach.

I also rise in support of section 13, another Clean Water Act provision, by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO), a member of my committee, to prevent our sewers from being dumping grounds. Industrial discharges can now be discharged into local municipal systems, and if it is not known, then they can't deal with it. They can't pretreat it, and they can't get it out.

So, I rise in strong support of this bill, and I thank everyone who participated in its writing.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), another dynamic member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, throughout the consideration of this bill in committee, at Rules, and now here, several of my Democratic colleagues have argued CERCLA liability only attaches to two legacy chemicals, and we don't have to worry about others. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

This bill requires regulatory determination on 9,250 different chemicals, individually or in groups, on whether they will be CERCLA hazardous substances.

My colleagues argue that people don't have to worry about Superfund liability if they don't cause environmental harm. This argument is false.

Superfund liability is strict liability. If a party has any involvement, they are liable, period, end of story. That strict liability is what causes concern and is why Mr. BURGESS offered an amendment to make only those who cause the pollution pay for its cleanup. For some reason, the majority found issue with that amendment and prevented its commonsense consideration.

If there is interest on the other side of the aisle in changing the overall rules of Superfund liability, I am sure we would be happy to consider it. Short of that improvement, my colleagues should not take comfort that only reckless, willful, or irresponsible parties will be held liable under future CERCLA designations.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the chairman of the Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee, who has worked very hard on this issue for a number of years.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding and for his leadership on this bill.

We know the health effects of PFAS exposure can be severe: cancer, thyroid problems, birth defects, and immune system disruptions, amongst others. Sadly, there are many communities and individuals across our great country who are suffering these health consequences.

Despite knowing the dangers of these forever chemicals, the Federal Govern-

ment has been slow to act. I say enough is enough.

The PFAS Action Act would require significant steps to ensure that our Federal Government is responding comprehensively and reducing the risk of exposure through our air, water, and consumer products.

It includes actions under numerous environmental statutes, including designating the two most well-studied PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, as hazardous substances and setting a deadline for a national drinking water standard to, at a minimum, ensure vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, infants, and children, are protected.

The bill includes other critical provisions to reduce exposure, empower consumers, and expedite cleanups.

Despite what some may want to suggest, designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA is not a ban. There are literally hundreds of hazardous substances that continue to be used in manufacturing processes and commerce broadly.

What it will do is ensure that polluters are held accountable to clean up their messes when toxic releases occur and ensure that remediation is done to an acceptable level.

We have waited far too long already for action. Despite promising initial steps from the Biden administration, I fear the EPA will not adequately address PFAS without clear direction from Congress. As the administration recognized, this bill supports the commitment across the branches of government to take on this challenge.

This is the bill our constituents and those living with PFAS in their communities need.

I thank Representatives DINGELL and UPTON for their commitment to addressing these dangerous forever chemicals, and I encourage Members to support this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER), our policy chairman and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2467.

This misguided bill treats all PFAS chemicals the same way, creating a de facto ban on many lifesaving products that Americans rely on.

By voting for this bill, my Democratic colleagues are ignoring the science, including peer-reviewed research that clearly shows that certain fluoropolymers, including some that have been used for more than 50 years, do not present a concern for human health or the environment.

Despite this evidence, my Democrat colleagues have refused to make reasonable changes to this bill so that fluoropolymer chemicals used in FDA-approved medical devices are not labeled hazardous substances under CERCLA and the Clean Air Act.

Let me put it bluntly. By not exempting the fluoropolymers used in medical devices already approved by

the FDA, you are denying people access to lifesaving products such as heart valves for infants and grafts for aortic aneurysm repairs.

I ask my Democrat colleagues: Are you so opposed to all categories of PFAS chemicals that you commit to refusing all medical devices and drugs containing the fluoropolymers you are banning?

If you must have open-heart surgery, will you instruct your doctor to avoid using any device or surgical instrument that has fluoropolymers regardless of the implications for the outcome?

If your child or grandchild needs an FDA-approved heart valve, do you commit to denying them that care since it contains fluoropolymers?

That is what you are trying to force on the general population with this legislation.

Furthermore, this bill will put millions of Americans who have already received medical devices containing fluoropolymers at risk. As noted in committee by my colleague, Dr. LARRY BUCSHON, with the passage of this bill, the FDA might have to designate all devices with any fluoropolymers as hazardous and recall them.

There is bipartisan agreement on the need to protect the public from harmful PFAS chemicals, but there is no rational reason why lifesaving fluoropolymers could not be exempted.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), who is the sponsor of the bill and who has really brought our attention to this issue and prioritized it from the very beginning.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for being such a strong leader and getting us to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in support of this very important piece of bipartisan legislation, which I am leading with my good friend and colleague, Representative FRED UPTON.

This is a meaningful bill that is the product of good bipartisan work by the Energy and Commerce Committee. It passed the House with strong bipartisan support in the last Congress, and it is an example that bipartisanship does exist on Capitol Hill. This bill embodies it, and today's vote will once again validate that.

PFAS chemicals are an urgent threat to public health. This class of man-made chemicals is extremely persistent in the environment and has long been linked with adverse health effects, including cancer.

These chemicals were birthed out of the Manhattan Project, and, now, nearly every American, almost every American, has PFAS coursing through their blood after generations of use of these drugs in our modern society.

The EPA has understood the risks posed by PFAS since 1998. The Defense Department has understood the risks

since the 1970s. The FDA has understood the risks since the 1960s. And industry has known about the dangers for decades.

But we still do not have a strong Federal policy to combat these forever chemicals, which are a crisis. We have yet to set a national drinking water standard for PFAS that our water utilities need to meet. We have yet to designate them as hazardous substances under Superfund to jump-start cleanup. We have yet to regulate industrial discharges of PFAS into our water and our air. And we have yet to establish simple labeling that PFAS is in a product to allow consumers to protect themselves.

This can all change if we pass the PFAS Action Act.

According to the Environmental Working Group, over 200 million Americans are drinking water now contaminated with PFAS, and we are finding more and more contamination regularly. Just today, the Environmental Working Group reported that PFAS have been detected in 2,800 communities, including 2,411 drinking water systems, and at 328 military installations nationwide.

Listen to me: The Pentagon is not going to prioritize cleanup of these military sites until these chemicals are listed as the hazardous substances that they are.

I want to be clear: I love my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but there is nothing in this bill that would ban PFAS used in drugs, medical devices, or PPE. It will not ban masks.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill. It is time we protect Americans.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW), another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a decorated Navy SEAL.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a dangerous implication of this bill and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

There is no disagreement that the Federal Government has a role to play in cleaning up the most heavily contaminated sites and establishing standards so that our water is safe to drink. We are united in this, both Republicans and Democrats.

While this bill shares the spirit of that, frankly, it got hopelessly lost along the way. Instead, it creates a mess of lawsuits.

We could have fixed this. Republicans have pointed out the pitfalls. Democrats say those pitfalls don't exist. Experts say, yes, they do. We could fix this.

□ 1315

In committee we discussed how this impacts a full suite of products, from medical devices to computer chips.

But there is one element that is particularly concerning to me. Under this legislation, a police department that purchases one of the most popular bul-

letproof vests to protect its officers against rising crime would now be subject to environmental lawsuits.

And here's why: A bulletproof vest becomes increasingly ineffective if it is exposed to moisture. As a result, it is protected by a waterproofing PFAS chemical to keep it dry and effective against bullets.

By imposing a de facto ban—and it is a de facto ban—on all PFAS chemicals, even those that pose no risk to human health or the environment, this legislation will significantly reduce the availability of lifesaving equipment.

Manufacturers, or others in the supply chain, will seek to avoid the PFAS liabilities created by this bill under CERCLA. So police departments, rather than worrying about protecting our communities, will now have to worry about whether or not they will be subject to an environmental lawsuit.

Instead, police departments themselves will be forced to make impossible decisions; continuing to use PFAS-containing, lifesaving equipment or risk huge legal liability when the equipment is disposed of.

This bill will bring entities like police departments, and anyone and everyone who is even remotely involved with PFAS material, under the wide dragnet of litigation that they don't have the resources to fight.

As Democrats seek to defund police across the country, police departments are already strapped for cash. So under this bill, we are forcing police departments to decide whether to defend themselves against lawsuits or purchase the material they need to keep their officers safe.

That is why I introduced a simple amendment that would limit the liability of police departments, first responders, and our military from being endlessly sued if they require these materials to protect themselves.

My amendment didn't limit the EPA's ability to actually regulate these chemicals or even determine which ones are safe or unsafe. Nor did it allow police departments to dispose of these products in an unsafe way and be shielded from consequences.

It just said, if a police department or first responder follows the letter of the law in dealing with these materials, they shouldn't be threatened with endless lawsuits. But, sadly, my colleagues didn't make my amendment in order.

So while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are desperately trying to prove that they support our police officers after a year of demonizing them, the bill shows that really nothing has changed.

But there is one more chance to make this right. I will be offering my amendment as the motion to recommit for this legislation. Our police officers need to know that Congress has their back, especially now. This motion to recommit is a chance to do just that.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and vote for my amendment to protect our police and our military and our first responders.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

PFAS compounds do not naturally break down in the environment. Exposure to even small amounts of PFAS has been linked to diseases, birth defects, and developmental disorders.

These chemicals have been used in consumer products for decades and have, thus, been allowed to spread and accumulate throughout the environment, into our air, our water, and our soils.

In my own district, PFAS has been detected in multiple drinking water systems, which puts the health and safety of my constituents at risk. The same can be said for millions of people in communities across the country.

Until recently, the extent of the problem was underestimated in my home State. With expanded testing, we now know that California is one of the most impacted States in the country. A recent investigation by the State Water Resources Control Board showed PFAS contamination in almost 100 public water systems serving about 7.5 million Californians.

We need a national strategy to prevent exposure to these toxic substances. This bill sets a deadline for the EPA to take action on establishing standards, limits the introduction of new PFAS into commerce and the environment, and provides support for communities to install treatment technologies. This bill is needed both to clean up pollution now and to prevent it from getting worse in the future.

I want to thank Representative DINGELL and Representative UPTON for their leadership on H.R. 2467 and Chairman PALLONE, Chairman TONKO, for helping to move this important legislation. I also want to thank the committee staff for their work on this bill.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), a physician and member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act. This bill takes the wrong approach to dealing with these complex and complicated chemicals.

A de facto ban on all PFAS substances will do nothing but prevent secure disposal of existing chemicals and harm innovation of new, safer products.

As a physician, I have personally seen the benefits provided by these products. PFAS materials have a variety of uses in healthcare, ranging from heart valves, cardiac stents, to coatings on contact lenses.

Thanks to technology developed using PFAS materials, surgeries, such as those that are needed to repair a child's congenital heart defect, no longer require risky open-heart surgery and can simply be done through the arm.

Of course, we don't want dangerous chemicals in our water supply. But to outright ban an entire family of products is not the answer. We would not ban the entire periodic table because it includes arsenic and mercury. We need a science-grounded, risk-based approach that identifies the most harmful chemicals and treats them as such, rather than have Congress regulate the entire family as a single group.

Inclusion in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act has the potential to slow down the cleanup process of PFAS, divert resources from current higher-priority public health issues and create another unfunded mandate for critical public utilities and local governments.

Instead of interfering, it is time to let government agencies do their work. And so I urge my colleagues, join me, vote "no" on H.R. 2467.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who chairs the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

These PFAS chemicals, synthetic, manmade chemicals, have now, according to the science, evolved into a very significant public health threat, and it is time that Congress act to protect our neighbors back home, families, communities all across America with the passage of this bill.

This is a bipartisan bill, and I want to thank my colleagues, Congresswoman DINGELL and Congressman UPTON, for leading the charge here, because what they propose and what we will vote on today will protect our communities by instituting some new oversight and regulations of these forever chemicals in PFAS, help us clean up these chemicals from our drinking water, and protect the public health.

These PFAS chemicals are not regulated in any way right now. They are often used in firefighting foam, in nonstick surfaces, stain-resistant surfaces, and food packaging. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has determined that PFAS exposure is associated with low birth weight babies, an increased rate of cancer, lower fertility rates, and developmental issues in young children and infants.

A new study out of the Yale School of Public Health recently found that

exposure increases the risk of miscarriage by 80 to 120 percent in pregnant women. The CDC also issued a disclosure regarding a potential intersection between PFAS and COVID-19.

These chemicals now have been detected in communities all across the country. This bill will help us rely on the science, provide some safeguards, make sure we are gathering the scientific data we need to keep our communities safe back home.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, most folks have never heard of PFAS. In Michigan we found out the hard way. Again.

Sadly, we know a little bit about water contamination. Think Flint, think lead. PFAS is bad, too. Really bad.

The EPA has been slow at the switch. Three years ago, I stepped off the plane coming back from D.C. for the August break, and I got a call. It was bad. It was from one of my State senators. One of my towns had been identified just a few hours earlier with having alarming PFAS parts per trillion numbers.

We had to act right away. I drove straight to the sheriff command center, prompted the immediate notification of thousands of residents. It was nearly midnight. Before they could make infant formula or coffee in the morning or even water their vegetable garden, they had to stop. They had to unplug their icemakers in their refrigerators. For months they had to line up at churches and schools to get cases of water for human consumption.

We had a bipartisan bill to require the EPA to set a minimum standard for PFOA and PFAS, which House Republicans agreed to, but we were later denied. It would have started the EPA's clock, which is why we need to act now.

We know this stuff is bad. We know this causes cancer. This bill is not perfect. It needs to see a number of constructive changes before it reaches the President's desk, but I want to thank DAN KILDEE and BRIAN FITZPATRICK, the two co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force.

I want to thank Chairman PALLONE. I also want to thank my colleague DEBBIE DINGELL for authoring this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 12½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Washington has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), a member of our committee.

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I can't believe I am about to say this, but I think what I am hearing

from the majority of my friends on the other side of the aisle, with the exception of my good friend Mr. UPTON, is that they just want a little more toxic chemicals in your water.

That simply cannot be true.

In my district on Long Island, we have long struggled with PFAS water contamination, and many communities have already incurred substantial remediation costs.

That is why I am pleased that the PFAS Action Act includes my provision to reimburse these local communities for their past expenses. Communities that could not wait for Federal action and redirected their resources to address this health threat should not be punished for doing the right thing.

This is a situation that the Federal Government has failed to address for decades. We have the opportunity to do it now.

I want to thank my good friends, Representatives DINGELL and UPTON, and the chairman of the committee for bringing this commonsense bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), a leader on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2467, but not necessarily in defense or in criticism of PFAS.

Unfortunately, this legislation puts the cart before the horse. It would establish a PFAS standard before the EPA has the information to determine the best regulatory action.

While written and passed by the Energy and Commerce Committee, this bill contains provisions within the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which I am also a member. However, T&I never considered this bill, which greatly concerns me. Our committee didn't hold one hearing or one markup on this bill or on the provisions contained in it. T&I Democrats completely ceded the committee's authority and expertise.

□ 1330

If we had held a hearing or a markup, Republicans would have pointed out that the Clean Water Act, which is squarely in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, grants ample authority to the EPA and contains a long-established process for evaluating chemicals and regulating the discharge of those substances when they pose a significant risk to water quality.

We would have noted that the EPA already has efforts under way to evaluate PFAS substances pursuant to the Clean Water Act, including managing risks from PFAS.

However, this bill short-circuits the long-established regulatory review process under the Clean Water Act and it ignores the expertise of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H.R. 2467 imposes unrealistic deadlines on the EPA and asks the EPA to regulate before it has the necessary data to make a legally and scientifically sound regulatory plan.

Legislating in this careless fashion undermines the confidence in both the bill and the legislative process to develop it.

I urge a "no" vote on this bill, and I encourage us to continue looking at this issue.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the PFAS Action Act of 2021 because this overdue legislation will save lives.

We know that PFAS chemicals, otherwise known as forever chemicals, have been linked to harmful health effects, including increased rates of cancer.

Yet, for far too long, they have been unchecked and unregulated.

Now, these same chemicals are being discovered at toxic levels in drinking water supplies in communities that I represent and across our country.

In fact, as many as 200 million Americans are currently drinking PFAS-contaminated water, often without even knowing it.

While my home State of Massachusetts has led the way in responding to PFAS contaminations in recent years, including the groundbreaking of a new 10,000-square foot treatment plant in my district in Littleton, most States are falling further and further behind, leaving their residents at risk.

Madam Speaker, we have the ability to change that today.

Passage of the PFAS Action Act will bolster State and local initiatives like those already under way in Massachusetts.

This legislation will provide the resources and policies necessary to clean up contaminated drinking water sites, support families who have been exposed to PFAS chemicals, and take critical steps to prevent future exposures.

I am grateful to Representatives DINGELL and UPTON, as well as our chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. PALLONE, for their bipartisan work on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, not because it will hurt corporations who want to continue the unregulated use of these dangerous chemicals, but because the health and well-being of the hardworking families they represent are at stake if they don't.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), the lead Republican on the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the PFAS Action Act.

As the ranking member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, I have participated in many hours of hearings during the previous Congress

where we explored issues involving PFAS materials and heard from witnesses spanning many perspectives on this important issue.

As legislation and regulations are advanced to address PFAS issues, it is critical that we ensure that these efforts define the chemicals of concern consistently, adequately, and properly as supported by sound science. In the current bill, however, what is ultimately classified as a PFAS material is either left open to interpretation by EPA or broadly defined. Using either approach risks subjecting potentially thousands of chemicals to unnecessary regulation or restriction.

As we have heard previously in the House Oversight and Reform Committee, and as we have heard on the floor this week during debate on various amendments, a broad definition of PFAS could subject such key products as lithium-ion batteries, semiconductors, refrigerants, and medical devices, to name just a few, to regulation and restriction. All these products provide important benefits, and some, in the case of batteries and semiconductors, have been specifically highlighted by President Biden as part of his efforts to review and reshore critical supply chains.

It is, therefore, essential that we properly define PFAS, so that implementing regulations can focus on those materials, such as PFOA and PFOS, where there is scientific consensus for regulation, while also ensuring that unnecessary regulations are not placed on key uses of PFAS.

I urge my colleagues to carefully consider the definitions and criteria that are being put forward as the basis for PFAS regulation and to take steps to ensure that these classifications are carefully tailored and supported by sound science.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this issue. And still I rise.

And I rise today because, as a Member of Congress, I believe we have a duty, a responsibility, and an obligation to act when industry is not acting, and the health of the American people is at risk.

It is time for Congress to do what it should have done, what EPA has not done, what we can do. I believe that there is no option but to vote "yes." No is not an option when it comes to the health and safety of the American people.

I will vote "yes." I will vote for the American people and their safety.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS).

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on this legislation.

I rise in support of the PFAS Action Act, a landmark bill that will protect millions of Americans from these toxic forever chemicals.

We know PFAS persists in the environment and the human body, and it is making our constituents sick. This legislation addresses legacy contamination and its associated health effects. Importantly, this bill will also go to the source, and halt active contamination and work to hold polluters accountable.

That is exactly what my provision is designed to do. This legislation includes my bill, the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act, which addresses toxic PFAS discharges and invests in local infrastructure.

No polluter should be able to dump PFAS unchecked into our waterways and into our wastewater systems. PFAS should be handled like other toxic substances that have been regulated through the Clean Water Act.

We must also support wastewater systems to make necessary infrastructure upgrades that will stop PFAS from poisoning our environment and our water. This bill would authorize \$200 million a year for these grants.

Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan issue, and it is an issue that literally affects every State and every district across this country.

Just yesterday I joined a round table of concerned leaders in my district whose message was crystal clear: Pass this bill and protect the health and well-being of our communities and our families.

I heard from the town manager in Bedford, New Hampshire, who spoke to me about residents receiving bottled water for the past 3 years because their wells are contaminated. Families and businesses in several neighboring communities face the same situation. How many more years are we going to let these people wait for clean water?

A constituent of mine named Lisa, from the Seacoast region of New Hampshire, has two kids who drank PFAS-laced water for a number of years when they were growing up. They faced a number of unimaginable health impacts as a result of that.

How many more households like Lisa's will there be in this particular situation if we allow more PFAS out into the environment?

Far too many Americans are drinking from contaminated systems and wells. Far too many Americans are at the mercy of industrial polluters and have brought this problem to our doorstep.

I urge passage of this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Unfortunately, this bill is not just limited to legacy contamination. It

creates a hostile environment for the manufacture and use of PFAS, present and future.

The ban in this bill is a de facto ban on 9,252 PFAS, as well as numerous lifesaving and critical products containing PFAS.

A de facto ban is a system where many suppliers of a product are allowed, but the environment is so completely hostile to its existence, that the product might as well not be made.

The aggressive, unscientific regulatory approach in this bill, coupled with its extremely limited exemptions, will create stigma and uncertainty, and that will result in increased litigation in trial courts for products containing PFAS.

If you start stacking up the negative market pressures created through:

One, increased compliance costs;

Two, limited disposal options;

Three, sidelined investments;

Four, unquantifiable and permanent liability under CERCLA;

Five, tort lawsuits aided by legislative stigma;

Six, marketplace challenges;

Seven, the inability to make or finance a safer replacement chemical or product, it is not hard to see how H.R. 2467 creates a de facto ban on 9,252 chemicals and threatens the viability of these industries and the industries that need them and the products containing them that benefit our society.

Unfortunately, this is not a new tactic. It has been done before with the war on coal under the Obama administration, and now we are seeing it with the rest of fossil fuels and any product that some decide they don't like.

The word "ban" may not appear, but by creating massive costs through regulatory barriers and mandates, uncertainty, and taxes, a de facto ban is created by the cost of doing business. The cost of doing business becomes too high and we, as Americans, become dependent upon other countries, dangerously dependent upon other countries. It jeopardizes manufacturing in our country, and then we wonder why people are not manufacturing in the United States.

It has been done on coal, it has been done on fossil fuels, and today it is being done on American manufacturers.

We can do better. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill. Let's go back, let's do better. We all want to protect clean drinking water. That is a shared goal. Let's stay focused on that goal. Vote "no" on this bill.

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

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

This comprehensive bill reflects the hard work of many of my colleagues. I want to thank some of the leaders in the House who have made this bill possible.

Representative DINGELL has led this bill for several years now, never losing

sight of the communities she represents who have been impacted by PFAS in their environment and in their water.

The bill builds on legislation from Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY to require health effects testing on all PFAS chemicals. This critical testing forms the basis of required decisions throughout this package.

The legislation also sets a moratorium on new PFAS until EPA has the science it needs to properly evaluate them and will ensure that all new PFAS are properly reviewed before going forward. This provision was authored and led through the committee process by Representative KUSTER and also reflects the hard work of Representative DEAN.

Another essential piece of this bill builds on bipartisan legislation from Representatives BOYLE and FITZPATRICK to set a national drinking water standard that protects public health, including the health of pregnant women, infants, and children.

The legislation also takes important steps to address air emissions of PFAS. It incorporates legislation from Representative STEVENS to address PFAS emissions under the Clean Air Act and legislation from Representatives KHANNA and LEVIN to restrict unsafe incineration of PFAS wastes, including firefighting foam.

Next, the bill includes a provision by Representative SOTO to create a voluntarily PFAS-free label for cookware, so consumers can take steps to protect themselves from exposure. I also thank Representative SLOTKIN for her work to expand that label.

The bill includes a provision by Representative FLETCHER requiring EPA to issue guidance for first responders to both minimize the use of PFAS in firefighting foam and turnout gear and also minimize their risks. That provision was improved last year with input from Representative GOLDEN. Risks to first responders are also a very serious concern, and I thank Representative FLETCHER for her work on that important issue.

Lastly, the bill incorporates two provisions related to the Clean Water Act from Representatives DELGADO and PAPPAS. Those important provisions will protect our natural resources and stem the flow of contamination into our waterways.

Madam Speaker, I include the following documents in the RECORD: A letter from the Sierra Club; a letter from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; a letter from the Coalition of NGO's; a letter from Defense Communities; a letter from the League of Conservation Voters; and an article from Environmental Health News titled: "The real story behind PFAS and Congress' effort to clean up contamination." That is an op-ed.

SIERRA CLUB,

July 15, 2021.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, On behalf of our over four million members and supporters, Sierra Club writes to express our

support of H.R. 2467 the PFAS Action Act of 2021. We ask that you vote in support of this critical package and strengthening amendments.

Communities around the United States are facing grave threats to their drinking water and health due to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). This class of chemicals is widely used to make carpets, fabrics for furniture, Teflon coatings for cookware, paper packaging for food and other everyday materials. They're even used in firefighting foam (aqueous film forming foam; AFFF) for both civilian and military purposes.

PFAS chemicals can't be broken down in an environment and effectively poison water sources. Right now, scientists estimate that more than 100 million Americans are drinking PFAS-contaminated water. This contamination is strongly linked to cancer, immune system suppression, thyroid problems, reproductive system damage and harming of children's growth and development.

The PFAS Action Act takes critical steps in ensuring our communities are protected from dangerous chemicals. There are 9 important amendments that extend important protections against PFAS chemicals. However, two stand out as critical in dealing with PFAS contamination. First, Rep. Andy Levin's Amendment #8 to prohibit incineration of PFAS-based firefighting foams. Second, Rep. Sarbanes and Fitzpatrick's Amendment #15 which would require chemical companies to provide the analytical standards that allow chemists to measure new PFAS chemicals in people and the environment.

Everyone, no matter zip code, gender or race, deserves clean drinking water and a healthy environment. We must safeguard frontline communities from the damage of PFAS. We need to stop emitting PFAS into the environment and protect those populations most susceptible to chemical contamination—like women, children and military service members. The PFAS Action Act is an important step in that process.

Sierra Club urges you to support the PFAS Action Act.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BRUNE,
Executive Director, Sierra Club.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2021.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and Committee on Pro-Life Activities, we write in support of the PFAS Action Act of 2021 (H.R. 2467). This bipartisan legislation aims to reduce human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals.

Per-fluoroalkyl and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a diverse class of compounds containing thousands of individual chemicals. Useful for non-stick and water-repellent properties, certain PFAS have been integrated into numerous household products. PFAS have also been employed in firefighting foam across the United States.

PFAS are resistant to degradation and bioaccumulate in the environment and the human body. Prolonged exposure to these chemicals can cause cancer, thyroid problems, birth defects, and reproductive, developmental, and immune system disruptions. Of particular concern is a growing body of research that indicates pregnant and nursing mothers, and their children, are especially affected. Such exposure occurs through polluted drinking water, food, soil, dust and the use of consumer products manufactured using PFAS. The widespread utilization of these "forever chemicals" has resulted in significant environmental contamination.

The USCCB has consistently promoted integral human development, where technology and human ingenuity are directed towards the common good. Human and environmental health concerns are interconnected, and we must not forget that "human life is itself a gift which must be defended from various forms of debasement" (Laudato Si', no. 5). The PFAS Action Act of 2021 both upholds the dignity of human life and preserves ecological health. It regulates PFAS, enacts drinking water standards, and designates contaminated sites as eligible for Superfund cleanup.

Access to safe, potable water is an indispensable human right and government leaders have a moral responsibility to safeguard society from poisonous chemical contaminations. Addressing U.S. Congress in 2015, Pope Francis declared that "you are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good." We pray for your efforts to protect the life and health of mothers, the unborn, all of society, and God's creation.

Sincerely yours,

MOST REVEREND PAUL S.
COAKLEY,

Archbishop of Oklahoma City, Chair, Committee on Domestic Justice, and Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F.
NAUMANN,

Archbishop of Kansas City, Chair, Committee on Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

JULY 19, 2020.

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

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader, Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Minority Whip, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, MINORITY WHIP SCALISE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned non-governmental organizations write today to urge you to vote YES on H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

Toxic PFAS chemicals have now been confirmed in the water of nearly 2800 communities, including over 300 military installations, and studies have linked PFAS to serious health problems, including cancer. H.R. 2467 will build on the progress made in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 by restricting industrial releases of PFAS into our air and water, setting a drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS in tap water, and by kick-starting the process of cleaning up legacy PFAS contamination by designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the federal Superfund law.

The science is clear: PFAS have been linked to serious health problems through decades of animal, worker, and human studies. Unfortunately, EPA has failed to take steps to restrict air and water releases, reduce PFAS in our tap water, or clean up the

nation's most contaminated sites. H.R. 2467 will set clear deadlines requiring EPA to do just that. Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances, as proposed by H.R. 2467, will not ban PFAS—but will instead ensure that the most contaminated sites are finally cleaned up.

We urge you to vote YES on H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

Sincerely,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners, Center for Environmental Health, Clean Cape Fear, Clean Water Action, Commonwealth Biomonitoring Resource Center, Community Action Works, Consumer Reports, Defend Our Health, Ecology Center, Environment America, Environment North Carolina, Environmental Working Group, Green Science Policy Institute, Green CAPE.

Healthy Babies Bright Futures, League of Conservation Voters, Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Moms for a Nontoxic New York, Natural Resources Defense Council, NC Child, NC Conservation Network, Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, Toxic-Free Future, U.S. PIRG, Union of Concerned Scientists, Vermont Conservation Voters, Zero Waste Washington.

PROTECT OUR DEFENSE COMMUNITIES FROM
PFAS POLLUTION—DESIGNATE PFOA AND
PFOS AS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

JULY 20, 2021.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Our communities host many of the hundreds of military installations that are now contaminated with the toxic "forever chemicals" known as PFAS. While Congress has acted to end the use of firefighting foam made with PFAS, Congress has not yet taken steps to ensure that legacy PFAS pollution is cleaned up.

To protect our defense communities from toxic pollution, we urge you to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability, and Compensation Act. Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA will ensure that the Defense Department treats PFAS pollution at military installations as a priority.

Some members of Congress have argued that designating PFOA and PFOS as "hazardous substances" under CERCLA will ban the use of these two chemicals from medical devices, semiconductors, lithium batteries and even surgical masks. This is not correct. First, PFOA and PFOS are no longer used in commerce. Second, designation of a chemical as a hazardous substance does not result in a ban of the chemical. Nearly 80 percent of the chemicals designated as hazardous substances are still used in commerce.

CERCLA regulates the cleanup of chemicals, not the use of chemicals. In particular, designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA will ensure that they are a priority for clean up at military installations.

PFAS has been confirmed in the groundwater at more than 300 military installations where firefighting foams made with PFAS were used, including installations in our communities. We urge you to protect our communities from these toxic forever chemicals by voting to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances.

Sincerely,

ANDREA AMICO,
Testing for Pease, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

ANTHONY SPANIOLA,
Need Our Water (NOW), Oscoda, Michigan.

ARNIE LERICHE,
Wurtsmith Restoration
Advisory Board,
Oscoda, Michigan.

ART SCHAAP,
Tucumcari Cheese,
Clovis, New Mexico.

CATHY WUSTERBARTH,
Need Our Water
(NOW), Oscoda,
Michigan.

CHERYL CAILL,
SC Idle No More,
SCIAC, Myrtle
Beach, South Caro-
lina.

DEBORAH BROWN,
Newburgh Clean
Water Project, New-
burgh, New York.

EDWARD LAWSON, JR.,
Co-Chair Stewart Air
National Guard,
Restoration Advisory
Board, Newburgh,
New York.

HOPE GROSSE,
Buxmont Coalition for
Safe Water, War-
minster, Pennsyl-
vania.

JENNIFER VAUGHAN,
Brock, Texas.

JEROME M ENSMINGER,
CDC Camp Lejeune
Community Assist-
ance, Panel, Eliza-
bethtown, North
Carolina.

JIM HOLMES,
Satellite Beach, Flor-
ida.

JOANNE STANTON,
Buxmont Coalition for
Safe Water, War-
minster, Pennsyl-
vania.

KEVIN FERRARA,
AFS021 LLC,
Woolrich, Pennsyl-
vania.

KRISTEN MELLO,
Westfield Residents
Advocating For,
Themselves
(WRAFT), Westfield,
Massachusetts.

LAURA OLAH,
Citizens for Safe Water
Around Badger,
Merrimac, Wis-
consin.

LISA CELLINI,
Maple Glen, Pennsyl-
vania.

MARK A. FAVORS, RN,
Fountain Valley Clean
Water Coalition,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado.

MARK D SANCHEZ-POTTER,
Food and Water
Watch, Newburgh,
New York.

PAT ELDER,
Military Poisons, St.
Mary's City, Mary-
land.

SCOTT CRUMBAUGH,
Pure Aqua Tech,
Alma, Michigan.

STAN MCCOY,
Cedar Creek, New Mex-
ico.

STEL BAILEY,
Fight 4 Zero, Brevard
County, Florida.

MITCH FREITAS,

FMT, Clovis, New
Mexico.

LAURENE ALLEN,
Merrimack Citizens for
Clean Water,
Merrimack, New
Hampshire.

SHAINA KASPER,
Community Action
Works Campaigns,
Montpelier,
Vermont.

MADISON MCCOY,
Albuquerque, New
Mexico.

SUZANNE SCHAAP,
Hereford, Texas.

PAMELA MILLER,
Alaska Community Ac-
tion on Toxics, An-
chorage, Alaska.

LCV,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2021.

Re: Support H.R. 2467, a critical step in pro-
tecting our health from toxic chemicals.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, The League of Con-
servation Voters (LCV) works to turn envi-
ronmental values into national priorities.
Each year, LCV publishes the National Envi-
ronmental Scorecard, which details the vot-
ing records of members of Congress on envi-
ronmental legislation. The Scorecard is the
nationally accepted yardstick used to rate
members of Congress on environmental, pub-
lic health, and energy issues and is distrib-
uted to LCV members, concerned voters, and
the media.

LCV urges you to vote YES on H.R. 2467,
the "PFAS Action Act of 2021," which would
take important steps in addressing the grow-
ing national PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl
substances) crisis threatening the health of
millions of people across the country.

PFAS are a class of chemicals used in
many everyday consumer products and in-
dustrial applications to make water and
stain repellent coatings, but communities
continue to discover that their drinking
water, food, soil, and surroundings have been
contaminated with PFAS. Also called "for-
ever chemicals" in recognition of their per-
sistence in the environment and our bodies,
PFAS have been linked to numerous health
problems like certain cancers, thyroid dis-
ease, neurological development issues, weak-
ened immune systems, and more. The federal
government has been slow to take the ac-
tions necessary to protect our communities,
especially communities of color who bear a
disproportionate impact from this lack of re-
sponse.

H.R. 2467 will take critical steps forward
that are needed to reduce PFAS use, clean
them up, and hold polluters accountable for
the damage to our health and the environ-
ment. The bill would require the Environ-
mental Protection Agency (EPA) to set a
drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS
within two years, designate PFOA and PFOS
as hazardous air pollutants, limit industrial
discharges of PFAS into waterways, and pro-
vide funding for water treatment. Addition-
ally, it would provide consumers with knowl-
edge of products containing PFAS by adding
PFAS to the EPA's Safer Choice Program.
H.R. 2467 also would designate PFOA and
PFOS as hazardous substances and make a
determination on other PFAS within five
years—key to holding polluters accountable
and ensuring that our nation's most con-
taminated sites are finally cleaned up.

Again, we urge you to SUPPORT H.R. 2467,
which will take critical steps in tackling the
PFAS crisis, as well as all pro-environment
amendments. We will strongly consider in-

cluding votes on this legislation in the 2021
Scorecard. If you need more information,
please contact a member of our government
relations team.

Sincerely,

GENE KARPINSKI,
President.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES—THE
REAL STORY BEHIND PFAS AND CONGRESS'
EFFORT TO CLEAN UP CONTAMINATION: OP-
ED BY JIM JONES

Former EPA official Jim Jones sets the
record straight on 'the forever chemical' as
lawmakers take up the PFAS Action Act

Jim Jones
When the U.S. House of Representatives
takes up the bipartisan PFAS Action Act
this week, some members of Congress may
contend that the bill would ban some uses of
PFAS.

In particular, some members of Congress
may argue that designating PFOA and PFOS
as "hazardous substances" under the Com-
prehensive Environmental Response, Liabil-
ity, and Compensation Act, or CERCLA, will
ban the use of these two chemicals from
medical devices, semiconductors, lithium
batteries and even surgical masks.

This is not correct.

PFAS & PFOS NO LONGER USED IN COMMERCE

First, PFOA and PFOS are no longer used
in commerce.

As an Assistant Administrator for the
EPA, I was involved in the implementation
of a 2006 stewardship agreement with the
chemical industry to phase out the use of
these two members of this class of
fluorinated chemicals. Simply put, as a re-
sult of this agreement, PFOA and PFOS are
no longer used in these products or take
make these products.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

Second, designation of a chemical as a haz-
ardous substance does not result in a ban of
the chemical.

A quick review of EPA records reveals that
nearly 80 percent of the chemicals desig-
nated as hazardous substances by Congress
since the law was passed in 1980 are still used
in commerce. That's because CERCLA does
not force manufacturers to stop using chemi-
cals. Sulfuric acid, one of the most widely
used chemicals in commerce, has been desig-
nated as a hazardous substance for more
than 40 years. Many other chemicals desig-
nated as hazardous substances are used in
many products, including medical devices.

CERCLA regulates the cleanup of chemi-
cals, not the use of chemicals. A different
statute, the Toxic Substances Control Act,
or TSCA, governs the use of chemicals.

CRITICAL STEP TO CLEAN UP PFAS & PFOA

Simply put, no one—not Congress, not the
states, not the EPA—is trying to ban PFOA
and PFOS by statute.

So, if Congress is not trying to ban PFOA
and PFOS, why then does the bipartisan
PFAS Action Act designate them as haz-
ardous substances?

Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous
substances is a critical step in efforts to ac-
celerate the clean-up process at contami-
nated sites, especially Department of De-
fense installations.

FIREFIGHTING FOAM CONTAMINATION

PFAS has been confirmed in the ground-
water at more than 300 military installations
where firefighting foams made with PFAS
were used. Congress directed the DOD to end
the use of these PFAS-based foams in 2020,
but efforts to clean up legacy contamination
at these bases has not yet been undertaken.

Designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous
substances will ensure that the DOD treats
these contaminants as a priority for cleanup.

That's not only reason Congress should enact the PFAS Action Act. While EPA is now treating PFAS as a priority, that has not always been the case. To guard against delay, the PFAS Action Act sets deadlines for EPA to finalize a national drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS and to place limits on discharges of PFAS into the air and water. The bill also sets a deadline for EPA to decide whether or not to list other PFAS as hazardous substances.

PFAS: TIME TO TAKE ACTION

A lot is at stake. PFAS has been detected in thousands of drinking water systems and has been linked to serious health problems. No wonder chemical companies and public health groups agree that it is time to take action to address PFAS pollution. Hopefully, members of Congress will agree as well.

PFAS: WHO TO CALL

Editors note: The PFAS Action Act of 2021, by Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., is set to be debated by the U.S. House of Representatives sometime this week.

To set the record straight and voice concern that the latest science is not being considered as lawmakers debate effort to clean up our environment, contact Republican Reps. Cathy McMorris Rogers and Buddy Carter.

Jim Jones was the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention for the Environmental Protection Agency from 2011 to 2017.

Views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of Environmental Health Sciences, publisher of EHN.org and DailyClimate.org.

□ 1345

Madam Speaker, let me just say in closing, the PFAS Action Act is a strong and balanced bipartisan bill that will make a real difference for countless communities across the country.

You have heard today that this bill may not be that necessary because the administration is already doing things, but I just point out that the administration has sent a Statement of Administration Policy saying why the President would sign this bill. So obviously, he feels that it is necessary.

And this is a quote from that Statement of Administration Policy that says, "The administration led by the EPA is working to collaborate on cross-cutting strategies, advanced new design, develop coordinated policies, regulations and communications; and continue engagement with affected States, Tribes, communities stakeholders, and H.R. 2467 would further enhance those efforts."

Madam Speaker, like the administration, I am proud to support this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Each further amendment printed in part B of House Report 117-95 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 535, shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided

and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time after debate for the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of House Report 117-95, not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and the 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.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. TONKO OF NEW YORK

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 535, I rise to offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, printed in part B of House Report 117-95, offered by Mr. TONKO of New York:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF MICHIGAN

Page 30, strike lines 13 through 17 and insert the following:

(5) Information on treatment options, including information relating to water treatment systems certified to the relevant NSF/ANSI American National Standard for drinking water treatment units by a third-party certification body accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. LEGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Page 6, line 4, insert "and water used for agricultural purposes" after "water".

Page 31, line 20, insert "and water used for agricultural purposes" after "water".

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 18. SCHOOL DRINKING WATER TESTING AND FILTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Part F of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 1466. SCHOOL PFAS TESTING AND FILTRATION GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a program to make grants to eligible entities for—

"(1) testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools that is conducted by an entity approved by the Administrator or the applicable State to conduct the testing;

"(2) installation, maintenance, and repair of water filtration systems effective for reducing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools that contains a level of any perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance that exceeds—

"(A) an applicable maximum contaminant level established by the Administrator under section 1412; or

"(B) an applicable standard established by the applicable State that is more stringent than the level described in subparagraph (A); or

"(3) safe disposal of spent water filtration equipment used to reduce perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools.

"(b) GUIDANCE; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall—

"(1) expend grant funds in accordance with any applicable State regulation or guidance regarding the reduction of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water at schools that is not less stringent than any applicable guidance issued by the Administrator;

"(2) make publicly available, including, to the maximum extent practicable, on the website of the eligible entity, a copy of the results of any testing carried out with grant funds received under this section; and

"(3) notify parent, teacher, and employee organizations of the availability of the results described in paragraph (2).

"(c) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section may use not more than 5 percent of grant funds to pay the administrative costs of carrying out the activities for which the grant was made.

"(d) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term 'eligible entity' means—

"(1) a local educational agency; or

"(2) a State agency that administers a statewide program to test for, remediate, or filter perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until expended."

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ OF NEW YORK

Page 31, after line 2, insert the following:

(c) ACCESS.—The Administrator shall ensure information on the website established under subsection (a) is presented in a manner that provides meaningful access to such information for individuals with limited English proficiency.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 20, beginning on line 2, strike "in use by the community water system at the time of application is" and insert "that was in use by the community water system on the date of enactment of this section was".

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. SAN NICOLAS OF GUAM

Page 32, beginning on line 13, strike "Of the amounts made available under this subsection, the Administrator may use funds" and insert "To the extent that sufficient applications are received, the Administrator shall use not less than 2 percent of the amounts made available under this subsection".

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. SARBANES OF MARYLAND

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 18. ANALYTICAL REFERENCE STANDARDS FOR PFAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall require each covered entity to submit to the Administrator an analytical reference standard for each perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom manufactured by the covered entity after the date that is 10 years prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) USES.—The Administrator may—

(1) use an analytical reference standard submitted under this section only for—

(A) the development of information, protocols, and methodologies, which may be carried out by an entity determined appropriate by the Administrator; and

(B) activities relating to the implementation or enforcement of Federal requirements; and

(2) provide an analytical reference standard submitted under this section to a State, to be used only for—

(A) the development of information, protocols, and methodologies, which may be carried out by an entity determined appropriate by the State; and

(B) activities relating to the implementation or enforcement of State requirements.

(c) PROHIBITION.—No person receiving an analytical reference standard submitted under this section may use or transfer the analytical reference standard for a commercial purpose.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means a manufacturer of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(2) MANUFACTURE; STATE.—The terms “manufacture” and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2602).

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 21, strike lines 9 through 13 and insert “than \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 30, after line 25, insert the following:

(8) Information about the health risks associated with consuming water contaminated with PFAS as well as recommendations for individuals who believe they may have consumed such PFAS-contaminated water.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 25, beginning on line 21, strike “pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, or rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or a stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act” and insert “covered product”.

Page 26, beginning on line 2, strike “pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating” and insert “covered product”.

Page 26, beginning on line 7, strike “pot, pan, cooking utensil, carpet, rug, clothing, or upholstered furniture, or stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act” and insert “covered product”.

Page 26, beginning on line 14, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PRODUCT.—The term “covered product” means—

(A) a pot,

(B) a pan;

(C) a cooking utensil;

(D) carpet;

(E) a rug;

(F) clothing;

(G) upholstered furniture;

(H) a stain resistant, water resistant, or grease resistant coating not subject to requirements under section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

(I) food packaging material;

(J) an umbrella;

(K) luggage; or

(L) a cleaning product.

(2) PFAS.—The term “PFAS” means a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 535, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this en bloc of 10 amendments. As was done in the 116th Congress, the PFAS Action Act was subject to a subcommittee markup, a full committee markup, and debate and amendment on the House floor.

During these processes in the 116th and 117th Congresses, there has been an effort to continue to strengthen the proposal at each and every stage. The ten amendments included in this en bloc, which includes several bipartisan amendments, would build upon this past work and make further improvements to the underlying bill.

Several of the amendments help protect Americans from PFAS in their drinking water, especially those relying upon private wells, which would not be subject to the national drinking water standard required to be developed by this bill.

We know communicating the risks of PFAS is challenging: What are safe levels? What is a reliable testing technique? And what do you do if your water is contaminated?

These amendments would help ensure people have better, clearer, and more accessible information on this and other issues. This en bloc also includes amendments that would increase grant funding to community water systems and ensure all communities dealing with PFAS contamination can access these funds, including insular territories. And it would establish a new grant program to support PFAS testing and filtration at schools.

We know the cost of PFAS remediation can be significant. Ensuring these costs do not fall squarely upon the households that rely upon these water systems, who are not responsible for the contaminations, should be a high priority of this effort. More Federal funding can help in this regard.

Finally, the en bloc would expand the PFAS-free labeling program to cover food package material, luggage, and cleaning products. This will allow Americans to make certain that they have more informed choices on the products they choose to purchase. Overall, these are good improvements to the bill, and I do not believe they should be controversial.

Madam Speaker, I encourage Members to support the en bloc, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), who has been outspoken on this issue.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act.

I thank my colleague, Representative FITZPATRICK, for joining in this bipartisan proposal. PFAS chemicals, as we have been hearing today, are harmful, manmade forever chemicals that are persistent, bio-accumulative, and toxic.

These chemicals, which threaten more than 100 million Americans, pose serious risks to human health, including cancer, immune disorders, and reproductive system maladies.

The PFAS Action Act will take critical steps to protect all Americans from PFAS chemicals by helping clean up contaminated sites under the Superfund program, limiting the exposure of PFAS chemicals, and establishing a health-protective drinking water standard that limits the amount of PFAS in our water systems.

My amendment would strengthen the PFAS Action Act by expanding EPA's ability to use the best-available science to address PFAS risks by requiring manufacturers to provide reference standards for all PFAS chemicals. This effort will help reduce PFAS pollution and keep our families safe.

My amendment will provide the EPA with critical data about PFAS chemicals and help the agency better identify these toxic substances in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and the underlying bill and vote in favor of this important legislation.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB), who, along with Mrs. DINGELL, has really brought great focus to this issue in committee.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I still remember how I felt when I learned that one of the worst PFAS sites in the entire country was discovered right in my backyard in my district at the Marathon petroleum refinery. Shock, horror, and a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach just happened instantly.

I called Congresswoman DINGELL, because that site borders our districts. And it is a community that continues to struggle with air quality and clean water. That ZIP Code, where Marathon Oil Refinery is now, that is the most polluted ZIP Code in all of the State of Michigan. So we wonder why the forever chemical was found right there and how it is impacting people's public health.

We are finding in Michigan, as folks know, where we lead in the country in

PFAS testing, if you start looking for these toxic forever chemicals, you are going to find them.

Madam Speaker, we have an urgent crisis in front of us that requires swift and decisive action. So it is great news that the House is now considering passing PFAS Action Act of 2021 today.

The bill will require EPA to take urgent PFAS action by requiring site cleanups, identifying health risks, and developing a drinking water standard to keep our community safe. We cannot wait another day to start taking strong action to protect our residents from forever chemicals.

As a Member of Congress, I was shocked—I think many of my residents were shocked—that we weren't protected from PFAS in the Clean Air Act. Today, we, at least, get closer to changing that. Again, our residents deserve to live without being poisoned.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), who has great concern for this issue.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, PFAS chemicals are life-threatening. They are forever chemicals and need to be cleaned up. We will act today to regulate these chemicals and protect public health.

Highland Dairy is a family-owned operation that has served the eastern part of my district for four generations. In 2018, Highland learned that PFAS from the nearby Air Force base leaked into the shared aquifer that watered the grass which fed the cows. The PFAS contamination poisoned the cows and the dairy could not sell the milk or the cows. Highland is on the brink of disaster merely by being a neighbor to the Air Force base. We cannot allow PFAS to work itself into our food system.

Madam Speaker, my amendment requires the EPA to consider the risk PFAS poses to water used for agricultural purposes, like that at Highland.

Madam Speaker, the EPA's work must be inclusive of farmers, rural America, and the food we eat. I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment and pass this bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I stand, again, in strong support of the en bloc amendment and, certainly, the measure to which we are amending.

Basically, we have here an opportunity to address ills that we see across America, contaminants, forever dangerous elements that cause all sorts of diseases and destruction, and it is important for us to move forward, I think, to take responsibility and make certain that these forever chemicals that don't break down, that cause cancer and other diseases, are addressed.

We move forward with the opportunity here, assigning the great re-

sponsibilities to EPA so that we have a strong outcome. I think the amendment makes the bill even stronger. I have seen situations in my given region of Upstate New York where communities have been impacted.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support the amendment and the bill at hand, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we all believe that we must have clean water. Unfortunately, this is not a thoughtful or scientific approach.

H.R. 2467 is opposed by a broad diverse, collection of interests that are concerned about its aggressive, over-the-top, unforgiving, and simultaneous mandates, obligations, and expenses.

These include: The United States Conference of Mayors; National League of Cities; National Association of Counties; American Water Works Association; Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; National Association of Water Companies; National Association of Clean Water Agencies; National Rural Water Association; Association of California Water Agencies; The Water Environment Federation; American Chemistry Council; American Coatings Association; American Forest and Paper Association; American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers; American Petroleum Institute; Flexible Packaging Association; National Association of Chemical Distributors; National Association for Surface Finishing; National Council of Textile Organizations; National Electrical Manufacturers Association; National Association of Surface Finishing; National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers; Plastics Industry Association; United States Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I include these letters in the RECORD.

JULY 21, 2021.

Re Opposition to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of organizations representing the nation's municipal governments and drinking water and wastewater systems, we write in opposition to H.R. 2467, the PFAS Action Act of 2021. While we support taking action to reduce the prevalence of PFAS in the environment, the legislation would run counter to the important "polluter pays" principle that guides Superfund site cleanups under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and would step back from the transparent, science-based process of regulating drinking water contaminants under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and clean water operations under the Clean Water Act (CWA). We urge you to vote against this legislation in its current form.

H.R. 2467 would require EPA to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA within one year, and to make a determination on designating all remaining PFAS within five years. These hazardous substance designations are intended to make sure polluters are held responsible for paying for the cleanup of contaminated Superfund sites, which we support. But the bill as cur-

rently structured would also mean that municipal drinking water and wastewater utility ratepayers could face staggering financial liability to clean up PFAS that was legally disposed of following the water treatment process. We believe water and wastewater utilities, when acting in accordance with all applicable laws, should be provided an exemption to protect the utilities and water customers from bearing the costs of cleanup.

In the case of drinking water systems, if PFAS is removed from source water in order to comply with a drinking water regulatory standard, the utility then becomes the possessor of filtration media that contain those PFAS. The utility must then dispose of these PFAS-laden filters, typically by sending them to a hazardous waste landfill in accordance with applicable law. However, should that landfill ever become a Superfund site, then the water utility could be treated as a PFAS polluter—and be responsible for a portion of the cleanup costs—forcing local ratepayers to cover the cleanup bill after they already paid to remove the contaminants from their source water.

Wastewater utilities would face similar liability through no fault of their own because they receive PFAS chemicals through the raw influent that arrives at the treatment plant. This heterogeneous influent can come from domestic, industrial, and commercial sources and may contain PFAS constituents ranging from trace to higher concentrations, depending on the nature of the dischargers to the sewer system. In any case, the influent is not generated by the utility, but the utility is responsible for treating it under scientific and regulatory authorities provided for under the CWA. Because wastewater utilities cannot halt treating continual industrial or domestic wastewater inputs which likely contain PFAS in some concentration, they should be protected through a targeted CERCLA liability exemption.

It is particularly disappointing that H.R. 2467 would offer a CERCLA liability shield to airports that release PFAS into the environment through their use of firefighting foam. It defies logic that the legislation fails to extend that same liability protection to water and wastewater systems that have no choice but to dispose of PFAS found in water supplies, and whose ratepayers would be ultimately responsible for all of the costs associated with a Superfund site cleanup. As passive receivers of PFAS, water and wastewater utilities should be afforded the same liability protections that the legislation would award airports in order to keep CERCLA liability focused on the corporations that created the pollution in the first place. Our organizations have repeatedly asked Congress for CERCLA liability shields in the legislation similar to those for airports but have been rebuffed.

Additionally, many of our organizations oppose provisions in H.R. 2467 that would amend SDWA by requiring EPA to promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for PFOA and PFOS within two years, establishing a unique and expedited drinking water contaminant regulatory process for other chemicals in the PFAS family, and eliminating EPA's discretion on whether to issue drinking water health advisories related to PFAS. In sum, these changes would undermine the development of transparent, science-based drinking water standards, and would place undue cost burdens on our communities and ratepayers while leading to premature regulatory decisions that lack public review and scientific validity.

While we share the goal of addressing PFAS contamination and holding accountable those entities that are responsible releasing it into the environment, H.R. 2467

would instead assign environmental cleanup liability to innocent water systems and their customers. We have no choice but to oppose the legislation and encourage you to vote against it in its current form.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies, Association of California Water Agencies, California Association of Sanitation Agencies, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, National Water Resources Association, Water Environment Federation, American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies, National Rural Water Association, The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

JUNE 22, 2021.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
*Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and
Commerce, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE AND RANKING MEMBER MCMORRIS RODGERS, On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities and counties, we write to express our concerns with the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021 (AQUA Act, H.R. 3291) and the PFAS Action Act of 2021 (H.R. 2467). Our organizations strongly support provisions in H.R. 3291 that would reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and authorize grants to support lead pipe replacement and PFAS treatment. However, the legislation also includes provisions that would require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFAS and other chemicals and regulate PFAS under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). These provisions could have unintended consequences for local governments and place an undue cost burden on communities and our residents.

In general, our organizations support provisions in the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which require that drinking water standards be based on sound science, public health protection and occurrence of contaminants in drinking water supplies at levels of public health concern to reduce risk while balancing costs. Congress should not circumvent this process in any way for select contaminants.

Moreover, CERCLA ensures that hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment are cleaned up by holding responsible parties financially liable. Local governments, including municipal airports and fire departments, which were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals, and drinking water and wastewater utilities and municipal landfills, which serve as receivers of PFAS chemicals and did not cause or contribute to contamination, should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs.

The nation is just emerging from a deadly pandemic that has left local governments and many of our residents and small businesses reeling financially. Our communities need financial assistance to address our drinking water infrastructure challenges, but we can not absorb costly unfunded mandates that will become an additional burden to local budgets and our residents. While we acknowledge the public health risks associated with PFAS chemicals and urge Congress and the Administration to examine PFAS contamination holistically and to take com-

prehensive action to address the problem, the federal government should avoid passing costs onto local governments and ratepayers for PFAS treatment and cleanup.

We agree with the sentiment outlined in the comment letter from the American Water Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Association of Water Companies and the National Rural Water Association to the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 15, which raises similar concerns.

Specifically, we offer the following comments on the AQUA Act and the PFAS Action Act of 2021:

Local governments, water utilities and their ratepayers should not be held financially liable under CERCLA for PFAS contamination. CERCLA was established to make polluters and manufacturers of these pollutants pay for the contamination they caused. At a minimum, the legislation should extend a similar CERCLA liability exemption to local governments that is offered to airports.

We are opposed to Congress modifying EPA's impartial contaminant regulatory process on an ad-hoc basis to establish a unique and expedited regulatory process for specific chemicals. The legislation would require EPA to rush to finalize drinking water regulations for PFOA, PFOS, and other chemicals in the PFAS family within two years of the bill's enactment. We believe that an expedited time frame would come at the expense of public transparency and scientific rigor and would lead to inequitable regulations that force the lowest-income water ratepayers to shoulder a greater proportion of the new compliance costs that are passed on by their water systems.

Repealing section 1412(b)(6) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, a key provision that allows EPA the opportunity to ensure that the public health benefits of a drinking water regulation are reasonably balanced with the compliance costs that water system ratepayers will incur, will directly shift the burden to pay for these upgrades to local governments. Under current law, if EPA determines that the benefits of a proposed maximum contaminant level (MCL) do not justify the costs of compliance, section 1412(b)(6) gives EPA the option, following notice and opportunity for public comment, to promulgate an MCL "that maximizes health risk reduction benefits at a cost that is justified by the benefits."

The PFAS infrastructure grant program as proposed in H.R. 2467 includes the limitation of eligible treatment technologies to those that are certified to remove "all detectable amounts" of PFAS from water supplies is admirable. We are concerned about this requirement, however, since no technology is available today that can reliably meet this standard.

As it pertains to the replacement of lead service lines, there is language included in the grant authorization that would require "any recipient of funds . . . shall offer to replace any privately owned portion of the lead service line at no cost to the private owner." This language is potentially problematic for several reasons. First, as the water associations pointed out in their letter, the language could be interpreted to require any water system that receives any amount of program funds to permanently pay for all future private-side lead service line replacement costs, even after this federal grant assistance has been exhausted. Second, we are also concerned that authorization does not mean full appropriations at the levels necessary to replace all private residences' lead service lines. Including this language could potentially hamper local government long-term efforts to develop a program to replace

all lead service lines. Finally, we are concerned that potential new EPA testing and replacement rules will trigger lead pipe replacement without the necessary Congressional funds. For these reasons, we agree with the water associations' recommendation—that the legislation should specify that "none of the funds made available" through this program may be spent in a manner inconsistent with conditions specified by Congress.

Thank you for considering the local government perspective as you move this legislation forward. We look forward to working with you to address our nation's drinking water needs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our staff: Judy Sheahan (USCM) Carolyn Berndt (NLC) or Adam Pugh (NACo).

Sincerely,

TOM COCHRAN,
*CEO & Executive Di-
rector, The U.S.
Conference of May-
ors.*

CLARENCE E. ANTHONY,
*CEO & Executive Di-
rector, National
League of Cities.*

MATTHEW D. CHASE,
*CEO & Executive Di-
rector, National As-
sociation of Coun-
ties.*

JULY 2, 2021.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We, the undersigned organizations, strongly oppose H.R. 2467, the "PFAS Action Act." Our organizations are committed to ensuring the safety of our employees and the communities where we live and operate. This legislation would delay and complicate contamination remediation issues.

Product safety provides the foundation of consumer trust, and our members devote significant resources to achieve this effort. Every member of the value chain has an important part to play to ensure the products consumers use are safe and sustainable. We remain committed to advancing effective, science-based solutions to PFAS challenges.

This spring, we sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan regarding possible designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As stated then, CERCLA is not an effective policy tool to fulfill the goal of accelerating cleanup in communities.

Moreover, EPA has existing authority to meet the intent of this legislation and should be provided the time, resources, and flexibility to make its determination regarding how best to address PFAS concerns. This approach should be made with guidance from the new PFAS Council review process, consistent with sound science and accepted principles for protecting public health and the environment.

Finally, a bill of H.R. 2467's magnitude and complexity, including the proposed sector-based wastewater effluent guidelines, deserves the opportunity to be examined at length in a committee setting. Many major stakeholders, including EPA, the Department of Defense, other federal agencies and states have all taken significant actions to address PFAS since the last time we had a venue to discuss within a committee.

We oppose the PFAS Action Act and ask that the House of Representatives do so as

well. We stand ready to assist you throughout the legislative process and engage on a better way to move forward on this issue.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Petroleum Institute, Flexible Packaging Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers, National Association for Surface Finishing, Plastics Industry Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

JUNE 15, 2021.

Hon. PAUL TONKO,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAVID MCKINLEY,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TONKO AND RANKING MEMBER MCKINLEY: We, the undersigned organizations, strongly oppose H.R. 2467, the "PFAS Action Act." Our organizations are committed to ensuring the safety of our employees and the communities where we live and operate. Product safety provides the foundation of consumer trust, and our members devote significant resources to achieve this effort. Every member of the value chain has an important part to play to ensure the products consumers use are safe and sustainable.

With these goals in mind, earlier this spring we sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan expressing our concerns regarding possible designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As stated then, CERCLA is not an effective policy tool to fulfill the goal of accelerating cleanup in communities and may delay cleanups already in process.

EPA has existing authority to meet the intent of this legislation and should be provided the time, resources, and flexibility to make its determination whether and how to address PFAS. This approach should be made under the new PFAS Council, consistent with sound science, and to protect human health and the environment.

Finally, a bill of H.R. 2467's magnitude and importance deserves a hearing before going to markup. The subcommittee has not held a hearing on PFAS for approximately two years. Since that time, EPA, the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and the states have all taken significant actions to address PFAS challenges. The subcommittee should hear from those government agencies, the business community, and other key stakeholders before members decide on the proper scope and substance of any legislation. Moreover, the committee has gained many new members who deserve an opportunity to hear from such stakeholders before making policy decisions.

We oppose the PFAS Action Act and ask the members of your subcommittee to do so as well. We stand ready to assist you throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, Airlines for America, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest and Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Petroleum Institute, Flexible Packaging Association, National Cattleman's Beef Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association

for Surface Finishing, National Council of Textile Organizations, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, National Oilseed Processors Association, National Mining Association, Plastics Industry Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

□ 1400

The amendments en bloc is a collection of 10 individual amendments. In fact, some parts of it are indicative of the underlying bill. It is provisions you don't need a bill to accomplish because EPA is already doing them.

Other parts of this amendment highlight, for me, why the overall bill should be opposed, and many do oppose it. Let me give you some examples.

The amendments en bloc contains a provision that would create a website at EPA containing household well water testing. Ironically, EPA already has that website. For those interested, it is www.epa.gov/privatewells.

Among its existing resources are items called for in these amendments: PFAS testing, health effects discussion, and third-party certification recommendations. Any other issues could be solved by updating this website.

The amendments en bloc also doubles down on certain consumer product problems the underlying bill creates and then kicks it up a notch. It adds luggage, umbrellas, and food packaging materials to section 10's expansion of a program never designed for articles and would force significant changes and administrative effort.

It also requires every manufacturer or importer of a PFAS chemical in the last 10 years to send a sample of it to EPA and to each State. Notwithstanding that this could make EPA subject to hazardous waste storage requirements under section 9, EPA is already compelling comprehensive toxicity testing from the same people for the same ultimate purpose under section 3 of the bill.

The amendments en bloc authorizes funding for things that appear to be covered already. It increases the funding authorization in section 7 for grants by 600 percent. That is a hike before we even know how well the program works or if the money is needed.

It also provides reimbursement to communities that installed equipment to remove PFAS from drinking water when those upgrades were made without expectation of Federal money.

The amendments en bloc creates, similar to lead, a Federal grant program for PFAS testing at schools, drinking water filters, and disposal efforts. But there is nothing to suggest PFAS enters drinking water like lead, and the used filters are not protected from Superfund liability if they are safely disposed.

I wish we would take the time to make the real reforms that would improve this bill—amendments like the one offered by Mr. BILIRAKIS to protect the bill from harming semiconductor production in the United States of America. PFAS are essential to etching and cleaning semiconductors, and

we don't want this bill to prevent the formation of a domestic supply chain in the United States of America.

I am also thinking about bipartisan amendments offered by Dr. BUCSHON and Mr. SCHRADER to protect PFAS used in FDA-approved drugs and devices. Pediatric and adult heart patients have PFAS to thank for stents and heart valves that keep them alive today.

Mr. CARTER, too, had an amendment to save chlorine production from extinction in this country. There are only three ways to make it: mercury, which is being phased out; asbestos, which EPA has considered banning; and PFAS. Coming out of a pandemic, killing chlorine should be the last thing we are trying to do.

Mr. CRENSHAW also had an amendment to protect the use of PFAS in protective gear. Crime is surging in our cities. Now more than ever, our police personnel and military should not be put in danger because the chemicals necessary to keep them safe are a casualty of this bill.

These amendments were not made in order. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, score of H.R. 2467 was indeterminate, stating its administration would cost the Federal Government \$280 million, but it is impossible to know how it impacts Federal spending.

No matter how well-intended or well-meaning this bill may be, its impacts are broad, unknown, and depend on things Congress hasn't yet established and must think through.

The amendments en bloc does not improve this bill, and I oppose it and urge others to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 535, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 195, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 215]

YEAS—226

Adams	Bowman	Castor (FL)
Aguilar	Boyle, Brendan	Castro (TX)
Allred	F.	Chu
Auchincloss	Brown	Cicilline
Axne	Brownley	Clark (MA)
Barragán	Bush	Clarke (NY)
Bass	Bustos	Cleaver
Beatty	Butterfield	Clyburn
Bera	Carbajal	Cohen
Beyer	Cárdenas	Connolly
Bishop (GA)	Carson	Cooper
Blumenauer	Carter (LA)	Correa
Blunt Rochester	Cartwright	Costa
Bonamici	Case	Courtney
Bourdeaux	Casten	Craig

Crist	Kuster	Raskin
Crow	Lamb	Rice (NY)
Cuellar	Langevin	Ross
Davids (KS)	Larsen (WA)	Roybal-Allard
Davis, Danny K.	Larson (CT)	Ruiz
Dean	Lawrence	Ruppersberger
DeFazio	Lawson (FL)	Rush
DeGette	Lee (CA)	Ryan
DeLauro	Lee (NV)	Sánchez
DelBene	Leger Fernandez	Sarbanes
Delgado	Levin (CA)	Scanlon
Demings	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky
DeSaulnier	Lieu	Schiff
Deutch	Lofgren	Schneider
Dingell	Lowenthal	Schrader
Doggett	Luria	Schrier
Escobar	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Eshoo	Malinowski	Scott, David
Espallat	Maloney	Seiwell
Evans	Carolyn B.	Sherman
Fitzpatrick	Maloney, Sean	Sherrill
Fletcher	Manning	Sires
Foster	Matsui	Slotkin
Frankel, Lois	McBath	Smith (NJ)
Gallego	McCollum	Smith (WA)
Garamendi	McEachin	Soto
Garcia (IL)	McGovern	Spanberger
Garcia (TX)	McKinley	Speier
Golden	McNerney	Stansbury
Gomez	Meeks	Stanton
Gonzalez,	Meijer	Stevens
Vicente	Meng	Strickland
Gotthelmer	Mfume	Suozzi
Green, Al (TX)	Moore (WI)	Swalwell
Grijalva	Morelle	Takano
Harder (CA)	Moulton	Thompson (CA)
Hayes	Mrvan	Thompson (MS)
Higgins (NY)	Murphy (FL)	Titus
Himes	Nadler	Tlaib
Horsford	Napolitano	Tonko
Houlahan	Neal	Torres (CA)
Hoyer	Neguse	Torres (NY)
Huffman	Newman	Trahan
Jackson Lee	Norcross	Trone
Jacobs (CA)	O'Halleran	Underwood
Jayapal	Ocasio-Cortez	Upton
Jeffries	Omar	Van Drew
Johnson (GA)	Pallone	Vargas
Johnson (TX)	Panetta	Veasey
Jones	Pappas	Vela
Kahele	Pascarell	Velázquez
Kaptur	Payne	Wasserman
Katko	Perlmutter	Schultz
Keating	Peters	Waters
Kelly (IL)	Phillips	Watson Coleman
Khanna	Pingree	Welch
Kildee	Pocan	Wexton
Kilmer	Porter	Wild
Kim (NJ)	Posey	Williams (GA)
Kind	Pressley	Wilson (FL)
Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Krishnamoorthi	Quigley	

NAYS—195

Aderholt	Cole	Gooden (TX)
Allen	Comer	Gosar
Amodei	Crawford	Granger
Arrington	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Babin	Curtis	Graves (MO)
Bacon	Davidson	Green (TN)
Baird	Davis, Rodney	Greene (GA)
Balderson	DesJarlais	Griffith
Banks	Diaz-Balart	Grothman
Barr	Donalds	Guthrie
Bentz	Duncan	Hagedorn
Bergman	Dunn	Harris
Bice (OK)	Emmer	Harshbarger
Biggs	Estes	Hartzler
Bilirakis	Fallon	Hern
Bishop (NC)	Feenstra	Herrell
Boebert	Ferguson	Herrera Beutler
Bost	Fischbach	Hice (GA)
Brady	Fitzgerald	Hill
Brooks	Fleischmann	Hinson
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Hollingsworth
Buck	Fox	Hudson
Bucshon	Franklin, C.	Huizenga
Budd	Scott	Issa
Burchett	Fulcher	Jackson
Burgess	Gaetz	Jacobs (NY)
Calvert	Gallagher	Johnson (LA)
Cammack	Garbarino	Johnson (OH)
Carl	Garcia (CA)	Johnson (SD)
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	Jordan
Cawthorn	Jimenez	Joyce (OH)
Chabot	Gohmert	Joyce (PA)
Cline	Gonzales, Tony	Keller
Cloud	Gonzalez (OH)	Kelly (MS)
Clyde	Good (VA)	Kelly (PA)

Kim (CA)	Mullin	Smucker
Kinzinger	Murphy (NC)	Spartz
Kustoff	Nehls	Staubert
LaHood	Norman	Steel
LaMalfa	Nunes	Stefanik
Lamborn	Obernolte	Steil
Latta	Owens	Steube
LaTurner	Palazzo	Stewart
Lesko	Palmer	Taylor
Letlow	Pence	Tenney
Long	Perry	Thompson (PA)
Loudermilk	Pfluger	Tiffany
Luetkemeyer	Reed	Timmons
Mace	Reschenthaler	Turner
Malliotakis	Rice (SC)	Valadao
Mann	Rodgers (WA)	Van Dуйne
Massie	Rogers (AL)	Wagner
Mast	Rogers (KY)	Walberg
McCarthy	Rose	Walorski
McCaul	Rosendale	Waltz
McClain	Rouzer	Weber (TX)
McClintock	Roy	Webster (FL)
McHenry	Rutherford	Wenstrup
Meuser	Salazar	Westerman
Miller (IL)	Scalise	Williams (TX)
Miller (WV)	Schweikert	Wilson (SC)
Miller-Meeks	Scott, Austin	Wittman
Mooleenaar	Sessions	Womack
Mooney	Simpson	Zeldin
Moore (AL)	Smith (MO)	
Moore (UT)	Smith (NE)	

NOT VOTING—9

Armstrong	Doyle, Michael	Lucas
Carter (GA)	F.	Newhouse
Cheney	Guest	Young
	Higgins (LA)	

□ 1434

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Rogers (KY)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Buchanan	Jones (Williams)	Ruiz (Correa)
(LaHood)	(GA)	Rush
DeSaulnier	Kirkpatrick	(Underwood)
(Matsui)	(Stanton)	Salazar
Fulcher	Lawson (FL)	(Cammack)
(Simpson)	(Evans)	Stewart (Curtis)
Garcia (IL)	McEachin	Titus (Connolly)
(Garcia (TX))	(Wexton)	Van Drew
Granger	Meng (Jeffries)	(Reschenthaler)
(Calvert)	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	(Correa)	(Hayes)
(Stanton)	Payne (Pallone)	

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam 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. Crenshaw moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 2467, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

In section 2—

(1) redesignate subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(2) insert after subsection (c) the following:

(d) PROTECTIVE GEAR.—No person shall be liable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabil-

ity Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) for the costs of responding to, or damages resulting from, a release to the environment of a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance designated as a hazardous substance under section 102(a) of such Act that is related to the manufacture of individual protective equipment, including body armor, that is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from—

(1) threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry; or

(2) hazards posed by extreme weather.

Page 9, line 14, strike “For a period” and insert “Except as provided in paragraph (3), for a period”.

Page 10, after line 2, insert the following:

“(3) PROTECTIVE GEAR.—This subsection shall not apply with respect to a notice described in paragraph (1) that is related to the manufacture of individual protective equipment, including body armor, that is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry, or hazards posed by extreme weather.”.

Section 8(b) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In revising such list, the Administrator shall exclude from any category or subcategory so listed a source whose emissions of such a substance are related to the manufacture of individual protective equipment, including body armor, that is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry, or hazards posed by extreme weather.”.

Page 25, after line 13, insert the following:

“(3) EXEMPTION.—Paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply with respect to individual protective equipment, including body armor, that—

“(A) contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

“(B) is designed to protect members of the United States military, law enforcement personnel, or first responders (including Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and first responders) from—

“(i) threats posed by ballistic, edged, chemical, biological, or other weaponry; or

“(ii) hazards posed by extreme weather.”.

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 218, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 216]

YEAS—204

Aderholt	Amodei	Babin
Allen	Arrington	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 (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
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
Foxy
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar

Granger
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
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
McCaull
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
Oberholte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—218

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten

Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell

Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (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
Kahale
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Neal
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lefgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks

Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Mouelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
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
Suozi
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—8

Armstrong
Carter (GA)
Cheney

Doyle, Michael
F.
Graves (LA)

Greene (GA)
Grothman
Higgins (LA)

□ 1458

Ms. JAYAPAL, Messrs. O'HALLERAN, and KILDEE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I was delayed in a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 216.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei
(Balderson)
Buchanan
DeSaulnier
Fulcher
(Simpson)
Garcia (IL)
(Garcia (TX))
Granger
(Calvert)
Grijalva
(Stanton)

Johnson (TX)
(Jeffries)
Jones (Williams
(GA))
Kirkpatrick
(Stanton)
Lawson (FL)
(Evans)
McEachin
(Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano
(Correa)
Payne (Pallone)

Rogers (KY)
(Fleischmann)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush
(Underwood)
Salazar
(Cammack)
Stewart (Curtis)
Titus (Connolly)
Van Drew
(Reschenthaler)
Wilson (FL)
(Hayes)
Young
(Malliotakis)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 183, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 217]

YEAS—241

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
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer

Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahale
Kaptur
Katko
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
Mace
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar

Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—183

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
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 (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole

Comer	Issa	Palmer
Crawford	Jackson	Pence
Crenshaw	Johnson (LA)	Perry
Curtis	Johnson (OH)	Pfluger
Davidson	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Davis, Rodney	Jordan	Reschenthaler
DesJarlais	Joyce (OH)	Rice (SC)
Diaz-Balart	Joyce (PA)	Rodgers (WA)
Donalds	Keller	Rogers (AL)
Duncan	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (KY)
Dunn	Kelly (PA)	Rose
Emmer	Kim (CA)	Rosendale
Estes	Kinzinger	Roy
Fallon	Kustoff	Rutherford
Feenstra	LaHood	Salazar
Ferguson	LaMalfa	Scalise
Fischbach	Lamborn	Schweikert
Fitzgerald	Latta	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	LaTurner	Sessions
Foxx	Lesko	Simpson
Franklin, C.	Letlow	Smith (MO)
Scott	Loudermilk	Smith (NE)
Fulcher	Lucas	Smucker
Garcia (CA)	Luetkemeyer	Spartz
Gibbs	Malliotakis	Stauber
Gimenez	Mann	Steel
Gohmert	Massie	Stefanik
Gonzales, Tony	McCarthy	Steil
Gonzalez (OH)	McCauley	Steube
Gooden (TX)	McClain	Stewart
Gosar	McClintock	Taylor
Granger	McHenry	Thompson (PA)
Graves (LA)	Meuser	Tiffany
Graves (MO)	Miller (IL)	Timmons
Green (TN)	Miller (WV)	Valadao
Greene (GA)	Miller-Meeke	Van Dyne
Griffith	Moolenaar	Wagner
Grothman	Mooney	Walberg
Guest	Moore (AL)	Walorski
Guthrie	Moore (UT)	Waltz
Hagedorn	Mullin	Weber (TX)
Harris	Murphy (NC)	Webster (FL)
Harshbarger	Nehls	Wenstrup
Hartzler	Newhouse	Westerman
Hern	Norman	Williams (TX)
Herrell	Nunes	Wilson (SC)
Hice (GA)	Obornolte	Wittman
Hill	Owens	Womack
Hinson	Palazzo	
Hollingsworth		

NOT VOTING—6

Armstrong	Doyle, Michael	Higgins (LA)
Brady	F.	
Carter (GA)	Good (VA)	

□ 1519

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 217, "yea" on rollcall No. 216, and "nay" on rollcall No. 215.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Rogers (KY)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Buchanan	Jones (Williams)	Ruiz (Correa)
(LaHood)	(GA))	Rush
DeSaulnier	Kirkpatrick	(Underwood)
(Matsui)	(Stanton)	Salazar
Fulcher	Lawson (FL)	(Cammack)
(Simpson)	(Evans)	Stewart (Curtis)
Garcia (IL)	McEachin	Titus (Connolly)
(Garcia (TX))	(Wexton)	Van Drew
Granger	Meng (Jeffries)	(Reschenthaler)
(Calvert)	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	(Correa)	(Hayes)
(Stanton)	Payne (Pallone)	

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 2467, PFAS ACTION ACT OF 2021

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of H.R. 2467, the Clerk be au-

thorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House, including striking lines 13 through 23 on page 20.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAM HOWELL-BEACH TO GREATER TOLEDO

(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, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the contributions of Pam Howell-Beach to the greater Toledo community.

During her tenure with the Toledo Community Foundation, Pam guided the organization to a strong financial future, increasing its assets by over \$80 million.

Later, as executive director of the Stranahan Foundation, Pam oversaw grant distributions of more than \$71 million to organizations working in education, health, and the arts.

Pam's leadership in the nonprofit world was as wide as it was appreciated and as big as her heart. From working with the Zonta Club of Toledo, Philanthropy Ohio, Ability Center of Greater Toledo, and Mercy Health Partners, to the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, and Susan G. Komen Foundation, her impassioned service touched the lives of thousands upon thousands of Toledoans.

As Pam confronts a challenging health situation, I want to convey, on behalf of all Toledoans, how grateful we are for her work, her life, her dedication and her love for community. We are all the better as a result of her lifelong commitment to others.

Madam Speaker, I thank Pam, and may God bless her today and always.

CONGRESS MUST KEEP THE BIPARTISAN SPIRIT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, throughout this Congress, the House Agriculture Committee has had countless discussions on ways that we can empower our farm families and build a robust rural economy.

Earlier this month, we made good on our word. I am proud to be able to work with all members of our committee and support the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act, which provides significant investments into the deployment and development of broadband to rural America.

This legislation reflects many of our shared priorities and shared work. And in many ways, it is similar to the bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier this year.

I thank all of the members of the Agriculture Committee for their work and enthusiasm to meet the needs of rural Americans. I know this issue is so personal for each of us and the constituents we represent.

The House Agriculture Committee is often considered the most bipartisan committee in the House. This markup bill is proof that we can still reach an agreement under extraordinary times, and I hope we can keep this bipartisan spirit as infrastructure talks continue.

200 DAYS OF DEMOCRATS WORKING TO BUILD BACK BETTER

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, today marks 200 days of this Congress; 200 days of House Democrats working to build back better.

Madam Speaker, our constituents want us to meet this moment.

That is why we have passed historic legislation to strengthen our democracy, ensure equal pay, guarantee the rights of LGBTQ-plus Americans, advance racial justice, prioritize gun safety and more.

We started this Congress by passing the American Rescue Plan, a historic investment in workers and families that included the expanded and improved child tax credit, one of the most important antipoverty measures of this generation.

Last week, I met with parents in Chula Vista who had tears in their eyes talking about what a difference the new child tax credit would make for their families.

They talked about not only being able to pay for rent and childcare and school supplies, but also for the first time being able to start saving for their kids to go to college.

Madam Speaker, that is worth celebrating, and it is worth protecting.

Let's build on the progress we have made, make permanent the expanded child tax credit, and make sure American families truly can build back better.

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

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, the right to life is one of the founding principles of our Nation. Every human being, born or unborn, is entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Yet today, we see this right under attack as the Biden administration continues their war on the unborn by seeking to remove the Hyde amendment, a

longstanding pro-life protection that has saved 2.5 million lives from abortion since 1976.

Not too long ago, President Joe Biden stated: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them." But his proposed budget fails to include the Hyde amendment, making it clear that President Biden does not continue to value the life of the unborn.

This is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. I, like many Tennesseans, believe taxpayer dollars should never be used to fund abortions.

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 (Ms. MANNING). 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.

□ 1530

DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to join you in marking 200 days since the start of the 117th Congress, and a productive 200 days it has been. Our majority in the House has risen to this challenge, delivering lifelines to millions of Americans, putting shots in arms and saving countless lives, and sustaining thousands of businesses, and helping our State and local governments keep our communities going.

We built on that momentum with legislation to establish paycheck fairness and universal background checks on gun sales, build greater justice into our policing and our economy, stop voter disenfranchisement, and restoring the principle of one person, one vote, and protecting Americans from the devastating effects of PFAS.

Just in the past several weeks, millions of families started receiving the improved child tax credit expected to lift one-half of America's poorest children out of poverty.

Madam Speaker, before I close, let me recognize one other milestone; The 1 year anniversary of the passing of my dear friend, and a hero and a friend to many, Congressman John Lewis.

I hope that he smiles down upon us favorably for this work, much of it building on a legacy he carried on his mighty shoulders throughout his life.

Brother John, we do miss you. Even as we work in your mighty shadow, may we always be guided by your light.

LIBERTY AND FREEDOM FOR CUBANS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I want to express my full support for the brave Cubans who are demanding freedom from their tyrannical communist government.

For over 60 years, the regime in Cuba has run the country into the ground. It doesn't recognize the basic human rights of its citizens, and Cuban people don't have access to food, economic opportunities, or COVID-19 vaccines.

The Cuban people are now taking to the streets to fight for individual liberty and freedom. As authoritarians do, the regime has arrested hundreds of demonstrators and cut off their communication with the outside world.

Madam Speaker, a communist government will do whatever it takes to keep the Cuban people under its thumb. The Cuban Government has a lot in common with the Chinese Communist Party. Both will stop at nothing to hold on to power and have no regard for the rights of the people they govern.

The Cuban government wants to silence its citizens' demands for freedom, just as the Communist Chinese Party silences those in Hong Kong and Xinjiang who simply want to be free.

Cubans, and Cuban Americans especially, know communism does not work. It only brings poverty and oppression. It is our privilege as Americans to live in a country that values freedom, the Lord, and we must support those brave Cubans who want the same in our own backyard only 90 miles off the coast of the Florida.

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

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

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our most vulnerable Americans; the unborn. They do not have a voice. It is up to us to be their champion and fight for their right to life.

I am deeply concerned by the actions of the majority and the current occupants of the White House. They are actively destroying decades of progress and protections for the unborn, which is why it is essential to pass the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

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. As the Chair previously advised, that request

cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, here we go again. The majority Democratic party wants to kill our children through abortion.

I rise today to discuss the importance of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act. For over two decades, lawmakers have passed the Hyde amendment in a bipartisan fashion to ensure Americans aren't forced to fund abortion on demand with their hard-earned tax dollars.

We have had a strong majority of Americans—Democrats and Republicans alike in the past have agreed to this. Folks, it is a sad day in America, as a father and a grandfather, to have this embarrassing example of the killing of our children. Unborn children are no less alive than I am. All life is a gift that begins at conception, and develops rapidly before birth. To expect Americans to subsidize these inhumane killings is a complete disgrace. That is why I have always fought for the sanctity of life, and I will continue to fight.

I ask for the passage of H.R. 18 so the ban on Federal funding for abortions is not only permanent, but Government-wide.

GREEN NEW DEAL FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, this afternoon, we are focused on the Green New Deal. And I want to be very clear about why we need a Green New Deal. Our fossil fuel-driven economy is making us sick and literally killing us. But with historic investments in green infrastructure and the care economy, we can do the opposite. We can repair the damage done and give every person what they need to flourish.

In the Pacific Northwest, we just saw a brutal heat wave that took the lives of 116 people in Oregon, 112 people in Washington, and hundreds more in British Columbia.

We saw catastrophic floods across Europe that killed nearly 200 people, and record-shattering rains that caused deaths in India and China. We are living with wildfires that destroy communities and suffocate us with smoke. Africa is being battered by drought, and Siberia is in flames. We literally saw the ocean on fire.

We now live in a world in which extreme weather driven by climate change is killing 5 million people per year. And in parts of my district, you are three times more likely to die from asthma than anywhere else in the country. We need to be crystal clear about the fact that our economic system created this emergency, while our political system subsidizes and protects the fossil fuel industry. That has to change now.

The Green New Deal provides the framework we need to rebuild our economy, society, and democracy from the ground up. The Green New Deal recognizes that climate change, public health, systemic racism, and economic inequality are all deeply connected. And as you will hear tonight, it gives us a road map for tackling these crises together in a holistic manner.

As a lifelong educator, I see the perfect place to kickstart this process, our K–12 public schools.

Think about it, there is no single institution that touches the lives of more people. We are talking about 50 million young people, plus parents, teachers, staff, workers, and neighbors. Our schools are the heartbeat of our communities, and they must become the epicenter of transformative climate change.

For decades, we have allowed these precious places to be neglected, particularly in redlined parts of the country. We are leaving Black and Brown students and low-income students behind. We over-test the academic ability of our children, but we do not support and engage them as human beings.

And on a physical level, our schools have fallen into a state of disrepair. In my 20 years as a teacher and principal, I saw this every single day. We have schools with no running hot water or drinking fountains that do not work. Schools where the drinking fountains that do work are poisoning our children with lead.

We have schools that are infested with asbestos, mold, and rodents, and that lack proper ventilation. So every day our children face a whole spectrum of urgent health harms. And even as young people march and organize relentlessly for climate action, schools are failing to protect them from climate impacts, like extreme heat. Outdated, inefficient HVAC systems are contributing to carbon pollution and burdening schools with \$8 billion in annual energy costs.

Last week, I introduced a bill called the Green New Deal for Public Schools. This is a \$1.43 trillion investment over 10 years designed to fundamentally transform our public education system

for the 21st century. It will create and support more than 1 million green jobs every year, and it centers the most precious resource in any healthy democracy, our children.

With this legislation, we are going to upgrade and retrofit every single public school in the country, beginning in the poorest and most vulnerable districts. Every school will become a safe, healthy, accessible, and zero-carbon center of the community.

We will remove toxic materials, electrify school facilities, and make them energy-efficient, comfortable, and disaster-proof. We will install solar panels and batteries so that every school generates and controls its own renewable energy. We will create community gardens and green spaces, and offer healthy food options to nourish our children, and so much more.

These investments will be game-changing for schools in a variety of ways. They could see their energy bills roughly cut in half and reinvest the money that they save in the mental and behavioral health resources that our children and families need.

In fact, this bill provides comprehensive funding for healing the trauma of our communities. It will allow schools to hire hundreds of thousands more educators, mental health professionals, school counselors, and other support staff, especially from the local community. It also provides significant resources for school districts to form strong community partnerships and develop curricula that are responsive to unique local needs.

The legislation tackles school inequality at the regional level by quadrupling Title I funding. And it greatly increases IDEA funding for students with disabilities. This is about care; caring for ourselves, each other, our families, our communities, and the planet. That is what the Green New Deal is all about.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my other colleagues who will highlight the many other ways the Green New Deal framework addresses our Nation's urgent needs.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus for bringing us together today to highlight the importance of the Green New Deal.

Madam Speaker, climate change is one of the single most pressing threats facing this country and the global community, and our most vulnerable communities are bearing the brunt of the consequences. That is why today, as chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, I held a hearing on President Biden's Justice40 Initiative.

During this hearing, we heard from experts about the need to swiftly and effectively implement this initiative to

ensure that the communities hardest hit by pollution, poverty, and public health risks receive a fair share of our Nation's climate and infrastructure investments.

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As chair of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, I am committed to ensuring that the administration and all Federal agencies have the tools they need to implement the Justice40 Initiative. This is crucial to ensuring that our climate investments advance racial and economic justice.

Beyond the Justice40 Initiative, we need to prioritize policy solutions here in Congress that really focus on climate justice. For New York City, that means investing in a green future for public housing and for our public schools.

This past Earth Day, I reintroduced the Public Housing Solar Equity Act, which would guarantee that any solar energy generated on public housing land benefits the residents of those developments first.

Looking beyond solar energy, all public housing repairs and modernization projects should be green, which is exactly what the Green New Deal for Public Housing does. This bill will provide funding to electrify all buildings, add solar panels, and secure renewable energy sources for all public housing energy needs. In short, it will make Federal housing cleaner, safer, and greener.

Housing is a human right that no New Yorker, no American, should go without. As we work to make sure everyone has access to the clean affordable housing they need and deserve, let's expand our goals to make these communities green, too.

For the health of our residents and for our environment, we cannot afford to do anything less.

For the health of our students, we need a Green New Deal for Public Schools, a transformative and unprecedented investment that will not only make our schools greener but also expand services for our students. My colleague, JAMAAL BOWMAN, is a former educator and has authored this important bill, of which I am a cosponsor.

We are in a state of emergency. The West is burning; cities are flooding; and extreme weather events are becoming all too common. We need to act now, and we need to act boldly.

For the health and safety of all Americans, for environmental and social justice, let's make a Green New Deal. We can't afford to do anything less.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) for focusing on education and our environment and putting both of them together creatively with the Green New Deal for Public Schools.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ), who is the original Green New Deal champion in

Congress and who has done so much in collaboration with social movements to inject this vision into the consciousness of America. Her Green New Deal for Public Housing was a major inspiration for my schools legislation.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, it is such an honor to be here just over 2 years after we introduced the original Green New Deal resolution, which has now inspired a great deal of similar resolutions and Green New Deal resolutions adopted and introduced into municipalities and States across the country.

Not only have similar resolutions been introduced, but we also have seen inspiration for other forms of Green New Deal legislation, like the Green New Deal for Public Housing, the Green New Deal for Public Schools, and beyond.

But I think one thing that is very important for us to discuss is a very urgent matter, which is the infrastructure package that is right here before Congress that is being negotiated by both the House and the Senate.

While I certainly wish sometimes that our legislation was informed primarily by the legislators that are here writing this legislation, by communities that are impacted by this legislation, it goes without saying that there is a great deal of dark money involved in the fight on climate change, and that dark money is intended for us to not act in this situation.

We have lobbyists from companies like ExxonMobil bragging about their role in shaping our Federal legislation and curtailing our ambitions and in fighting against key provisions to draw down our carbon emissions.

Whenever I see something like this, whenever I see how dark money and lobbyists act as a wedge and a cudgel between elected officials and public servants and the people that we are supposed to represent, not only do I think it is heartbreaking, but it is very much tragic.

There is a key issue that we have here in acting on climate, and the big part of that issue is something that we call kind of a principal-agent problem where the people in charge of making decisions are simply not aligned and not incentivized to make the right ones because they are not feeling the impact of it.

I get concerned when we have conversations that the politics of the day get involved and intercede, and they complicate the policy for a generation. It is so critically important because I can't help but imagine that so many of the people that are in charge of blocking action on climate will not see the world that they are leaving to generations to come.

We have a moral responsibility to leave this world better than we found it. This is not about theory anymore. This is not about challenging the science anymore.

In New York City just yesterday, people woke up having a harder time

breathing and having a harder time seeing the horizon because of the smoke from the Bootleg fires out in Oregon coming out to our city.

Wildfires will come and impact all of us. Floods and waters will come to impact all of us. But they will not impact all of us equally. The most vulnerable communities will be left behind, and we can stop it.

It doesn't have to be this way. Not only can we stop it, and not only can we draw down our emissions, but we can create millions of jobs doing so—millions of good union jobs.

We can create a civilian climate corps. We can transition to renewable energy. We can build infrastructure that all people can enjoy that is not just attuned to the wealthy. We can restore our land. We can live in harmony with an economy where we can care for one another instead of extracting off of each other.

We can build this world, and this world is close. It is so close. It is so close. That is why we see dark money mobilizing the way that it is right now, because they know that we can win.

Hopefully, in this package, we will continue to win. But this fight does not stop now. It does not stop with this infrastructure package. It will not stop, frankly, throughout the course of our lives because we have a responsibility to leave this world a better place for ourselves and our children.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BOWMAN for yielding, and I fully appreciate an opportunity to be in partnership with a fellow teacher for the cause of climate change.

Climate change is infrastructure. Our buildings, roads, and transportation are directly impacted by the impending climate crisis.

In this 1 year, we have seen our oceans on fire; a pipeline broke in the Gulf of Mexico; our bridges are crumbling; our buildings are collapsing; wildfires and heat waves have been paired with rolling blackouts in my district.

Unfortunately, my constituents and I have experienced this for decades without much progress, but we cannot continue to accept this as a reality, a continuing reality.

In addition to losing power in my district, some of the worst air quality in the country exists in my district. Despite California leading the Nation in investing in renewable energy, we still are not doing enough.

As co-chair of the Congressional Energy Storage Caucus, I know how critical it is for us to invest in renewable microgrids that are powered by solar and wind energy and backed by battery energy storage. Congress must provide municipalities, businesses, and residents with the ability to purchase and build their own energy grids that are

resilient to our frequent natural disasters.

We have the technology to catch up to the modern industrial world. We cannot afford not to use this technology. We must invest.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to continue calling attention to the survival of our planet and our future generations, the well-being of our communities, and the critical importance of passing legislation across the board that reflects our values, which are embodied in the Green New Deal.

The science is clear. We must urgently address climate change now. We must address our greenhouse gas footprint and the causes of climate change now. We must mitigate the impacts of climate change now. And we must support and center and empower and invest in our communities now.

That is what the Green New Deal is all about, building a world that is more just, more equitable, and more climate-resilient for future generations, for our children, for our parents, and for everyone across our communities.

To do so, we have to invest in our communities, critical infrastructure, and all the things that will make it possible for our communities to thrive. The time is now to be decisive, to be brave in our policymaking, to be bold in our investments, and to lean into the science.

We must do so now in the budget reconciliation and infrastructure packages that this body is working to pass right now.

This is especially critical for my home State of New Mexico, where we are already experiencing the impacts of extreme drought, catastrophic fires, heat waves, and an uncertain future, and where our communities are already struggling daily to make a living. Our families are struggling to put food on the table and struggling to support people across our community.

It is absolutely critical that we support and center our communities in this conversation and that we invest in the resilient infrastructure that will make it possible for us to live resiliently: our electric grid, broadband infrastructure, drinking water, irrigation infrastructure, and green infrastructure, and to lean into our clean energy future.

We must also invest in the infrastructure of our communities, our care economy, because that is the infrastructure of our economy and the well-being of our people, our schools, and our families.

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We must do all of this through the lens of social, racial, and economic justice, investing in good paying jobs, lifting up the voices of and listening to the people in our communities and ensuring that their livelihoods and well-

being are at the center of these conversations.

That is why we need bold action now in the budget, in reconciliation, and in the infrastructure package to ensure that we are investing in things that are not only shovel-ready but shovel worthy and worthy of our communities and their future.

The time for action is now. We need climate action now, and I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues here in the House and in the Senate to ensure that we are making good on our commitment to our future.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BOWMAN for reserving the time on the floor of the House of Representatives so that we can speak the truth about what too many families and too many people—mostly poor people—have to endure, not only in America but around the world.

I was born and raised in the northeast San Fernando Valley, and I am very, very proud to say, in the Senate I have a colleague who grew up in Pacoima just like I did. His parents were immigrants of Mexico, and so were mine. We went to the same elementary school and the same high school, but yet at the same time we ended up being on the city council together for some years, he as a council president and I as a new member.

He said to me: Tony, what committee do you want to chair?

I said: I want to chair the committee that oversees the airport, the ports and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

At that time the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power was the largest water and power district in America.

Why did I want to be on those committees?

Because those three entities are spewing more into our atmosphere than any other organizations in Los Angeles. It gave me the opportunity to live my values, to be able to grow up in a poor community, yes, in the hood, in the northeast San Fernando Valley, on that side of town where there are more dumpsites in that part of L.A. County—a county of 10 million people—but they have concentrated more dumpsites in my backyard than any other place in that county.

For ALEX PADILLA, our families, and me, we had to endure that for generations. But here Alex is, a city council member, the president of the council, choosing to put me as the chairman of that committee. And while I was on that committee, I forced the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to finally clean up their act.

Believe it or not, the progressive Los Angeles Department of Water and Power belongs to the city of Los Angeles, the people of Los Angeles. We were fooled into believing that we are a progressive community and that we would

not be spewing out dirty fossil fuels to create the electricity that we depend on every day. But we did, Madam Speaker.

Approximately 60 percent of all of the energy that was being produced for our city and for our community was coming from fossil fuels. Under the presidency of President ALEX PADILLA—who is now our United States Senator from California—he gave me the mantle of being the chairman of that committee, we forced the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to cut their emissions in half, to literally divest themselves of dirty coal plants, and to finally clean up our act.

I am very, very proud to say that as the first council member to represent that community to be born and raised in Pacoima, I was the first council member to tell a company that owned a private dumpsite when they wanted to expand it again and again and again, I was the first council member to say: No, you are not.

We denied them their expansion. That was the first time it had ever happened.

Again, Madam Speaker, for far too long we were being represented by people who didn't realize or understand what it is like to grow up in a community where environmental injustice prevails and proliferates. We suffer from asthma rates that other communities don't suffer. Our children do. Our families do. We suffer from groundwater that is more contaminated than any other place in America.

We finally brought the grants from Washington, from city hall, and from Sacramento, our State capital, to clean up our act and to clean up our groundwater.

Those are the kinds of things that we are doing in Congress. Those are the kinds of things that the Green New Deal has brought to light where before only certain people experienced it and only certain people cared.

Now, today, we are talking about something that I am very proud of. I am very proud to be one of the original cosponsors of the Green New Deal in this Congress, but equally proud, with my colleague Congressman BOWMAN, to be an original cosponsor of the Green New Deal for Public Schools Act. These are the kinds of investments that we need to make as Congress.

Equally important, we need to make sure that we continue to remind every single person that we are in this together. As go our communities, as goes our country, and as goes the environment, so does the planet. Even though some billionaires are flying up into the sky and getting into outer space, this is our planet, Madam Speaker. We cannot escape it.

Why try to escape it?

Why not just look in the mirror and see what we all can do about it?

That is the responsible thing to do. That is something that we can and should be proud of.

So I stand here today to encourage every single one of us to help clean up our act and to, once again, thank my colleague, Congressman BOWMAN, for inviting me and the rest of us to speak the truth on this floor today about how important it is that we have a Green New Deal for all.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH), to whom I want to wish a very happy birthday today.

Ms. BUSH is another powerful Green New Deal champion who has introduced a fantastic Green New Deal For Cities bill. I also had the pleasure of working with Ms. BUSH on our public power resolution.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today because the Green New Deal cannot wait, and my brother, Representative BOWMAN, understands that. I thank him for pushing this, and I thank him for speaking up and speaking out. It is not an easy place to speak out from. Especially as Black Americans in this country, it is not usually one of the things that people think that the Black community will speak out about, but this is our work to speak out about it to make sure that our communities are made whole.

Yes, today is my 45th birthday. Birthdays are both a time of celebration and a time of reflection.

Today, there are 11 more 90-degree days per year in St. Louis than the year that I was born. I am thinking about that St. Louis heat, the heat under which Michael Brown Jr.'s body lay for more than 4½ hours on the hot asphalt in August of 2014.

I am wondering how many more 90-degree days we will have when I turn 50.

What about when I turn 55?

When I turn 60?

I am wondering how many more times Black bodies will lie dead in the summer heat on that asphalt from the environmental injustice of police murder. Yes, that is an environmental injustice.

I am thinking about how in the decade I was born the city of St. Louis pledged to prioritize elimination of lead pipes. But today Black children in the city of St. Louis are 2.4 times more likely than White children to test positive for lead in their blood. For my entire lifetime, we have been promised that this problem would be fixed. But today it still persists.

I am thinking about what the world will look like when my son and my daughter turn 45. I am thinking about the opportunity we have right now to deliver them a better world. I am thinking about how blessed I am to be in a position to do something about it.

Earlier this year, Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ and I introduced the Green New Deal for Cities Act to fund the environmental justice work of a Green New Deal in every community. Our bill would create good paying jobs in our communities to

solve the environmental racism that we face each and every day. It will clean up our polluted creeks and our vacant lots. Many don't know that when you drive in some communities, Madam Speaker, where it looks like the community doesn't care, sometimes it is not that the community doesn't care, sometimes it is because the ground is contaminated in our Black and in our Brown communities that those lots sit there vacant. Those lots sit there like they are unattended to, but there is more to the story, and financially that is the issue.

When we look at cleaning up our polluted creeks and our vacant lots—every move further we have to make sure that we replace fossil fuels with renewable energy.

Why are we still having that conversation?

I don't want my 46th birthday to come next year and our communities are still waiting for the people with the power of the pen and the people with the power of the purse to deliver the lifesaving changes that the people deserve. We need a Green New Deal.

For my birthday, please join me in fighting for one everywhere.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, it is amazing, whether we are talking about the Bronx, New York; St. Louis, Missouri; or New Mexico, it is obvious that a Green New Deal is needed now.

Madam Speaker, I would like to close by returning to one particular aspect of the Green New Deal for Public Schools because I think it highlights something about the framework as a whole. For me, one of the most exciting parts of the Green New Deal for Public Schools is how the learning environment in every school will be enriched, putting our young people at the center of the green energy revolution.

Students will delve into every aspect of the building retrofit process and immerse themselves in the broader sustainability and social challenges that we are tackling as a society. Each school will become a living lab for the Green New Deal. I cannot think of a better way to nurture the curiosity, ingenuity, and imaginations of our children. We will be kick-starting climate, STEM, and STEAM careers across the United States, and our country will reap the benefits of all that creativity.

The Green New Deal for Public Schools and the entire Green New Deal framework is built on the foundation of care and healing and allowing everyone in this country to unlock their full potential.

This is an idea that is expressed in Tupac Shakur's brilliant poem "The Rose That Grew from Concrete."

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?

Proving nature's law is wrong it learned to walk without having feet.

Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air.

Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.

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

SERIOUS ISSUES FACING OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration and Democrat House leadership want to cap off their first 6 months with an additional \$3.5 trillion in massive bills which will be the largest expansion of government ever.

Let's review the past 6 months. Prior to the Biden administration, on a bipartisan basis we here in this Congress allocated \$3.7 trillion for COVID relief and recovery on a bipartisan basis.

President Biden and the Democrats through a completely partisan spending bill spent \$1.9 trillion, three times more than many thought was necessary, and many Democrat economists also felt that way, especially since GDP growth was hitting record levels, clearly indicating American recovery.

□ 1615

Now we are experiencing inflation at really historic levels. Milk, bread, fruit, gasoline, among other items, have seen price increases, taxing all Americans. Unemployment remains very high in States that continue to extend and enhanced unemployment insurance. Meanwhile, virtually all employers have a shortfall in their workforce and are looking for employees.

Additionally, illegal immigration is at an all-time high. We see the mess at the border with no real corrections being made by the Biden administration or the Democrat-led House. Crime is hitting record levels in urban and suburban American. Oil imports from Russia are at an all-time high while we restrict energy production here at home, and China's economy is roaring.

We receive no cooperation from the CCP or the WHO, regarding investigations into the origins of COVID-19. Additionally, cyberattacks originating from China and Russia have presented a huge threat to American businesses large and small, yet, we have little to no response from the Biden administration or from our Democratic leadership here in the House.

Now the Democrats are putting a bipartisan transportation infrastructure bill in jeopardy that was agreed upon because they insist on spending \$3.5

trillion-plus for all kinds of government expansion initiatives, including expansions in Medicaid, ObamaCare, EPA, IRS, and I could go on.

This reckless expansion of government after \$5 trillion in spending will rock our economy, destroy career opportunities, create permanent dependency on government, and saddle our future American generations with debt well beyond what the eye can see or what the mind can contemplate.

Say "no" to reconciliation. Say "yes" to a bipartisan transportation infrastructure bill.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear friend for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON), my great friend.

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a serious issue facing my home State of Texas and millions of Americans, the Biden border crisis. Things at our southern border have gotten worse by the day since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have taken office.

For example, illegal immigration numbers were up 450 percent in June compared to June of last year. June was the fourth straight month with over 170,000 apprehensions. Border Patrol officials have seized more fentanyl so far in 2021 than all of 2020.

COVID cases among illegal immigrants are up 900 percent in the Rio Grande Valley. Numbers don't lie. The Biden administration's reckless approach to immigration has caused a full-blown crisis at the border, and there is absolutely nothing being done to stop it.

To be clear, the public health and drug crises that have been exacerbated by what is happening at the border are not just a problem for border States. The drugs being smuggled in at the border are coming to a neighborhood near you, courtesy of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

Their hypocrisy on the public health threat, in particular, couldn't be more appalling. While pushing stringent COVID rules on the American people, the Biden administration is simultaneously pushing an open-border agenda that includes placing COVID-infected illegal immigrants all over this country. It is absolutely unbelievable.

Every American will ultimately be impacted in some way by this Biden border crisis. I plea with the President to reverse his failed immigration plan and start protecting the American people.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. JACKSON for his comments.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I will address tonight the many, many serious issues facing our country: the unprecedented crisis at our southern border; the highest inflation we have seen in 13 years; the Democrats' out-of-control spending and tax increases; the Democrats' undermining of the Hyde amendment; and the Democrats' defense of the Communist Cuba regime.

It is important we discuss these issues as Republicans, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they just won't. We owe it to the American people to do better than this; to ensure there is still a country left when our children grow up.

The way the Democrats and the Biden administration are spending money, and our open borders, should not just concern Republicans, but every American. That is why I am proud of the way my colleagues and I will bring these issues straight to the American people in the people's House.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for their participation tonight. I know that we don't have anyone else here, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

DEMOCRATS' RECKLESS SPENDING AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, when you pull into a gas station or visit a grocery store this week, you will notice something different. Consumer prices are up across the board. Make no mistake, this financial strain is a direct result of the Biden administration's out-of-control spending. It is hurting millions of Americans across the Nation. In fact, nearly 9 in 10 Americans have reported a serious concern about the rise in prices. The reality is inflation, perhaps more accurately called Biden-flation, which is climbing at the highest rate in 13 years. Gas prices are up 45 percent; used car prices up 45 percent; and the cost of breakfast, lunch, and dinner has gone up for every single family.

These staples are necessities for every family in this country and their prices are rising because of the Democrats' reckless spending agenda. There is no doubt that the Democrats' non-stop Big Government spending is placing tremendous financial stress on the American family. What is worse, Democrats have failed to acknowledge that their outrageous spending has the most devastating impact on low-income Americans, many of whom have to spend beyond their means to afford the basic cost of goods and services.

Let me make this very clear. Inflation is a regressive tax that disproportionately affects the poor. Democrats are completely out of touch with the American people. To them, inflation is transitory; nothing to worry about. To the North Carolinians that I represent and speak with every day, inflation is now a real and present problem.

What is the Democrats' solution to soaring prices and high prices? Borrowing more money, another \$3.5 tril-

lion of taxpayer money to put toward new spending and tax hikes.

There is a life lesson here. If you are in a hole, stop digging.

Republicans understand that in most households, every dollar counts. But in Biden's economy, all Americans are having to pay more now to get less. We must reverse these disastrous policy decisions to save jobs, protect long-term investments, sustain economic progress, and most importantly, keep more money in taxpayers' pockets.

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

SUPPORTING CUBAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in absolute and unequivocal support of the Cuban people protesting their evil and oppressive Communist regime. Unfortunately, there is nothing new about their brutality and willful violations of universally recognized human rights. The United States should make it very clear that we stand on the side of the Cuban people as thousands have joined one of the biggest anti-Communist demonstrations the country has witnessed during its 62-year dictatorship.

Since the protests began, hundreds have been detained or are missing, including: artists, peace activists, and priests. The Cuban people deserve and need our help. In the words of the late Senator Jesse Helms:

The United States must speak out clearly on behalf of those whose own voices are choked by Communist repression.

Despite what many of our own people have been brainwashed by our education systems to believe, America is the greatest force for freedom and liberty that the world has ever known. I implore this administration, the Biden administration, and this Congress to utilize every tool of the U.S. Government to support the Cuban people in their effort to defeat the Communist regime and break the shackles of its oppressive government.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to address the Chamber on what I believe is the biggest crisis facing America today. I spent last week down at the McAllen section of the U.S.-Mexico border, and what I saw horrified me.

Late at night, from 10 to 11 o'clock, I watched people from all around the world walking on a pathway from the Rio Grande River to the Border Patrol station. We are right now at a point where I believe over 70,000 people a month are being allowed in the country. Many of these people have no ID at all, so there is no way to confirm who

they are, to even see if they have a criminal record.

□ 1630

Upon being processed through the border station, even without an ID, we buy them plane tickets for all around the country.

Scandalously, at a time when we are talking about COVID again, even if they test positive, people are held in apartments or hotels and not guarded, so they turn around and are being released. At a time in which we are supposed to be more careful than ever, we have a situation in which people who are coming here illegally are allowed in the country.

Furthermore, we watch as we have hit new records for the number of people who are killed in this country by illegal drug overdoses, including fentanyl. We are up to 90,000 people in the last year. I believe the reason we are hitting all-time records is because, as bad as heroin is, fentanyl is far worse. And all or virtually all of that fentanyl is coming across the southern border.

Meanwhile, we cede control of our immigration policy to Mexican drug gangs. These gangs charge, depending upon where you are coming from, \$3,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 to come across the border. They are so heartless that it is not uncommon that if Border Patrol approaches them on a boat from the Mexican side to the American side, whether it is with people or with drugs, they will throw a 3- or 4-year-old child into the Rio Grande River, knowing that our Border Patrol will fight to save that child rather than go after the people sneaking in the country or going after the drugs. This is the brutal type of people we are assisting by continuing the current policy or lack of a policy.

I strongly urge the Biden administration to step up to the plate to make sure that COVID-positive people are no longer let into the country; bring back the old policy, the migrant protection protocol, when we had only 6,000 people a month rather than 70,000 people a month crossing the border; require some sort of photo ID, like every other American would have before they get on an airline.

Good grief, who knows what type of criminal records these people have. Of course, we can only check criminal records in the United States. Nobody has any idea if these people have horrific criminal records in Honduras, El Salvador, Brazil, or all the other countries that people are coming here from.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage the Biden administration to step up.

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the freedom fighters in Cuba and against communism, the very system of social, political, and economic oppression that

has brought misery, poverty, and death to the Cuban people.

As the struggle of the Cuban people continues, I am calling on President Biden and his administration to take decisive measures in support of the Cuban protesters.

Specifically, I am calling on him to: condemn the communist Cuban regime for their decades of oppression; condemn the communist Cuban regime for any acts of violence against peaceful protesters; condemn the evils of communism that have led to misery, poverty, and stifled basic and fundamental human rights; support the mission of the protesters in Cuba, which includes establishing free and democratic elections, releasing all political prisoners, and establishing a free and independent press; and commit to the United States continuing its policy of maximum pressure on the communist Cuban regime until fundamental democratic reforms take hold.

On a personal note, I immigrated to this country with my family when I was a young boy, just 6 years old. I lived through the indoctrination curriculum in elementary school. I witnessed my birth country crumble to the woes of communism. Luckily, my family and I had the opportunity to immigrate to this great country.

In just one generation, my family went from Cuba to Congress. I believe with all my heart and soul that in no other country in the world is that achievement possible.

I am heartened to see my fellow Cubans on the island wave the symbol of freedom, our American flag, as they demand the same freedoms that we take for granted.

For that reason, I will always stand firmly on the side of all who yearn for freedom and democracy.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns for the crisis we are seeing at the southern border and the obvious unwillingness of the Biden-Harris administration to provide solutions.

Illegal border crossings are at their highest level in two decades. Yet, this administration not only won't address it; they actually exacerbate it because they cut the CBP budget over \$900 million.

In June alone, border agents actually encountered over 188,000 people at our southern border. Madam Speaker, that is a 450 percent increase over last June.

Madam Speaker, the Biden administration created this invasion, this border crisis. This year alone, over 80,000 kids have crossed the border, with 15,000 remaining in government custody.

Fixing the crisis at the border requires an investment in manpower, infrastructure, technology, and strong policy. That is why I asked this body to plus-up \$300 million in next year's budget for Operation Stonegarden, to

reimburse border States like Texas that are actually stepping up at the State level to provide security for their constituents.

We must finish the wall, reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, and never bring back catch and release, which the Biden administration is rumored to be bringing back in the coming months.

A strong America begins and ends with a strong, safe, and secure border.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the horrible inflation crisis we are seeing in this country.

I can remember back to the terrible inflation period of the 1970s, and I always hoped we would never return back to those times. Unfortunately, what I see coming lately, it is looking very similar.

With the lifting of the pandemic restrictions and the increasing rate of vaccinations, many Americans are getting back to their normal routine. Many are dining out, traveling, and enjoying social events again.

While this is great news, virtually every American is noticing a massive increase in the price of nearly everything because of the unprecedented inflation caused by the Biden administration's reckless spending and willingness to pay people to sit at home instead of work.

Inflation has increased every single month since Biden has taken office. The Consumer Price Index has increased more than 5 percent over a year ago, which is the largest jump since just before the 2008 financial crisis.

Gas prices have increased 45 percent compared to last year; food prices have increased more than 2 percent; and consumer prices overall are up near 5 percent.

While these numbers may not concern President Biden, they are absolutely killing the working class. The Biden administration's failures have real consequences, and his policies are crushing the working- and middle-class families across Alabama and throughout our Nation.

The working class is the backbone of this Nation, so I urge President Biden and my colleagues across the aisle to get serious about addressing this crisis and get to work building the economy that benefits all Americans.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight because I am outraged by the Biden administration's lack of effort to protect our Nation from the invasion of illegal immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

I have visited our southern border twice now this year, and I can say,

without a shadow of a doubt, it is a full-blown catastrophe on every front: humanitarian, national security, and public health.

President Biden's irrational reversal of the Trump administration's border security policies, like canceling construction of the border wall, reversing the remain in Mexico policy, and sending mixed messages about America's southern border, is why we face this unmitigated disaster today.

There has been a surge of crossings, with more than 188,000 border crossings reported in June, a 450 percent increase from just a year ago.

On top of that, more than 7,500 new COVID cases were reported in detention centers from April through the beginning of July—a surge at the border, a surge of COVID.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents have seized 7,450 pounds of fentanyl so far this year, enough to kill every American several times over, and it is just getting worse.

States across the country are feeling the consequences of the border crisis, including my home State of Tennessee. Although our State is 1,000 miles from the southern border, Tennesseans will bear the brunt of this disaster in many ways, including in our school systems, healthcare systems, and police departments, as plane loads of illegal immigrants are offloaded in our communities.

We must reestablish law and order at the southern border by finishing the border wall, fully reinstating the remain in Mexico policy, robustly implementing title 42 authority, and sending a clear message that our borders are not open to illegal crossings.

When it comes to the border crisis, Americans, including Tennesseans, are looking for leadership, not denials, deflections, and distractions from our sleepy leaders in the White House.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, Americans are seeing the impacts of inflation every day, with rising costs everywhere from the gas pump to the grocery store. California workers and families are bearing the brunt of this nationwide, 13-year inflation high.

Prices of everyday goods in my State are, in many cases, higher than the national average. For example, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline in California's 39th District is more than \$1 higher than the national average.

Additionally, these higher costs come in addition to high State and local taxes, cost of living, and astronomical housing costs. June statistics showed the median housing price in my district rose more than 20 percent, with the median price of a single-family home being more than \$800,000.

That is why I am disappointed that instead of working with Republicans to address inflation, get Americans back

to work, and support small businesses, Democrats are moving forward with trillions more in Federal spending on a partisan wish list that will cause increased Federal debt, an even higher cost of living, and more money out of the pockets of hardworking taxpayers.

We should be making life more affordable, not less.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I want to talk about the border. I live in a border State. I have been to the border a number of times. But last week, I got to go to the border again in Nogales, Arizona. I can attest firsthand that there is a crisis at our border.

I talked to Customs and Border Patrol agents and other officials, and they all have said that this is the worst that they have seen it in their entire career, and some of them have worked for 30 years for Customs and Border Protection.

I went down in a tunnel with the CBP officers, and it smelled. There was trash everywhere. And these Customs and Border Protection officers have to monitor the tunnels for human trafficking, sex trafficking, and drug trafficking.

□ 1645

At one of the ports of entry in Nogales, the Mariposa port of entry, they have seized, in the first 12 days of July, 500,000 fentanyl pills. Do you know how many people that can kill?

I call on the Biden administration to do something about the border crisis. The policies that he has set forth are causing this problem.

I visited parts of the border fence where there are just big openings, but the material is laying there right on the ground. We have already paid for it. This is insanity. It is total insanity.

I also heard that the Biden administration wants to repeal title 42, which is the one thing that is causing it from being more of a disaster.

Madam Speaker, I ask Mr. Biden, KAMALA HARRIS, Democrats, please help us secure the border.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, our Nation should be in the midst of a booming economic recovery.

Unfortunately, what we see is the exact opposite.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently warned against wasteful government spending, and the real harm that it would cause not only to our economy, but to the everyday lives of Americans.

And this was even before President Biden began pushing through this reckless government spending agenda that will raise taxes on American families, destroy jobs, and saddle future generations with a massive debt.

It has also created another crisis: inflation—something House Republicans

warned would occur as a result of the President's massive increase in government spending and mismanagement of the economy. Inflation is a tax on all Americans, and it has increased every month since President Biden took office.

The Consumer Price Index increased 5.4 percent from a year ago. This is the largest jump since just before the 2008 financial crisis.

Business owners are worried. Nearly half of America's small businesses have no choice but to raise their prices because the cost to do business is skyrocketing. And that means consumers end up paying more.

The Biden administration has attempted to downplay the harmful effects of inflation, claiming it will resolve itself in the next few months, but top economists project that inflation is here to stay.

Worse yet, now our Democratic colleagues are attempting to push through a partisan \$3.5 trillion package that is nothing more than a reckless tax-and-spending spree, which will indeed stick more families with higher taxes and lower wages.

Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it, these are not just numbers. Americans across the country are spending more money on everyday goods and services.

Now more than ever it is critical that we are supporting our workers and families and making sure they succeed. We should be focused on supporting policies that create more jobs, spur growth and innovation, and put more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

The President's and our Democratic colleagues' plans are doing the opposite.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, in October of 2019, California passed legislation requiring public universities to provide chemical abortion pills to female students starting in 2023.

Chemical abortions have increased. Actually, it has skyrocketed in the past 20 years from just 5 percent in 2001 to 39 percent of all abortions in 2017.

We want women across the country to know that we are there for them as a pro-life movement, and there are so many other safe options other than choosing abortion.

Congress must act now, not just to protect innocent babies from abortion, but to protect the vulnerable women from the lies of the abortion industry and the potential horrible physical, emotional, and spiritual damage of having a chemical abortion.

This is why I have joined Congressman CHIP ROY and Senator STEVE DAINES in introducing the Protecting Life on College Campus Act.

The Protecting Life on College Campus Act would uphold the Hyde amendment and prohibit Federal funds to go

to universities that provide chemical abortion pills to students.

This would be another step in the right direction to save the lives of the unborn and protect the safety of women and our families.

The fight for life in the United States has never been more important than today. For the first time in 40 years, the Hyde amendment was excluded from the spending bill introduced in Congress.

Further, it was even cleared by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health and Human Services.

The rest of my Republican colleagues and I are ready to fight and demand that Hyde be reinstated into this year's bill.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my support for the Cuban people.

After decades of enduring an oppressive Communist regime, the people of Cuba deserve freedom.

Last week, we watched as Cubans proudly waved the American flag through the streets and peacefully advocated for the freedom our flag represents.

Unfortunately, as Cubans marched, many of my colleagues across the aisle have remained silent or, worse, they have wrongfully blamed the United States or even suggested these protests were in response to COVID-19.

Let me be clear: The embargo isn't responsible for young children who have been forced into joining the police force. The embargo isn't responsible for cutting off internet access. It is the failed Communist system, a system so full of corruption and greed that medicine, food, and gas shortages are sadly the norm.

Crowds chanting "Freedom" and "Down with the dictatorship" are clear cries for relief from six decades of suffering.

History has shown us that communism has always failed, leaving those who must live under its restrictive rule to suffer.

I have witnessed these atrocities and failure of communism firsthand, and I have dedicated my life to fighting against it.

I am proud to stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba as they fight to end the Communist rule that has ruined their nation. I hope my colleagues will consider doing the same.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a free Cuba. As the Cuban people cry out to the free world for democracy, communism works relentlessly to silence their voices through violence and censorship.

Among my best friends growing up in Arkansas were the wonderful Villalon family, who fled Cuba and escaped the tyranny of Castro. I was best friends with the kids in elementary school. The father of the family was a leader in our church and our Boy Scout troop, and the mother was my Spanish teacher.

The Villalon family had the opportunity to grow up in a free country, one that provided jobs, opportunities, and freedoms that every human should have access to. Unfortunately for my friends in Arkansas, it took them fleeing their homeland and escaping the grips of communism to get a taste of the freedoms that we Americans enjoy each and every day.

During my career I have seen firsthand the systematic destruction of commerce, community, and human spirit by communism.

So, Madam Speaker, I stand with the Cuban people, and I call on our Nation's leaders to do what we can to support a new and free Cuba.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, Americans everywhere are feeling the real effects of inflation due to the Democrats' reckless spending spree.

Basic and time-tested economics show that more money in the marketplace leads to inflation, especially when it is created by new debt.

Families across the country are paying \$10, \$20, \$30 more on groceries each week. Gas prices are up nearly 50 percent.

Remember the ads for the \$6 burger that used to be \$3.99? You used to see it on TV. Well, they are actually going to be \$6 pretty soon the way things are going.

Democrats claim that they are working for the American people. Their policies are, in fact, hitting middle-class families hard. The American people are noticing.

It is no coincidence that inflation has increased every month during the Biden administration. They need to understand that all the money they keep spending directly and negatively impacts real Americans.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the troubling impact that inflation is having on the American people.

Raising a family during good economic times is hard enough, but times of high inflation make it even more difficult. With prices rising at paces not seen since 1991, families are being forced to make tough decisions and stretch their paychecks even further.

During his Presidential campaign, Joe Biden promised not to raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000 per year. However, his spending habit is fueling inflation, which is a tax on every American. In fact, it is worse

than an ordinary tax because it is regressive, hitting the working class the hardest.

President Biden and Democrats would have the American people believe that debt doesn't matter, and that the government can spend an endless amount of money on whatever they like. However, that could not be further from the truth.

To stop the cost of things from accelerating even higher, we must end our spending addiction and get the national debt under control.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield the remainder to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand for the people of Cuba who are marching against the Communist government that has oppressed them for decades.

In recent weeks, the Cuban activists have been kidnapped, jailed, and murdered for daring to stand against the Communist regime.

Now is the time to stand against this brutality. We must urge world leaders to cease all support for the Communist regime in Cuba.

We must ensure that Cubans can communicate freely with each other and with the outside world. We must forcefully denounce the Cuban dictatorship that has committed these crimes.

The Cuban people are rising up in the name of opportunity, the opportunity that they see just 90 miles away on the American shores.

As the Cuban people protest in the streets, they are chanting, "Libertad," liberty. They are carrying American flags, and they are calling out for freedom.

Now is the time for us to stand with them. It is time to put an end to the murderous regime that has held the people of Cuba hostage for the past 61 years.

Freedom. Freedom for all. Freedom for Cuba. Let them see what we have here. Let them attain that freedom.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Gloria J. Lett, Deputy Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1652. An act to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 30, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2441. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1651. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Data Collection and Inventory for Services Contracts (DFARS Case 2018-D063) [Docket: DARS-2020-0007] (RIN-0750-AK30) 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 Armed Services.

EC-1652. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — TRICARE: Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Respite Care [Docket ID: DOD-2016-HA-0112] (RIN: 0720-AB69) 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 Armed Services.

EC-1653. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2021-OS-0030] (RIN: 0790-AL16) 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 Armed Services.

EC-1654. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting proposed legislation to amend Section 1433 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 3001-2) to require drinking-water systems to take actions to improve their cybersecurity; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1655. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting an action on a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1656. A letter from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), transmitting the Corporation's General and Legislative Annual

Report and Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Request to Congress, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 24320(a)(1); Public Law 114-94, Sec. 11203(a)(1); (129 Stat. 1630); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1657. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0184; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01599-T; Amendment 39-21605; AD 2021-12-18] (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-1658. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held By Rolls-Royce Deutschland GmbH, Formerly BMW Rolls-Royce GmbH) Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1174; Project Identifier MCAI-2019-00135-E; Amendment 39-21594; AD 2021-12-07] (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-1659. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) and Eurocopter France Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2006-24733; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00139-R; Amendment 39-21642; AD 2021-14-15] (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-1660. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0540; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00694-T; Amendment 39-21635; AD 2021-14-08] (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-1661. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Report to Congress on Integrated Plans to Comply with the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2019; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1662. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Report to Congress on Implementing IWG Recommendations on Improving the Consultation Process Required Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for Pesticide Registration and Registration Review; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce.

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:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York: Committee on Oversight and Reform. Supplemental report on H.R. 3076. A bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-89, Pt. 2).

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. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. CHU, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SIREN, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 4589. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish in the Department of State a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to promote increased diversity and inclusion in the Foreign Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 4590. A bill to require the Federal banking regulators to jointly conduct a study and develop a strategic plan to address challenges faced by proposed depository institutions seeking de novo depository institution charters; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MRVAN (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BOST, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. BROWN):

H.R. 4591. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. LAWSON of Florida):

H.R. 4592. A bill to require the President to report on financial institutions' involvement with officials of the Iranian Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CARL, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.R. 4593. A bill to establish a block grant program to enable southwest border States to construct barriers along their borders with Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4594. A bill to make available \$250,000,000 from the Travel Promotion Fund for the Corporation for Travel Promotion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BOURDEAUX (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MANNING, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. SE-

WELL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. ALLRED):

H.R. 4595. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to provide health care coverage to low-income adults in States that have not expanded Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4596. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to establish record-management plans in order to be accredited or continue to be accredited, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 4597. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make certain projects and activities eligible for financial assistance under a State water pollution control revolving fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARCIA of Illinois (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 4598. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require all-cargo aircraft to be equipped with cockpit doors that meet certain safety requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself and Mr. LAMB):

H.R. 4599. A bill to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American manufacturing through the research and development of advanced technologies to reduce steelmaking emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 4600. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize institutions of higher education to limit the amount of a Federal loan that an enrolled student may borrow; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Ms. STEFANK):

H.R. 4601. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 4602. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 4603. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in

addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Armed Services, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4604. A bill to allow certain individuals with prior service under the District of Columbia retirement system to make deposits towards annuities under the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 4605. A bill to amend the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 to improve mapping under the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 4606. A bill to establish programs and authorities to facilitate the commercial application of clean energy and related technologies in the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. HERN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MANN, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROSE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GUEST, and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 4607. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 4608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for designation of qualified opportunity zones every 10 years; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 4609. A bill to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 4610. A bill to establish an expansion awards pilot program as a part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 4611. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue guidance with

respect to certain information and communications technology or services contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 4612. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 4613. A bill to require cut flowers and cut greens displayed in certain Federal buildings to be produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and 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. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that governmental entities should use a portion of the proceeds from litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors to increase participation in drug take back programs and for the safe disposal of collected, unused medicines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 544. A resolution acknowledging and apologizing for the mistreatment of, and discrimination against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals who served the United States in the Armed Forces, the Foreign Service, and the Federal civil service; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H. Res. 545. A resolution supporting the ideals of Bump Day, a global advocacy day for maternal health, and reaffirming United States leadership to end preventable maternal deaths in the United States and globally; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. DELAULO, and Ms. MATSUI):

H. Res. 546. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Women's National Soccer Team and the United States Men's National Soccer Team should receive equal pay for equal work; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. MANNING (for herself, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. WILD, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MEIJER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr.

CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. KILMER):

H. Res. 547. A resolution calling for the continued support of Afghan women and girls after the drawdown of American troops; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BUCK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. HERN, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. POSEY, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON, Mr. MAST, Mr. JACKSON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FALLON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BACON, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. ESTES, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MANN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KELLER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BABIN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DUNN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BOST, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COLE, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. MACE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GARBARINO, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MEIJER, Mr.

CARL, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. HILL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROSE, Mr. COMER, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. ROY, Mr. BARR, Ms. FOXX, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. EMMER, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BANKS, and Mrs. FISCHBACH):

H. Res. 548. A resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 549. A resolution condemning the assassination of the Haitian President, and urging United States and global support of Haitian-led solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-57. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution 238, Urging the President of the United States and the Environmental Protection Agency to appropriate action, through waivers and other reforms, to allow blending of renewable fuels under the federal "Clean Air Act"; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4589.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H.R. 4590.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 4591.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 4592.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 4593.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4594.

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 States 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 Ms. BOURDEAUX:

H.R. 4595.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which reads as follows: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4596.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 4597.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 4598.

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

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio:

H.R. 4599.

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

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 4600.

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

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 4601.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 4602.

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

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4603.

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

Article 1 Section 8

Section—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4604.

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

clause 17 of section 8 of article I and clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 4605.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 4606.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 4607.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 4608.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 4609.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 4610.

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. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 4611.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 4612.

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

The U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 4613.

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

Article IV, Section 3; Clause 2

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 40: Mr. DOGETT.

H.R. 72: Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 82: Mr. O'HALLERAN and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 203: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 224: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 310: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 366: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 432: Ms. JACOBS of California.

H.R. 481: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 550: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 590: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 616: Mr. KAHELE.

H.R. 695: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MAST, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 729: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 756: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 815: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 816: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 925: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 963: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1057: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 1115: Mr. WALBERG.

- H.R. 1179: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1181: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1182: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1196: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1219: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 1289: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 1297: Ms. McCOLLUM.
H.R. 1304: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 1331: Mr. CORREA and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1332: Mr. OWENS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1346: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1348: Mr. LIEU and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1368: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1385: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1400: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1436: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 1456: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1474: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1479: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1569: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WILD, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 1607: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1664: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1745: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1803: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 1842: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 1863: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1925: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 1978: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2071: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2120: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 2126: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2193: Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2209: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 2214: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2219: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 2235: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2278: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 2286: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 2289: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2337: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2373: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 2377: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. JONES, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2415: Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. DEAN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 2424: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2499: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 2519: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2522: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2538: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2729: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2734: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 2748: Mr. NEAL, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. GRIF-FITH.
H.R. 2759: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2767: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2785: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 2811: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2820: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CASE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2827: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 2828: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 2839: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2885: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2901: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2903: Mr. BOST, Mrs. AXNE, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2972: Mr. POCAN and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3031: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 3048: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3072: Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 3075: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3078: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 3079: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 3086: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 3101: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3115: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 3116: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3173: Mr. KIND, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 3187: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 3193: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 3194: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3203: Ms. ROSS, Mr. JACOBS of New York, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3216: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3251: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3252: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3281: Ms. CHENEY.
H.R. 3312: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 3335: Mr. SOTO, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3369: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 3372: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3402: Mr. CARSON and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3404: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 3440: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3441: Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LAMB, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3452: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3459: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 3496: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 3512: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3513: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 3519: Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LURIA, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3541: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 3627: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 3648: Mr. TRONE and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 3672: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3733: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 3744: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3753: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3759: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BLU-MENAUER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 3769: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 3807: Mr. SARBANES and Mrs. TORRES of California.
H.R. 3811: Mr. ROSE and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 3820: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 3860: Mr. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 3906: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 3907: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 3908: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 3940: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 3959: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 3985: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3988: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3992: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 3999: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 4010: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 4011: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4058: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 4060: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4073: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 4082: Mr. OWENS and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4094: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 4104: Mr. CRIST, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4105: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 4108: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4116: Mr. BROWN and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4131: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MENG, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 4140: Mr. DELGADO and Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 4150: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4163: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 4164: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 4181: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 4191: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 4230: Ms. CHENEY.
H.R. 4290: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 4310: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 4328: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 4331: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 4375: Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 4406: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4444: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 4472: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4487: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 4541: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Mrs. BOEBERT.
H.R. 4542: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4568: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.J. Res. 11: Mrs. GREENE of Georgia.
H. Con. Res. 7: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. KAHELE.
H. Res. 14: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H. Res. 47: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 336: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Ms. TLAI.
H. Res. 530: Mr. CALVERT.
H. Res. 536: Mr. SIRES and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H. Res. 541: Ms. PRESSLEY and Ms. ESCOBAR.



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Vol. 167

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No. 128

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who remains the same when all else fades, thank You for loving and using us for Your glory.

Guide our Senators in the footsteps of those who were willing to risk all for freedom, who carved tunnels of hope through mountains of despair.

Lord, uphold our Nation with Your wisdom and might, enabling it to continue to be a city of refuge for those whose hearts yearn for freedom.

Keep us all from untimely and self-made cares as we continue to fix our eyes on You, the author and finisher of our faith.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a

Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, before I get into the substance of my remarks, I just heard Leader MCCONNELL's statements on debt ceiling.

The leader's statements on debt ceiling are shameless, cynical, and totally political. This debt is Trump debt. It is COVID debt. Democrats joined three times during the Trump administration to do the responsible thing. The bottom line is that Leader MCCONNELL should not be playing political games

with the full faith and credit of the United States. Americans pay their debts.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. President, now, let's get into what is happening here in the Senate this afternoon.

The Senate will hold a procedural vote to get the legislative process started on a bipartisan infrastructure bill. I have been very clear about what this vote is. This vote is only the first step in the legislative process on the Senate floor. It is merely a vote about whether the Senate is ready to begin debating a bipartisan infrastructure bill.

I have also been very clear about what this vote is not. This vote is not a deadline to have every final detail worked out. It is not an attempt to jam anyone. If Senators agree to adopt the motion to proceed, the bipartisan group of Senators will have many opportunities to make their agreement the base of the bill, even if they need a few more days to finalize the language.

My colleagues are well aware that we often agree to move forward with debates on issues before we have the final text of the bill in hand. We have done it twice this year already: the anti-Asian hate crimes bill and the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. Both times, the Senate produced successful bipartisan legislation. There is no reason we can't repeat that process here on infrastructure.

We are now in the fourth week of negotiations since the bipartisan group of Senators reached an agreement with the White House on an infrastructure framework—4 weeks. According to the negotiators, spurred on by this vote this afternoon, they are close to finalizing their product. Even Republicans have agreed that the deadline has moved them far more quickly.

Given the process of the bipartisan negotiations, I believe Senators should feel comfortable voting to move forward today. I know that, since I set a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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date for the vote and announced it, my colleagues on both sides have worked very hard on finishing this legislation. I am grateful for their work. We all want the same thing here: to pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill. But in order to finish the bill, we first need to start.

So I hope my Republican colleagues will join Democrats this afternoon in voting to move forward on an infrastructure package. As majority leader, I have every intention of passing both major infrastructure packages, the bipartisan infrastructure framework and a budget resolution with reconciliation instructions, before we leave for the August recess. That is the schedule I laid out at the end of June, and that is the schedule I intend to stick to.

Now, if Senators had any doubt about the impact of this important work, they should be assured by a new report this morning by the chief economist at Moody's, Mark Zandi. Having analyzed both the bipartisan bill and the agreement by Senate Democrats on the Budget Committee, Mark Zandi concludes that the twin legislative packages will provide a massive boost to the economy and that both—both—are essential.

Specifically, his report says that the two bills are “designed to lift the economy’s longer-term growth potential and ease”—ease—“inflation pressures.” Again, despite the sometimes hysterical warnings about inflation from Republicans, the chief economist at Moody’s concludes that those concerns are “misplaced,” “overdone,” and that our two infrastructure bills are designed to “ease”—his words—“inflation pressures.”

The report goes on to say that our investments in infrastructure and social programs will “lift productivity and labor force growth” and “direct the benefits of the stronger growth to lower-income Americans and address the long-running skewing of the income and wealth distribution.”

In other words, it will help strengthen the middle class and those trying to get there and not have all the income, so much of the income, disproportionately flowing to the top 1 and 10 percents.

I hope my colleagues are listening to those benefits: long-term economic growth, easing inflation pressures, lifting productivity, strengthening the labor force, reducing income inequality. That is what one of the Nation’s leading economists predicts our two infrastructure bills will achieve.

The report by Moody’s should light a fire under all of us. I will be sending the full report to the Senate Democratic conference, and I commend it to my Republican colleagues to read as well.

It has been decades since this Chamber has made significant stand-alone investment in our Nation’s infrastructure. We are the largest economy in the world, but our infrastructure ranks 13th. You would find better infrastruc-

ture in the United Arab Emirates than in the United States. Meanwhile, middle-class and working Americans have watched the American dream fall out of reach as globalization, technology, and vicious inequalities of income have sapped much of America’s fundamental promise of equal economic opportunity.

We must restore that promise, that hope, that American dream. If we want Americans to prosper in the 21st century, if we want to restore that fundamental promise, we need to invest in our infrastructure, create jobs, support families, strengthen the backbone of the middle class, help underserved communities, and rekindle the sunny optimism that has been a hallmark of the American spirit for more than two centuries.

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.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today, the Democratic leader appears to be intent on calling a vote he knows will fail. For several weeks now, Republican and Democratic Senators have been working together, trying to assemble a bipartisan package for our Nation’s infrastructure.

It is an important and a complex subject. They are talking about big projects and big sums of money. They are still talking, still working, still negotiating in good faith across the aisle. But these discussions have yet to conclude. There is no outcome yet, no bipartisan agreement, no text, nothing for the Congressional Budget Office to evaluate, and, certainly, nothing on which to vote, not yet.

So, obviously, if the Democratic leader tries to force a cloture vote on a bill that does not exist, it will fail.

Around here, we typically write the bills before we vote on them. That is the custom. Of course, here in the Senate, a failed cloture vote does not mean no forever.

In the middle of the early COVID crisis, back in March of 2020, with Americans under stay-home orders and financial markets plummeting, Senate Democrats withheld cloture on the CARES Act multiple times so they could continue haggle behind the scenes.

Now, this was during a real emergency. Every day, every hour, was crucial. But Senate Democrats blocked cloture multiple times until various details were fine-tuned to their liking.

Here is what the Democratic leader said while his side tanked those cloture votes last March—March of 2020:

The Majority Leader was well aware of how this vote would go before it happened, but he chose to move forward with it anyway, even though negotiations are continuing. So who is playing games?

That was the Democratic leader in March of 2020, in the middle of a national emergency.

That, of course, was a fast-moving global crisis, with bipartisan text already in hand. There was a bill. Yet Senate Democrats insisted on taking their time in the middle of this national 100-year pandemic. Now, we are talking about long-term infrastructure investments that will play out over many years, but he wants to vote before any agreement even exists.

So this stunt is set to fail. The Democratic leader will be free to change his vote and move to reconsider whenever a bipartisan product actually exists.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now, on another matter, President Biden campaigned on a pledge not to raise income taxes on the vast majority of Americans. But the latest reckless taxing-and-spending spree that Democrats are cooking up would crush our country with a historic set of sweeping tax hikes.

Here is one of the targets in their crosshairs: Family farms.

It appears our colleagues’ plan will eliminate tax rules that allow family property to be passed down to the next generation without facing a new devastating tax burden.

Without the fix in question—the so-called stepped-up basis for capital gains taxes—scores of family businesses across America will feel a massive squeeze.

In States like mine, family farms drive the rural economy. But as I have heard from many of my State’s family farmers, it is operations like theirs that are especially—especially—at risk.

One Kentucky farmer said his family has worked the same land in Muhlenberg County for 150 years. He had hoped—hoped—to one day pass his property along to his children, just like it was passed along to him. But after generations spent improving and investing in the same farm, he is worried it could all be gone in the blink of an eye.

Another Kentuckian described how her family, like many farmers, is asset rich but cash poor. If the stepped-up basis is eliminated, her family could lose the home, barns, machinery, and fields that have been their life’s work.

The Farm Bureau in my State warned that what Washington Democrats are trying to do would penalize farmers for wanting—for wanting—to continue a tradition, which we all depend upon. If the stepped-up basis is eliminated, generations of accumulated work would be ripped—literally ripped from the hands of America’s farming families.

Family farming in the Commonwealth isn't just a way of life; it is considered a birthright. But if Democrats foist this bill for their reckless taxing-and-spending spree on rural America, a lot of this heritage could be literally ripped out of families' hands and put on the auction block.

And who will gobble it up then? Who will buy this land?

One recent report suggested that one of the biggest bidders for American family farmland these days is actually the Chinese.

Later today, Ranking Member BOOZMAN and some of our colleagues on the Agriculture Committee will be coming to the floor to sound the alarm about the ways that Democrats' reckless tax-and-spend spree could threaten farm families and rural America.

Deaths should not be a taxable event. The family farms that help feed us deserve our support, not sabotage from Washington.

IRAN

Mr. President, on one final matter, earlier this month, the FBI uncovered a plot by Iranian intelligence operatives to kidnap a journalist and vocal critic of the regime from her home in New York.

Let me say that again: Iran tried to abduct a U.S. citizen right here—right here—on American soil.

For years, Masih Alinejad has made a habit of getting under the mullahs' skin. She has called out injustices and organized protests like White Wednesdays, when women across Iran would challenge their nation's strict dress code.

The regime tried to lure Ms. Alinejad out of the U.S. to make her an easier target. That failed. So they decided to try something even more brazen.

Federal prosecutors have charged four Iranians in a plot to kidnap Ms. Alinejad. But with the exception of one accomplice, those responsible for this outrageous planned assault on a U.S. citizen right here on U.S. soil won't see the inside of a courtroom anytime soon. So without nonjudicial steps to impose consequences on the Islamic Republic, there will likely be no justice for Ms. Alinejad and her family.

And why should Tehran think twice about trying again?

Sadly, this has a familiar ring to it. Flagrant disregard for international law is certainly not a new addition to Tehran's playbook. Remember, back in 2011, Iranian intelligence was caught up in a plot to murder the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States by blowing up a restaurant right here in Washington. One of the Iranian officials indicted in that case is, actually, still at large.

Of course, extrajudicial activities on American soil aren't the only bits of Iranian behavior that read like old news. Ms. Alinejad has been vocally reminding us that Iran's disgusting disregard for human rights is not unique to American soil. Obviously, it is felt in Iran itself and throughout the Middle East.

This spring, the skies over Israel were filled with reminders of Iran's longstanding support for terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. Battlefields in Syria and southern Arabian Peninsula testify to the strength of Iran's proxies.

And just this year, on President Biden's watch, we have seen a surge—a surge—in attacks on U.S. interests and facilities in Iraq not seen since the height of our military presence in that country.

So history continues to repeat itself in Tehran. And, unfortunately, the Biden administration appears keen—keen—to follow a familiar playbook of its own. Inexplicably, the White House's response to Iran's latest troublemaking—now listen to this—has been to consider lifting sanctions and offering new concessions to produce a new nuclear deal.

Iran just tried to kidnap an American right here in America. This is not the occasion to desperately reward bad behavior. It is time to work even more closely with our allies and partners in the regions to stare it down.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

NOMINATION OF DAVID H. CHIPMAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week, I came down to the floor to discuss how the "defund the police" movement has contributed to the surging crime we see around the country. And as I noted, the Democratic Party bears a substantial degree of responsibility to the situation we find ourselves in because this is a party that either actively contributed to defund the police rhetoric or implicitly endorsed it largely by staying silent.

Now, however, Democrats have come to realize that attacking the police and the sharp spike in crime could hurt their electoral chances next year. And so the President and other Democrat leaders have, all of a sudden, announced their concern about rising crime rates.

But as I said last week, they are still trying to have their cake and eat it, too, because missing from their messaging is any real condemnation of defund the police rhetoric and the toll it has taken on our cities and police departments. And their plans for confronting the surge in crime are long on punishing gun dealers and gun manufacturers and short on going after those actually committing crimes.

It is typical of Democrats, for whom fighting crimes seems to involve controlling guns—specifically, guns owned by law-abiding gun owners—more than it involves controlling criminals. What Democrats should be doing is training

their attention on violent offenders, traffickers, and gangs, and illegal straw purchases; not finding ways to saddle law-abiding gun owners with burdensome regulations because it is not law-abiding gun owners who are responsible for most of the gun crimes in this country.

The majority of gun crimes are committed by individuals who have obtained their guns illegally—illegally—which is why fighting these crimes should involve improving enforcement of our laws and increasing prosecution of those who violate them, not creating new laws that will only serve to further burden the constitutionally guaranteed Second Amendment right of law-abiding individuals.

Unfortunately, as I said, Democrats are following their usual playbook during this recent crime surge, which they seem to see as a convenient excuse for pushing some of their gun control priorities.

The President recently delivered remarks on crime, and the first priority he discussed at length was going after federally licensed firearms dealers. That is right, firearm dealers.

While we can all agree that firearms dealers who violate the law should be punished, the rogue gun dealers that the President refers to are only responsible for a tiny fraction of guns being used in crimes.

Going after gun dealers as one of your top law enforcement priorities is not going to do much to stem the illegal flow of weapons or their use in crimes. Enforcement dollars and enforcement personnel are not endless. You can waste a lot of money and a lot of man-hours conducting checks of law-abiding gun dealers while criminals continue to use their illegally obtained weapons unchecked.

Nowhere are President Biden's priorities more clear than in his choice of nominee to lead the ATF, which is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

David Chipman would come to the ATF directly from an organization where he has spent the past 5 years as a gun control advocate. He is well known for his at times extreme views on gun control and restricting the Second Amendment, including his support for banning probably the most popular rifle in the United States. He supports a so-called assault weapons ban, which usually refers to banning certain guns for their accessories and their appearance of lethality. But, alarmingly, he could not give a clear representation of how he would define such a policy in his confirmation hearing.

Equally as troubling is Mr. Chipman's clear disdain for gun owners. He claimed that most individuals with concealed carry permits are either untrained or irresponsible. During the pandemic, he mocked law-abiding gun owners and condescendingly said that first-time gun owners should put their guns away in their cabinets behind the beef jerky—behind the beef jerky—that

they have presumably been saving for the apocalypse and only take out the weapons if “the zombies start to appear.”

I appreciate Mr. Chipman’s long service as an ATF special agent, but I have serious concerns that, as the head of the ATF, he would spend more time going after law-abiding gun owners than actual criminals.

The fact that he spent years as a gun control advocate gives us a pretty strong indication of what his priorities are likely to be if he ends up heading this Bureau. While Mr. Chipman couldn’t make new gun laws as head of the ATF, he would certainly—I should say he could certainly have a hand in writing a whole lot of new regulations, regulations that could end up substantially burdening Americans’ Second Amendment rights.

ATF has already gotten away with the Biden gun control agenda with proposed rules against firearms parts kits often used by hobbyists and widely used stabilizing braces, often referred to as pistol braces, first designed to help a disabled veteran safely fire a weapon. These regulations would turn millions of legal gun owners into potential criminals, and David Chipman would be in charge of seeing them through.

Moreover, his demeaning attitude toward gun owners should also disqualify him from the ATF position. An individual who regards law-abiding, gun-owning Americans as a bunch of untrained and irresponsible doomsday preppers waiting for the zombie apocalypse has no business—no business—leading a gun enforcement Agency.

The President, the Vice President, and Mr. Chipman may not like it, but the plain language of the Bill of Rights clearly guarantees the right of law-abiding Americans to own firearms. That right, like every other right guaranteed by our Constitution, must be respected and protected, and those who exercise their Second Amendment rights deserve to be respected as well.

I do not believe we can rely on Mr. Chipman to respect our Second Amendment rights or the Americans who exercise them, which is why I cannot vote to confirm him as Director of the ATF. I encourage supporters of the Second Amendment on both sides of the aisle to oppose his nomination. Law-abiding, gun-owning Americans deserve better than Mr. Chipman to handle the ATF.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER ANN ABRUZZO

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, you know, this pandemic has made it clearer than ever that our economy is working great for those at the very top but not for our workers.

Saturday actually marks the 12th anniversary of the last time that we raised our Federal minimum wage. Twelve years. That is unacceptable, and our workers really deserve better.

No one working 40 hours a week should be making wages so low, their family is living in poverty and they can’t even afford to pay for even their most basic needs. It is past time that we finally give workers, who are the backbone of our economy and have kept us going through this pandemic, a hard-earned and much deserved raise.

Another important step the Senate can take to build back an economy that is stronger and fairer and works for everyone is to ensure that Agencies like the National Labor Relations Board work effectively and protect workers’ rights. Jennifer Abruzzo is the type of dedicated public servant who will make sure the NLRB is enforcing the law and protecting the rights of workers.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her as general counsel of the NLRB. She has dedicated her career to upholding the law and protecting workers from unfair treatment. She has won victories against companies that attempted to undermine workers’ right to organize and call for better wages. She has 23 years of experience at the NLRB, including her time serving as acting general counsel, the role she is now nominated to fill.

It is clear she has the right experience, qualifications, and values for the job, and we need her to be able to get to work right away because we have seen 7 years of—we have seen years of unprecedented Republican obstruction of the NLRB nominees. There has been an empty Democratic seat on the NLRB for nearly 3 years, and there wasn’t a single Democrat on the Board from late 2019 to mid-2020. That obstruction tipped the scales of justice in favor of big corporations, and workers have suffered the consequences.

When workers stand together to form a union, it is the NLRB that makes sure the election is fair. If a worker is fired or unfairly punished because they want to join or form a union, the NLRB is tasked with protecting their rights. If companies refuse to negotiate fairly with unions fighting for higher wages and better benefits or a secure retirement or safer working conditions, it is the NLRB that protects unions and union workers who have helped build our country’s middle class.

Working families simply cannot afford an NLRB that fails to protect workers’ rights when they are threatened. So we have to confirm nominees like Jennifer Abruzzo who will protect workers’ rights and make sure their voices are heard if we are serious about building back a stronger, fairer economy. If we are serious about standing with working families, then we need to confirm Jennifer Abruzzo as general counsel of the NLRB and then get to work increasing our Federal minimum wage.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled to occur at 11:30 a.m. begin immediately.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Abruzzo nomination.

The legislative 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.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Abruzzo nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 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	Lujan	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. CORTEZ MASTO 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 nomination was confirmed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the provision of the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will immediately be notified of the Senate’s action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 142, Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). 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 Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Paul	
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—48

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)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

The senior Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, there is a reason that the JOHN LEWIS Voting Rights Advancement Act bears his name, and the reason is that John Lewis was truly a civil rights hero, an icon, a trailblazer, a model, and a mentor to so many of us, not because of what he said but because of what he did.

In marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where he was beaten and bloodied in leading those civil rights activists, in fighting for equality and justice here in the Halls of Congress, he set a model of courageous public service that inspires us today.

It has inspired voting rights since 1965, when those acts of courage led the Congress to adopt that Voting Rights Act of 1965. It was bipartisan then; it has been a bipartisan cause since then. In fact, it was most recently reauthorized in 2006 by an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

There should be nothing partisan about voting rights, which go to the core of our democracy. They are the lifeblood of our democracy, as we know better or as well as anyone in this Chamber, because we know that we act here with authority by the consent of the governed, as the Founders said. We govern by the consent of the people who elect us, hopefully fairly. That is the reason we need now the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, because the U.S. Supreme Court, in two decisions, *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*, has in effect eviscerated—more bluntly, gutted—two key sections, 5 and 2, of the Voting Rights Act.

Now, we have the opportunity—in fact, we have the obligation to make sure that the memory and the cause of John Lewis in advancing voting rights are upheld. We have that obligation not for ourselves but for the country, which is why John Lewis fought so hard and so well.

Today, State legislatures are taking advantage of the gaps and defects opened by those two Supreme Court decisions to attack America's right to vote. What we are seeing is the greatest assault on voting rights in the history of this country, maybe with the exception of Jim Crow.

I know some have called these laws a second Jim Crow. It may be the son of Jim Crow or the nephew or niece of Jim Crow, but the goal is the same: suppression of voting rights, discriminating against individuals who have that right to vote.

Last week, I chaired a hearing in the Constitution Subcommittee on the impact of these two Supreme Court decisions on voting rights. What we heard from the witnesses appearing there was nothing less than a call to action to protect our democracy and live up to America's founding ideals. We heard from men and women who have been litigating—in the trenches, on the frontline of this battle to preserve voting rights—about the impact of these

two Supreme Court decisions and the lower court decisions that have been in their wake.

Since Shelby County in 2013, approximately 21,000 polling places nationwide serving the people of the United States on election day have been eliminated. Millions of voters have been purged from the voter rolls. This year alone, 17 States have passed 28 laws to restrict voting rights.

This assault on the right to vote, this effort to suppress men and women who by law should have that right, is purposeful, relentless, unremitting, and it is supported, unfortunately, by elected officials across the country. We have seen it in Arizona, in Florida, Texas, but many more State legislatures are moving in this direction. The voting rights of this Nation are at stake because what we are seeing is a deliberate, systematic attempt to make it harder and more difficult to register to vote and particularly for people of color to have this right. It is an attempt to subvert our democracy and attack the lifeblood of our Nation.

We know in theory that the Founders intended that, in fact, our government “derives [its] just powers from the consent of the governed.” But more than an exercise in theory, this effort is a direct, clear attempt to defend against the tsunami of voter suppression bills now crashing on our Nation. That is why the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act should be bipartisan. I have no illusions about it being so, but one way or the other, we ought to follow the advice of John Lewis, who said:

The right to vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument we have in a democratic society.

In memory of what he said but more in tribute to the ideals of democracy that he advanced by his actions, we should stand up to this assault on our democracy and pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. There is no time to waste.

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. KENNEDY. 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 Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. STEITZ

Mr. KENNEDY. This is one of those days that we often have, at least for me, that is both happy and sad.

A couple of weeks ago, I was back home in Louisiana. I was sitting at my dining room table, minding my own business, drinking a cup of coffee, petting my two dogs—dogs are the best people—and I got a phone call from one Mr. John R. Steitz, who is my deputy chief of staff for policy and my legislative director. I knew this phone call was coming someday. I knew it. I

didn't know it was coming so soon, but I knew someday I would get this call.

John said: Senator, they made me an offer I can't refuse. I am going to take it.

I have to be honest. I thought to myself: Damn, you know, Steitz is leaving. Another part of me was saying: God, I am so happy for him. I am really pleased with his new position in the private sector.

I wanted to suggest to him that if he needed any help picking out a new Mercedes, I could come help him. If he gets it down to this color or that color, he could just buy two.

I have known some folks in public service. The Presiding Officer has too. I have known some people in business—to each his own—who are often afraid to hire people more capable than them or smarter than them, and that is human nature, you know. I get it. I will have a lot to answer for on judgment day, but doing that is not one of the things. I have always tried to hire people who were smarter than me or more capable than me or had talents that I don't have. But there is a price you pay when you do that. You are going to lose them at some point because you can't keep a good person down. And that is John Steitz. So I knew this day was coming. That is why it really is bittersweet.

John is—most of you know him—John is a graduate of SMU.

When we are joking around, I like to say that the closest John ever got to a 4.0 at SMU was his blood-alcohol level, but that is not accurate. John, as we all know—and we are kidding—is whip-smart. He finished SMU in public policy and business administration. I think he had a minor in cheerleaders, but he never neglected his studies. He is a very smart guy. He is whip-smart. Don't ever let him try to kid you.

Brooks, his better half, who is here with us today, is an accomplished professional in her own right; and they are a team, I can assure you. When you work the hours that John Steitz works, you had better do it as part of a team.

They have two children. Eleanor is their oldest. I am told that Eleanor's very first words were "vote-arama." She said "vote-arama" before she said "Mama" or "Daddy." That is an exaggeration, but probably not by much. They have a young son, John, Jr., whom they call Jack.

If I taught a class or if the Presiding Officer taught a class, and if we told the truth about how a bill becomes a law, I think a lot of Americans would be surprised. This is not "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." It is hard to pass a bill in the U.S. Senate. It is supposed to be, because that is our job, to not act on the basis of feelings but to act on the basis of logic. It is a lot of work to get a bill passed. I have been able to pass a couple, and I wouldn't have passed one single, solitary one of them without John Steitz.

I made a list here—and I am not going to read all of it—of stuff, like the

National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act, the Justice Against Corruption on K Street Act, the RBIC Advisers Relief Act, the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act, and the Rebuilding Small Businesses After Disasters Act.

You know, this isn't all my doing. This has John Steitz's fingerprints all over it—on every one of these bills.

John has a rare combination, and he is going to do really well in the private sector. I mentioned that he is whip-smart, and he is, but it takes more than that to succeed around here. First, you have got to have a work ethic. You have got to be willing to put in the hours. I can't tell you the number of times I looked around when I was working late and I would see Steitz there.

I would say: Steitz, go home for God's sake. Brooks is going to change the locks on you. She may already have.

He was there constantly. I don't know when he found the time to father Eleanor and Jack. I mean, he was always in the office.

So you have got to have a work ethic, but it is more than that. You have got to like people; you have got to understand people; and you have got to respect people. You have got to know which bridge to burn and which bridge to cross. You have got to understand when to go forward and say, "To hell with it. We are going full speed ahead," and when to back off a little bit.

It is a lot more art than science, and everybody in this Chamber knows what I am talking about. That is not something you pick up in a week.

When I asked John to be my legislative director before he became deputy chief of staff, he didn't have all of this. I mean, he was as green as a gourd. I was too. He learned it. He learned it on the job, and, boy, did he do an incredible job.

There is one other quality you have got to have to succeed around this place aside from smarts, work ethic, respect for other people, and integrity, all of which John Steitz has. You have got to care. You have really got to care. You can't fake it, you know. You can't be motivated by moving up another rung on the ladder, though some people are. I get it. We are all human. Sometimes that may be a part of it, but if that is your sole motivation, you are not going to make it. People up here on Capitol Hill are smart. They can smell it. So you can't be guided by ambition. You have got to be guided by knowledge, yes; by wisdom, yes; but also by empathy.

John knows what he believes. He believes what he believes, and he is willing to fight for it. But he is also willing to listen to another point of view. There were many times he would come to my office and say: You know, here is what is going on. Look at it this way, but listen to it from this perspective.

He is also sneaky. Now, I don't mean that in a bad way. By sneaky, I mean

he is a great strategist in terms of he can figure out how to go from point A to point B to point C, do a half gainer, get to point D, and circle back to point A.

There are some times when John has come to my office and said: Here is how we are going to get this amendment done, or here is how we are going to get this passed.

Then he will lay out the plan. I wish I could use examples, but I would tip my hand. He would lay out the plan, and I would say: John, this isn't college. Have you been smoking dope around here? This isn't college. We can't do that. It will never ever work. It won't work.

It usually did. But I always said: Well, heck. Let's try it. If you want to try it, I am willing to try. It is legal; it is honest; but it is just such a long shot.

But it worked, and I was appreciative of that. That didn't just happen. That came from smarts, hard work, and caring.

I guess I will end.

Thank you, Brooks, for sharing your time and for sharing John with us. I know it wasn't easy for you. We are going to—I started to say that we are going to miss you, but we expect you to come back around and bring Eleanor and bring Jack and bring Chili. John has a great dog. Chili became the mascot in the office. Chili is the best beggar you have ever seen. I am going to miss him.

I want to thank John here today for giving so much. He could have made a lot more money in the time he has been here in the private sector because he is that talented, but he is moving to the private sector. It is their gain and our loss. He is welcome back any time.

Thank you, John. Thank you, thank you, thank you not just on my behalf, but on behalf of the people of Louisiana and on behalf of the American people for giving so much to your country.

God bless you. Godspeed.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, America's family farmers and ranchers have faced unprecedented challenges in recent years. They have been caught in the middle of trade wars, repeatedly lost harvests and livestock to one catastrophic natural disaster after another, and faced a whole new set of unparalleled complications when COVID-19 took hold.

Now a new threat to their future looms, the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spend agenda for which family farmers and ranchers are being told to foot the bill.

The Democrats are proposing changes to capital gains tax rates, stepped-up basis, and the use of like-kind exchanges that put the future of our family farms and ranches at risk. The next generation of family farmers will face devastating consequences if the Democrats have their way, as their proposed changes put the future of nearly 2 million family-owned farm operations at risk.

The President and his allies in Congress will tell you that family farms and ranches will not be impacted by their proposed changes. In fact, they make a very specific claim that 98 percent of farms will not be impacted. Yet they have provided no evidence to support that claim, and they have been asked to provide that directly by myself and a majority of the Republican side of the Ag Committee.

We essentially asked USDA to show its math. That request has gone unanswered. It seems unlikely that we will ever get a response, so we took it upon ourselves to find out if there was any legitimacy to their claim.

We asked the highly respected team at the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University to conduct a study on the legislation that mirrors tax increases President Biden and congressional Democrats have floated to pay for their massive human infrastructure plan.

The results confirm exactly what we expected. These proposed changes are going to crush rural America.

Remember the administration's claim that 98 percent of family farms and ranches will be protected? Well, AFPC's research showed just the opposite when it comes to changes to stepped-up basis, which allows the tax basis of an inherited asset to be stepped up at death to the fair market value as of the date of death.

If these changes were to be implemented, 92 of AFPC's 94 representative farms would be impacted with an average additional tax liability of more than \$720,000 per farm. That means 98 percent of family farms included in AFPC's study are hurt by these tax increases, not protected by them.

And as you can see on this map, this chart, those changes hit rural America very, very hard. We are looking at over half a million dollars in additional tax liabilities per farm in the Southwest and in the Southeast, which includes my home State of Arkansas. In fact, the average tax liability for the five Arkansas farms represented in the study is over \$800,000. In the Northeast and out West, these changes would result in over \$700,000 in additional tax liabilities per farm. And look at the Midwest. It is over \$1 million in additional tax liabilities per farm.

These obligations will take literally years to pay off. And, again, that is just when you take into account changes to stepped-up basis, just that one particular part.

Add in the higher capital gains tax rates Democrats have proposed and

limitations to like-kind exchanges, which allow taxpayers, including family farmers, to exchange property and defer the capital gains tax, and you can see why so many literally fear for their livelihood.

Farmers are land rich and cash poor. Farmland is equivalent to a farmer's 401(k). Instead of traditional retirement accounts, farmers and ranchers invest in cropland and pastureland and tirelessly work that land in an effort to create a more prosperous future for their loved ones.

That lifetime of hard work, planning, and sacrifice will all be for naught if these changes are allowed to be implemented.

On top of that, these Tax Code changes will dry up the farmland market, lead to further consolidation in the agricultural sector, create barriers to entry for new or beginning farmers, and stunt reinvestment in rural communities.

Ultimately, agriculture as a whole and rural America will suffer. That is why my colleagues and I are down here today. If changes of these magnitude are implemented, the economic harm it will cause will have a lasting impact on rural America.

These tax increases, which again are only being proposed because the Democrats are determined to force their reckless spending agenda through Congress, certainly need to be rejected.

With that, I yield to Senator GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, to finance their big spending agenda, President Biden and Members of his party in Congress have called for over \$3 trillion in new taxes.

This group claims that these tax hikes are targeted solely to the very wealthy. However, deep down, embedded in their tax-hike proposal, is a direct attack on family farms and resulting ruination of rural communities.

If Democrats get their way, family farms would be decimated through the enactment of a second death tax that operates on top of the existing estate tax. This second death tax would subject the paper gains of business and investment assets to tax upon transfer to the next generation. At the same time, the current long-term capital gains rate would be nearly doubled.

Now, as a result, decades of paper gains in farmland and other property could be subject to capital gains taxes at a rate as high as 43.4 percent.

Given inflation as well as the escalating value of farmland over the past several decades, some Iowa farms could easily generate a half-a-million-dollar tax bill or even more based upon land values alone. And those land values have gone up as a result of inflation and nothing else.

Moreover, according to an analysis by KPMG, family farms captured both by this new death tax and the existing estate tax could see tax rates exceeding 66 percent.

Now, it is pretty simple. That is not taxation; that is confiscation.

Proponents claim this new tax—or you might say this new confiscation—is needed to close a loophole that allows the appreciation in value of property over one's lifetime to go untaxed, but death isn't a loophole, and it shouldn't be a taxable event.

In fact, rather than solving a problem, this proposal would resurrect failed policy from a decade past.

As part of the Tax Reform Act of 1976, Congress experimented with a similar attempt to subject paper gains in inherited assets to tax. This change was immediately met with outcries from farmers, ranchers, and small business owners, resulting in its repeal in a few years.

In fact, it is such a complicated process, it is probably impossible to administer such a tax; at least that was the main point made in the late 1970s against that 1976 legislation.

Now, as problematic as this change was for farmers in 1976, what Democrats have in store would actually be far worse. Where in 1976 no tax was due until an asset was eventually sold by an heir, current proposals could result in a tax bill due in the year of that person's death.

As is often said, and with a lot of truth to it, farmers are land rich and cash poor. This means it is unlikely for a decedent's estate to have cash on hand to satisfy a six-figure tax bill. Now, as a result, all or portions of a family farm might have to be sold to satisfy an oversized tax bill.

This would endanger the continuation of family farms from one generation to the next, and it would devastate rural communities along with it because, you see, most people, if you invest in farmland, you don't invest today because you are going to sell it tomorrow; you invest in it to work it and you work it for a generation and you pass it on to the next generation.

Now, we had one recent study that found subjecting paper gains to a tax at death could cost as much as 80,000 jobs each year over the next decade.

So I say to my Democratic colleagues, pursue this policy at your own peril. I assure you, farmers, ranchers, and small business owners are paying close attention. If you aren't, you better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have the privilege of representing Kansas in the U.S. Senate and Kansas and especially the opportunity, the privilege of representing farmers and ranchers. It is a huge component of our State's economy and a significant way that we live our lives. Agriculture has molded the nature of our State generation to generation.

In agriculture, farming and ranching is one of the few remaining professions where sons and daughters still can work alongside moms and dads. They can work alongside their grandparents.

I still remember a video that a farmer proudly showed me of him and three generations of his family, so four total—him and three other generations—cutting wheat in Kansas one July summer and how proud he was to look out and see that his son was in one combine, he was in another, his father in another, his grandfather in another.

Family farming and ranching is not just important for food production. We are productive in that family farm setting. It is not just important for food production for our country and for the rest of the world, but it also is important for us in preserving our values and principles which are passed down from generation to generation.

The love of life, respect for others, the joy of earning a living, the idea that what you do every day has a consequence in feeding the world—those characteristics of Kansas farmers need to be around for the country not only today but into the future. But unfortunately, the tax-and-spend spree, the Democrats' tax proposal, is a direct assault on multigenerational farms and ranches in Kansas and across the country. These proposals threaten the ability of producers to be able to pass on their operations to that next generation.

I have watched farmers talk to their kids about where the future lies for them, and sometimes it is positive in the sense that there is hope for a bright future, and at other times, in difficult days in agriculture, it is the worry about whether or not the next generation can afford to be on that farm.

For the past century, this thing called stepped-up basis—so that the value of a piece of property for its inheritance tax purposes is valued at the date of the death of the person—the farmer in this case and rancher in this case. For this past century, stepped-up basis has been a cornerstone of our Tax Code, and it has protected family farms and ranches in their plan to transition to the next generation.

Farm- and ranchland have tripled in value since the late nineties, so even a second generation, somebody currently just now coming to the farm because of the death of a parent, could be devastatingly impacted.

For example, a 2,000-acre farm purchased in the midnineties in Kansas by a first-generation producer—kind of a typical-size farm, particularly in western Kansas. Even with a modest capital gains exemption, the inheriting farmer, the son or daughter, could face a tax liability close to a fourth of the present-day value of the land.

To keep the farm in operation to satisfy the tax liability, the son or daughter inheriting the farm would be faced with the difficult decision of either to sell a significant portion of the land that was farmed by their parents or take on even more debt in a business that is faced with increasingly tight margins. The damage would only get

increasingly worse for family farms and ranches passed down through additional generations.

If the proposed changes in stepped-up basis are implemented, the big farms will get bigger by purchasing land from the smaller operations unable to meet that tax liability. The consequences would certainly be felt by the small farmer and his or her family, who are forced to sell the land, but also throughout the entire rural community in which the farms are built around.

We need those family farmers on land in Kansas producing food, fiber, and fuel for the well-being of our country and its economy, but we need them especially for the well-being of the community's future. In the absence of those family farmers and their kids, the family ranchers and their children, the ability to keep a grocery store, to have a farm store, to have an implement dealership, to support the local bank, to pay the taxes for the school—we lose those things when we lose family farmers.

Our farmers and ranchers should not be forced to shoulder the Democratic trillion-dollar spending spree to expand social programs. Our Tax Code should work for American families, not against them, and especially for family farms and ranches that often lack the cash flow to make ends meet.

I urge my colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, to reject imposing taxes, to changing the issue of stepped-up basis that is so valuable and viable for farmers' and ranchers' future, and it would endanger their ability to pass on land to the next generation of producers. It would be a bad thing for the farmers and ranchers and their families, it would be a bad thing for the community in which they live, and it would be a terrible thing for our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, a lot of time when people come to Washington, they come up with ideas for new policies, and they have a theory of how those policies are supposed to work. What they don't always know are the unintended consequences of what that law is going to produce. As a matter of fact, I have said on occasion that the most certain thing that will happen when we pass a law is unintended consequences, and I haven't been proved wrong very many times on that.

The unintended consequences are things that nobody saw coming. They are things you didn't expect to happen the way they did. Smart people writing the laws may do all they can to anticipate everything they can, but there is always something never thought of. So it is helpful to have information that tells us what the consequences are likely to be.

The topic we are talking about here today is filled with intended consequences if you look just beyond the

comment you are making at the impact it is going to have.

In this case, the proposed laws are a couple of ideas my Democratic colleagues have as to how to pay for the spending spree they are on right now. The tax-and-spend plans include a lot of bad ideas, but two of the tax ideas are particularly bad and will have particularly devastating impact.

First is a proposal from Senator SANDERS to raise the death tax on farmers and ranchers, to change the exemption and do things that simply raise that tax. The second would be to impose the double-death tax by eliminating what Senator MORAN was just talking about, the stepped-up basis in calculating how much families have to pay.

The research tells us what we can expect to happen if these two bills pass. Research was done at the Texas A&M University that looked at a representative group of 94 farms in 30 States. You can look at this research. You can verify my facts. With 94 farms, 30 States, they found that under current law, 2 of those 94 farms could expect to be hit by a big death tax when the farm goes from one generation to the next. But if the step-up basis tax hike proposed by President Biden and Democrats in Congress were enacted, the researchers found that 92 of 94 farms would be hit hard. The average additional tax liability would be \$726,000. So 94 farms; 30 States; 92 farms affected; the average tax, \$726,000. That is not the total taxes; that is just the additional taxes if these two bills pass.

If these tax hikes favored by the other side were allowed to pass, we would have 92 farms paying a higher tax bill. That average additional tax would add up to more than \$1.5 million. Many families would be forced to sell all or part of their farm. And these aren't families who are inheriting big stock portfolios or families who are inheriting multimillion-dollar beach houses. They are not families who focus on every way you can think of to cheat the tax law. They are not billionaires looking for every way they can use a loophole. These are farmers and ranchers who have put their lives into the effort to make their farms work.

I will point out also that these same statistics would apply to many small businesses. Give this same speech for small businesses with many of the same considerations.

According to the Missouri Department of Agriculture, our State has 95,000 farms. They cover two-thirds of the State's total land acreage. The average Missouri farm is 291 acres, and almost all of them are owned by families. Between the investment there and the efforts that have been made, those families can be devastated in what they have worked hard to put together.

So for my friends on the other side of the aisle, I point out that unintended consequences are one thing, and unintended consequences often happen, but here we know what the consequences

are. So if these bills pass, this is intended consequences to make a big difference for family farms, for ranches, and, frankly, for small businesses as well.

I hope my colleagues will not go forward with these tax hikes on family farms. We know what damage it will cause. It is easy to verify. Don't make the family sell the farm. Don't make the small business sell the farm to a bigger business. Don't make these mistakes that have clear and intended consequences if this is what the Senate and the Congress will do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my good friend from Arkansas, JOHN BOOZMAN, who is the ranking member on our Ag Committee. He has organized this colloquy that we have to talk about how important it is that we support our farmers and ranchers. I mean, in my home State of North Dakota right now, we have terrible drought, and our farmers and ranchers are up against it. I think the Presiding Officer—I think in your State, you are having real drought as well.

So it is a tough time for our farmers and ranchers, and we need to be out there doing everything we can to help them and support them, but instead, the Biden administration is looking at tax increases. That is going to be a big, big problem for them. So we are here today to talk about that.

Our farmers and ranchers produce the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world, and they continue to navigate bottomed-out commodity prices, complex global trade uncertainties, unpredictable weather, as I said, including drought this year in North Dakota and across much of the West, and also the COVID pandemic. So they have been dealing with all of these things.

Throughout these numerous challenges, our producers have continued to put food on the shelves at supermarkets and on the tables of families around the world, not just in this country but around the world. In this country, every single American benefits every single day from what our farmers and ranchers do, and that is, produce the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world.

Yet, rather than help improve the economic outlook for our producers and strengthen our ag supply chain, the Biden administration has put forth tax-and-spend policy proposals that would further increase the cost of food production, harm family farmers and ranchers, and reduce our economic growth, all as we are working to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The trillions that Democrats in Congress have already spent this year have led to a \$2.2 trillion deficit through the first 9 months of the fiscal year, and we are on track to end the year with a deficit of more than \$3 trillion, the second largest deficit since World War II. With

our national debt already at \$28 trillion, we simply cannot afford to spend more.

The American people are beginning to feel the impact of those spending policies. The prices of consumer goods are increasing at the fastest rate since 2008. Just last week, the Department of Labor released data showing that inflation has increased to 5.4 percent, the largest year-over-year gain since 2008. This includes farm country, where producers are facing increased costs for everything from fertilizer to fencing supplies, to combines and tractors.

As we watch inflation grow faster than American workers' paychecks, wiping out wage gains and leaving American families behind, the Biden administration is planning an even larger, \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spend package that will bring economic harm to American workers, small businesses, and farmers and ranchers.

For example, the Biden administration and Democrats in Congress have proposed to eliminate stepped-up basis, a tax provision that prevents family-owned farms and ranches from being hit with a crippling tax bill when a family member passes away.

Under current law, when passing down a family farm or ranch to the next generation, the tax basis is stepped up to fair market value, preventing a large tax bill on the next generation of farmers.

In addition to increasing the tax bill on multigeneration farmers and ranchers, repealing stepped-up basis would add significant complexity to farmers' and ranchers' tax-filing process. In fact, when a Democratic Congress previously tried to repeal stepped-up basis in the 1976 Tax Reform Act, it was labeled by the New York Times as "impossibly unworkable." Congress at the time must have agreed because the provision was never implemented and was ultimately repealed 4 years later in 1980.

The impacts of a repeal of stepped-up basis would not only be felt by our farmers and ranchers, but it would also impact small businesses and their employees and supplementary services.

A recent report from Ernst & Young estimates the repeal of stepped-up basis would result in the loss of 80,000 jobs in each of the first 10 years after the repeal and the loss of 100,000 jobs in each subsequent year—80,000 jobs to 100,000 jobs.

Similarly, a study by the Texas A&M Agricultural and Food Policy Center determined that more than 97 percent of the representative farms in its 30-State database, including North Dakota, would be impacted by a proposal to eliminate stepped-up basis, with an average additional tax liability totaling nearly \$725,000 per farm.

While the administration claims these changes would impact only 2 percent of farms, they have provided no explanation or data to support those assertions.

With the average age of farmers in our country now nearing 60 years old,

now is not the time to burden the next generation of young farmers and ranchers with massive, complex tax bills.

In addition, the Biden administration has proposed to eliminate the use of 1031 like-kind exchanges, a provision that has been in the Tax Code since 1921, which allows farmers and ranchers to defer taxes on land transfers when they continue their investment in similar land assets.

Farmers and ranchers use the 1031 like-kind exchanges for many reasons. This includes consolidating land parcels to reduce time and money they spend moving equipment, supplies, and commodities from one place to another. Producers also consolidate cropland closer to their livestock barns, crop storage facilities, or even as part of the estate planning process to help young or beginning farmers join their business.

In short, in the middle of the recovery from a global pandemic, President Biden is proposing a massive tax-and-spend bill that will harm our economic recovery, increase the cost of consumer goods, reduce American competitiveness globally, and disproportionately hurt our small businesses, our farmers, and our ranchers.

Instead, we need to get our debt and deficit under control and ensure U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace, while positioning our farmers, ranchers, and ag supply chain to continue to produce the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, in the last few weeks, I have been back home, and many, many people were finishing up wheat harvest. It is absolutely one of the joys of the entire year, when a year's work of hard work comes to fruition. Every corner of the State was speckled with combines, tractors, grain carts, and trucks, all doing their part in the harvest process. Inside those implements were fathers and sons, sisters, mothers, brothers, and my cousins, all working side by side to harvest the crop that will provide the financing for land payments, equipment loans, operating loans, and next year's inputs, like seed and fertilizer.

Now, agriculture is a capital-intensive industry, much more than I could have ever imagined. Harvesting wheat requires at least four different pieces of machinery, many costing \$250,000, \$500,000, or more each. It takes years for a farmer building up equity to purchase a new piece of equipment or land. And for many families, it is only by passing down the land and equipment that a family farm can remain viable. This is the only way a young farmer can truly survive.

Now, the common saying in Kansas is that farmers live poor but die rich. Across this great Nation, contrary to most people's beliefs, 98 percent of farms and ranches are family-owned—

98 percent, family-owned. Those families produce much of the food, fuel, and fiber we consume here in the United States and around the globe. These family farms, many in their fourth, like mine, fifth generation—and even sixth and seventh generation farms and ranches are out there now. They endure turbulent weather, inconsistent market conditions, and tight labor markets. It seemed like, growing up, a week never passed that my dad never looked at me and said: You know, farming has to be the biggest gamble there is in America.

In 2017, Republican-led government passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which provided sweeping tax changes to encourage private entrepreneurship and economic growth. Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the exemptions for the estate tax—as we call it, the death tax—more than doubled, keeping most family farms safe from redundant government taxation.

But now, the current administration and some of my friends across the aisle want to tax hard-working agricultural producers with the financing of their roughly \$5 trillion reckless tax-and-spending bill. I think President Eisenhower—or Ike, as we call him, a fellow Kansan—hit the nail on the head when he said: “You know, farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you’re a thousand miles from a corn field.”

First, they proposed not only eliminating stepped-up basis on realized property but also on unrealized assets at the time of the owner’s death. Their proposal would tax unrealized capital gains over \$1 million at ordinary income tax rates, which would be levied at the top marginal rate of 39.6 percent. That means the next generation inheriting land and equipment would have to pay taxes on the increase in value, even if the property is never sold.

Secondly, the administration has proposed lowering the exemption to the death tax from \$11.7 million, under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, to \$3.5 million per person and increasing the top tax rate from 40 to 45 percent. Consequently, a family farm commonly would have to sell off a third of their land to keep going from generation to generation. And the buyers, unfortunately, will be large corporations or foreign entities.

According to a report published by Texas A&M’s Agriculture and Food Policy Center, under current law only 2 of their 94 representative farms would be impacted by an event triggering a generational transfer of property—2 out of 94. To contrast this, up to 98 percent of their representative farms would see new higher tax burdens if certain parts of the administration’s plan were enacted.

From 1997 to 2020, in Kansas, cropland values have risen 220 percent. In some parts of the United States, they have increased over 500 percent. If there was a 20-percent capital gains tax

on those valuation increases, the average Kansas farmer would have a new tax obligation of nearly a quarter of a million dollars. These numbers are simply unbearable.

I stop and pay homage to my grandfather and both of my grandfathers, who have had fourth and fifth generation family farms. These farms were bought in the early 1900s. Both farms have been in the family over 100 years. I would suppose my grandfathers paid less than \$100 per acre. Today, those farms maybe are worth \$1,000 or \$2,000 an acre. But if you can imagine the tax burden of trying to pass down that farm and pay for that stepped-up basis, for the tax on the increase of net property, it simply isn’t going to happen. None of us have brothers and sisters and cousins that have that type of cash available. We want to encourage the next generation to return home to the family farm, not tax them into bankruptcy.

America will see millions of acres of land and billions of dollars of equipment change hands over this next decade. While the current administration contests that only a small percentage of our farm families will be impacted by the proposed changes, all evidence really indicates otherwise.

The administration fails to consider the several realities of multigenerational farms, with some siblings staying on the farm and some selling their interest. Any changes to the estate tax and opportunities to pass assets from one generation to the next will lead to further consolidation in the ag industry, fewer young families returning home to their rural communities, and more rural Main Street businesses closing shop.

We can’t allow this administration to saddle our hard-working farming families with the responsibilities of funding their socialist agenda. Agriculture is still responsible for 40 percent of the Kansas economy. We must all do what we can to ensure our family farms have every opportunity possible to continue their way of life and bring the next generation back to the farm and keep rural America alive and well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to join a number of my colleagues representing farm States to sound the alarm to the millions of rural Americans who will be harmed by proposed tax changes outlined in the American Families Plan. Described as a plan to help American families, it would do the exact opposite for farm families across the United States.

The most concerning changes to the Tax Code include decreasing the estate tax exemption, increasing capital gains tax rates on transfers of property to heirs, and increasing taxes on appreciated assets, such as farmland, which has increased in value very significantly in recent years.

These misguided proposals fail to take into consideration the fact that farmers in general are highly vulnerable to these types of tax changes, as land and equipment comprise most of the farmer’s net worth.

If enacted, these tax provisions would strongly discourage and make it more difficult for our next generation to get into farming. The provisions would create significant hurdles from a financial perspective, to say the least.

With the average age of U.S. farmers being nearly 60 years old, do we really want to force surviving spouses or heirs to sell half of the farm they inherited simply to continue farming the land that has been passed down for generations?

Family farms are the backbone of American agriculture. Roughly 98 percent of all U.S. farms are family owned and operated. Whether you like large family farming operations or not, they account for 44 percent of total U.S. farm production annually. That is a staggering figure, given that American farmers contributed \$136 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2019. These people who put food on our table and clothes on our back do not need to go out of business because they are being taxed at every turn, punished for their achievements and sacrifices.

Initial reports from the Biden administration suggested that the proposed tax changes I am discussing would have very little impact on America’s farmers and ranchers. However, recent research and analysis conducted by Texas A&M University paints a very different picture.

For instance, should the proposed capital gains tax changes and generational transfers become enacted into law, nearly all U.S. family farms would face higher taxes. Nationwide, the average additional tax liability per farm under the capital gains tax change would be \$726,104. Mississippi would be the State most heavily affected, with an average additional tax liability per farm of \$2.1 million. It is totally unbelievable.

Should the estate tax changes become law, recent analysis also determined that nearly half of all U.S. family farms would face higher taxes. The average additional tax liability per farm nationwide would be \$2.2 million, and the fifth most heavily impacted State would again be Mississippi, with an average additional tax liability per farm of \$4.6 million. That is totally incredible. As a former ag commissioner of Mississippi, I personally know these farmers and their families. This is truly unbelievable.

More than 3 years of net cash farm income would be needed to meet these additional tax obligations alone. That is simply unmanageable. I am perplexed as to why Democrats want to place the highest tax burden on one of the most economically challenged and socially disadvantaged States in the Nation, my home State of Mississippi.

Let's not forget that in rural America, the primary source of jobs and income are often associated with agriculture. It is the No. 1 industry in Mississippi, employing more than 17 percent of the State's workforce either directly or indirectly.

If family farms are taxed out of business, far more than the farmers will suffer. Low-income and minority populations across rural America will lose jobs and be forced to rely on government support. I hope this is not the underlying plan of my Democratic colleagues.

Let me be clear. For those who are willing to pay for reckless spending by punishing America's farmers and ranchers and everyone who relies on them, you will be doing far more than just that. You will be running off our next generation of farmers. You will be making it easier for large corporations owned by foreign adversaries, such as China, to buy up available farmland, and you will be ensuring that every American pays more for the food they eat and the clothes they wear. The list goes on.

I know there is a deep desire on the other side of the aisle to enact a reckless tax-and-spending spree that makes Americans more dependent on the Federal Government, but family farms cannot be caught up in the administration's punitive dragnet to find ways to pay for it.

Any changes to the Federal Tax Code should be geared toward supporting economic growth and helping the next generation keep these family-owned operations alive. I hope that we can all come to our senses on this.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF BONNIE D. JENKINS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of Bonnie Jenkins to be the next Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security.

The position for which Ambassador Jenkins has been nominated is one of the most vital senior security positions in the Department of State. This individual is responsible for overseeing nuclear policy and nonproliferation efforts, directing U.S. arms sales and security assistance policy, dealing with the legacies of unexploded munitions and landmines, and orchestrating global cooperation among both allies and adversaries on critical national security issues.

As the United States is preparing for its first Strategic Stability Dialogue with Russia, which will occur later this month, it is absolutely critical we have a Senate-confirmed leader in the State Department to effectively compete with and confront Moscow's challenges to our national security. This meeting will set the tone for U.S. diplomatic efforts to limit Russia's nuclear arsenal, which is crucial at a time when we are also witnessing the initial stages of a

major build-up of Chinese nuclear forces.

I am pleased to be supporting Ambassador Jenkins's nomination for this position, and I am confident that her extensive experience in the State Department and her 22 years in the Air Force and Naval Reserves provide her with the type of background and knowledge required to meet the challenges that await her, if confirmed.

During the Obama administration, Ambassador Jenkins' spearheaded efforts to fight nuclear terrorism. She helped coordinate four nuclear security summits which sought to persuade nations around the world to secure vulnerable nuclear material that might fall into the hands of dangerous actors.

For over 20 years, she served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Naval Reserves, retiring as a lieutenant commander. She also holds multiple degrees, including a Ph.D., a master of laws, a law degree, and a master in public administration.

Outside of government she has consistently empowered voices rarely heard in national security debates, providing a different but important perspective on how the United States should tackle the threats we confront.

The fact that Ambassador Jenkins' nomination, someone whose leadership is so essential to the State Department and to our national security, has languished on the Senate floor for 56 days is a travesty.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination and make sure that this critical national security position is filled without further delay.

VOTE ON JENKINS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jenkins nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. 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.

(Mr. BENNET assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Ossoff
Bennet	Heinrich	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Paul
Booker	Hirono	Peters
Brown	Kaine	Reed
Cantwell	Kelly	Rosen
Cardin	King	Sanders
Carper	Klobuchar	Schatz
Casey	Leahy	Schumer
Collins	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Manchin	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Menendez	Stabenow
Durbin	Merkley	Tester
Feinstein	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren

Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 100, H.R. 3684, a bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jon Tester, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, John Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Patty Murray, Joe Manchin III, Mark Kelly, Kyrsten Sinema.

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 motion to proceed to H.R. 3684, a bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, 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 49, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Merkley
Bennet	Hassan	Murphy
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Murray
Booker	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Brown	Hirono	Padilla
Cantwell	Kaine	Peters
Cardin	Kelly	Reed
Carper	King	Rosen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sanders
Coons	Leahy	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Shaheen
Duckworth	Manchin	Sinema
Durbin	Markey	Smith
Feinstein	Menendez	Stabenow

Tester
Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse

Wyden

NAYS—51

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer

Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeben
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski
Paul

Portman
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 51.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just want to explain what happened on the floor very briefly.

At the end of the vote, I changed my response to a no so that I may move to reconsider this vote at a future time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Vermont.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise on the floor today to honor the legacy of one of the country's most cherished heroes and a very dear and close friend of mine, John Lewis.

This past Saturday marked 1 year since we said goodbye to Congressman Lewis. The pain of his loss is still very fresh for both my wife Marcelle and me, as it is for millions of Americans.

He wasn't just a moral giant and a guiding light for the world, he was, as he always told me, my brother, and I still have such a sense of emotion when I think of the time he introduced me as his brother.

For more than six decades, John Lewis served the United States with an unyielding belief that we could be better; that we have a responsibility to each other and the world to live up to our founding ideals.

John didn't spend his life fighting for Democrats or Republicans; he fought for the rights of all Americans and the dignity of all human beings.

John's principles were so much bigger than party and politics. When he saw suffering, he tried to end it; whenever he saw injustice, he tried to correct it; and wherever good trouble was needed, he delivered it.

I knew John as more than just a generational leader; I knew him as a friend. And I can tell you that his dedication to justice was matched only by his fundamental decency as a person.

John and I served in Congress for more than 30 years. In those years, I

witnessed a tremendous humility and empathy that defined his lifetime of public service.

Every day, John embodied the ideals he fought for through his unfailing generosity and dignity. So I consider John Lewis a brother, and it was an honor of a lifetime to have him consider me one too.

It is—I think when we walked down the street in Vermont, I just felt suddenly so much a person because I was walking beside John Lewis.

But people are seeing where he had walked. Many Americans know the stories of John's bravery in the face of brutality. He was beaten bloody, his bones broken, in the heroic efforts to bolster the ballot box for millions of Americans.

John wasn't just on the frontlines of our Nation's great civil rights movement; he was the frontline. John was there when the Freedom Riders were dragged off their buses and beaten and arrested; John was there to lead the march from—for freedom from Selma to Montgomery, AL; and John was there when millions of Americans gathered in Washington to proclaim to the country that the time for justice and equality was now. John Lewis put his body and soul on the line for the mighty movement that changed the world.

What fewer Americans may know is that John was beloved and respected by Members of both parties. It is because he believed in his heart that our Nation's greatest challenges must be faced together, regardless of party. When he stood there beside Lyndon Johnson as he signed the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, he was flanked by Democrats and Republicans. In that moment, he absorbed the lessons that reaching across the aisle wasn't just a political necessity, it is the way to change—everlastingly change society.

And throughout his career in Congress, John embraced bipartisanship. He built friendships with Members of both parties. For years, John led bipartisan groups of Members of Congress, including some of my Republican friends in this body, down to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL. He wanted to commemorate Bloody Sunday and the American struggle for equal rights.

I will never forget the iconic photo of John. He is flanked on either side by Presidents Obama and George W. Bush; the three of them, heads bowed in silent reflection, arms and hands linked on the Edmund Pettus Bridge for Bloody Sunday's 50th anniversary.

John Lewis didn't just cross bridges; he built bridges. By bringing people together, he helped us forge a more perfect Union.

So it is in John's spirit today that I fervently urge my Republican friends to join me in restoring and reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act. I would remind everyone in this body that reauthorizing the VRA, the Voting

Rights Act, on a bipartisan basis is the way we have always done it. I say always done—the core provisions of the VRA have been reauthorized five times, and every single time it was with overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress.

Look at the Presidents who signed it: President Nixon, President Reagan, George W. Bush. They all signed the Voting Rights Act reauthorizations into law because they spoke of the profound importance of the landmark law for our democracy.

I was here in 2006 for the most recent VRA reauthorization. Do you know what the vote was in this body in 2006? It was 98 to 0 in the Senate. In fact, many of the Republican Senators still serving today voted yes; 98 to 0. You can't do much better than that.

So let's honor John Lewis's legacy the way he would want to be honored, with solid justified action. I am committed to working with my Republican friends to find a bipartisan compromise around my John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which I proudly renamed in his honor last Congress.

For those who knew John Lewis and for those who did not, I can say John would want us to come together and find a path forward to addressing the many threats facing Americans' foundational right to vote. I will tell you what he wouldn't accept. He wouldn't accept inaction. So let's put in the hard work and let's try to live up to the memory of John Lewis, our hero and our colleague.

Let's remember the person who took me by the arm and walked me on to the floor of the other body one day and said to everybody: I am here with my brother.

Every one of us thought of John as our brother, and we were proud of that. Let us be proud of our brother. Let's be proud of his memory. Let's be proud of America. Let's be proud of our right to vote. Let's pass and reauthorize the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator LEAHY and a number of our colleagues to remember our friend, John Lewis, and reflect on his legacy.

It was a little over a year ago when John shared his final message to the American people. He wrote, "Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

John devoted his entire life to building that "Beloved Community." And in

his final moments, he called on all of us to carry that mission forward. He told us it is now “your turn to let freedom ring.”

We have an obligation to live up to John Lewis’s legacy—and his call to action to protect our most fundamental freedom of all: the right to vote. And we can do that by restoring and revitalizing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

When President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, it marked the beginning of a new era of American democracy. It ensured that our constitutional rights were not merely sketched onto a piece of paper, but enforced as well. It ensured that poll taxes, literacy tests, and other Jim Crow laws could no longer be used to deny Black, Brown, and indigenous voters access to the ballot box. In the words of John Lewis, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 “helped liberate not just a people but a nation.” It brought America closer to our foundational ideals.

But today, this monument to American freedom is under attack. At this very moment, Republican State officials are working to pass laws that make it harder for people, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, to vote.

Nearly 400 of these bills have been introduced in 48 States. Some of these laws set new limits on voting by mail, others cut hours for polling locations, but the hundreds of restrictive voting provisions we have seen in recent years have achieved the same outcome: erecting new barriers to the ballot box.

The proponents of these laws claim they are designed to help prevent so-called voter fraud. But the truth is, “voter fraud” is nothing more than a fabricated phenomenon. Nearly every investigation into the 2020 election, for instance, has found no meaningful evidence of voter fraud. The Department of Homeland Security called last year’s election “the most secure in American history.” And more than 80 judges, including many conservative judges appointed by President Trump himself, have thrown out baseless challenges brought by the former President’s lawyers.

But even though the “Big Lie” of widespread voter fraud has been debunked, many Republican lawmakers are still standing by it. In fact, they are using the Big Lie to wage an assault on voting rights in America. You see, the laws I mentioned really aren’t about securing our elections; they are about preventing eligible Americans from voting.

Under section 5 of the original Voting Rights Act, many of these efforts to suppress voters would have been prohibited by the Department of Justice or Federal courts. But that authority has been greatly diminished. In 2013, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court essentially nullified section 5 of the Voting Rights Act with its decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. And just this month, the Supreme Court weakened a remaining key sec-

tion of the Voting Rights Act—section 2—with its decision in *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*.

This is the trend that has emerged over the past decade: State officials make it harder for Black, Brown, and indigenous Americans to vote, and the conservative majority on the Supreme Court upholds those laws by whittling away at the protections guaranteed under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In her dissent to the Court’s ruling in *Brnovich*, Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan wrote “in the last decade, this court has treated no statute worse” than the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Those are unequivocal words. The Supreme Court has severely hobbled the Voting Rights Act of 1965. And only Congress has the power—and the constitutional obligation—to restore it to its full potential.

You know, it really wasn’t that long ago that reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act was a unifying cause. Just a few years before the Supreme Court’s *Shelby* decision, the minority leader, Senator McConnell, joined his Republican colleagues in supporting its reauthorization. In expressing his support he said, “This is a piece of legislation which has worked.”

To him, and to all of my Republican colleagues, I say: Let’s make sure it can keep working. Let’s honor John Lewis’s legacy by joining together, on a bipartisan basis, to support a piece of legislation that will revitalize and strengthen the original Voting Rights Act: the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

I am proud to be working with Senator Leahy and our counterparts on the House Judiciary Committee to update and reintroduce this bill soon. Last Congress, it received bipartisan support, and we hope that we will be able to expand that support this year. What remains to be seen is whether the bill will receive the votes necessary to overcome a potential filibuster.

For those of my Republican colleagues who have yet to decide where they stand on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, let’s show the American people that we can stand together. This Senate has the power—and the responsibility—to protect our most fundamental right as Americans.

Let’s heed John Lewis’s call and defend it together.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, 1 year ago this week, our Nation lost a giant, a man with a righteous purpose and a remarkable legacy, John Robert Lewis, who dedicated his life to the cause of justice.

From Troy, AL, to a bridge in Selma, to the Halls of this very Congress, he put his body on the line for every American’s sacred right to vote.

John Lewis never stopped fighting because he understood that democracy is a commitment we have to make again and again and again. As he wrote in the last days of his life:

The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic soci-

ety. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

John Lewis understood the power and the fragility of our multiracial democracy, because he did so much to build it in his lifetime. At the age of 25, he led peaceful protesters on a march through Alabama to demand their right to vote. As the world witnessed, they were attacked, gassed, and beaten by police officers.

They were attacked because the right to vote is power, and White supremacists feared the power of people of color exercising that right. But out of the pain and outrage over this Bloody Sunday came one of our country’s greatest monuments to freedom, the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For nearly 50 years, the Voting Rights Act stood as a guardian of our multiracial democracy. It outlawed literacy tests. It prohibited voting procedures that would deny or abridge the right to vote on account of race or color. It gave the U.S. Department of Justice the power to review any new voting rules in places with a history of voter suppression and to block rules with discriminatory effects.

Critically, the Voting Rights Act recognized the important role of the Federal Government in protecting the right to vote. It helped guarantee communities of color their rightful voice in our democracy.

Over time, the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized four times, including most recently in 2006, when Representative Lewis and a nearly unanimous Congress voted to affirm the continued need for its protections. That’s right. Passage of the Voting Rights Act and every reauthorization of the Act was always on a bipartisan basis.

But in 2013, five conservative Justices of the Supreme Court overrode the bipartisan consensus of Congress. In spite of the voluminous record assembled by the Congress and the reality of the country around them, these five Justices effectively ended preclearance and gutted a key protection of the Voting Rights Act.

As the late Justice Ginsburg wrote in her dissent, it was “like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.”

Well, the storm of voter suppression is most certainly pouring over us now.

In 2020, in the midst of an ongoing global health pandemic, our Nation held one of the most successful and secure elections in our history. Voters of color made their voices heard in record numbers and confirmed again that our democracy is strongest when all eligible Americans are able to participate.

But instead of celebrating this remarkable achievement, Republican legislative leaders in statehouses around the country this year have proposed and passed bill after bill after bill restricting the right to vote and restricting access to the ballot. They are doing this on the basis of lies about voter fraud and rooted firmly in the legacy of White supremacy. They continue to do so as we speak.

The Supreme Court's most recent anti-democracy decision in the *Brnovich* case, which eviscerated a key remaining protection of the Voting Rights Act, will only embolden these attacks.

But, so far, in this Senate, our Republican colleagues have turned a blind eye, choosing to be complicit in the outright assault on our democracy. Senate Republicans have refused to even open a debate on voting rights legislation. Instead, they prefer to abuse the filibuster to enable Republican legislative leaders across the country to continue their assault.

Our democracy is on the line. The unfinished work of John Lewis remains. We must summon the courage to act. That is why I am committed to passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which will protect the right to vote for all people. I can think of no more fitting way to honor the memory of a man who chose our democracy as the struggle of his lifetime.

When I was first elected California Secretary of State to serve as the Chief Elections Officer for the State of California, I sought out the counsel of John Lewis. For more than 45 minutes during our first meeting, and time and again after that, John guided me with his wisdom, taught me by his example, and inspired me through his courage. He was always gracious with his time, warm with his spirit, and true in his conviction. And he reminded me, as he reminded so many of us, that our struggle is a struggle of a lifetime.

As he said, we cannot be afraid to make some noise and get into good trouble, necessary trouble, along the way. In fact, given the circumstances, it is exactly what we need to do today. As a bipartisan Senate, if we can, or as the elected Democratic majority, if we must, it is imperative that we pass legislation to preserve our democracy.

We must carry the torch that John Lewis carried for us for so long and build for all Americans a democracy that is as free, as fair, as accessible, and as inclusive as we can possibly make it. And we must remain hopeful in this pursuit.

You see, despite the scars that he bore and the hatred that he faced down, John Lewis was fundamentally a hopeful man, a man who never abandoned the youthful spirit that carried him across that bridge in Selma, and he always looked to the next generation for leadership, for energy, and for inspiration to carry the cause forward.

It is now on us to take up his work. There is no better way for us to honor the legacy of John Lewis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I join in the wonderful words of my colleague from California, a true leader. He is someone who has served as an election official and the secretary of state for the biggest State in our Nation. He knows how important it is to

count the votes and to make sure we allow everyone to vote.

I come to the floor today to join him and to join Senator LEAHY and other of our colleagues to honor the legacy of Congressman John Lewis and to continue his fight to make sure that every American can make their voice heard at the ballot box.

As my colleagues have mentioned, it has been just over a year since John Lewis passed. I have always been in awe of him. This past week, I had the opportunity to reflect on his monumental contributions to our Nation when the Senate Rules Committee held a field hearing on voting rights in his home State of Georgia at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, a place that commemorates the civil rights movement.

Today, as we celebrate his legacy, I am reminded of his persistence, his resilience, and his faith that this country could be better if only we put in the work. It was his faith in our country that led him to Selma, AL, where he helped lead 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on that dark day that became known as Bloody Sunday. Several times, several years, including the last year that he came to that bridge before he died, I was able to stand with him on the bridge in awe of everything he had done.

The horrific events of that day shocked the Nation, with marchers attacked with clubs and tear gas. Congressman Lewis's skull was fractured. He bore the scars until the very end of his life.

Soon after, President Lyndon Johnson came to the Capitol, and, as he said, "with the outrage of Selma still fresh," urged Congress to guarantee the freedom to vote. Months later, with the help of former Minnesota Senator and Vice President Hubert Humphrey, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law.

One of the times I visited was, in fact, the 48th year anniversary of that march. That weekend, after 48 years, the police chief of Montgomery handed his badge to Congressman Lewis and apologized for not protecting him and the other freedom marchers. Forty-eight years is a long time, and it only happened because Congressman Lewis never quit fighting for progress, for civil rights, for economic justice, and to defend the voting rights of every American.

But now, more than five decades since that day in Selma and since the Voting Rights Act became the law of the land, so much of the progress that Americans have fought and even died for is at stake. Throughout our country's 245-year history, we have had to course-correct and take action to ensure that our democracy—for the people, by the people—actually lives up to its ideals.

We all had that moment, that night after the insurrection when this Chamber, which we are standing in, was taken over by those who did not be-

lieve in our election processes and in our democracy. And we not only came back to this Chamber that night, but, 2 weeks later, we stood under a beautiful blue sky and declared—Democrats or Republicans or Independents—that we stood with our democracy.

And as I said that day, that was a day where our democracy stood up, brushed itself off, and we went forward as "one nation under God, indivisible, with life and liberty for all."

That is why earlier this week, believing that the job is not done, especially when over 400 bills have been introduced across this country in nearly every State, with 28 of them already signed into law, including an egregious example in Georgia—that is why—for the first time in two decades, we took the Senate Rules Committee on the road and held a field hearing in Atlanta to shine a spotlight on what is happening in Georgia and in States across the country to undermine the freedom to vote.

We heard from State legislators and a former election official who had lost her job after a change in law meant that local election officials were taken away from their posts. And we heard from a voter, a veteran who had stood in line for hours and hours just to cast his vote. And when I asked him, when he signed up for the Air Force, was there a waiting line, he said no.

Well, there shouldn't be a waiting line to vote in the United States of America, and that is why it is so critical that Congress pass basic Federal standards—that is the For the People Act—to ensure that all Americans can cast a ballot in a way that works best for them and that is safe for them, whether it is early voting, whether it is vote by mail, which so many Americans in red States and blue used across the country during the pandemic.

And as we know the history of that, in States like the Presiding Officer's State of Colorado, or States like Utah, known as a red State, or States like Oregon, that has been the way they have been doing business safely for a long time. And many of us, for the first time, voted in that way.

But there are other ways as well, with dropoff ballot boxes. Some people have not registered way early because maybe they moved to a State, as we know happens in the United States, or maybe they are a young person at college, or maybe they forgot to register and they have to catch up and do it. None of those reasons, those simple reasons that could happen to anyone in their everyday life, should be reasons to ban people from voting, and that is why these basic Federal standards are so important.

When we were in Georgia, we heard from Helen Butler, who I mentioned was a former election official from rural Morgan County, who pointed out that it was only after Black voters increased their vote-by-mail numbers in the 2020 election that the Georgia Legislature imposed new restrictions on mail-in ballots, after all those years.

Georgia State Senator Sally Harrell also testified about how the bill was rushed through—this restrictive voting bill—through the Georgia Legislature without meaningful debate.

We heard about the provisions of the bill that basically say that non-partisan—that is already required, and that is correct—nonpartisan volunteers can't even give voters water when they stand in line, despite the fact that there were voters that we heard from the day before, with Senator MERKLEY and Stacy Abrams, and those voters stood in line for 3 hours, for 4 hours, and for 7 hours.

We heard about the runoff changes. The runoff used to be 9 weeks in Georgia. It was reduced to 28 days. And during the runoff period, you can't vote, under the new law, on Saturdays and Sundays. You can vote that way during the general election. All of this—all of this—is done, in the words of one North Carolina judge, many years ago, in a decision, who said: This law discriminates with surgical precision—literally going through ways that people voted, literally noticing that 70,000 new voters registered during the runoff, and then banning that because you have to register now 29 days ahead, when the time for the runoff is 28 days. How obvious can you get?

Where you live and what your ZIP Code is should not dictate whether or not you can vote for President or U.S. Senate or Congress or Governor or any election. We owe it to the people of this country, and to those across the country who stood in line for hours to cast a ballot, to take action and protect the fundamental right to vote.

I know a little bit about that because, in my State of Minnesota, nearly every single election has the highest voter turnout in the country. And guess what. We have elected Republican Governors with those rules that allow for more people to vote and the highest voter turnout. We have elected Democratic Governors, and we have elected Jesse Ventura. What I have noticed is not who wins, given that we are the only State in the country that has one State House that is Republican and one State House that is Democratic, given that our congressional delegation in the House is split evenly and has changed over time. It is not really who wins. It is how people feel about elections. They are part of the franchise we call democracy.

So they will come up to me and say, "You know, I didn't vote for you, but whatever; you are doing OK," or "I have this concern." But they feel like they are part of the action. That is what our goal should be, to have all Americans feel like they are part of the action.

We must meet this moment. As President Biden said in Philadelphia last week, this is the "test of our time." So what do we do? Well, first, we must pass the For the People Act, which Senators SCHUMER and MERKLEY and I introduced, along with many oth-

ers, to ensure that all Americans can cast their ballot.

It is nothing radical. You know why it is not radical? It is firmly based in the Constitution. On the basic voting rights, the Constitution literally says that Congress can make or alter the rules and the manner in which Federal elections occur. That has never been questioned. It has been affirmed time and time again.

The other bill, the bill we are focused on today, Congressman Lewis's bill, that is the Voting Rights Act, and you restore the Voting Rights Act after a Supreme Court decision struck down parts of that bill. I didn't agree with it. I agreed with then-Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's dissent, but you fix it with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

It is now Congress's responsibility—the Supreme Court decision made that clear—to restore and modernize the Voting Rights Act and provide the Federal Government with the necessary tools to combat the assault on Americans' right to vote. We must recommit to the original goal of the Voting Rights Act to end discrimination in voting in America. We know this is something, historically, until recent years, that brought everyone together. The Senate reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 1982 by a vote of 85 to 8, including 43 Republicans; in 1992, by a vote of 75 to 20, including 25 Republicans; and in 2006—2006—with a unanimous 98 to 0 vote, including 51 Republicans. And I don't think anyone with a straight face can say: Well, the reason we don't need to do this anymore is that we don't have any discriminatory laws being enacted on the State basis or there aren't any laws being enacted that limit voting.

Truly, maybe you should read some of the court decisions, if you think that.

I would say there is a stronger argument to do this, both sides of the aisle. John Lewis's bill is so important, and it isn't a substitute for passing the For the People bill, but we must do that, as well as include election infrastructure funding in the reconciliation bill, which I believe will be coming our way soon.

I will end with this. Last Sunday, I had the privilege of attending services at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where I got to hear Reverend WARNOCK. There was a guest preacher, but for me it was like he was also preaching. And I got to hear him say something I will never forget. He said this:

A vote is a prayer; it's a prayer for a better world, a prayer for your kids' education, a prayer that you're going to finally be able to do something about this world's environment.

So during the last election, we saw an unprecedented number of people go to the polls to do just that. Not every one of their candidates won, but they believed enough in our democracy, in the middle of a public health crisis, that they went and cast their vote.

In Congressman John Lewis's words, "The right to vote is precious and almost sacred, and one of the most important blessings of our democracy." Today, we must be vigilant in protecting that blessing.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise here today to give emphasis to something I think is very important—it has been done basically annually—and that is talking about our Pledge of Allegiance. It is an expression of patriotism and commitment to our great Nation.

The United States is a symbol of freedom around the world. It is a beacon for "the land of opportunity."

Today, let's reaffirm our allegiance to the United States. I urge my colleagues to pass this annual resolution that simply expresses support for our Pledge of Allegiance.

This resolution was first raised by Senator Tom Daschle back in 2002 and passed without objection. Now, nearly 20 years later, this resolution is probably more important than ever.

We have seen countless attacks on our flag and the values it represents. The American flag is a symbol of hope and perseverance across the world. Whether in Cuba, Hong Kong, or Venezuela, those suffering under tyrannical regimes proudly wave the American flag in protest.

The U.S. Senate must stand in support of the Pledge of Allegiance, one of our most powerful expressions of national unity.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 309, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 309) expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. 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. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 309) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. BRAUN. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss facts and fiction. Recently, FOX News reporter Peter Doocy asked White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki about a Biden administration official's claim that Republicans have defunded the police by not voting to pass Biden's wasteful \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill. Ms. Psaki doubled down on the idea that it is Republicans and not Democrats who want to defund the police.

When a White House Press Secretary gives a press briefing, you expect some spin. You expect some verbal bobbing and weaving if the topic is unflattering to the administration. But when Jen Psaki tried to blame Republicans for defunding the police, it wasn't spin. It was horse manure. It was gaslighting.

For over a year, Democrats and left-wing activists have been calling over and over and over again to defund the police. And many Democrat-led city councils and Democrat mayors have done so, cutting and even slashing police budgets. As a result of those reckless policies, we are seeing a deeply concerning wave of violent crime in American cities across the country.

The chief White House spokesperson blaming Republicans for defunding the police is like an arsonist showing up at the fire and blaming the firemen. It is like the Chinese Communist Party blaming America for the Wuhan virus. It is like OJ saying he is going to help find the real killer. It is absurd. It is ridiculous. And Democrats know it.

Let's look at the facts. Democrats have called explicitly to defund the police for over a year and have been successful in doing it. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, last summer pledged to cut the NYPD budget by \$1 billion, and then he did so. New York City passed a budget that did indeed cut \$1 billion from the police department.

Just a couple of months ago, de Blasio was forced to backtrack. He realized what a terrible decision it had been because now he is working to reverse it.

AOC, the darling of the extreme left-wing, has said: "Defunding [the] police means defunding [the] police" and "The fight to defund [the police] continues." There is not a lot of ambiguity in what AOC is saying.

And she is not alone. How about Representative RASHIDA TLAIB. She has called for "no more policing." Stop and think about that for a minute. This is an elected Democratic Member of Congress whose policy objective is no more policing. Those are her own words.

How about Representative ILHAN OMAR. She has said: "You can't really reform a department that is rotten to the root." An elected Democratic Member of Congress describing police departments as "rotten to the root." Again, those are her words.

And then there is Representative AYANNA PRESSLEY, who has introduced legislation to defund police officers in public schools. And she has said that defunding the police is about "true reparations." Well, maybe this is just a few fringe Democrats in the House of Representatives. Maybe it is not a broader policy of the Democratic Party.

What about Joe Biden? Uncle Joe can't possibly support defunding the police, right? Well, if you thought so, you would be wrong because Joe Biden nominated two of the leading advocates of abolishing the police—Vanita Gupta and Kristen Clarke—to senior positions at the U.S. Department of Justice. One of them is the No. 3 official at the Department of Justice. The other is the head of civil rights at the Department of Justice. Both had written, as recently as last year, explicit calls for defunding the police, and they got rewarded with helping run the Department of Justice.

But surely, you might say, even if Joe Biden gave in to the activists and nominated these folks, there are Democrats in this Chamber who would say defunding the police is too much; let's not go that far. Well, if you would say that, you would be wrong because both of those nominees, two of the leading advocates for defunding the police, were confirmed when every single Democrat in this Chamber voted to confirm them—100 percent.

The next time you see a Democrat describing themselves as moderate, reasonable, not one of those crazies saying things like "defund the police," maybe you should ask them why they voted to confirm two of the leading advocates for defunding the police to senior positions at the Department of Justice.

Democrat-led city councils all over the country are following the same game plan, and they have voted over and over and over again to defund the police. Last year, the Los Angeles City Council cut the police budget by \$150 million. Portland cut \$15 million from its police budget. Minneapolis cut \$8 million from its police budget. Seattle cut its police budget by 18 percent.

Now, what do these city have in common? They are run by Democrats. It is Democratic politicians who are slashing police budgets. And what have the results been? Well, sadly, these Democrat-led cities are reaping what they sowed. Crime rates are skyrocketing. The New York Times—hardly a right-wing outfit—the New York Times has reported that homicides in Los Angeles increased 36 percent, that homicides have increased in Portland more than 82 percent, and that homicides in Minneapolis increased nearly 72 percent last year. By all appearances, these homicide spikes will continue throughout this year.

Just a few weeks ago, Democrats demonstrated that they couldn't learn from the tragic failure of other cities that had slashed the police and seen

homicides skyrocket. What did they do in Oakland, CA? The city council voted to cut over \$18 million from the police department, and Oakland has already seen a 90-percent increase in homicides over last year.

The New York Times has also reported data showing that in 2020, homicide rates increased more than 30 percent in big cities. So far, they are increasing again this year.

According to the Guardian, some preliminary data showed that there were 4,000 more murders in 2020 than there were in 2019—4,000 men, women, and children who would be living, breathing, living their lives, raising their kids, contributing to the diverse tapestry of our Nation if it were not for the radicals slashing police budgets because of extreme ideological commitments and unleashing these crimewaves.

Now, Democrats know that the politics and the policy of defunding the police aren't working for them, which is why they are desperately trying to backtrack and blame and gaslight Republicans. Yeah, yeah, it is the Republicans who are doing this. Sure, sure, that is the ticket.

Not only did some Democrats blame calls to defund the police for close races that they lost in November and for the razor-thin Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate, they also know it isn't popular with the American people. A recent USA TODAY poll found that only 18 percent of Americans support defunding the police, and a large majority of African Americans don't support defunding the police. The same is true for Democratic voters. A large majority of Democratic voters don't support defunding the police. But in defiance of the interests of their constituents, Democrats continue to go down that road. The facts are that Democrats have repeatedly called to defund the police, and they have done so—this isn't a theory—they have done so in many cities.

Crime is rising, and radical Democratic policies have had deadly consequences. Not only have homicides risen, but there were more law enforcement officer fatalities in 2020 than there had been in 46 years. In 2020, 264 law enforcement officers tragically died in the line of duty, some from COVID-19 as a result of being first responders and others from getting shot while on duty.

After Jen Psaki blamed Republicans for defunding the police, Peter Doocy asked her to name the Republicans who said they were voting against the American Rescue Plan—the massive leftwing spending plan—that had nothing to do with the police. It was shoveling a lot of money to liberal special interests. It was giving money to State and local governments. So the White House argument was, well, some of the money to State and local governments could theoretically have gone to police, so therefore, if you don't vote for the massive trillions of dollars in spending,

you really want to defund the police. Well, unsurprisingly, Psaki couldn't name a single Republican who said they wanted to defund the police or who gave defunding the police as a reason for not voting for Biden's \$1.9 trillion, pork-filled spending bill.

The fact of the matter is, Republicans are proud to support the police, to stand with the men and women of blue, while Democrats are demonizing and vilifying the brave men and women of law enforcement.

I want to say thank you to every law enforcement officer in this country, on the Federal level and on the State and local level. Thank you for answering the call each day, putting on the uniform, wearing the badge, and risking your life to keep us safe.

This morning, all across this country, law enforcement officers woke up, they kissed their husband or wife goodbye, they kissed their kids goodbye, and they went out to defend our communities, and they did so not knowing if they would come home that night. We are proud to stand with the men and women of our police departments.

When it comes to facts and fiction, it is a cynical and calculated lie from the Biden White House that it is anybody other than Democrats who are leading the foolhardy charge to abolish and defund the police. It is dangerous, crime rates are skyrocketing, and it is an exceptionally bad idea.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Maryland.

HELSINKI COMMISSION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I take this time to talk about the work of the U.S. Helsinki Commission in a recent opportunity we had to participate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

I am joined on the floor by Senator WICKER, who is the Republican chair of the Helsinki Commission. The two of us have worked together in a non-partisan, bipartisan manner in regards to the work of the Helsinki Commission. I just want to spend a few minutes, and then I am going to yield the floor and allow Senator WICKER to give his comments.

The OSCE, as the chair is fully aware as a member of the Commission, represents the U.S. participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe—57 states, which includes all of Europe, all of the former Republics of the Soviet Union, and Canada and the United States.

The Commission works on the principle of three buckets: one for political affairs and security, another for economic and environmental progress, and the third on democracy and human rights. But it recognizes—and I think this has been the hallmark of the Helsinki Commission—that you can't have advancements on political affairs or security or economic or environmental progress unless you make progress on democracy and human rights, that they are interwoven. In the Helsinki

Commission, the OSCE is best known for its advancements for basic human rights.

So I think of the initiatives that we have had in the Helsinki Commission for dealing with trafficking in humans and the legislation that came out of that and how we led the global response to dealing with trafficking. I think about the efforts we made in regards to tolerance, dealing with anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance and how we have made progress throughout the entire OSCE region. I think about the issues we did in regards to sanctions against human rights violators so they cannot use our banking system or visit our country, the Magnitsky-type sanctions. All of that came out of the work of the Helsinki Commission.

So one of the major arms of our work is the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which is the group of parliamentarians who meet every year and have meetings throughout the year to exchange views and to carry out the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

For the last year and a half, we have been compromised because we haven't had an opportunity to meet in person, and it required us to meet by internet, and we have, but we had a unique opportunity during the last recess period to actually travel and meet with the parliamentarians. We had an OSCE Parliamentary Assembly annual meeting in Vienna. And we had a chance to do this in a hybrid manner. So we were able to travel 12-strong from the U.S. Congress to be at that meeting, and we were joined by five others here in the United States, including our Presiding Officer, to participate in the Parliamentary Assembly, and we were able to advance a lot of very important issues.

But I must tell you, we were noticed at this meeting. The U.S. presence was critically important in dealing with some very timely issues. I know that Senator WICKER will talk about this. He is one of the great leaders of the Parliamentary Assembly. He is Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly. We are very proud of the leadership position that he holds.

By the way, his election was in Vienna to be the Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly. We had multiple candidates and several elected to Vice Presidents, but Senator WICKER led the ballot with the largest number of votes, which I think speaks to his well-thought-of respect among the OSCE parliamentarians.

We wanted to make sure that this was a substantive meeting. Quite frankly, the leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly said: Let's just get in there and get it over with and not bring up anything controversial. But that is not the way we operate. We have to take up current issues.

So we took up the issue of tolerance. I was happy to sponsor a resolution that ultimately passed by unanimous vote that speaks to anti-Semitism, racism, intolerance, and the growth of

hate in the OSCE region. But we also made sure that we considered the recent elections in Belarus and how unfair those elections were and how Mr. Lukashenko has been acting in a way that is so contrary to the human rights of the people who live there, and the election results there do not reflect the will of the people.

We also had a chance to make sure we took up the issues concerning Ukraine. Once again, there was a lot of controversy on why you should bring that up during this meeting. We did. We supported that to make it clear that Russia's aggression and its occupation of Crimea and its interference in eastern Ukraine will never be recognized as legitimate by the United States or, by that matter, the Parliamentary Assembly, because we responded in all of those areas.

I am pleased to tell you that we supported Margareta Cedersfelt, who is going to be the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Sweden, and we look forward to her visit here in the United States.

RICHARD HUDSON, Representative HUDSON, will be the chair of the first committee. So we are going to have active participation in the Parliamentary Assembly.

We had the chance to visit some other countries. But if I might, I think I am going to yield the floor and give my good friend and the leader of our congressional delegation trip an opportunity to expand on some of the things we were able to do in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Maryland, who has been such a leader in the area of human rights and international recognition of the challenges that our world faces today. I do appreciate his leadership and his partnership. We have worked shoulder to shoulder on so many issues.

Yes, I proudly rise with him this afternoon to talk about a very valuable series of meetings that our 12-member delegation had in 4 countries in Europe in recent days. This was Republicans and Democrats from the House and Senate, a truly bipartisan and bicameral delegation—a very large delegation—which I think my colleague will agree made a strong statement on behalf of the United States of America and on behalf of the U.S. House and Senate about the way we view European engagement and our partnership and friendship with the 50-plus member countries of the OSCE and their Parliamentary Assembly.

We visited Vienna, Austria, for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

As Senator CARDIN mentioned, we met with great success. Yes, I was re-elected to the position of vice president, and I appreciate the support of Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate in helping me get those votes to receive another 3-year term there.

RICHARD HUDSON, our colleague from the House of Representatives, has been very active as chairman of Committee No. 1 in the Parliamentary Assembly. He is highly regarded. He was reelected without opposition. So there are two bits of success there.

And then the great piece of work, actually, was with regard to Senator CARDIN's initiative on the rising hate and intolerance that we are seeing all around the world, particularly among member countries of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Senator CARDIN actually took the lead in challenging the leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly in saying that issues should be discussed.

Even though they weren't in an immediate, like, 3-week crisis mode, they deserved to be brought forward. And Senator CARDIN was able to get his resolution considered and passed overwhelmingly, and we made a strong statement on behalf of countering the rising hate and intolerance and countering the use of these things to buttress authoritarianism and to stoke conflict around the world.

We also passed a very important resolution about the tragedy, the outrage that has gone on in Belarus. I can tell you, the opposition party leader from Belarus was in this Capitol building just yesterday talking about the importance of support from places like the United States Congress.

I can tell you, Madam President, that Senator SHAHEEN and I are about to send a letter to our colleagues asking any and all of us to join a Freedom Caucus for the Belarusian people, the Belarus Freedom Caucus. We asked the opposition leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, to tell us whether that would be helpful. She said the formation of this caucus to support the freedom movement in Belarus would be a strong signal. It would be well received and effective on behalf of the opposition leadership there in Belarus.

Then, again, we reiterated our opposition to what Russia has done in Ukraine and particularly to the recent Russian military buildup and ongoing aggression in Ukraine. We did a lot there with the Parliamentary Assembly.

We went on to Estonia, met with leadership there—a former President, the current Prime Minister, other leaders. And, also, we had a chance to travel to the very easternmost part of Estonia and actually travel on the Narva River and look right across to Russia and the security guards there, understanding what our Estonian allies are up against with Putin's Russia staring right across the river at their freedom and democracy.

From there, we joined the Three Seas conference in Sofia, Bulgaria. I can tell you, this is a group of Eastern European former Soviet Bloc countries that are striving to be in charge of their own infrastructure and rely less on the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. I think the fact that 12 Americans

showed up, participated, met with Heads of state at that conference made a very strong statement of American support for freedom and for looking westwardly in trying to get their problems solved and their infrastructure needs met.

We also had a very meaningful visit to Norway, where we saw some American-Norwegian defense initiatives. I am very proud of the partnership that this Helsinki Commission—our organ of the American OSCE PA—and the way that we joined together to express our support for freedom, for democracy, for the rule of law, for opposing corruption, both at the petty local level and also at the larger State-sponsored level.

One other thing before I yield back and let my friend close. Particularly in Bulgaria, but also all during our trip, we were met with hearty thanks for the United States leadership in the global Magnitsky Act. This began as an initiative with Senator CARDIN, Senator Lieberman, Senator McCain, and me several years ago directed—during the Obama administration—directed toward individual Russians who had violated human rights and individual liberty in a very outrageous and gross way, allowing us to sanction individuals rather than causing harm to the people of Russia in that case. That has been expanded now to the global level and other countries are adopting this.

But I can tell you, when we arrived in Bulgaria, we were met with great thanks from people who are trying to combat lawlessness and corruption at the top level of government.

I just have to say, of course, BEN CARDIN has been the premier leader in this worldwide effort. It was gratifying to know and to learn firsthand on the ground there in Sofia, Bulgaria, that an initiative that began right here in this U.S. Senate years ago, and continues to this day, is having a beneficial effect on the people all across Europe and particularly in some of the countries that we visited.

I yield back to the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me again thank Senator WICKER. Thank you for your leadership on so many issues.

But on this congressional delegation, for those who are not familiar, it is not easy to put together the type of opportunities to advance American values. And Senator WICKER took the responsibility as the leader of our delegation to make sure that we had the opportunities to advance American values. I thank him for all the effort he put into it. It was certainly extremely successful.

I just want to emphasize a few things before closing.

One, in Vienna, we did have an opportunity to meet with Rafael Grossi, who is the Director General of the IAEA. That is the International Atomic En-

ergy Agency, which has the responsibility of monitoring the nuclear programs throughout the world. Obviously, it has played a bigger role in regard to the program in Iran, and it was monitoring exactly what was happening in Iran under the JCPOA. They now don't have the same access, and we had a chance to talk with the Director General as to the challenges with the Iranian program. And I think it was helpful for all of us to understand exactly the role that the IAEA can play in regard to getting us information about what is happening on the ground in Iran.

Senator WICKER talked about our visit to Estonia, a strong ally partner, NATO partner. We showed our support by going to Narva, which is on the Russian border. It is a town that has a majority of Russian-speaking Estonians. It is an interesting community. But we could see across the river, very clearly, the Russian patrol boats. We know and heard firsthand of the concern of the Estonians. They saw what happened in Ukraine and they worry that same thing could happen in Estonia with Russian aggression.

I must tell you, our presence to reinforce the NATO commitment, I think, was an extremely important message that we gave to the Estonian people.

Mr. WICKER. Would the gentleman yield on that point?

Mr. CARDIN. I would be glad to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. If I might add, people in Narva, Estonia, and people in the city across the river have access to each other across a bridge there. And it is clear to the people on the Russian side that their cousins and friends in Narva, Estonia, live a better life and have a better standard of living in this free country, this NATO ally called Estonia, than the Russian cousins and friends have on the other side.

I just thought I would add that to the discourse before Senator CARDIN moves on to discussing Norway and Bulgaria.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me move onto Bulgaria very briefly. Senator WICKER did cover Bulgaria.

The Three Seas Initiative, I wasn't that familiar with it before traveling to Bulgaria. It is an initiative by 12 States that are basically part of the Eastern European Coalition, states that are developing democratic institutions and democratic economies after the fall of the Soviet Union. They need to build up their resilience as a collective entity in energy, transportation, and digital infrastructure.

The Three Seas Initiative is to attract investment to connect the 12 countries together on infrastructure needs. It is for many reasons. It is for its own economic strength and growth, but also for resiliency against the efforts of China on its Belt and Road Initiative, which is trying to infiltrate

these countries and convert their way of economy to more of the Chinese system.

The Three Seas Initiative is an effort to have their own independent way of attracting capital. The United States is participating in the Three Seas. We are not a member, but we are participating and providing resources for the fund that is being developed that would be leveraged for these type of investments.

While we were in Bulgaria, we had a chance to have bilateral meetings. There were 12 Heads of state there. We had bilateral meetings with the President of Poland, Bulgaria, Latvia, and Romania. We had very constructive discussions about what is happening in their country.

We raised Helsinki issues with all these countries. Senator WICKER already talked about how we were welcomed by the Bulgarian leadership in regards to the imposition of the Magnitsky sanctions. We are heroes. They feel like they have a second chance to try to develop the type of anti-corruption mechanisms that they desperately need.

Our visit to Varna, which is on the Black Sea, was very educational to see how Russia is trying to dominate the Black Sea area and one of the reasons why they are so aggressive in Ukraine and the Crimea.

I think that was extremely helpful for us to understand the security risks and how we have to work with our NATO partners to protect the Black Sea area, particularly from the potential aggression—not potential—from the aggression of Russia.

Also in Bulgaria, we had a chance to visit a Roma village. It is not my first visit to a Roma village. I have visited over the years. It is a real tragic situation. The Roma population have been in Europe for centuries. They lived in communities for hundreds of years, yet they do not have property rights.

They have lived in their homes, and yet they do not have the opportunity to have their homes registered. And at any time, the government can come in and take away their property without compensation.

They rarely have reliable utilities.

The village we visited did not have water systems, so they had to use out-houses, et cetera. They had limited availability of fresh water. Their utility service is not reliable. And they go to segregated schools. They don't have the same employment opportunities.

So we, once again, will raise the rights of the Roma population as part of our commitment under the Helsinki Commission, and we are following up with the local officials to try to help in that regard.

Then, lastly, on our way back, we visited Norway. I learned a lot because I did not know about the pre-positioning program. I know my friend Senator WICKER already knew about this from his Armed Services service, but it is where we pre-position equip-

ment so that we can respond rapidly to a circumstance anywhere in the world. The Norway pre-positioning is actually used to help us in regard to the Middle East and our needs in the Middle East.

So it was an extremely, extremely, I think, productive visit to these countries. I think we did carry out our commitment under the Helsinki Commission, and we advanced American values. I think we represented our country well, and we were very well noticed.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, one other thing that our colleagues might not understand about the OSCE is their role in election observation.

As we were leaving Sofia on the morning of July 11, we crossed paths with some other representatives from the OSCE from European countries who were there to observe the parliamentary elections being held in Bulgaria that very day. Also, on the same day, Moldova, another member of the OSCE, was having parliamentary elections.

We have every hope that the results of these elections will be a further resolve in those two nation members to counter the corruption at the highest level, and we want to congratulate both of those member states of the OSCE for free and fair elections in Europe.

With that, I thank my colleague.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ELECTIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk about the need for integrity in our elections.

On Monday, the Democrats on the Rules Committee took a field trip. The Democrats went to Georgia. They continued their efforts there to start a panic about election laws. Now, I am sure they will take more field trips in the months ahead. Taking over State election laws seems to be the Democrats' No. 1 priority. It was their No. 1 bill in the House, H.R. 1. It was their No. 1 bill in the Senate, S. 1. The Democrats claim that they are only responding to reforms passed in the States, and they say it is just the reforms passed in the States this year. Yet the election takeover bills that the Democrats have introduced were first drafted years ago. It is not in response to anything.

Don't let the Democrats kid you. It is an attack on States' rights and an attempt to stack the deck. After Democrats took over Washington, they rushed this takeover bill right through

the House of Representatives, with NANCY PELOSI at the helm. Then they tried to rush a similar bill through the Senate, and they failed. Senator SCHUMER continues to say the Democrats will try again.

At the State level, most recently in Texas, the Democrats are obstructing the democratic process in order to block election reforms from becoming law. Rather than allow an election reform bill to pass, Texas Democrats fled the State. They took private jets to Washington, DC. They hobnobbed with the Vice President, and they hobnobbed with the Speaker of the House and with many Democratic Senators. They sent out a lot of fundraising emails in the process, and they did a lot of television interviews. They took a lot of pictures of themselves, published them on social media, and told everyone they were making a heroic effort. They said it was a sacrifice.

Well, six of the Democrats became infected with the coronavirus. Then they spread the virus. It wasn't enough they infected each other; they spread the virus to staffers at the White House and here on Capitol Hill. It was a political stunt, and it turned into a coronavirus superspreader event, and I am sure they still consider themselves heroes. The hypocrisy is astonishing.

In the name of the democratic process, they actually blocked the democratic process, disregarded the will of the voters, and shut down the function of State government. They took a joyride on a private jet and endangered the health of many others. They believe in winning at any cost, and they put democracy in second place. This whole stunt is not about voter rights; it is about power. The Democrats are going to keep trying to keep the panic alive.

President Biden went to Philadelphia last week, and he spread even more falsehoods about the law. Now, I can understand why President Biden is doing everything he can to change the subject from the failures of his current administration. We have an open southern border that Americans are very disturbed about; we have surging violence in Democratic cities in the streets; and we have rising inflation that is hitting every family in America. Of course, President Biden doesn't want to talk about his one failure after another after another. So, instead, he throws rhetorical grenades at the Republicans, and he tells stories.

The Democrats' scare tactics on State voting laws are not going to work.

Their claims are false, and they have been repeatedly disproved.

The American people are finding out what is in the Democrats' election bills, and they do not like it. It is not pretty. It is ballot harvesting, which people reject. It is automatic voter registration, which many, many reject. It is taxpayer funding of political activities and campaigns, which Americans reject. It is giving the vote to felons on parole, which Americans reject.

It is 800 pages of mandates, which Americans hate, and it is banning voter ID laws nationwide at a time when voters across the country from both parties, all political persuasions, think voter ID laws are critical to ballot integrity and security. The more the American people find out what is in these bills, the more they oppose them.

You know, it has never been easier to vote in the United States. You take a look at the statistics from this past election year, never been easier. The American people know it.

American people support common-sense laws, which make it easier to vote and harder to cheat, but they do not support the Democrats' radical election takeover.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, we are seeing record numbers of people coming to the U.S. Mexican border. I am told 63 different countries have folks that have arrived at our border.

In the latest numbers released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, they encountered almost 190,000 people coming to the United States illegally through the southern border last month. That is the highest monthly number of encounters by CBP in two decades.

This is where we are now. That number is up 471 percent from June 2020. Across the board, every category of CBP encounter at the southwest land border—single adults, unaccompanied children, individuals in a family unit—they are surging in 2021, including in the hot summer months, when it has traditionally been that is when it falls. It is important because these people coming across in the hot summer months are at increased risk for death from dehydration and heat exhaustion.

With June's tally, CBP's migrant encounters surpassed 1 million for the fiscal year.

Now, in context, the last fiscal year had 460,000 encounters; fiscal year 2019, 980,000. That year was labeled a humanitarian catastrophe. That was for the entire year. Now, we are speaking of 1 million, and we have 3 months left to go in this fiscal year.

On Monday, Texas and the national media broadcast videos of migrants trying to force their way past Texas border guards. Eight Federal agents and police officers pushed back on the gate to prevent a rush of about 300 people just breaking through, coming across the border from Mexico.

By any definition, this is a crisis—for the individual, who is at risk of dying of dehydration in the desert; for our country, which cannot control the border crisis; for the infection of the COVID and coronavirus situation in our country, because, obviously, coronavirus could be rampant among these folks.

The Biden-Harris administration could not be doing worse if they inten-

tionally set out to mismanage the situation. This past weekend, it became clear that it is not just a situation on the border, but it is also a situation in Louisiana.

On Friday, KTBS, a Shreveport news outlet, reported that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—ICE—dropped off approximately 80 Haitian immigrants with little or no warning to local government and law enforcement officials.

And, again, this is multiple levels. I presume that these folks are dropped off because we are out of capacity, but let's think about the individual being dropped off. A source told KTBS that the men had money, but some of the women had little or no money—no contacts, no money, they don't speak the language, dropped off in a strange city.

Multiple Louisiana outlets are reporting approximately 400 immigrants from 42 countries have been dropped off by ICE in Shreveport since the end of March, but this is the first we heard. In Baton Rouge, WBRZ, the ABC affiliate, had photos and video of a similar drop-off in Baton Rouge on Friday, July 16. Monroe, LA, had a similar situation; Natchez, MS, similar as well.

We called ICE over the weekend, and yesterday, they—we actually spoke to the acting director. He told me the dropoffs are “not our common practice.” I would argue that releasing migrants without notifying local officials—at least the NGOs that can give them help, particularly when there isn't—when some of them have no money, no contacts, no place to go, is not good. And he acknowledged that. In fairness, he acknowledged that that was a mistake and that the number of 70 was too large a number.

He denied that it was a problem of capacity, but, frankly, when we see what is happening at the southern border and then we see a whole group of 70 being dropped off without the organization required to make sure there is seamless entry into our society, that tells me that there probably is a capacity problem.

Again, you cannot imagine a worse immigration policy and execution of what we have seen in the first 6 months of this administration. It is incoherence; it is dysfunction. It appears that Washington told ICE: Just send them someplace with, again, little or no notice to State and local officials.

We have to ask: Does the President, does the Vice President care about controlling the border? Do they care about communities? Do they care about these immigrants? It is almost as if they are wishing that the issue be swept under the rug.

Unfortunately, the crisis continues to worsen. I don't know if there is a plan. I say that because if there is a plan, we have not yet seen it executed. What we have seen is that record numbers of people are now coming into our country. It is more as if hands are being thrown up in the air.

I will also say there was a lot of criticism of what President Trump did, but

it is my observation, whatever the last thing the last President did was the first thing that worked because it is not as if they tried the immediate solution first off. It is like they worked through some things that didn't work and they finally got to where they were able to stem the tide.

So if it is the era of “let's do the opposite of what President Trump did, even if it is the only thing that has ever worked,” we are in trouble.

I do think it is time for the Biden administration to admit they were wrong and to begin going back to that which appeared to work.

I want to thank the people of Shreveport. They have been kinder than the Federal Government in terms of helping people out—the churches, the NGOs that came out to help folks. As one of them said, the Scripture teaches us to help those who are aliens in our land.

They have been willing to handle the situation when the administration failed. But the charity of the American people is not a substitute for a coherent policy, and this is an issue for the executive branch, specifically President Biden and Vice President Harris, who was personally put in charge.

We need to get it right. We need answers. We need accountability. We need sound immigration and border policies, and it starts with securing our southern border and enforcing our laws.

Again, the current situation is unfair to everyone—the migrants, the community, our country. The situation in Shreveport, Monroe, and Baton Rouge shows the failure of the policies. I don't think they are the only communities dealing with this, and we will continue to deal with it even more so until we have a controlled border.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NSCAI REPORT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may place into the RECORD a portion of the final report by the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence,

NSCAI. This landmark report and its important recommendations are the result of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, which established the NSCAI as an independent commission “to consider the methods and means necessary to advance the development of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and associated technologies to comprehensively address the national security and defense needs of the United States.”

In March 2021, the Commission submitted its final report to Congress and the President, in part, warning of the dangers of the Chinese Government obtaining the personal genetic information of U.S. citizens and the importance of ensuring U.S. leadership in biotechnology. As we complete our work on the United States Innovation and Competition Act that will enable us to maintain our technological edge over China, it is imperative that we acknowledge the findings of this Commission regarding the critical importance of securing our biodata from China and its agents. To that end, allow me to cite warnings and recommendations directly from this Commission. I hope our State Department leadership, including Secretary Blinken, take these into serious consideration and put them into action.

On Page 53, the report finds: “[China understands the tremendous upside associated with leading the bio revolution. Massive genomic data sets at places like BGI Group (formerly known as the Beijing Genomics Institute), coupled with China’s now-global genetic data collection platform and “all-of-nation” approach to AI, will make them a formidable competitor in the bio realm. BGI may be serving, wittingly or unwittingly, as a global collection mechanism for Chinese government genetic databases, providing China with greater raw numbers and diversity of human genome samples, as well as access to sensitive personal information about key individuals around the world. The United States cannot afford to look back in 10 years and be “surprised” by the biotechnology equivalent of Huawei.]”

Later, on Page 586, the report finds: “[BGI has also benefited from substantial support from the Chinese government, as well as its 2013 acquisition of a competing U.S. firm, Complete Genomics. There are indications that BGI’s links with the Chinese government may run deeper than it publicly claims, as it built and operates China National GeneBank, the Chinese government’s national genetic database, and has used PLA-owned supercomputers to process genetic information. Chinese diplomats have pushed BGI-built COVID-19 testing kits, including in the United States, and by August 2020 BGI had “sold 35 million rapid COVID-19 testing kits to 180 countries, and built 58 labs in 18 countries.” The highest levels of the United States government should publicly state these

concerns so as to raise awareness among the U.S. commercial and academic biotechnology communities, as well as U.S. allies, many of which currently have partnerships or business dealings with BGI.]”

The Commission then recommends on Page 587 that the State Department design a specific initiative to warn America and its allies about BGI. “[Launch a strategic communications campaign to publicly highlight the links between the Chinese government and BGI. The Secretary of State should personally voice concern about BGI’s ties to the Chinese government and instruct the Department to conduct a strategic communications campaign to highlight those links and warn of the dangers of the Chinese government obtaining personal genetic information via BGI. The Department should also warn BGI and the Chinese government that it will closely monitor BGI’s activities, and that should BGI be utilized as a mass DNA-collection apparatus for the Chinese government, it could face additional U.S. regulatory action.]”

It is important to note that two subsidiaries of BGI were placed on the entity list by the Commerce Department last year for their role in aiding the genocide being perpetrated by the Chinese Government against the Uyghur minority in Xinjiang, an issue that I and many of my Senate colleagues have been vocal on.

In closing, I think it is important that this report be part of our RECORD today.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS PARK

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and celebrate the centennial of Indianapolis’ Frederick Douglass Park.

In the early 20th century, recreational opportunities for Black Americans in Indianapolis were separate and unequal. There were no public swings or slides for children to play on, no designated green spaces for communities to gather in. When the city’s government took notice of the polluted and dangerous swimming holes and streams in which citizens cooled off, it constructed sanitary swimming pools, in White neighborhoods only.

There were, thankfully, Hoosiers who recognized these injustices and resolved to right them: the physician and city council member Sumner Furniss and journalist Marcus Stewart, who both lobbied for the creation of a park to accommodate the city’s growing Black population. And the family of local entrepreneur Edward Claypool, who donated the land on which to build it.

Because of their efforts, in the summer of 1921, a new park opened on the northeast side of Indianapolis where African Americans were welcome. It was fittingly named for the great

champion of freedom, Frederick Douglass.

A year later, a large swimming pool filled with clean water opened. There were slides, swings, and merry-go-rounds too. Next came the adjoining Douglass Park Golf Course. Originally six tomato cans in a cow pasture, it later grew to nine holes and par 34 and is one of the only golf courses in the Nation named after an African American. Tennis courts, basketball hoops, and baseball diamonds were added as well.

When the doors to other communal gathering places across Indianapolis were closed and locked, Frederick Douglass Park didn’t just provide an alternative, it created a beloved institution that brought people together.

Thousands of Hoosiers spent their weekends and holidays here. It was the site of civic gatherings, political rallies, family reunions, basketball tournaments, little league championships, and jazz concerts. Across the park on a typical summer night the thump of basketballs on pavement competed with the echoes of brass instruments. It was not uncommon to see the likes of champion boxer Joe Louis playing a round of golf or future basketball legends Mel Daniels or George McGinnis working on their game.

One hundred years later, Frederick Douglass Park continues to play an important role in the civic life of our capital city and bring joy to those who call it home. It is exactly the type of public place where Americans have always engaged, interacted, and found common ground.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this milestone.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRIDGER BOGUS

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Bridger for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Bridger is a native of Cheyenne. He is a student at the University of Wyoming, where he is studying economics and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Bridger for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey. •

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA BRENNER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Reba for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Reba is a native of Nebraska. She is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where she studied physiology and molecular biology. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Reba for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO SABRINA CONSIDINE

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sabrina for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sabrina is a native of Laramie. She is a student at the University of Wyoming, where she studies economics, math, and honors political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sabrina for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL DeGRAEVE

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Gabe for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Gabe is a native of Casper. He is a student at Belmont University, where he is studying politics and public law, and music business. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Gabe for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO CASSIE HAAPT

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Cassie for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Cassie is a native of Casper. She is a student at the University of Utah, where she studies business management and international relations. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Cassie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN HENRY

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brian for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican conference. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brian is a native of New York. He is a student at Providence College, where he is studying history and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Brian for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO KAYLA JONES

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kayla for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kayla is a native of Casper. She is a student at Casper College, where she is studying general studies and political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kayla for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO RUDY NESVIK

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Rudy for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rudy is a native of Cheyenne. He is a student at the University of Wyoming, where he is studying mechanical engineering. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Rudy for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIA TWIFORD

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Julia for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Julia is a native of Story. She is a student at Loyola Marymount University, where she studies political science and Irish studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Julia for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROLANNE WALLS

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Carolanne for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican conference. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Carolanne is a native of Colorado Springs. She is a student at the University of Wyoming, where she studies communications and public relations. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Carolanne for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE ROGER BURDICK

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the retirement of Idaho

Supreme Court Justice Roger S. Burdick. Roger has served Idaho's judicial system with distinction and integrity for over 47 years.

Roger graduated from Boise High School in 1965 and received his bachelor of science in finance from the University of Colorado in 1970. He graduated from the University of Idaho School of Law with a juris doctor degree in 1974. After graduation, he worked at the law firm of Webb, Pike, Burton & Carlson in Twin Falls, served as a deputy prosecutor in Ada County, and as a partner for the law firm of Hart, Burdick & Healzer in Jerome. In 1980, Justice Burdick was elected prosecutor for Jerome County.

In 1981, Roger began his career as a judge, being appointed to magistrate judge for Jerome County. During that time, he became the first magistrate judge member of the Idaho Judicial Council. In 1993, he was appointed as a district judge in Twin Falls County.

In Idaho, the saying, "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting" fits all too well. Given his extensive legal and judicial experience, Judge Burdick was assigned one of the most difficult and challenging processes in Idaho in 2001, presiding over water rights determinations through the Snake River Basin Adjudication. During this time, he also became the administrative district judge for the Fifth Judicial District.

Roger was appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court in 2003 by Governor Kempthorne. He won reelection three times, serving as vice chief justice of the court and two terms as chief justice. Before his retirement, he was again serving as vice chief justice. In retirement, he will apply to serve as a senior judge, taking on periodic cases to help ease the workload across the judiciary.

In addition to being a judge and attorney, Justice Burdick has contributed to the Idaho judicial system by serving on various Idaho Supreme Court advisory committees, as the district judge member on the Idaho Judicial Council, and as president of the Idaho District Judges Association. Nationally, he served on the board of directors for the Conference of Chief Justices.

As an avid waterfowl hunter, Roger makes time to enjoy this sport with family and friends. He also likes to spend time with his wife Rachel and his two grown sons, Phillip and Benjamin.

Vicki and I wish you all the best in your retirement. Thank you for your outstanding service to Idaho and the Nation's judicial and legal system. You make Idaho proud.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 678. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for a moratorium

on number reassignment after a disaster declaration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1036. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Department of State's rewards program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1079. An act to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1158. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

H.R. 1250. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting.

H.R. 1754. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to consider market entry barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals in the communications marketplace report under section 13 of such Act.

H.R. 1833. An act 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.

H.R. 1850. An act to amend Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1870. An act 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.

H.R. 1871. An act to improve the understanding and clarity of Transportation Security Administration policies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1877. An act 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.

H.R. 1893. An act 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.

H.R. 1895. An act 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.

H.R. 2118. An act to authorize United States participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2668. An act 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.

H.R. 2795. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Blue Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2928. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a voluntary Cyber

Sense program to test the cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in the bulk-power system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2980. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for the remediation of cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3003. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3138. An act 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.

H.R. 3223. An act 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.

H.R. 3263. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a medical countermeasures program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3264. An act 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.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1652. An act to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 678. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for a moratorium on number reassignment after a disaster declaration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1036. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Department of State's rewards program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1079. An act to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1158. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1250. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1754. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to consider market entry barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals in the communications marketplace report under section 13 of such Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1833. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1850. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1870. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1871. An act to improve the understanding and clarity of Transportation Security Administration policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1877. An act 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1893. An act 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1895. An act 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2118. An act to authorize United States participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2795. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Blue Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2928. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a voluntary Cyber Sense program to test the cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in the bulk-power system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2980. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for the remediation of cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3003. An act to direct the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3138. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3223. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3263. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a medical countermeasures program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3264. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1451. 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-1452. 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; Dassault Aviation 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-1453. 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-1454. 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-1455. 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; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited 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-1456. 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-1457. 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; Durant, OK" (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-1458. 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-1459. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31370)) 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-1460. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31371)) 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-1461. 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 E Airspace; Missoula, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0208)) 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-1462. 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 Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-207; in the Vicinity of Cecil, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0062)) 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-1463. 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 VOR Federal Airway V-487; Eastern New York and Northern Vermont" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0042)) 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-1464. 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 Restricted Area R-6413; Green River, UT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0483)) 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-1465. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Clear Lake, Clear Creek, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0420)) 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-1466. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Savannah River, Savannah, GA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0012)) 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-1467. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Special Local Regulations, Update" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0013)) 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-1468. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Safety Zones Update" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0014)) 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-1469. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0033)) 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-1470. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; East Passage, Narragansett Bay, RI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0035)) 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-1471. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Fincantieri Blasting Project; Menominee River, Menominee, MI and Marinette, WI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0083)) 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-1472. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Choptank River, Between Trappe and Cambridge, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0103)) 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-1473. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Cape May, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0132)) 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-1474. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0170)) 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-1475. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, Chesapeake City Anchorage Basin, Chesapeake City, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0202)) 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-1476. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Clinch River, Oak Ridge, TN" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0215)) 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-1477. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Mile Marker 1 approximately 500 feet of the Bagnell Dam, Lake of the Ozarks, MO" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0260)) 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-1478. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Potomac River, Between Jones Point, VA, and National Harbor, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0262)) 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-1479. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Ohio River, Lawrenceburg, IN" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0286)) 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-1480. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker 770, Randolph Bluff, TN" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0287)) 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-1481. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pierce County Ferry Stellacoom II, Puget Sound, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0313)) 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-1482. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Toledo Country Club Fireworks, Maumee River, Toledo, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0316)) 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-1483. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Gulf of Mexico; Sarasota, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0339)) 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-1484. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; North Channel Fireworks, Lake St. Clair, New Baltimore, MI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0341)) 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-1485. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Explosive Arc at Military Ocean Terminal Concord, Suisun Bay, Concord, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0349)) 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-1486. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; M/V ZHEN HUA 26 Transit; Everport Container Terminal, San Pedro, California" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0383)) 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-1487. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Potomac River, Between Charles County, MD and King George County, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0399)) 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-1488. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hackensack River, Jersey City, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0603)) 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-1489. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Areas; Harbor Entrances along the Coast of Northern California" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0785)) 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-1490. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 559" ((RIN2120-AA63) (Docket No. 31372)) 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-1491. 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 Establishment of Class E Airspace; Baker City, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0041)) 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-1492. 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 to Alaskan VOR Federal Airway V-319, United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes, T-219 and T-269, and Revocation of Federal Colored Airway" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0868)) 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-1493. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of VOR Federal Airway V-242 Due to the Planned Decommissioning of the Atikokan, Ontario, Canada, Nondirectional Radio Beacon (NDB) Navigation Aid" ((RIN2120-AA66)

(Docket No. FAA-2020-1191)) 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-1494. 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 V-72, V-132, V-190, and V-289, and Revocation of V-238 in the Vicinity of Maples, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1103)) 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-1495. 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; Hebronville, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0055)) 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-1496. 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; Wellsville, NY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0033)) 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-1497. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3955" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31368)) 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-1498. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3956" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31369)) 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-1499. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0862)) 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-1500. 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 Revocation of Class E Airspace; Gila Bend, AZ" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0008)) 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-1501. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0018)) 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-1502. 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; Carson Helicopters, Inc.; Croman Corporation; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation; and Siller Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2006-26107)) 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-1503. 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; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1184)) 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-1504. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1171)) 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-1505. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0568)) 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-1506. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0370)) 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-1507. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0143)) 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-1508. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0105)) 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-1509. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0101)) 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-1510. 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; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0973)) 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-1511. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0270)) 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-1512. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0344)) 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-1513. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0092)) 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-1514. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0020)) 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-1515. 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; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.) Turboshift Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1038)) 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-1516. 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; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0341)) 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-1517. 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) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0342)) 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.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Roberto Josue Rodriguez, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education.

*Elizabeth Merrill Brown, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, Department of Education.

*Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2023.

*David M. Prouty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2026.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2405. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2406. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to set maximum contaminant levels for certain chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2407. A bill to ensure timely Federal Government awareness of cyber intrusions that pose a threat to national security, enable the development of a common operating picture of national-level cyber threats, and to make appropriate, actionable cyber threat information available to the relevant government and private sector entities, as well as the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2408. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2409. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to maintain a publicly available list of all employers that relocate a call center or contract call center work overseas, to make such companies ineligible for Federal grants or guaranteed loans, and to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2410. A bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2411. A bill to prevent surprise medical bills with respect to COVID-19 testing; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2412. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2413. 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 Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2414. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a national service program that provides conservation opportunities on public and private lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2415. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the use of retirement plan funds to obtain long-term care insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2416. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expedited coding and coverage of novel medical products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KING, Mr. COTTON, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2417. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting certain positive consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2418. A bill to amend the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 to improve mapping under the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2419. A bill to authorize the President to declare a smoke emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2420. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for the purchase of certain new electric bicycles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2421. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct research on wildfire smoke, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2422. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program supporting trauma center violence intervention and violence prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2423. A bill to authorize transitional sheltering assistance for individuals who live in areas with unhealthy air quality caused by wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2424. A bill to make available \$250,000,000 from the Travel Promotion Fund for the Corporation for Travel Promotion; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2425. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the provision of high-quality service through the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2426. A bill to transfer unobligated COVID relief funds to the Department of Justice for the COPS Hiring Program, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2427. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report examining the feasibility of funding the Universal Service Fund through contributions supplied by edge providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. Res. 309. A resolution expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. Res. 310. A resolution expressing solidarity with Cuban citizens demonstrating peacefully for fundamental freedoms, condemning the Cuban regime's acts of repression, and calling for the immediate release of arbitrarily detained Cuban citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 311. A resolution congratulating the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Zaila Avant-garde; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 312. A resolution congratulating the Tampa Bay Lightning on winning the 2021 Stanley Cup Final; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 313. A resolution commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 377

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) 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. 464

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 464, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 904

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 904, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II.

S. 1168

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1168, a bill to provide clarification regarding the common or usual name for bison and compliance with section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to establish a national commission on fiscal responsibility and reform, and for other purposes.

S. 1186

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1186, a bill to provide standards for facilities at which aliens in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security are detained, and for other purposes.

S. 1248

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1248, a bill to establish an Outdoor Restoration Fund for restoration and resilience projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1270

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1270, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program.

S. 1298

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1298, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for increased investment in clean energy.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to promote international press freedom, and for other purposes.

S. 1550

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1550, a bill to support Foreign Service families, and for other purposes.

S. 1660

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) 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. 1664

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1664, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1787

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1787, a bill to amend title 28 of the United States Code to prevent the transfer of actions arising under the antitrust laws in which a State is a complainant.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. TESTER) 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 North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) 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. 1909

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1909, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform requirements with respect to direct and indirect remuneration under Medicare part D, and for other purposes.

S. 1958

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1958, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to teaching health centers that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 2005

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2005, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins and individual amino acids for digestive and inherited metabolic disorder under Federal health programs and private health insurance, to ensure State and Federal protection for existing coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 2032

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2094

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2094, a bill to provide for a new building period with respect to the cap on full-time equivalent residents for purposes of payment for graduate medical education costs under the Medicare program for certain hospitals that have established a shortage specialty program.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2123, a bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, and for other purposes.

S. 2136

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2136, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the implementation of curricula for training students, teachers, parents, and school and youth development personnel to understand, recognize, prevent, and respond to signs of human trafficking and exploitation in children and youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2202

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2202, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property.

S. 2229

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2229, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a highway formula modernization study, and for other purposes.

S. 2263

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to codify Executive Order 13950 (relating to combating race and sex stereotyping), and for other purposes.

S. 2370

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2370, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide rebates for the installation of zero-emission technologies in single-family homes and multifamily buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to require an annual feasibility report on cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 139

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 139, a resolution recognizing the importance of the blueberry industry to the United States and designating July 2021 as "National Blueberry Month".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2412. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan "Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act," which would protect access to annual mammograms by ensuring breast cancer screenings are covered through insurance for women starting at age 40.

With the exception of skin cancers, breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer in American women and second leading cause of cancer death in women behind lung cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2021, about 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and about 43,600 women will die from breast cancer.

Fortunately, we're seeing the death rate for breast cancer go down with a decrease of 1 percent per year from 2013 to 2018. According to the American Cancer Society, this has been largely credited to earlier diagnosis of breast cancer through screening and patient awareness, in addition to improvements that have been achieved in breast cancer treatments.

Mammography has been the best test we have at finding breast cancer early, providing a better chance of survival after diagnosis. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, women with insurance coverage are more likely to report having had a mammogram in the past two years compared to uninsured women. But while regular breast cancer screenings have helped tremendously in the early detection of breast cancer, health insurance coverage of these screenings for women in their forties is at risk.

While leading medical groups, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Cancer Society, and the American College of Radiology support women having no-cost access to breast cancer screenings starting at age 40, the ac-

tual decision of coverage is typically determined using recommendations by an independent volunteer panel known as the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).

Unfortunately, when USPSTF updated its breast screening guidelines in 2015 to recommend that women should start mammography screenings at age 50, health coverage without cost sharing was put in jeopardy for women in their 40s.

The "Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screenings Act" was first introduced shortly thereafter to postpone these recommendations that would have limited coverage for breast cancer screening. Congress has subsequently acted to extend this moratorium several times since then, most recently passing an extension in December 2020 that is set to expire January 1, 2023.

The benefits of screenings are clear, and we need to ensure that women in their forties continue to have coverage for, and access to, these screenings. To that end, we are reintroducing the "Protecting Access to Lifesaving Screening Act" to further protect access to mammography screenings that are covered at no cost to patients ages 40-49. If passed, the current moratorium on USPSTF breast cancer screening guidelines would be extended through 2028.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the total number of breast cancer screening tests received by women through CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program declined by 87% during April 2020 as compared with the previous 5-year averages for that month. This decline is attributed to reduced routine medical visits due to COVID-19. Consequences of these prolonged delays in screening include delayed diagnoses, poor health consequences, and an increase in cancer disparities among women already experiencing health inequities. Further removing barriers to screening by ensuring patients are covered at no cost will be crucial as the public begins to resume routine preventive health services.

I am honored to be joined by Senators BLACKBURN and SHAHEEN in introducing this legislation. I am also very grateful for supporters of this bill, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Radiology, American Women Unite for Breast Cancer Screening, Black Women's Health Imperative, Breast Care of Washington, Check for a Lump, DenseBreast-Info, FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, Men Supporting Women With Cancer, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, National Black Nurses Association, National Consortium of Breast Centers, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Medical Association, Prevent Cancer Foundation, Servicewomen's Action Network, Sharsheret, Society of Breast

Imaging, Society of Breast Imaging, Susan G. Komen and the Tigerlily Foundation.

I urge my colleagues to join us in protecting access to lifesaving screenings by supporting the passage of this bill.

Thank you Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2425. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure the provision of high-quality service through the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, unfortunately, rates of suicide have risen to epidemic levels in the United States, with suicide now the tenth leading cause of death in the country. On average, there are 129 suicides every day, roughly one every eleven minutes, a staggering statistic. That is why I am pleased to be introducing the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Improvement Act with Senator MORAN to help turn the tide on this increasingly dire situation.

This legislation would provide \$568 million in new funding over five years for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, delivering an infusion of new funds to help improve call capacity, make improvements to the Lifeline, and make the switch to a new, easy-to-remember, three-digit number, 9-8-8. The Lifeline has long been underfunded, but we have worked on a bipartisan basis to more than double the funding over the last three years. However, much more is needed, and this new legislation will help build on these efforts to ensure that the Lifeline is able to answer the calls of those seeking help.

In 2019, 47,500 Americans lost their lives to suicide. That same year, there were 1.4 million suicide attempts. We must renew our efforts on suicide prevention. In 2004, working with my colleague, former Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon, we authored the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. This law authorized new youth suicide prevention programs in honor of Senator's Smith son, who tragically died by suicide just a couple of weeks short of his 22nd birthday. For over a decade, these programs have funded college campus, state, and tribal efforts to prevent suicide among our youth and young adult populations, who are particularly at risk of suicide. During this time, youth suicide rates have decreased significantly in my home state of Rhode Island. However, nationwide, suicide rates have skyrocketed.

That is why we must renew our attention and focus on suicide prevention, including by increasing funding for, and improving access to, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This effort is critical to ensuring that when people in crisis call looking for help, someone will be there on the

other end of the line to offer hope and counseling. Last Congress, I was able to work with my former colleague Senator Gardner, and Senators BALDWIN and MORAN on legislation to designate the Lifeline as an easy to remember, three-digit number, 988. This common-sense law will make it easier for people across the country to access the Lifeline when they really need it. I am glad that the bill was signed into law last year, paving the way for every state to implement the switch to 9-8-8 by July 2022. This upcoming deadline, however, makes it all the more important that we provide more funding for the Lifeline.

I am pleased to once again have the opportunity to partner with Senator MORAN on suicide prevention efforts. I look forward to working together with our colleagues, as well as stakeholders supporting these efforts, to pass this critical legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 309—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 309

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion through the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of *The Youth's Companion*;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, for more than 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag, to the United States having been established as a union "under God", and to the United States being dedicated to securing "liberty and justice for all";

Whereas, in 1954, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the Senate of the 117th Congress believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism;

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also contain general references to "God";

Whereas, in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004), the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the Ninth Circuit concluded that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

by a public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit subsequently concluded that—

(1) the previous opinion of that court in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003) was no longer binding precedent;

(2) case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed after the decision in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004); and

(3) Congress, in passing the new version of the Pledge of Allegiance, had established a secular purpose for the use of the term "under God"; and

Whereas, in light of those conclusions, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and

(2) the Senate strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 310—EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH CUBAN CITIZENS DEMONSTRATING PEACEFULLY FOR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, CONDEMNING THE CUBAN REGIME'S ACTS OF REPRESSION, AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ARBITRARILY DETAINED CUBAN CITIZENS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 310

Whereas on July 11, 2021, thousands of Cuban citizens took to the streets to peacefully protest and to call for respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the end of the dictatorship in Cuba;

Whereas the demonstrations were the largest protests witnessed on the island in 25 years, with courageous Cuban men, women, and youth taking to the streets in at least 50 different cities and towns across every province to affirm a deep aspiration for democratic change and to denounce the regime's corruption;

Whereas the nationwide protests represent the full diversity of Cuban society, with demonstrators proudly proclaiming "*Patria y Vida*!" (Homeland and Life!) and calling for "*libertad*" (liberty);

Whereas the demonstrations in Cuba follow months of severe shortages of food and basic medicine, frequent power outages, record high rates of transmission of COVID-19, and the Cuban regime's ineffective response, in addition to the Cuban regime's continued repression and arbitrary imprisonment of citizens, peaceful activists, and artists;

Whereas despite the authoritarian regime's blocking of internet service to prevent the spread of information about the demonstrations, Cubans witnessed examples of their

compatriots demanding change in their country and courageously joined the growing protests;

Whereas despite the peaceful nature of the demonstrations, Miguel Díaz-Canel incited violence among Cubans and encouraged his supporters to attack peaceful protestors, declaring in a televised address, "the order to fight has been given – into the streets" and pledged his supporters' lives: "Over our dead bodies. We are prepared to do anything";

Whereas Díaz-Canel has sought to delegitimize peaceful protestors, crudely stating they constitute a small group of "vulgar criminals" that are "paid" to be disruptive;

Whereas Díaz-Canel sought to blame the endemic problems causing so much human suffering by the Cuban people on outside forces instead of on the Cuban regime's longstanding corruption, mismanagement, and theft of public resources;

Whereas the Cuban regime's domestic security apparatus, including military and police, were recorded on video violently repressing peaceful Cuban citizens, including by using live ammunition and attacking journalists;

Whereas numerous reports indicate deaths of and injuries to Cuban protestors at the hands of the regime's security forces, including instances of police firing live ammunition into crowds and at least one documented police beating that led to a civilian death;

Whereas independent Cuban civil society groups have reported that hundreds of individuals have been arrested, detained, or are missing;

Whereas defying regime repression, continued internet shutdowns, and illegal searches of the homes of activists and protestors, Cuban men, women, and youth continued to peacefully protest throughout the island on Monday, July 12, using social media to organize themselves and document acts of regime repression;

Whereas international human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, have long condemned the Cuban regime for violating human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas for years the Cuban regime has exported its authoritarian methods to Venezuela, sending intelligence personnel to assist Venezuelan security forces as they repressed similar peaceful protests calling for democratic change;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its strong solidarity with the people of Cuba in their desire to live in a free and democratic country with uncensored access to information, justice, and economic prosperity;

(2) condemns the violence ordered by Miguel Díaz-Canel against peaceful protestors as violations of internationally recognized human rights that does nothing to address Cuba's challenges;

(3) calls on Cuban forces—

(A) to respect the Cuban people's exercise of freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and other universal human rights;

(B) to refrain from restricting internet access and connectivity in the country; and

(C) to permit Cuban citizens to freely communicate on digital platforms, as is their fundamental right;

(4) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained Cuban citizens and all Cuban political prisoners;

(5) calls on members of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Cuban Ministry of

the Interior, and Cuba's National Revolutionary Police Force to refrain from violently repressing peaceful protesters and committing other human rights violations; and

(6) urges democratic governments and legislatures in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean—

(A) to pledge their support for freedom and democracy in Cuba; and

(B) to speak out against the repression of demonstrators in Cuba.

SENATE RESOLUTION 311—CONGRATULATING THE 2021 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION ZAILA AVANT-GARDE

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 311

Whereas Miss Zaila Avant-garde is a 14-year-old from Harvey, Louisiana;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde is the first winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee from the State of Louisiana;

Whereas the Scripps National Spelling Bee is the largest and longest-running educational promotion in the United States and is administered by the E.W. Scripps Company and local sponsors, most of whom publish daily and weekly newspapers;

Whereas the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee began with competitors from across the United States, American Samoa, the Bahamas, Canada, Europe, Guam, Jamaica, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and each competitor had qualified for the contest by winning locally sponsored spelling bees;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde is the first African American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde has spent most of her days spelling around 13,000 words per day, yet has still found time to become an accomplished basketball player and holds 3 Guinness World Records;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde survived several rounds of fierce competition this year and won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling “murraya”; and

Whereas the achievement of Miss Avant-garde brings an immense sense of pride to her hometown of Harvey and the entire State of Louisiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Zaila Avant-garde.

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—CONGRATULATING THE TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING ON WINNING THE 2021 STANLEY CUP FINAL

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 312

Whereas, on July 7, 2021, the Tampa Bay Lightning (referred to in this preamble as the “Lightning”) won the 2021 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Final;

Whereas the 2021 Stanley Cup Final is the third Stanley Cup Final won by the Lightning in the 30 years that the franchise has competed in the National Hockey League;

Whereas the 2021 Stanley Cup Final directly follows the victory of the Lightning in the 2020 Stanley Cup Final;

Whereas, en route to the 2021 Stanley Cup Final, the Lightning won the Prince of Wales

Trophy for the fourth time in franchise history by defeating the Florida Panthers, the Carolina Hurricanes, and the New York Islanders;

Whereas the Lightning defeated the 2021 Clarence S. Campbell Bowl champions, the Montreal Canadiens, in the Stanley Cup Final, clinching the series with 4 wins and only 1 loss;

Whereas millions of fans watched the Lightning during the 2021 Stanley Cup playoffs as the franchise won the Stanley Cup Final for the third time;

Whereas Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevsky—

(1) led all goaltenders in the 2021 Stanley Cup playoffs with 5 shutouts; and

(2) won the Conn Smythe Trophy, awarded to the most valuable player in the Stanley Cup playoffs;

Whereas Lightning right winger Nikita Kucherov was the leader in points and assists in the 2021 Stanley Cup playoffs; and

Whereas the following entire Lightning roster contributed to the Stanley Cup victory: Alex Barre-Boulet, Erik Cernak, Anthony Cirelli, Fredrik Claesson, Blake Coleman, Ross Colton, Callan Foote, Christopher Gibson, Barclay Goodrow, Yanni Gourde, Victor Hedman, Tyler Johnson, Mathieu Joseph, Boris Katchouk, Alex Killorn, Nikita Kucherov, Patrick Maroon, Ryan McDonagh, Curtis McElhinney, Ondrej Palat, Brayden Point, Jan Rutta, David Savard, Luke Schenn, Mikhail Sergachev, Gemel Smith, Steven Stamkos, Mitchell Stephens, Ben Thomas, Andrei Vasilevsky, and Daniel Walcott: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Tampa Bay Lightning (referred to in this resolution as the “Lightning”), and the loyal fans of the Lightning, on becoming the 2021 National Hockey League Stanley Cup champions; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Chairman and Governor of the Lightning, Jeff Vinik;

(B) the Vice President and General Manager of the Lightning, Julien BriseBois; and

(C) the head coach of the Lightning, Jon Cooper.

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOURIS RIVER FLOOD IN MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 313

Whereas, in late June 2011, the city of Minot, North Dakota, and surrounding communities were inundated by widespread flooding;

Whereas high soil moisture content, above-average snow pack, and persistent spring and summer precipitation produced record-level flooding throughout the Souris River Basin;

Whereas, in June 2011, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority informed communities downstream that “reservoirs [had] no capacity to store further inflows”;

Whereas, on June 22, 2011, following continued releases from upstream reservoirs, water began to overtop levees in the city of Minot, resulting in a mandatory evacuation and the displacement of 11,000 Minot residents;

Whereas nearly 11,500 acres in Ward County were covered in 2 to 15 feet of water, impacting nearly 4,800 structures;

Whereas the river's flow peaked at 27,000 cubic feet per second, resulting in almost as

much water moving through Minot in June 2011 as in the entire year of 1976, which was the previous all-time annual flow record;

Whereas, on June 26, 2011, the river crested at 1,561.72 feet above sea level, a Minot record;

Whereas the floodwater destroyed 4,100 homes, 250 businesses, and numerous schools, parks, churches, and other public infrastructure at a cost of as much as \$1,000,000,000;

Whereas floodwater created national security concerns by temporarily blocking access to some intercontinental ballistic missile facilities operated by personnel at Minot Air Force Base;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided more than 1,500 temporary housing units to address the agency's third largest housing mission in its history to date;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities demonstrated resilience and worked together to help their fellow neighbors in a time of need;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials and agencies coordinated to provide immediate recovery assistance;

Whereas Congress provided hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster relief and recovery funding to assist the city of Minot and the surrounding region;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities continue to deal with the effects of the flood, including efforts to construct permanent flood protection in the Minot area; and

Whereas 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota;

(2) expresses sympathy to people in the Souris River Basin and condolences to the families who lost their homes or businesses;

(3) commends the resilience of the people in the Souris River Basin and their commitment to recovery and rebuilding; and

(4) expresses gratitude and appreciation to State and local leaders, first responders, and the North Dakota National Guard for protecting the people of the Souris River Basin.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have 9 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 S(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 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 Wednesday, July

21, 2021, at 11:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 12 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ashley Roberts, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENSURING SURVIVOR BENEFITS DURING COVID-19 ACT OF 2021

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 83, S. 89.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 89) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID-19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 89

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 "Ensuring Survivor Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. MEDICAL OPINIONS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES WHO DIE OF COVID-19.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall secure a medical opinion to determine if a service-connected disability was the principal or contributory cause of death before notifying the survivor of the final decision in any case in which all of the following factors are met:

(1) A claim for compensation is filed under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, with respect to a veteran with one or more service-connected disabilities who dies.

(2) The death certificate for the veteran identifies Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as the principal or contributory cause of death.

(3) The death certificate does not clearly identify any of the service-connected disabilities of the veteran as the principal or contributory cause of death.

(4) A service-connected disability of the veteran includes a condition more likely to cause severe illness from COVID-19 as determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(5) The claimant is not entitled to benefits under section 1318 of such title.

(6) The evidence to support the claim does not result in a preliminary finding in favor of the claimant.

(b) *OUTREACH.*—The Secretary shall provide information to veterans, dependents, and veterans service organizations about applying to dependency and indemnity compensation when a veteran dies from COVID-19. The Secretary shall provide such information through the website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and via other outreach mechanisms.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 89), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2021

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 84, S. 189.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 189) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting

clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) *RATE ADJUSTMENT.*—Effective on December 1, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2021, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) *AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.*—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) *WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.*—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) *ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.*—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) *CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.*—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) *DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.*—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) *DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.*—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) *DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.*—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2021, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) *SPECIAL RULE.*—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2022.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the committee-reported amendment to the title be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 189), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The committee-reported amendment to the title was agreed to as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for

the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.”.

HIRE VETERAN HEALTH HEROES ACT OF 2021

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 85, S. 894.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 894) to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.

S. 894

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 “Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021”.

[SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

[(a) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall identify members of the Armed Forces in a health care occupation during the separation of such members from the Armed Forces.

[(b) REFERRAL OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.—

[(1) IN GENERAL.—If a member of the Armed Forces identified under subsection (a) expresses an interest in working in a health care occupation within the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall refer the member to a recruiter of the Department for consideration of open positions in the specialty and geography of interest of the member.

[(2) TIMING.—Any referral of a member of the Armed Forces conducted under paragraph (1) shall be made not earlier than one year before the separation of the member from the Armed Forces.

[(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any identification of a member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a) or referral of such member under subsection (b) shall not be construed as a guarantee of employment of such member with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[(d) REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the efficacy of the identification and referral of separating members of the Armed Forces under this section.

[(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

[(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

[(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

[(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

[(2) HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION.—The term “health care occupation” means an occupation for which an individual may be appointed for employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 7401 of title 38, United States Code.]

SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 207 of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-46; 38 U.S.C. 7401 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 207. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish a program to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation for employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs during the separation of such members from the Armed Forces.

“(b) REFERRAL OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a member of the Armed Forces identified under subsection (a) expresses an interest in working in a health care occupation within the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall refer the member to a recruiter of the Department for consideration of open positions in the specialty and geography of interest to the member.

“(2) TIMING.—Any referral of a member of the Armed Forces conducted under paragraph (1) shall be made not earlier than one year before the separation of the member from the Armed Forces.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any identification of a member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a) or referral of such member under subsection (b) shall not be construed as a guarantee of employment of such member with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(d) REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and two years after the date of the enactment of the Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the program established under subsection (a).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(2) HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION.—The term ‘health care occupation’ means an occupation for which an individual may be appointed for employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 7401 of title 38, United States Code.”.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 894), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 894

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 “Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

Section 207 of the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-46; 38 U.S.C. 7401 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 207. IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH A HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION FOR POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING SEPARATION FROM THE ARMED FORCES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish a program to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation for employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs during the separation of such members from the Armed Forces.

“(b) REFERRAL OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a member of the Armed Forces identified under subsection (a) expresses an interest in working in a health care occupation within the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall refer the member to a recruiter of the Department for consideration of open positions in the specialty and geography of interest to the member.

“(2) TIMING.—Any referral of a member of the Armed Forces conducted under paragraph (1) shall be made not earlier than one year before the separation of the member from the Armed Forces.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Any identification of a member of the Armed Forces under subsection (a) or referral of such member under subsection (b) shall not be construed as a guarantee of employment of such member with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(d) REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and two years after the date of the enactment of the Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the program established under subsection (a).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

“(2) HEALTH CARE OCCUPATION.—The term ‘health care occupation’ means an occupation for which an individual may be appointed for employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 7401 of title 38, United States Code.”.

MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1910.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1910) to authorize major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1910) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1910

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 "Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects in fiscal year 2021 at the locations specified and in an amount for each project not to exceed the amount specified for such location:

(1) Construction of an outpatient clinic and national cemetery in Alameda, California, in an amount not to exceed \$266,200,000.

(2) Construction of a new specialty care building 201 in American Lake, Washington, in an amount not to exceed \$110,600,000.

(3) Construction of a community living center and renovation of domiciliary and outpatient facilities in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$383,741,000.

(4) Construction of a spinal cord injury center in Dallas, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$249,000,000.

(5) Realignment and closure of the Livermore Campus in Livermore, California, in an amount not to exceed \$455,000,000.

(6) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$367,300,000.

(7) Construction of a spinal cord injury building with a community living center, including a parking garage, in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$252,100,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects account, \$2,083,941,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

NATIONAL BLUEBERRY MONTH

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 139.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 139) recognizing the importance of the blueberry industry to the United States and designating July 2021 as "National Blueberry Month".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent 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. 139) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 25, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 274.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 274) designating July 24, 2021, as "National Day of the American Cowboy".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. SMITH. 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. 274) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 17, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 311, S. Res. 312, and S. Res. 313.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 22; 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 the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 1:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 162, Jill Hruby, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security at the Department of Energy, and the Senate immediately vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:05 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 21, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BONNIE D. JENKINS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

JENNIFER ANN ABRUZZO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING TOM BURRELL
ON 23 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE LAKE RIDGE OCCOQUAN
COLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Burrell for his 23 years of selfless service to the Lake Ridge-Occoquan-Coles Civic Association (LOCCA) and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement as Chairman.

Mr. Burrell has been a member of LOCCA since 1993. In 1998, Mr. Burrell volunteered to serve as Chairman of LOCCA's Planning, Environment Land-Use and Transportation (PELT) Committee. He brought with him his leadership and organizational skills acquired from his military service training in the U.S. Army and West Point Military Academy. He served as chairman from 1998 to 2021, nearly 23 years.

As the PELT Committee Chairman for more than two decades, Mr. Burrell was directly responsible for coordinating and scheduling regular monthly PELT Committee review meetings. Furthermore, he arranged special work sessions between citizens, homeowner association representatives, the development community, and their elected representatives, to engage in face-to-face dialogue to review various potential projects.

As PELT Committee Chairman, Mr. Burrell participated in providing feedback to Planning Office staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of County Supervisors at public hearings. Mr. Burrell chaired meetings on a variety of topics ranging from educating citizens on county land-use, rezoning, special use permit applications and comprehensive plan land-use requests as well as a facilitating communication between residents and developers.

Mr. Burrell also contributed to Prince William County in numerous capacities beyond LOCCA. He served as Vice Chairman on Prince William County's Future's Commission and as Vice Chairman on Prince William County's Land Use Advisory Committee. Mr. Burrell has served as a member of his homeowner association's (HOA's) Board of trustees for 15 years in Prince William County, serving 2 years as Treasurer and 8 years as President.

Because of his tireless and diligent work, Mr. Burrell was appointed by the Governor Northam to the Virginia Common Interest Community Board and has served as a Planning Commission member for the City of Fairfax.

I congratulate Mr. Burrell and commend him for his outstanding service to the betterment of our local community. He has contributed greatly to make the community he lives in a better place for all.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Tom Burrell for his

service, and in wishing him and his wife Bonnie continued health, happiness, and success as they embark on a new chapter in life.

SEAMUS RILEY—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Seamus Riley for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Seamus completed his Eagle Scout project December of last year. His project consisted of pouring ten 3 x 5 concrete slabs for entryways through a fenced in area that leads to a community recreational area where sporting events take place. Seamus coordinated the entire project and solicited the funds and material. He learned how to utilize his leadership skills in order to apply engineering and math skills to his project. Seamus will be pursuing a college degree in Colorado majoring in engineering. I wish Seamus the best of luck in his future endeavors and I know he will go on to achieve great things. God Bless Seamus and God Bless America.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
ALLOW CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS
WITH PRIOR SERVICE UNDER
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RE-
TIREMENT SYSTEM TO MAKE
DEPOSITS TOWARDS ANNUITIES
UNDER THE CIVIL SERVICE RE-
TIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIRE-
MENT SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to correct a retirement issue for several categories of workers who used to be under the District of Columbia retirement system.

In 1997, Congress transferred several categories of workers who participated in D.C.'s defined contribution plan from 1987 to 1997 to the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). However, these workers' service from 1987 to 1997 was not counted for purposes of creditable service or annuity amount in FERS. In 2009, Congress gave these employees the right to have this service counted for creditable service.

My bill would correct this last retirement issue for these public servants. It would allow these workers to buy into the FERS annuity amount for 1987 to 1997 by paying 1.3 percent of their base pay plus interest, essentially the employee contribution for this time, which would give them the full retirement benefit to which they are entitled.

Our bill is an important step to assist these workers in getting the retirement benefits they deserve. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 209 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 826, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 210 on ordering the previous question of H. Res. 535, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call No. 211 on agreeing to the resolution of H. Res. 535, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call No. 212 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass certain bills and agree to certain resolutions, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On Roll Call No. 213 on the motion to recommit for H.R. 2668, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 214 on passage of H.R. 2668, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALBERT
EARL BROOKS, SR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of my dear friend, Albert Earl Brooks, Sr., a highly distinguished community leader who passed away on March 25, 2021.

Albert Brooks dedicated his life to serving others and participating in the struggle for racial equality, social and economic equity, and voting rights. Al was born in Tabor City, North Carolina and grew up in Buffalo, New York. He joined the United States Army and then received his B.A. from the University of New York at Buffalo.

After completing his service in the Army, Al served as the Executive Director of the Buffalo Affirmative Action Plan. He was then selected by Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York to work for the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. While working in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Al

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

served as a Civil Rights Specialist and External Complaints Coordinator. This experience allowed him to transition to the Department of Labor where he worked as an Equal Opportunity Specialist and Civil Rights Officer. During his time at the Department of Labor, he became Executive Director for a program under the A. Philip Randolph Institute's Educational Fund. Under his leadership, the program pushed for desegregation of labor unions and to provide training for African American men who were historically denied employment in the trades industry.

His commitment to service extended beyond his professional life. Al was deeply involved in local politics and community activism. He was an active member of the Prince William County NAACP branch, the National Urban League, and the Prince William County Democratic Committee.

Al served as Chairman of the Black Democratic Committee for several terms and was coordinator of the PWC Democratic Committee's DMV early voting efforts for many years. During election season, Al would devote entire days to greeting voters at the DMV, passing out literature, and placing and removing candidate signs from the polling place.

Voting rights, community engagement, and grassroots organization motivated Al in all of his endeavors. His efforts of founding the African American Democratic Club helped increase the number of African American elected officials in Prince William County. He was instrumental in numerous campaigns and helped many of Prince William County's current leaders win their elections. Al worked to ensure everyone's voice was heard at the ballot box and he fully understood the power of civic engagement. Because of this work, Al has made our community better.

Madam Speaker, our community has lost a giant public servant, community icon, and a mentor to so many. A loving husband and father, Al spent his life in service to our country and to his community. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the memory and life of my dear friend, Albert Earl Brooks, Sr.

HONORING JEFF OLSON AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Olson, a community pharmacist at Montross Pharmacy, as this week's Iowan of the Week. Since 1995, Jeff has been the owner and operator of Montross Pharmacy in Winterset, Iowa, which this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

If you were to ask Jeff what it means to be a community pharmacist, he'd emphasize one word: community. Every day, Jeff works to make sure nobody goes without the care they need—whether that means fielding questions at the pharmacy counter, delivering prescriptions at home, or supporting local health as president of the Madison County Health Trust. Community pharmacies like Montross Pharmacy are mainstays and integral parts of the health care system in our small towns.

When COVID-19 forced us to adapt to different daily routines, Jeff and his staff at

Montross Pharmacy redoubled their commitment to serving Winterset. They knew the pandemic presented a once-in-a-lifetime challenge, but they resolved to get through it together. Together, Montross Pharmacy kept its doors open, providing continued access to pharmacy services for residents in a safe setting. Jeff and his staff were on call 24/7. And, trust me, if there were more than 24 hours in a day to give, they'd have been there.

They also quickly added new services for the community, including thousands of COVID-19 tests and vaccinations. It wasn't always easy. When faced with a vaccine shortage, Jeff took it upon himself to drive six hours to secure more doses for his friends and neighbors. His hard work did not go unnoticed. In fact, one resident—an older woman who had been homebound during the pandemic—exclaimed to Jeff that the vaccine he administered was “the best gift she could receive.”

Jeff and his family have made a lasting mark on Winterset. Decades ago, Jeff's grandfather left his mark by welding on the cupola of the Madison County Courthouse. Today, Jeff is leaving a different kind of mark. In each COVID-19 vaccination he delivers, Jeff sees the things that make Winterset his home—a summer day enjoyed at the pool, a youth sports game, and his kids laughing over lunch with friends.

Jeff's selflessness is truly infectious, and I know that Winterset will see the impact of his hard work for years to come. I am sincerely grateful for Jeff's commitment to his family, friends, and neighbors, and it is my honor to recognize Jeff Olson as Iowan of the Week.

ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF SOUTH JERSEY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to speak about a wonderful non-profit, the Islamic Academy of South Jersey. The Islamic Academy of South Jersey first opened in 2014 and is the first and only full-time Islamic school in southern New Jersey. Their goal is to mold students into future leaders through the practice of good manners and the understanding of leadership. The Academy constantly updates their academic curriculum and ensures that the students receive quality education. The Islamic Academy of South Jersey's vision is to teach students to be constructive, helpful, and beneficial in every aspect of their lives so it can be passed along to future generations. I wish the Islamic Academy of South Jersey nothing but success and it is my pleasure to be able to recognize them for their accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING LOU KENNEDY

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lou Kennedy and her substantial

contributions to our home state of South Carolina.

A South Carolina native, Lou attended Lexington High School and graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Journalism. Lou has held a variety of marketing and operation roles throughout her career and currently serves as the President, Chief Executive Officer, and Owner of Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation, a pharmaceutical manufacturer specializing in Blow-Fill-Seal technology. Lou joined Nephron Pharmaceuticals in 2001 and quickly created a national sales force. She also headed the effort to move the company's headquarters from Orlando to Columbia in 2014, creating over 800 new jobs in the Palmetto State.

Under Lou's leadership, Nephron Pharmaceuticals has experienced unprecedented growth and now employs nearly 2,000 workers. Lou recently announced the expansion of Nephron Pharmaceuticals and the opening of Nephron Nitrile, a new plant that will produce American-made, medical-grade nitrile gloves and will be headquartered in Lexington County. This expansion is a continuation of the Nephron team's efforts to support Governor McMaster's initiative to bring the production of life-saving medications and supplies back home to the United States. Lifelong friend to Lou and CEO of Vikor Scientific, Sam Konduros said there is “not one passive bone in Lou's body . . . she is very action-oriented, and very results-driven.” Lou's long list of accomplishments proves this to be true.

As a mother to a wonderful daughter and two-step daughters, Lou has instilled in her family a strong work ethic and a desire to find ways to succeed. Lou believes that hard work needs to be modeled, and she sets this example for both her family and her employees. You'll often find Lou spending her days in the office working alongside everybody in the plant to create a cohesive, hard-working team.

In addition to her strong professional leadership and go-getter attitude, Lou is an engaged and philanthropic individual. She serves on a variety of business and civic boards, including the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the Palmetto Business Forum. An avid Gamecocks fan, Lou also serves on the USC Athletic Department Board and has generously donated to her alma mater. For example, she and her husband helped establish the Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center in conjunction with the USC School of Pharmacy. She is affectionately known as “Cockadoodle Lou” for her financial support and gracious engagement with the institution.

As a testament to her outstanding service, Lou is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Outstanding Leadership Award from the National Association of Manufacturers and the Woman of the Year Award from the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance. She was also named Ambassador of the Year by the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Among other honors, Lou also received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor, from former Governor Nikki Haley.

Lou Kennedy is a remarkable woman whose work has truly made a difference for the Midlands region and for the entire state of South Carolina. On behalf of the 5th Congressional District, I congratulate and thank her for her continued service.

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT PTA ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the 2021 Northern Virginia District PTA Annual Award recipients. Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) in Northern Virginia serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students.

The Northern Virginia District PTA represents 225 school PTAs representing 5 school divisions. Maintaining a healthy and strong organization is an important part of allowing these groups to have the greatest possible impact on the students they serve. To encourage such strength, it is important to note the individual PTAs that excel in this mission, as well as the volunteers and educators who support them. It is my honor to include in the RECORD their names:

2021 NOVA District PTA Elementary Volunteers of the Year Honorees: Rebecca Stebbins, Camelot ES PTA; Erin Anderson, Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA; Jen Blackford, Little Run ES PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Secondary Volunteers of the Year Honorees: Shirley Alexander, Kilmer MS PTA; Samantha Mulvaney, Mark Twain MS PTA; Sherry Nachnani, Mount Vernon High School PTSA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Outstanding Educator and Staff Member of the Year Honorees: Ann Jopke, Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA, Educator; Charlotte Quigley, Little Run ES PTA, Educator; Marion Hawthorne, Arlington Science Focus School PTA, School Counselor; Brittany Belscher, Little Run ES PTA, School Counselor.

2021 NOVA District PTA Excellence in Communications Award Honorees: Jennifer King, Laurel Ridge ES PTA; Andrea Kramer, Thoreau MS PTA; Monique Roberts-Rabil, Oakton HS PTSA; Kara Jenkins, Fairfax County Council PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Honorees: Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School PTA; Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy PTA; Union Mill ES PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA STEM/STEAM PTA of the Year Award Honorees: Arlington Science Focus School PTA; Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA.

2021 NOVA District PTA Excellence in Outstanding PTA of the Year Award Honorees: Camelot ES PTA; Great Falls ES PTA; Hollin Meadows Science & Math Focus PTA; Laurel Ridge ES PTA; Union Mill ES PTA; Mount Vernon High School PTSA.

2021 New PTA Charter: Innovation ES PTA, Arlington County.

Congratulations to NOVA District PTA Students earning 2021 National PTA Reflections Awards for this year's theme "I Matter Because. . .": Claire Moon, Outstanding Interpretation, Visual Arts, Rachel Carson MS PTA; Julia Drolet, Award of Merit, Visual Arts, Wolftrap ES PTA; Manya Yellepeddy, Award of Excellence, Dance Choreography, Rachel Carson MS PTA; Isabelle "Trini" Rogando,

Award of Excellence, Literature, Thomas Jefferson HSST PTSA; Charles Nguyen, Award of Excellence, Literature, Special Artist, Lake Braddock SS PTSA; Jake Sizemore, Award of Excellence, Music Composition, Special Artist, Lake Braddock SS PTSA.

A special note of appreciation for dedicated service during 2020-2021 is extended to Hamid Munir, NOVA District Director; Debbie Kilpatrick, Assistant Director; Jason Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer; Julie Shepard, Advocacy Chair; Mary Gauvin, Communications Chair; Mike Woltz, Diversity, Outreach, and Inclusion Chair; Tony Shivers, Education Chair; Denise Bolton, Programs Chair; Martha Coleman, Events Coordinator; Patricia Franck, Special Projects Chair; Kara Jenkins, Fairfax County Council PTA President; Emily Vincent, Arlington County Council PTA President; Bill Pfister, Alexandria City Council PTA President; Pam Croom, Virginia PTA President; and Anna King, National PTA 57th President.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the individuals, PTAs and PTSAs that are being honored. Dedicated involvement from so many reflects a strong commitment to public education and community service that students in our schools are fortunate to experience. I offer my strong support for these organizations and their dedicated members and volunteers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on July 20, 2021, I was unable to vote on the Motion to Recommit for H.R. 2668, the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act. Had I been present, I would have voted against the Motion to Recommit.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHILLIP JAMES DEVRIES II ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Phillip James DeVries II on his retirement after 28 years of honorable service to our Nation. I stand with the people of West Michigan in recognizing the tremendous impact Lieutenant Colonel DeVries has had on our Nation and abroad.

Lieutenant Colonel DeVries began his service at West Point, where he was commissioned as Second lieutenant Field Artillery Officer. He then went on to become a Strategic Plans and Policies Officer in the United States Army, where he aided in strategizing and planning the future of the Army. Chosen for his dedication to international affairs, he also had the honor of attending the NATO Defense College, where he gained the experience to participate in multiple international assignments involving 22 countries. Lieutenant Colonel

DeVries was deployed four times throughout his career and faithfully served his country through strategic operations and on the ground.

Lieutenant Colonel Phillip DeVries truly is an American hero, and his service will have a lasting effect both nationally and internationally.

Madam Speaker, it is because of dedicated, honorable individuals such as Lieutenant Colonel Phillip James DeVries II that I am incredibly proud to serve Michigan's 2nd Congressional District. I join with those in West Michigan and around the globe in thanking Lieutenant Colonel DeVries for his many years of service and wish him a happy retirement.

KYLE FRANCIS LEAHY—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Kyle Francis Leahy who has been a scout since he was six years old, and recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Kyle demonstrated his leadership skills when he designed and created an outdoor classroom for the Friends School in Mullica Hill, South Jersey. Because of the pandemic, Kyle had minimal assistance while he cleared an 800 foot wooded trail ending in an amphitheater sized classroom. This will allow future generations of students to learn in a natural outdoor environment. Kyle is currently a senior at Tower Hill School in Delaware and plans on attending the University of South Carolina in their Capstone Leadership Program. Kyle wants to study economics and political science and has the hope to attend law school once he graduates from college. I am proud of Kyle and his dedication to his community, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in the future. God Bless Kyle and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 EXCELLENCE IN SALES HONOREES PRESENTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2021 recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Woman in Sales Leadership Award, IES Member of the Year, and the Rising Star Award presented by the Institute for Excellence in Sales & Business Development (IES).

IES was created to foster excellence in business sales and development practices and to help sales professionals and organizations maximize their efforts. IES conducts a variety of workshops and programs designed to provide the knowledge and tools necessary to advance the careers and growth of those who attend. Each year, IES recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations throughout the

United States who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development.

The Sales Excellence awards seek to promote and advance corporate and organizational sales excellence by recognizing organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership and strategic vision in Enterprise Sales. These honorees will each respectfully fall into the award categories of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Woman in Sales Leadership Award, the Member of the Year Award, and the Rising Star Award.

The recipient of the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award is Ms. Toni Townes-Whitley, President, U.S. Regulated Industries, Microsoft. As president of U.S. Regulated Industries at Microsoft, Toni Townes-Whitley leads the U.S. sales strategy for driving digital transformation across customers and partners within the public sector and commercial regulated industries. Her organization is responsible for executing on Microsoft's industry strategy and go-to-market for both public sector and regulated industries in the United States, including Education, Financial Services, Government, and Healthcare. In addition to leading a sales organization, Townes-Whitley is helping to steer the company's work to address systemic racial injustice.

The recipient of the 5th Annual Women in Sales Executive Leadership Award is Ms. Courtney S. Bromley. Courtney S. Bromley has been with IBM for 31 years serving federal, state and local government agencies. In her current role she manages all the Federal Government (non-DOD/Intel) as well as the State and Local Government and Education markets across the United States as part of IBM's U.S. Federal and Public Sector Market. Her business units are responsible for IBM's cross brand execution with all the Federal, State and Local Agencies and Educational institutions including all IBM lines of business—hardware, software and services.

John Asher is the IES Member of the Year. John is the CEO of ASHER Strategies, a pre-eminent sales and marketing advisory services company. His team has trained more than 80,000 executives, salespeople and other customer facing managers in 22 developed countries over the past 19 years. His team has advised a number of Global Fortune 5000 companies including Goldman Sachs, General Dynamics, Alibaba, China Mobile and 1400 other small and medium sized companies. John is a graduate of United States Naval Academy with degrees in mathematics and nuclear engineering.

Veronica Poissant is the recipient of the IES Jay Nussbaum Rising Sales Star Award. Veronica Poissant is a Director of Inside Sales for the North American Public Sector at Red Hat, the world's leading provider of enterprise open source solutions. During her 12-year tenure at Red Hat, she has directly contributed to the strategic development of the public sector inside sales organization which has grown in size and scope by 500 percent.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Toni Townes-Whitley, Courtney S. Bromley, Veronica Poissant, and John Asher for their exceptional dedication and leadership within the business community.

MARJORIE HASS LEAVING RHODES COLLEGE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish the best good fortune to a transformational educator, Dr. Marjorie Hass, who is leaving as President of Rhodes College in Memphis to become President of the Council of Independent Colleges, a Washington-based association of independent colleges and universities. There she will be a leading voice in national discussions of issues in higher education. In her four years at Rhodes, Dr. Hass has inspired the students, faculty and staff to maintain the stellar reputation it has gained over 173 years as one of the nation's top liberal arts institutions. Trained as a philosopher and guided by her Jewish faith, Dr. Hass has been a thoughtful decision maker as a college president, maintaining high standards in leadership development and academics. In the last four years, Rhodes has been named one of the nation's most innovative liberal arts colleges by U.S. News & World Report, a "best value" college by The Princeton Review, and Tennessee's best liberal arts college by Niche, the lifestyle and culture magazine. Dr. Hass taught philosophy for over a decade at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, where she also directed the Center for Ethics, and holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Illinois—Champaign-Urbana. Before coming to Muhlenberg College, Dr. Hass served as president of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where she worked to ensure talented students could succeed regardless of their financial background. Dr. Hass is married to Dr. Lawrence Hass, a former philosophy professor and sleight-of-hand magician, and she has two grown children, Cameron and Jessica. After her contributions to Rhodes and to our city, I look forward to seeing Dr. Hass testifying before the education committees on Capitol Hill in her new leadership position and wish her the best in this new chapter of her life.

HONORING MR. MOHAMMAD
HOSSEIN MEHRMAND

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrmand, a constituent of mine and a former Lieutenant-General of the Imperial Iranian Air Force. Prior to 1979, Iran, was a very different country than it is today. Iran and the United States were close friends and cooperated in both trade and military affairs.

Because of this close cooperation between our two nations, Iranian military officers like Mr. Mehrmand had the opportunity to visit U.S. military installations and work closely with American servicemembers to train on U.S.-built fighter jets that were operated by the Imperial Iranian Air Force.

While the Imperial Iranian Air Force operated a number of U.S. fighter jets, they were

the sole foreign operator of one aircraft, in particular, the F-14 Tomcat. As a result of this program, Khatami Air Base was constructed by the Iranian government near the city of Isfahan in the early 1970s to cater to their new fleet of F-14s with support facilities built specifically for the Grumman Corporation. In fact, the entire region around Isfahan was booming for the American defense industry with other defense contractors like Raytheon, Lockheed, Boeing and Hughes Aircraft working on lucrative projects for the Shah's government.

As a result of the massive presence of American enterprise in the region, Isfahan was home to at least 1,200 American military members and 8,000 civilian advisers at its peak in the mid-to-late 1970s. This presence could be felt quite evidently by the massive amount of new construction marketed towards the Americans working in the region.

All of this changed in 1979 as revolutionary fundamentalists began to take over Iran. At the time, there were over 5,000 Americans living in Iran with many residing around Khatami Air Base. As the situation in the country began to deteriorate, the U.S. Embassy in Iran advised all Americans to leave the country.

At the time, Lt. General Mehrmand was the tactical commander of the Imperial Iranian Air Force and he had received information that many within the Iranian military had begun to go rogue and side with the fundamentalist revolutionaries, with many of these rogue units attempting to prevent Americans from leaving Iran.

Lt. General Mehrmand took action on behalf of our citizens and met with the rogue units to successfully negotiate the American exodus from Iran. He additionally made arrangements to allow for twenty-five special American passenger planes to enter Iranian airspace to begin evacuating all Americans from Iran. As a direct result of his efforts, nearly 5,000 Americans were safely and successfully evacuated out of the collapsing country.

Within weeks of the evacuation flights, the Imperial Iranian government collapsed, and the fanatical government of Ayatollah Khomeini took over Iran. Under the new government, Lt. General Mehrmand was branded a traitor for securing the exodus of the American people and had his property, assets, and retirement pension confiscated. Fortunately, Mr. Mehrmand was able to escape persecution in Iran and found refuge here in the United States.

Mr. Mehrmand, despite not being an American citizen, had the boldness and courage to stand up against fanaticism in the name of freedom for the American people. Today, Mr. Mehrmand is 92 years old, and a proud American citizen living happily in California. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize his patriotic actions and I want to express my profound gratitude to him for his service to our country and to our national interests.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMEER MIDWEST

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Junior Kool of Eureka, Illinois,

and Vermeer Midwest for celebrating the 50th anniversary as an outstanding company in the central Illinois area.

Vermeer Midwest first opened its doors in 1971. Founder Junior Kool, raised with hard-working American values, successfully expanded his business across four states with ten distinct locations. Providing excellent service and ample charitable donations of money, time, and people, Junior's legacy will have a lasting impact on the area.

Vermeer Midwest is known throughout Central Illinois not only for their quality underground and environmental equipment but also for the lasting relationships they develop with their customers. Junior and his wife Beverly are fondly recognized for their pure commitment to customer service and seeing their consumers through to success. Never are they hesitant to complete the job or get their boots dirty, and as their motto says, "It's simply how business is done."

The Greater Peoria area has benefited from Vermeer Midwest's goodwill and generosity since they first opened. I extend my sincere congratulations to Vermeer Midwest, Junior Kool, and all of the hard-working staff for a successful fifty years. I wish their family and company a successful future.

BENJAMIN TAYLOR AND ZACHARY ASSELTA—EAGLE SCOUTS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this past May, I had the pleasure of presenting Benjamin Taylor and Zachary Asselta their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Both Benjamin and Zachary graduated from Millville High School last year. They completed their scout projects prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and were unable to receive their Court of Honor until this year. Benjamin's project consisted of painting the outdoor stage at Corson Park in Millville, South Jersey. Zachary's project was to put up street signs in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Millville, South Jersey. These young men should be proud of their accomplishments, and it was my honor to have the opportunity to recognize them for their service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Benjamin and Zachary and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 GRADUATES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT HIGH SCHOOL FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2021 graduating class of the Fairfax County High School Firefighter program. In 2016, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools created its High School Firefighter Program to provide training to stu-

dents who are considering a career as a firefighter.

Students who participate in this program attend courses taught by qualified instructors at the Fairfax County Fire Academy. In fact, they receive the same training as new professional and volunteer firefighters. The course is grueling but upon successful completion, the students are eligible to receive six college credits. Should these students decide to apply to the Fairfax County Fire Academy, this program will make them competitive candidates and will have prepared them for recruit school.

Fourteen seniors are graduating in the Class of 2021 of the High School Firefighter Program. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following graduates:

Seth Ballard, William Beavers, Nicholas Carpio, Peyton Czika, Moeed Ghazi, Matthew Hargrave, Mai Mohamed, Sarah Moummi, Michael Muldoon, Spencer Neyland, Robert Rupp, Joshua Scurlock, Isaac Spar, Jalen Wray.

Madam Speaker, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is one of the best fire departments in the country and in the world. I commend the Department as well as the public school system for partnering in the creation of this program. I also applaud these young people for their desire to learn more about the Department and for their interest in protecting our community. Northern Virginia is fortunate to have such dedicated young citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students on the successful completion of this program and in wishing them success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SILVIA URIBE—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Silvia Uribe of Goleta, California.

Silvia is a language access advocate, who has devoted her business and community service providing language services and helping people connect. Born and raised in Mexico City, Silvia and her family moved to Santa Barbara 28 years ago where she immediately began serving the community. Her business, TransilPro provides translation and interpretation services to businesses, government, community organizations, and beyond. She has a knack for creating programs that overcome language barriers, including writing Spanish curricula for the Adoption Center of Santa Barbara. Silvia's work in the community goes beyond her everyday activities.

Her passion for communication extends to media, as a radio host, writer, Univision contributor, and speaker. Whether she is invited as a guest lecturer at Santa Barbara Community College, speaking to a church group, or in her former Univision segment, *En confianza* con Silvia, her objective is always to be of

service by sharing information and bringing services and people together. Silvia gives her time and talents to a wide array of organizations. She started Latino Girl Scout troops in North and South Santa Barbara County and created Fun in the Sun in collaboration with the United Way. She expanded into the business world as a co-founder of *Lideres Latinos* in Leadership Santa Barbara County.

A longtime advocate for victims of crime in the Santa Barbara District attorney's office, Silvia also created STESA's Spanish curriculum on sexual assault and delivers volunteer training to Spanish speaking volunteers with STESA and Just Communities.

Silvia is also an active public servant. In addition to working for the DA's Victim Witness, Silvia has served as a County Human Services Commissioner and a Public Engagement Commissioner with the City of Goleta. The common thread across all these activities is Silvia's commitment to connecting members of our community—to each other and to services. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds. I am honored to recognize Silvia for her continued commitment to community and the residents of Santa Barbara County.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Silvia Uribe, for her incredible service to her community.

HONORING MR. COLEMAN WALKER'S INDUCTION TO THE TENNESSEE RADIO HALL OF FAME

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coleman Walker for his induction into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

Mr. Walker, a well-known figure of longstanding in the Tennessee Broadcast community, began his radio career in 1961 at the age of 21 as a broadcaster for WCOR-AM in Lebanon, TN. Since that time sixty years ago, robust audiences of Middle Tennesseans have tuned-in to listen whenever this talented man sits behind the microphone.

During the course of those ensuing sixty years, Mr. Walker also became a licensed insurance agent, and he currently plies his trade for Walker and Phillips Insurance in Lebanon. But he never lost his love and enthusiasm for radio broadcasting, which manifests itself today when he hosts the daily morning radio show "Coleman and Company" on WANT-FM and WCOR-AM, focusing on community affairs in Lebanon.

Through his interviews of various elected officials, business leaders, community activists, and community volunteers on his show, this Middle Tennessee broadcast legend continues to keep his countless listeners informed on the important issues of the day. As a frequent guest on Mr. Walker's show, I can attest to his fervent passion for his Lebanon, TN hometown, where he and his wife Helen raised their three sons Clark, Brian, and Mike, and now enjoy their several grandchildren.

His involvement with Lebanon and insight into the issues of the day throughout his career are unmatched and serves as a shining

example of the positive difference a sincere, community-minded individual can make. I am very pleased that he is receiving this much deserved recognition of his achievements.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in commending Mr. Coleman Walker, the dean of local radio in Middle Tennessee, for his many years of broadcasting excellence and his induction into the Tennessee Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
148TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 148th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 42 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 30-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed twelve weeks of EMT training and sixteen weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force I, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 148th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 148th Recruit Class:

Paul Ayers, Juan Bailey, Jacob Biller, Joseph Boccabello, Andrew Brinton, Timothy Cahill, Jason Cook, Zion David, Joshua Davidson, Andrew Duke, Matthew McKay, Ariel Molina Heredia, Gary Moore Jr, Ricardo Munoz Caceres, Charles Nelson III, Christopher Ong-Hay, Kelly Paszkiewicz, Tyler Pennington, Elijah Quiceno, Brandon Rafferty.

Keith Fosco, Rachel Guszick, Jonas Holz, Timothy Hussey, Caroline Jarvis, Michael

Kloosterboer, Cameron Kotwicki, Adam Ladd, Joseph Leis, Maria-Clarice Lingat, Tyler Martin, James Reed III, Darioush Rush, Matthew Sisinni, Mark Taggart-Perez, David Tezza, Armin Saadi, Jason Vargas, Benjamin Welty, Taylor White, Matthew Wilson, Ian Wood.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING PAM HOWELL-
BEACH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Pam Howell-Beach in my District. Pam has been a longtime leader of our community, leading efforts and leaving her imprimatur on Northwest Ohio community organizations, and has come to retirement as the CEO of the Stranahan Foundation in Toledo, Ohio.

Pam Howell-Beach grew up in the Northwest Ohio rural community of Archbold, Ohio. Upon her high school graduation, the family was required to relocate due to her father's work. However, Pam chose to stay and supported herself, enrolling in evening and weekend classes at the University of Toledo and working full time to cover the cost of tuition and expenses. The first in her family to obtain a higher degree, Pam achieved a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and Psychology. She later went on to Case Western Reserve University where she obtained her Master's Degree in Social Work Administration, specializing in non-profit planning and management. Pam achieved this advanced degree earning a 4.0 while leading the Toledo Community Foundation as its director.

Under the leadership of Pam Howell-Beach, she grew the assets of the Toledo Community Foundation from \$20 million to nearly \$100 million. As a result, the Toledo Community Foundation's reach extended into every facet of Toledo life including social services, the arts and education.

After sixteen years at the helm of the Toledo Community Foundation, Pam was asked to become the first full-time executive director of the Stranahan Foundation. Thus, she oversaw the organization's services while bringing forth many new initiatives. Among these efforts was an early childhood education enterprise that brought national recognition to the Stranahan Foundation. In the seventeen years of Pam Howell-Beach's tenure at the Stranahan Foundation, more than \$70.5 million in funding has been disbursed to nonprofit organizations in our region and nationwide.

Pam Howell-Beach's strengths in the nonprofit world and community at large brought her recognition as well. She was inducted into the inaugural class of 20 Under 40 in 1996 and was named a YWCA Milestone Honoree in 2010.

Accolades are well-deserved, but Pam has devoted her energies toward mentorship in the philanthropic world. She has particularly fo-

cused on raising up women. Pam has dedicated countless volunteer hours toward these efforts, as well as serving as past president of the Zonta Club of Toledo, past chair of Philanthropy Ohio, former chair of the Ability Center of Greater Toledo, trustee for Mercy Health Partners, advisor for the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, and grant reviewer for Susan G. Komen Foundation.

In spite of Pam's accomplishments in the philanthropic world, the role she most treasures is the one in her family. Her biographer notes that she is a "devoted wife to her husband, Bob. Together they have travelled the world, trekked thousands of miles on their bikes, and spent cherished time with a wide community of friends and associates. Pam has also served as a source of support and strength for her step-children and her nephews. Beyond any doubt, Pam has led an exemplary life, both personally and professionally." Singer/songwriter Dolly Parton noted, "If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader." Truly, Pam Howell-Beach has embodied this message throughout her journey. We wish her Godspeed.

FREEDOM AND LIBERTY FOR
CUBA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, historic protests against the brutal communist Cuban regime are taking place across Cuba. I commend the courage of the Cuban people as they stand together to demand basic human freedoms. Socialist oppression in Cuba has gone on long enough and the people of Cuba are standing for freedom and liberty.

Cuba's socialist dictatorship has tortured the people of Cuba for decades, forcing the entire country into shambles and economic turmoil. Now, as the people of Cuba peacefully protest this oppressive regime, Cuban regime thugs are taking protesters from their homes for nothing more than calling for freedom. These horrifying events are not uncommon, and it is time the Cuban regime be held responsible for their offences against Cuban families.

It was inspiring to see American flags being flown during Sunday's protests. Cubans have historically stood up against totalitarian communism, and the United States stands with them.

RILEY QUIRK—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Riley Quirk who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Riley's Eagle Scout project was the replacement of a 140' long timber bridge path through a swampy area located on Camp Edge. Riley was in charge of coordinating donations, design, materials, tools,

work crew, and food. Riley is also a young farmer who manages a flock of 100 sheep, 300 laying hens, broiler chickens, and a small market garden. Riley has aspirations to attend college and go on to expand his agriculture enterprises on his family farm. It is amazing to see our young people in South Jersey serving their community and I know Riley will achieve great things. God Bless Riley and God Bless America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARVIN WAGNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of my dear friend Marvin Wagner, a pivotal Northern Virginia leader who passed away on May 23, 2020, at the age of 90.

Marvin Wagner grew up in the Williamsburg public housing projects in Brooklyn, New York. From a young age Marvin had to support his mother and sister by working to put food on the table for his family all while going to school. In 1946, Marvin enlisted in the Army and was able to utilize the GI Bill to then attend Long Island University. After earning his four-year degree from LIU, he attended Brooklyn Law School and successfully passed the bar exam. Shortly after, he met and married the love of his life, Harriet, who became his partner and best friend for the next 66 years.

Throughout his career, Marvin dedicated himself to service and strived to make the world a better and safer place. Marvin quickly became involved in Democratic politics and worked in local government on highway safety issues on Long Island. To learn new best practices for highway safety, Marvin traveled to Scandinavia to study their use of breath and blood alcohol tests to identify drunk drivers and introduced the concept locally in the town of Oyster Bay and Nassau County, New York. Later, he would go on to introduce his ideas as a member of the National Highway Traffic Safety Board within the Department of Transportation. Nationally, he helped formulate strategies that were instrumental in reducing drunk driving deaths such as: data-based testing, implied consent laws, and the legalization of roadblocks. Marvin also helped create national standards by continuing to educate lawmakers and judges all over the country.

In addition to his groundbreaking work in the public health and safety area, Marvin focused his attention on helping juvenile offenders as an attorney in Fairfax, Virginia. Marvin's commitment and service to youth offenders led two governors to appoint him to the Juvenile Justice Commission in Richmond, where he served for eight years. His personal experience with poverty and adversity at a young age allowed him to skillfully advocate for the children and young adults that came through the juvenile justice system.

Public service was at the core of who Marvin was. In addition to his contributions in public safety and the juvenile justice system, Marvin served as a leader of party committees throughout his adult life, the last eight years as the chair of the Democratic Club at Greenspring retirement community in Spring-

field, Virginia. He was passionate about music, theater, and dance, and he channeled that by serving as a volunteer usher with his wife, Harriet, at Wolf Trap in Vienna for 30 years. Marvin also had an adventurous spirit—he loved to travel and made sure to take annual trips with his wife and family. But above all Marvin was a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Marvin Wagner. His leadership and commitment to public service helped save lives all over the country, and he will be missed by all who knew him. I also extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Harriet; his loving children, Carole, Robert, Janet, and Steven; daughters-in-law, Laura and Jenny; son-in-law, Bill; and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

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 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine cryptocurrencies.

SD-538

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 Massachu-

setts, 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

3 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Economic Policy

To hold hearings to examine protecting student loan borrowers and the economy in the upcoming transitions.

SD-538

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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alexander Hoehn-Saric, of Maryland, Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, and Richard Trumka, Jr., of Maryland, each to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Grant T. Harris, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine the impacts of overcrowding in our national parks on park resources and visitor experiences, focusing on strategic approaches to visitor use management.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the benefits of investing in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure projects.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine building on bipartisan retirement legislation, focusing on how Congress can help.

SD-215

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

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine U.S. trade and investment in Africa.

SH-216/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine America's food supply chain.

SD-226

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4991–S5025

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2405–2427, and S. Res. 309–313. **Pages S5017–18**

Measures Passed:

The Pledge of Allegiance: Senate agreed to S. Res. 309, expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance. **Page S5005**

Ensuring Survivor Benefits during COVID–19 Act: Senate passed S. 89, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5023**

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act: Senate passed S. 189, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the committee amendment to the title. **Pages S5023–24**

Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act: Senate passed S. 894, to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Page S5024**

Major Medical Facility Authorization Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1910, to authorize major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021, and the bill was then passed. **Page S5025**

National Blueberry Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 139, recognizing the importance of the blueberry industry to the United States and designating July 2021 as “National Blueberry Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5025**

National Day of the American Cowboy: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 274, designating July 24, 2021, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5025**

Congratulating Zaila Avant-garde: Senate agreed to S. Res. 311, congratulating the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Zaila Avant-garde. **Page S5025**

Congratulating the Tampa Bay Lightning: Senate agreed to S. Res. 312, congratulating the Tampa Bay Lightning on winning the 2021 Stanley Cup Final. **Page S5025**

Souris River Flood 10th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 313, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota. **Page S5025**

Measures Considered:

Invest in America Act: By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 276), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. **Pages S5001–02**

Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S5002**

Hruby Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, July 22, 2021, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Jill Hruby, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy, and vote on confirmation thereon. **Page S5025**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 50 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. EX. 273), Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New

York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of four years. **Page S4994**

By 52 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 275), Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. **Pages S4991–94, S4995–5001**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 274), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4995**

Messages from the House: **Page S5013**

Measures Referred: **Pages S5013–14**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5014–17**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5017**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5018–20**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5020–22**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5011–13**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S5022–23**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5023**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—276) **Pages S4994–95, S5001–02**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:05 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5025.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NAVY AND AIR FORCE WEAPONS SYSTEMS DIVESTMENTS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine Navy and Air Force weapons systems divestments, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Randy B. Crites, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Integration of Capabilities and Resources, Vice Admiral James W. Kilby, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities, and Lieutenant General David S. Nahom, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, all of the Department of Defense.

CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITIES

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine cybersecurity vulnerabilities facing our nation's physical infrastructure, after receiving testimony from Senator King;

Representative Gallagher; Sophia Oberton, Delmar Public Works Department, Delmar, Maryland; John P. Sullivan, Boston Water and Sewer Commission, Boston, Massachusetts, on behalf of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; Shailen P. Bhatt, Intelligent Transportation Society of America, Washington, D.C.; and Evan Pratt, American Public Works Association, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

U.S. POLICY ON TURKEY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States Policy on Turkey, after receiving testimony from Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy concluded a hearing to examine combatting climate change in East Asia and the Pacific, after receiving testimony from Jonathan Pershing, Senior Advisor to the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, and Richard Buangan, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, both of the Department of State; Craig Hart, Asia Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Indo-Pacific, United States Agency for International Development; Melissa Dalton, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities; Marinel Ubaldo, Living Laudato Si' Philippines, Matarinao; and Richard J. Powell, ClearPath Inc., and Sherri Goodman, International Military Council on Climate and Security, both of Washington, D.C.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security concluded a hearing to examine disparities in life expectancy, after receiving testimony from Kathleen Mullan Harris, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; William E. Cooke, Foundations Family Medicine, Austin, Indiana; and Bob MacKenzie, Kennebunk Police Department, Kennebunk, Maine.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.1275, to amend the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to make improvements, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of 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,

and Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, and David M. Prouty, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Randy Grinnell, Deputy Director for Management Operations, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Heidi Todacheene, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Jonathan M. Nez, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona; Gil Vigil, National Indian Child

Welfare Association, Portland, Oregon; and Robyn Sunday-Allen, National Council of Urban Indian Health, Washington, D.C.

IMMIGRANT FARMWORKERS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine immigrant farmworkers and feeding America, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture; Leon R. Sequeira, former Assistant Secretary of Labor, Arlington, Virginia; Arturo S. Rodriguez, United Farm Workers, San Antonio, Texas; Linnea Kooistra, Kooistra Farms, Woodstock, Illinois; Shay Myers, Owyhee Produce, Ontario, Oregon; and Jen Sorenson, National Pork Producers Council, Urbandale, Iowa.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 4589–4613; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 42; and H. Res. 544–549, were introduced.

Pages H3801–03

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H3803–04

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

Supplemental report on H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–89, Part 2).

Page H3801

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

Page H3759

Recess: The House recessed at 11:04 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H3766

PFAS Action Act of 2021: The House passed 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, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 241 yeas to 183 yeas, Roll No. 217.

Pages H3770–91

Rejected the Crenshaw motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 204 yeas to 218 yeas, Roll No. 216.

Pages H3789–90

Pursuant to the Rule, 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.

Pages H3770–73

Agreed to:

Tonko en bloc amendment consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–95: Kildee (No. 1) that requires EPA to create a website to better help well water users test their water and understand the results; Leger Fernandez (No. 2) that ensures that testing under Sec. 3 and the risk communication strategy under Sec. 15 considers the risks PFAS poses to water used for agricultural purposes; Levin (No. 3) that establishes a new grant program to test for and remediate PFAS containments in the drinking water at school facilities, and authorizes \$100 million to carry out that program for FY2022 through FY2026; Ocasio-Cortez (No. 4) that ensures that information on the Household Well Water Testing Website is presented in a manner that provides meaningful access

to individuals with limited English proficiency; Ross (No. 5) that revises the PFAS Infrastructure Grant Program to allow applicants to certify that the treatment technology that was in use by the community water system on the date of enactment was not sufficient to remove all detectable amounts of PFAS; San Nicolas (No. 6) that requires the Administrator to provide grants to insular territories; Sarbanes (No. 7) that requires EPA to obtain analytical reference standards for PFAS for the development of protocols and methodologies and enforcement activities; Slotkin (No. 8) that increases the annual funding for the Assistance for Community Water Systems Affected by PFAS grant program; Slotkin (No. 9) that adds to the Household Well Water Testing Website information about the health risks associated with exposure to PFAS-contaminated water as well as recommendations for individuals who believe they may have been exposed such PFAS-contaminated water; and Slotkin (No. 10) that adds to the list of products covered by the PFAS Free Product Labeling Program (by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 215). **Pages H3784–89**

H. Res. 535, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2467), (H.R. 2668), and (H.R. 3985) was agreed to yesterday, July 20th.

Agreed that in the engrossment of the bill, the clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

Page H3791

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H3769–70.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3788–89, H3789–90 and H3790–91.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE U.S. WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY: FACILITATING THE POST COVID–19 RECOVERY

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing entitled “The U.S. Wood Products Industry: Facilitating the Post COVID–19 Recovery”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST FOR U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND COMMAND

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations held a hearing entitled “Review of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command”. Testimony was heard from Joseph McMenamin, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; and General Richard D. Clarke, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command.

PHASING OUT SUBMINIMUM WAGES: SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT FOR WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections; and Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services held a joint hearing entitled “Phasing Out Subminimum Wages: Supporting the Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment for Workers with Disabilities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a 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”. H.R. 4369, H.R. 654, H.R. 2379, H.R. 2364, H.R. 2355, H.R. 550, H.R. 1550, H.R. 951, H.R. 3742, H.R. 2347, H.R. 3894, H.R. 4406, H.R. 2685, H.R. 3919, H.R. 4028, H.R. 4032, H.R. 4045, H.R. 4046, H.R. 4055, and H.R. 4067 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2051, H.R. 4026, H.R. 3743, and H.R. 4387 were ordered reported, without amendment.

BANKING THE UNBANKED: EXPLORING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC EFFORTS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “Banking the Unbanked: Exploring Private and Public Efforts to Expand Access to the Financial System”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BOND RATING AGENCIES: EXAMINING THE ‘NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED’ STATISTICAL RATING ORGANIZATIONS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets held a hearing entitled “Bond Rating Agencies: Examining the ‘Nationally Recognized’ Statistical Rating Organizations”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE: EXAMINING GRASSROOTS PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled “People to People: Examining Grassroots Peacebuilding Efforts Between Israelis and Palestinians”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1693, the “EQUAL Act”; H.R. 4035, the “Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2021”; H.R. 3372, the “One Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act of 2021”; and H.R. 4435, the “Fight Notario Fraud Act of 2021”. H.R. 1693 and H.R. 4035 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3372 and H.R. 4435 were ordered reported, without amendment.

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

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a 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”. Testimony was heard from David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Don Cline, Associate Director of Water Resources, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; Stephen D. Guertin, Deputy Director for Program Management and Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and Richard W. Spinrad, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce.

BUILDING BACK WITH JUSTICE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS CENTRAL TO THE AMERICAN JOBS PLAN

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Building Back with Justice: Environmental Justice Is Central to the American Jobs Plan”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SILENT KILLER: THE RISING PROBLEM OF EXTREME HEAT IN THE U.S.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “Silent Killer: The Rising Problem of Extreme Heat in the U.S.”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SBA’S ROLE IN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled “SBA’s Role in Climate Solutions”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET FOR THE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Review of Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Karl P. Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Daniel B. Maffei, Chairman, Federal

Maritime Commission; Master Chief Jason M. Vanderhaden, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard; and Lucinda Lessley, Acting Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

MOVING FORWARD: EVALUATING NEXT STEPS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "Moving Forward: Evaluating Next Steps for the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program". Testimony was heard from Carolyn Clancy, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks, Department of Veterans Affairs; Kameron L. Matthews, Assistant Undersecretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; David Chase, Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF FORCED LABOR IN SUPPLY CHAINS: STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTING WORKERS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing entitled "The Global Challenge of Forced Labor in Supply Chains: Strengthening Enforcement and Protecting Workers". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM BUDGET OVERVIEW HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Warfighter Support held a hearing entitled "Military Intelligence Program Budget Overview Hearing". Testimony was heard from Wayne Davis, Deputy J2, U.S. Special Operations Command; Lieutenant General Matthew Glavy, Deputy Commandant for Information, U.S. Marine Corps; Major General Leah Lauderback, Director for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, U.S. Space Force; Ronald Moultrie, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, Department of Defense; Lieutenant General Laura Potter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, U.S. Army; Major General Daniel Simpson, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, U.S. Air Force; and Vice Admiral Jeffrey Trussler, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, N2/N6, U.S. Navy. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

TOKYO 2021 OLYMPICS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Rodchenkov Act enforcement at the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, after receiving testimony from Richard Baum, United States Coordinator, Doping in Sport, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy; Edwin Moses, United States Anti-Doping Agency; Jim Walden, Walden, Macht, and Haran; Debra LaPrevotte, The Sentry; and Noah Hoffman.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment, to hold hearings to examine frameworks to address future pandemic risk, 10 a.m., 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, 10 a.m., SR-253.

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, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

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, 10 a.m., 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, 10 a.m., SD-430.

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, 9 a.m., SR-325.

House

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism, hearing entitled "Terrorism and Digital Financing: How Technology is Changing the Threat", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Defense Intelligence Agency Budget Hearing", 9:30 a.m., HVC-304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

At 1:30 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Jill Hruby, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy, and vote on confirmation thereon.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 3985—Allies Act of 2021.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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