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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. WILD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 29, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUSAN WILD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI.
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING HEROES AND VICTIMS IN COLLIERVILLE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, last week, our community in Collierville, Tennessee, experienced a horrific tragedy.

On Thursday, September 23, last week, a gunman opened fire at the Kroger on Byhalia Road. Fifteen people were shot, and one woman, Olivia King, a mother and grandmother, died as a result of her injuries in the hospital later that day.

Roberta and I are praying for Olivia King's children, her family, and her friends at this difficult time.

As Collierville Alderman Maureen Fraser said: ''Everybody needs to be more like Olivia King. She was very kind, very generous, very Christian, and a rule-follower.''

Our hearts go out to all the victims, their loved ones, and everyone in the entire community who has been impacted.

I want to quote Collierville Police Chief Dale Lane, who said that Collierville is ''one of the most resilient communities in America.'' I believe that this is an absolutely true statement.

On that tragic day, we witnessed our brave heroes—law enforcement officers, Federal agents, firefighters, EMTs, doctors, nurses, and other local officials—spring into action. Not a single person hesitated to act or tend to a person in need.

Their training and selfless actions helped save people's lives that day. There is no doubt about it. I cannot thank enough everyone for their incredible bravery and courage that day.

The collaboration and cooperation between all the law enforcement agencies and all the first responders was tremendous. These agencies included: the Collierville Police Department; the Collierville Fire Department; the Shelby County Sheriff's Office; the Germantown Police Department; the Germantown Fire Department; the Memphis Police Department; the Memphis Fire Department; the Bartlett Fire Department; the Bartlett Police Department; the Fayette County Sheriff's Office; the DeSoto County, Mississippi, Sheriff's Office; the Tennessee Highway Patrol; the FBI; and other Federal law enforcement agencies. They worked flawlessly together to address and handle the situation in a timely and professional manner.

I also commend Collierville Police Chief Dale Lane's strong and effective leadership, and I thank his entire staff for their heroism. Special commendation also goes to Collierville Fire Chief Buddy Billings and his men and women for their swift action that prevented the additional loss of life.

Further, I want to recognize all the first responders, the doctors, the surgeons, the nurses, and their staff for delivering the necessary and immediate care to these victims.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner, Town Administrator James Lewellen, and Collierville Municipal School Board Chairman Wright Cox for their continued and strong leadership.

Mayor Joyner issued a proclamation declaring tomorrow, September 30, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., as a day of prayer and meditation for the town of Collierville and her victims.

The people of Collierville are strong and resilient. They will always remain Collierville Strong.

PASS TRANSFORMATIONAL CLIMATE LEGISLATION

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, Americans nationwide have felt the impact of this year's extreme weather, from flooding to wildfires to record heat. In Washington State, heat domes in June and August of this year have caused hundreds to die of heat exposure, roads and highways to buckle, and shellfish to broil in their streams.

The iconic Mount Rainier, one of the snowiest places on Earth, was not immune to this. The unprecedented heat, nearly 40 degrees above the previous recorded high, has had a devastating impact on the mountain. This image shows Mount Rainier during most of the summer, its sides bare, compared to its typical snow cover.

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For longtime residents of Washington State, it is jarring to see Mount Rainier without snow on its peak. In just 4 days this summer, 4 days in late June, the peak of the heat dome, the mountain lost 30 percent of its total snow cover. This is a visual demonstration that climate change is real.

The lack of snow became more notable as the summer progressed, and this heat is an ecological issue and an economic issue. Washington State's shellfish industry is among the largest in the Nation, contributing $270 million to the State economy and supporting nearly 3,000 jobs.

The heat dome this summer devastated shellfish farms that make up the core of this industry. Shellfish growers reported shellfish baking to death, literally, in shallow water and on the beach. Taylor Shellfish, located in my district, reported losing over 2 million clam seeds.

As our planet warms and climate change takes hold, these extreme weather events are becoming more common, costing lives and critically damaging our environment and our economy.

Against this backdrop, our need to pass transformational climate change legislation becomes even more stark and more urgent. We must invest in electric vehicle infrastructure. We must dramatically expand public transit. We must build an energy grid using renewable sources of power.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create tens of thousands of jobs and build a sustainable society for future generations. My district, my State, and our planet depend on it.

INDEPENDENCE IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, October 11 is, in South Dakota, Native American Day.

Now, when America turns its eyes to Indian reservations, so often—too often—the focus is on poverty, despair, dysfunction. But there are wonderful stories from Indian Country as well, stories of hope, opportunity, hard work, success, entrepreneurship.

With that in mind, I want to talk to you about Tashina Red Hawk. She is a 17-year-old member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is an excellent student, and she is a rodeo queen. She is my friend, and let me tell you, Madam Speaker, she is impressive.

Tashina graduated early from high school, and then, when the pandemic hit and her college classes went online, rather than do what so many teens did, spending more time on social media or video games, she decided to become an entrepreneur. It is just an amazing story.

Her local coffee shop had remained closed during the pandemic, so Tashina saw an opportunity. She wanted to save money for college.

Again, as I said, she is an excellent student. She wants to be a veterinarian. Now, she knows that path is not going to be easy, and it is going to take a few dollars in the bank. She knew that this business opportunity would give her a wonderful chance.

Here she is in front of Tashina's Coffee. She also wanted to make sure that her local community, her small town, had the same amenities that large towns do, and I think we can all agree that a powerful cup of coffee is a great amenity. From firsthand experience, I can tell you that her coffee really is excellent.

She works so hard, Madam Speaker, long days, long weeks, to make this business a success. Tashina is passionate about instilling a sense of independence and hard work among other young people on her reservation.

This woman is going places. I am proud to say that she is my friend.

Her father sums it up well. He said, Tashina ''is not a victim. She is an advocate.''

Now, Tashina's story is one of many throughout Indian Country and the State of South Dakota that don't get the attention that they deserve. I think of so many Tribal leaders that I have met with over the years who choose self-reliance: Leslie Crow, our office's inaugural Ben Reifel fellow. She is a teacher, a college instructor, a small business woman.

I think of Lakota Vogel. She is the executive director of the Four Bands Community Fund, and she works with Tribal members to build economic opportunity on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

I think of Myrna Thompson, secretary of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, whose long-term service as secretary of that Tribe has been a consistent and reliable source of leadership for her people.

Madam Speaker, there are so many others. It has been clear to me that Native American people across this country are resilient. And those who choose hard work and independence over reliance, they are so often successful, and they are so often strong.

They provide us a great opportunity. We can be more like them. We can be more like Tashina and Lakota and Leslie and Myrna.

This Native American Day, we should all take a moment to admire their hard work and entrepreneurship, and we should follow their example. If there were more Tashina Red Hawks, we would have a better Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH JEAN BECK VUNA

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant. We use that term frequently and often too casually, but the individual I am speaking about unquestionably defines the term and sets an example we should all strive to achieve.

Elizabeth Jean Beck Vuna has served as my district office casework manager for 20 years. She has served the Congress and the American people for over 33 years. Prior to serving my constituents, she worked for Congressman Glenn Anderson and Congressman Stephen Horn from Long Beach, California.

It is worth noting that the bitter partisan politics of today have never touched Elizabeth's commitment to service. She has worked for Democrats and Republicans without concern for political philosophy. It is that dedication, that determination to help people, and that diligence that truly makes her irreplaceable.

Elizabeth will be retiring on September 30. When she does, we will be losing one of the most effective and compassionate caseworkers in the history of the Congress. Yes, I know that sounds boastful, but it is quite simply the truth.

Little did I know when I hired Elizabeth in 2002 what a profound impact she would have on the lives of so many of my constituents and on me.

Elizabeth began her career in public service because, when her brother returned home from the Vietnam war, he could find no assistance for his PTSD and Agent Orange-related illnesses. She decided it would be her mission to ensure that other veterans would not face a similar fate and often focused her efforts in helping veterans obtain the benefits they so richly deserved.

She also felt an affinity for immigrants since she and her husband adopted five orphaned children from Tonga. That experience led her to become a local expert in international adoption.

Her compassion for all immigrants also led her to become a recognized expert in the field, and she diligently advocated for all immigrants to be afforded all the benefits legally available to them.

The number of constituents Elizabeth has helped in a substantive manner are in the tens of thousands, and I am probably undercounting.

She has mentored other congressional staff and given guidance and direction to everyone who was lucky enough to ask her to do so.

Not a week goes by that I do not hear from some of my constituents about this miracle or feat that she accomplished on their behalf, whether it is large or small.

As her retirement became known, my office received dozens of emails thanking her for her service and asking if she couldn't stay just a little longer.

□ 1015

She has assisted the many studios in my district as well as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology, but perhaps

more importantly, she has helped individual constituents, who needed a fierce champion for their cause, help navigate a bureaucracy that can seem arcane and senseless at times.

Elizabeth is a native Californian, the daughter of Wilbert and Ellen Beck.

Her large family is comprised of her husband, Steve; sons, Jesse and Sean, who tragically prematurely passed away; adopted Tongan children, Malia, Angela, Michelle, Joshua, and Jacob; and over a dozen grandchildren.

She will be missed in our office and by our constituents beyond measure, and I cannot thank her enough for her service.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Elizabeth Jean Beck Vuna for her unwavering dedication to public service and wish her good health and prosperity in retirement.

PULLING BACK THE PRO-CHOICE CURTAIN

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the pro-abortion lobby cheered last week as House Democrats rushed through H.R. 3755, the abortion on demand until birth act.

Throughout the course of the debate last Friday, I listened as my colleagues across the aisle took to their bully pulpit and sang the praises of the abortion industry in America.

The talking points that afternoon were so distorted from reality that it was as if members of the abortion lobby were the ones that wrote them.

Some Members claimed that passing this bill was a duty that must be fulfilled to restore the rights of women. Others claimed it was a duty that upheld the oath they took to defend the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, no matter the justification that was given, the American people can see that this is yet another elaborate smokescreen coming from the majority.

But what really shook me to my core was how abortion was being normalized in those moments. Women's health was being used as a euphemism for abortion, as if the health of the baby that is destroyed is inconsequential, not to mention that half of the babies that are aborted are female. You cannot claim that this issue is one of ''women's health'' when that is the case.

The same sentiment applies to the phrase ''reproductive freedom'' that was thrown around multiple times. Explain to me how the process of destroying an innocent baby resembles freedom for the baby. It is outrageous to link abortion and the concept of freedom together.

These are the kinds of deliberate spin tactics that attempt to hide the horrors of abortion from the American people. No set of elaborate talking points from pro-abortion advocates can truly mask the societal ill that is abortion.

Unfortunately, that only skims the surface of how abortion is being advertised. The left's narrative on abortions has evolved to the point where this immoral procedure is now associated with pride. Abortion is not prideful. It is not a form of empowerment. Abortion is robbing a human being of God's most precious gift: life.

While the left's narrative grows only more devious, the voices of those who survived abortions, or whose parents chose life, continue to be silenced. The stories of these men and women are invaluable, and they deserve to be heard by everyone. That is the truth of the matter.

Madam Speaker, Republicans fundamentally understand that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. We believe that life is a precious and sanctified gift that God has bestowed upon us.

I am proud to stand alongside so many constituents of North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, as well as my Republican colleagues in the people's House, in fighting to protect life.

The unborn deserve nothing less than unwavering advocates who stand for them. I will always serve as a strong voice for the unborn, and I do not plan on stopping anytime soon.

RECKLESS AND SHORTSIGHTED RECONCILIATION PACKAGE

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss this reckless and shortsighted reconciliation package and what I believe to be its worst effects on the American people.

The budget reconciliation process exists to reduce the national deficit with a majority vote, not to let the majority party jam partisan legislation through this Congress. Since January, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats have not used reconciliation for its intended purpose but rather to pass the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan on party lines and now the $3.5 trillion budget blueprint. Here, we see the opposite of the intended use for the reconciliation process and the opposite of the word ''reconciliation'' itself. This is division.

Senator BERNIE SANDERS, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said that under this budget, no middle-income family would pay more in taxes. That is not true. The reconciliation bill includes damaging tax increases, falling largely on the shoulders of middle-income families, small business owners, and family farms. This bill would be the largest tax-and-spend measure in America's history and would increase the national debt to $45 trillion by 2031. In addition to the devastating spending and tax hikes, it would allow the Federal Government to intervene even more in our daily lives and kill countless jobs.

Unfortunately, the Senate version of this package could be even worse. Right now, the House version of the bill keeps stepped up basis intact, which protects family farms from being taxed out of existence, and it does not include the requirement that banks report to the IRS all transactions over $600, which is patently ludicrous. I am prepared to offer an amendment on the final bill if either of these two provisions, amongst others, are changed.

This is the largest tax-and-spend bill in the history of the country. Only 1 percent has even been scored by the Congressional Budget Office. It would result in a whopping $10,600 per American in new spending. We are spending money we don't have on things that we don't need, and I urge this Congress to join me in opposing this horrible legislation which will weaken our great Nation and reduce our freedom.

A PATH TO HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss what I see as the path to healing and reconciliation in our country.

We have a promise from God about how to heal our Nation. It is very simple, and it is from II Chronicles. The Lord says: ''If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.''

It is almost as though God crafted this message for our present moment. I am proud to be part of the crew of people on this Earth who strive to live by God's promises: those who follow Jesus. You can find us throughout Kansas and from Austin, Texas, to Hamilton, Montana, to Simmons, Kentucky, to Thompson, Connecticut.

In this country, so many people advance against one another in jealousy and pride, they rush to judgment and they rob each other of the dignity and respect we owe our fellow citizens when we should be carrying each other's burdens. If we don't stop this behavior, we will incur the punishment it deserves: enmity, discord, and separation.

I think of my daughter when I tuck her in at night and my son when we go fishing. I don't want them to live in a country that is playing the dangerous game of division and hatred for the next 99 years, but a world of hope, peace, and love. If our country keeps rejecting God, we will only make it harder for ourselves to accomplish this.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF DR. BARRY FLINCHBAUGH

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a truly great Kansan, Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, who died last year at the age of 78.

Dr. Flinchbaugh taught my ag policy class at Kansas State University, which is the best class I took at college. He had a larger-than-life demeanor; was committed to production agriculture; was involved, at some

level, in every farm bill going back over 50 years; and was sharp, witty, and hilarious. Dr. Flinchbaugh did more for Kansas farmers than possibly anyone else during his lifetime.

His expertise in ag policy led him to meet every President from Harry Truman to George W. Bush. But he wasn't interested in notoriety. He was passionate about his family, his field of study, and his students, who were his legacy and his pride and joy. I was one of the 5,000 students Dr. Flinchbaugh taught over the span of 49 years, and I can picture him now, cigar in hand, holding court in his classroom or in his office, surrounded by transfixed young people, many of whom would later go on to become leaders in the very field they learned from him.

I would like to close with one of his quotes that I think we all need to hear, especially in this deliberative body at the present time. He said: ''There are two ways to make public decisions: compromise or dictatorship. There's nothing in between.''

RECOGNIZING JULIAN STANFORD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the resiliency and the courage of Julian Stanford. Julian is a 17-year-old high school student who was recently involved in a life-changing accident.

While driving home after work on August 21, Julian attempted to avoid an oncoming vehicle, resulting in paralyzing injuries. Julian was transferred to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where his treatment has been centered around healing and prayer.

Prior to his accident, Julian was an honor roll student and an active leader in his high school's Republican Party. Known throughout his community for his laughter and his love of music, Julian's passion for life is truly inspiring.

Despite the extent of his injuries, Julian continues to fight daily with his mom by his side. Julian is a living miracle whose determination is remarkable.

I am praying for Julian and his family, that he makes a full recovery, and I know he will go on to achieve great things.

Julian, we love you and you inspire us. Keep up the good fight.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month. This important month is an opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives to suicide and share resources to fight the stigma surrounding mental health challenges.

As the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, suicide affects Americans from all walks of life. The challenges surrounding mental health can be complex, but we owe it to our constituents to utilize every resource to better understand the factors contributing to suicide.

A critical part in suicide prevention is equipping ourselves and our communities with the resources needed to fight this tragic occurrence. From engaging in open conversations about mental health to checking on our neighbor, there are steps we can all take to help those in crisis.

September may be Suicide Prevention Month, but community engagement and prevention efforts should be maintained year-round.

I encourage everyone to educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide, as it could save a life.

REMEMBERING DON AND MARGIE VARNADOE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Don and Margie Varnadoe of Glynn County, Georgia, who tragically passed away on September 25. Don and Margie were aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder train when it derailed near Joplin, Montana.

Don and Margie were known throughout the community for their service to the Glynn County school system. Margie was a teacher, a principal, a personnel director, and assistant superintendent. She was loved by her students and peers for her dedication to educating our future generations.

Don was a retired St. Simons real estate agent and school board member for four years. During his term, Don focused on improving the school system so that all students in Glynn County could have a positive learning experience.

Both cared immensely for their community, and I am thankful for Don and Margie's impact on Georgia's First Congressional District. Their irreplaceable presence will be missed by all.

SERIOUS PROBLEMS ARE GETTING WORSE

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, Joe Biden preached vague, feel-good messages to voters, like healing our country and pursuing bipartisanship, during his campaign for President. In his victory speech, he ripped off a line from Barack Obama and said: ''I pledge to be a President who seeks not to divide but to unify, who doesn't see red and blue States but a United States.''

Madam Speaker, these messages were blatant lies. His record 8 months into his tenure proves his only intention is to govern on behalf of the Democrat Party's far-left base.

Look at the ongoing farce on our southern border. The Department of Homeland Security just released thousands of unvetted Haitian migrants into this country, no questions asked. Even worse, the President turned his back on Border Patrol agents over that bogus horse photo.

Our government wouldn't behave this way unless it was worried about backlash from leftists who want to open our borders and defund the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

The border has been out of control from the moment Joe Biden stepped foot in the Oval Office. Month after month after month, we hear about Border Patrol agents encountering hundreds of thousands of migrants attempting to illegally enter our country. President Biden put Vice President HARRIS in charge of fixing our southern border, but whatever she is doing to ''address the root cause of migration'' obviously isn't working.

Last week, the White House press secretary whined about Republicans giving floor speeches about the crisis at the border. I say to the press secretary: We wouldn't need to be down here raising Hades if your boss would quit being so soft, start doing his job, and enforce the dadgum border laws.

□ 1030

Chaos at the southern border is just one of the many crises of Joe Biden's own creation. I could stand down here for hours talking about inflation caused by reckless government spending, a failed exit from Afghanistan that left 13 American servicemembers dead, including one of my constituents—his family lives in my neighborhood—and much more.

But my point is this, Madam Speaker, Americans across the political spectrum see Joe Biden standing idly by while this country is being destroyed. They think this President is grossly incompetent and incapable of responsibly running the executive branch. I have even talked to Democrats here in Congress who are extremely concerned about these very issues.

Serious problems are getting worse, yet Joe Biden doesn't show any interest in solving them. Given this President's lack of interest in serving as Chief Executive, I can confidently say this President is mentally unwell and unfit for office.

It is time for Joe Biden to step down. We need a leader who cares about the future of this country, not one who isn't even aware of the damage he is causing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

WE MUST SECURE OUR BORDER

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the ongoing border crisis.

Last week, President Biden's Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, told Congress, ''The border is secure.'' The facts indicate that this statement was absolutely false.

The Biden administration has embraced policies to open the southern

border, not to secure it. In reality, these open border policies have created one of the worst border crises in history.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, this August alone, 208,887 people were apprehended trying to illegally enter our country through the southern border, which is a 317 percent increase from last August. It is really a big problem, Madam Speaker.

Since February of 2021, the agency says more than 1.2 million people have been apprehended illegally crossing the border. That staggering statistic represents more than the entire Pasco or Pinellas Counties, which are in my congressional district. I represent them.

When I was at the border a few months ago, Madam Speaker, the CBP agents I spoke with made it clear that they weren't even making a dent when it came to capturing the historic number of people who are illegally entering our country or with seizing the extraordinary volume of drugs that are flowing across the border.

That is truly unfathomable when you consider that CBP has seized 724 pounds of fentanyl and 595 pounds of heroin so far in fiscal year 2021.

These deadly drugs don't just stay in communities along the border. They are spread throughout the country into communities like mine in the Tampa Bay area. These drugs are ruining and claiming countless lives, Madam Speaker. In fact, Florida currently ranks second in the Nation for overdose deaths.

These are our neighbors and members of our family who are dying. We have to take action now.

In addition to drugs, weapons and humans are being trafficked through the border. Human traffickers are making an estimated $15 million a day. I am concerned for these victims, many of whom are children.

The root causes of this crisis are clear. President Biden's disastrous immigration policies are to blame. His administration stopped building the wall, brought back catch-and-release, and tried to get rid of the remain in Mexico policy.

The President himself has actually articulated a new openness toward migrants; something the leaders of Central America point to as a root cause of the crisis they are seeing.

The situation at the border is a dangerous, unmitigated disaster, Madam Speaker.

Especially now, as our enemies feel emboldened by what recently transpired in Afghanistan, we have to secure our border as a matter of national security.

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work Congress is undertaking to make historic investments in our Nation's infrastructure and create millions of good-paying jobs in communities across our country, coast to coast, communities just like mine.

Cities like Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain, Lakewood, Cleveland, Parma, for too long have received far fewer resources than are needed to keep pace with life in this 21st century.

As we look around our country right now, we bear witness to historic water shortages in Lake Mead. On the other hand, in my region of the country, we have historic high water levels in the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, we have raging wildfires in California. We have watched power blackouts in Texas; torrential rains and flooding in New York City, in Dearborn, Michigan, and rural farmlands outside Nashville; as well as hurricanes that have been ravaging States throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Truly, in this new century, we must set a firmer course to sustain life in our country and, yes, sustain life on Mother Earth herself.

As a Representative from the Great Lakes, I can say without a shadow of a doubt that Lake Erie and the economies and people who truly rely on it face growing environmental challenges unlike any we have seen before.

The Great Lakes are the largest source of freshwater on Earth, and surely on this continent. They are responsible for transporting our Nation's heavy manufacturing materials from ports to factories, support our commercial and defense capabilities, and serve as the lifeblood for our industrial heartland.

But the changing climate is impacting these majestic waters, requiring sizable investments to correct and overcome.

Recently, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee included $350 million for a new state-of-the-art—get ready—Great Lakes heavy icebreaker for our region. Some Members of Congress said, ''Oh, you have ice?'' Let me tell you, in the winter, yes, we do. This investment will ensure that for decades to come the thousands of miles of shipping lanes of the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway, our Nation's longest coastline, are navigable, and that the materials that make our country run are able to be delivered and that our freshwater bounty is preserved for the future.

I want to especially thank Chairman PETER DEFAZIO of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for taking up this request from our bipartisan House Great Lakes Task Force.

As co-chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, our members delivered the funding bill necessary to turbocharge investments in coastal resiliency across our country; in home weatherization programs, as climate changes from coast to coast; to modernize the Soo Locks, essential for industry as well as the defense of this Nation; and to focus on next-generation energy, solar energy technology, and technologies we are inventing. In hydrogen, in various types of thermal water technologies there is so much where America will lead the world in inventions for the future.

To succeed, we have to make sure these investments make it through this Congress and that infrastructure investment makes it to President Biden's desk. Old infrastructure is crumbling, as our climate is changing, and we are running out of time.

We know that a functioning Soo Locks system between Lake Superior and the rest of the Great Lakes, for example, supports more than 11 million jobs. That is a ''wow'' by any measure.

And we know that clean energy technologies, like solar and wind, are vital to powering our Nation and producing clean and affordable energy, and building our future right here, right now at home.

In northern Ohio, we have brilliant workers at innovative companies like Toledo Solar and First Solar that are developing the revolutionary solar panels that will power homes, businesses, and factories in every corner of our Nation.

We are literally building the change forward right now, providing for our domestic energy security and independence.

But companies like these need workers, and workers need training, and that is what the infrastructure and jobs bill will allow us to do, build back better for America's tomorrow, as President Biden knows we must.

We are talking about good-paying, middle-class jobs. We are talking about investing in climate resilience and environmental conservation that restores communities, puts people to work, and ensures our families have wages that meet their needs and allow them to buy the vitals they need for life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

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

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my former Congressman, Sherwood Boehlert, affectionately known by everyone as Sherry.

Sherry was a devout public servant who passed away last week at the age of 84. After serving in the United States Army, his love for his community and State led him to begin his career in public service. He was elected as the Oneida County Executive in 1979. He was then elected to represent our community in the House of Representatives in 1983 and served for 24 years, until 2006.

Throughout his time in Congress, Sherry was committed to representing our region to the best of his ability. He returned home whenever he could. In 2001, he was elected chair of the House Committee on Science, a coveted position that built on his love of nature

and our environment. He actually led the charge to tackle the issue of acid rain and had tremendous success.

He is remembered by his colleagues as a remarkable individual and never lost sight of the reason he was elected: to fight for all of us in upstate New York.

Sherry was born in 1936. He spent his childhood in my hometown of New Hartford, New York. Prior to elected office, Sherry Boehlert graduated from Utica College, a local favorite. He went on to serve as chief of staff to former Congressman Alexander Pirnie and then also served under former Congressman Donald Mitchell before he actually served as county executive and later as Congressman. He married his lovely wife, Marianne, and was immensely proud as a father to his four children.

I just wanted to share a few reflections on Sherry. I obviously had the honor of working with him while I was a staffer for the Assembly. I do live in our former Congressman's home, Alexander Pirnie, and while Sherry was his chief of staff, he often commented to me about what I have done with the house. Where I was, what I have done with it, how much time he spent there and how he knew every corner of it, working with our former Congressman.

I also have a funny story about our family business. Our newspaper, the Mid-York Weekly, and also the Pennysaver were located in the district, and I had the occasion to invite Congressman Boehlert to visit us and to see our operations. It was quite a fun day.

We got to the back—in the newspaper business, as many know, we have an inserting operation where we put our flyers in the back of the newspaper, and it tended to be filled with a lot of retired farmers and a lot of people from our community, particularly a lot of very energetic senior citizens—and Sherry got back there and was really excited to meet them all.

One of them put him to the challenge to see if he could actually do the job. And so Sherry, without hesitation, took off his business coat, rolled up his sleeves, sat down and started inserting newspapers in our business. They loved him for that. It was really a fun moment, and I think he had a really great time with our seniors and with a lot of our staff.

We are always grateful for him for coming to our newspaper. And also for his annual support of a publication, a special publication we put out each February honoring our Presidents, our Vice-Presidents, our First Ladies, and of course our First Dogs, and Sherry was always so supportive of us for that.

We are just so glad that we are able to honor him this week with so many great reflections and so many people reaching out to me in Congress. Over the last week, it was really heartwarming to get those messages from Members of Congress, and I might add on both sides of the aisle. I have seen many tributes, even on the Senate side. He will always be fondly remembered by all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats.

Earlier this week, I had the distinct honor of participating in his funeral service alongside previous elected officials from our region, also other Congress Members. It was a solemn occasion honoring his life, but also a joyous one to celebrate all that he achieved for our community.

Today, my thoughts and my prayers are with Sherry's family, especially his wife, Marianne, who is also a devoted public servant.

I ask that you please join me now in remembering Sherry with a moment of silence in this great Chamber where he served so many years. Thank you, all.

□ 1045

TIME IS NOW TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, the time is now to make historic investments in families, workers, and communities across the country.

Everyone, no matter who they are or where they live, deserves access to modern, dependable infrastructure to maintain the quality of life for Americans in the 21st century. That is why we must pass the President's bipartisan infrastructure package tomorrow.

We are living off the investments our grandparents and parents made generations ago. In many communities, that is no longer sustainable.

In my home State of California, we are suffering from the devastating effects of climate change, historical fires, and droughts.

Farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, which I represent, also need an infrastructure that reflects their ability to put food on America's dinner table every night. The devastating dry conditions and the lack of water have led many of them to fallow their fields, hundreds and thousands of acres of productive farmland.

It is as simple as this: Without food from our farmers, Americans don't eat. It is a national security issue. Therefore, we must fix our broken water infrastructure system.

The only way to ensure farmers have the water they need to feed our Nation is to build and improve more conveyance and storage facilities.

This infrastructure package will help that, as well as efforts that we are pursuing under the reconciliation package. We need to capture and improve and store water for times such as now.

In addition to that, we need to make other critical investments in rural and underserved areas by expanding broadband. Broadband access today is just like rural electrification was in the 1930s. No American should be without broadband.

We also learned from the COVID–19 crisis that access to quality healthcare is critical. It is critical that we have ample physicians and nurses. We can make more protective equipment, but we can't make more doctors and nurses. Therefore, we have a serious shortage of healthcare professionals, and that is why a part of this effort to build back America better is to provide medical schools and underserved areas improved access to our broadband. That is critical. We must do that.

In addition, investing in public transportation for our economy is just as essential. The United States is trailing other nations when it comes to investments in modern infrastructure and transportation like high-speed rail. It is time that we bring our system into the 21st century.

Finishing California's high-speed rail efforts, along with four other corridors in the country, will help our climate, improve traffic gridlock, and reduce emissions that pollute the air.

Climate change is an important part of this essential package of investing in our infrastructure. We know, with the results of droughts, fires, floods, and hurricanes, that the climate is changing, and we need to provide tools to address that.

Without critical investments in this infrastructure package that we will vote on tomorrow, our Nation will suffer. Making life better for our constituents is my top priority and should be the priority of Congresspeople throughout the country. It requires us to focus on the health and development of our communities, and the economy needs us to support this effort.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, as we talk about building back better, let me also note that we must pass a continuing resolution to ensure that government stays operating.

Shutting down the government is not an option, and we should act upon this in the next 24 hours to whatever extended date is agreed as well as lifting the debt ceiling.

In the 17 years I have been here, I have never, under Republican and Democratic administrations alike, voted to shut down government. That is irresponsible, and therefore, we must also lift the debt ceiling. This is, in fact, to pay bills that Congress in the previous administration has already created, and we don't want to be deadbeats.

The impacts on our economy would be devastating in terms of even contemplating shutting down government or not lifting the debt ceiling.

HONORING SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I was saddened to learn of our colleague Congressman Sherry Boehlert's passing. I served with him during his last term, as he was chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Sherry was terrific. Sherry's focus on making sure that Americans address the needs of science in a changing world was always at the forefront as chairman of the committee. I went with Sherry on an incredible trip to Antarctica to explore the impacts of climate change.

Beyond his contributions to the Congress and to the people of our country, Sherry was an avid baseball fan. Sherry loved representing Cooperstown and had the best baseball collection I have ever seen.

God bless you, Sherry, and your family.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Recovery Month.

It is important that we draw attention to this special month as we continue to battle the ongoing addiction epidemic in our country.

For 32 years, National Recovery Month has continued to celebrate the gains made by those in recovery as well as promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices. It is also a time to focus on raising awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders.

Over the past month, many of my colleagues have sported purple ribbons to show our support for those in recovery.

Currently, over 23 million Americans are in recovery from an addiction to drugs or alcohol. By recognizing National Recovery Month, we can highlight the strength of the recovery community and show support to our healthcare workers, first responders, friends, family, and community who support those in recovery.

Addiction to alcohol or other substances like opioids is an ongoing epidemic plaguing communities across the Nation. We know addiction does not discriminate. It can happen to anyone, regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

That is why this year's National Recovery Month theme is ''Recovery for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community.''

As we continue to battle the addiction epidemic, we must highlight the work of organizations like Faces and Voices of Recovery that promote National Recovery Month and continue to provide resources to those in recovery as well as friends and family.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, there were more than 5,200 deaths due to drug overdoses this past year. These numbers continue to be highly alarming, and we must continue to work to combat this epidemic.

No one can tackle addiction on their own, and by recognizing National Recovery Month, we are showing there is light at the end of the tunnel, and with the right support, there is a road to recovery.

Throughout the month of September, Faces and Voices of Recovery encourages local communities to host events to highlight the services available for those in need.

Last week, Venango County Human Services celebrated National Recovery Month at Franklin's Bandstand Park. This event had family-friendly activities, where those who participated could win prizes, enjoy refreshments, and pin a ribbon on the recovery board. The event celebrated community members, first responders, healthcare workers, and others who support recovery. Local vendors were encouraged to set up tables to share information about their programs. The evening ended in a candlelight vigil, remembering those who had passed due to their addiction.

By engaging our local communities, we can continue to make recovery and those who support it possible. We can work together to change the way addiction and recovery are understood, to better support those who are struggling.

As September ends, let's continue to elevate the organizations that provide resources and support to those recovering from addiction.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

O God, our king eternal, You divide the day from the night, turn the shadow of darkness into morning light. You separate the dry land from the waters, the Earth from the heavens.

Remind us again that You have created all things, breathed life into each creature that walks on the Earth, flies in the sky, or swims in the sea. You are the source of our every blessing.

Call to our awareness that You reign over dominions and nations, principalities and palaces. Sit upon the throne of our hearts and reign in us.

With You as our guide, we have but to yield to Your direction.

With You as our master, we have but to serve Your will.

With You as our ruler, we have but to submit to Your design.

And so we pray that we would humble ourselves before You this day, that You would lead us in the way we should go: in our dealings with each other, in the decisions we face, in the debates we hold.

O Lord, You are the alpha and omega, the beginning and the ending. In You, we live, move, and have our being.

May we serve You well and faithfully this day.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Senate passed the bill with all 50 Democrats and 19 Republicans voting yes. Now, it is time for the House to follow suit. Then we can send the bill to President Biden, who played a critical role in crafting this legislation.

In Congress, we have been talking about investing in America's infrastructure for decades, to the point that it has become a punch line. Now, we are finally on the cusp of taking action to match the rhetoric.

Passage of this bill will prove the two parties can still work together in partisan times. It will show the American people their elected leaders can govern in a competent and constructive way, despite their differences.

The bill will provide my home State of Florida with better roads and bridges, improved rail and bus options, modernized air and seaports, high-speed broadband, and clean drinking water. It will improve quality of life

and create good-paying jobs, helping to diversify our economy and sustain our growing population.

The bill will also make historic investments to combat climate change, an existential threat to our planet, our country, and the Florida way of life.

I urge my Republican colleagues to abandon their cynical quest for political advantage and to vote for this good bill. I ask my Democratic colleagues to discard their ill-fated effort to gain leverage over members of their own party and to vote for this good bill.

RECOGNIZING STATE COLLEGE AREA MEALS ON WHEELS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State College Area Meals on Wheels as they celebrate 50 years of service and 1.5 million meals delivered.

State College Meals on Wheels prepares and delivers meals to the elderly and those people living with disabilities within the State College school district.

What originally started as a small vision serving under 30 clients has now blossomed into eight separate delivery routes, averaging 250 clients a year.

When our world came to a halt during the COVID–19 pandemic, Meals on Wheels stepped up. The organization didn't miss a single delivery during the pandemic. They even picked up a few more clients who were adversely affected.

Like many, Meals on Wheels had to adapt to the pandemic. A key aspect of the meal delivery was the frequent in-person conversations with the clients. When COVID–19 prevented the face-to-face chatting, they changed their services to provide regular phone calls to catch up with their clients.

Madam Speaker, State College Meals on Wheels is a staple in our community, and I congratulate them on 50 years and 1.5 million meals delivered.

CORRECTING THE RECORD ON STUART SCHELLER

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to correct the record.

Yesterday, while proselytizing about the ongoing case of Stuart Scheller, one of my colleagues demonstrated a concerning misunderstanding of armed service to one's country.

Stuart Scheller did not ''stand up to incompetence.'' He broke his oath, one that all Marines take that explicitly outlines our duty to obey the President's legal orders; the same oath I took when I was sworn into the Marine Corps 11 years ago. Yesterday, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs spoke directly to this understanding: the principle of civilian control of the military is critical to this republic.

A marine who posts videos of himself saying ''follow me and we will bring the whole system down'' is not a martyr. Stuart Scheller is a liability to our national security, and he will be provided the same due process that our fellow Marines have fought for and died to protect.

PLUNGING OUR NATION FURTHER INTO CRIPPLING DEBT

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, for the last 9 months, Washington Democrats have been steamrolling Congress and the American people with a series of socialist, Big Government takeovers. With such fragile control of the White House, Senate, and House, Democrats have authorized trillions in unchecked spending, plunging our Nation into further crippling debt.

The American people are suffering the economic consequences of Biden's unhinged spending in the form of staggering inflation and decreased purchasing power, which I fear could lead us to double-digit inflation by the end of this year.

I refuse to stand by as House Democrats attempt to bankrupt our children and grandchildren. To correct this behavior and increase financial transparency, I have introduced the INFORM Act, the companion bill to Senator MIKE BRAUN from Indiana.

The INFORM Act brings much-needed accountability to government spending by requiring two new government-wide reporting standards on the national debt and deficits and studies net fiscal burdens on different populations.

With the debt growing bigger every day and Democrats showing no sign of restraint in their plans to try to bankrupt America, my bill is an essential part of ensuring that we create a responsible financial future for generations to come.

TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS HAS FAILED

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, over the past 50 years, income inequality has exploded in our country.

For decades, trickle-down economics has guided our country's fiscal policy, selling the American people a bill of goods about how cutting taxes for big business and the wealthy would eventually benefit society at large.

Most Americans have experienced this policy failure firsthand. They have watched the rich and powerful accumulate wealth while the middle class shrinks and families struggle to stay afloat. Study after study has shown that instead of promoting jobs or growth, tax cuts for the rich have increased inequality.

It is time to reject the failed theory of trickle-down economics and finally give everyday Americans a fair shot.

The Build Back Better Act will provide one of the biggest middle-class tax cuts in history and invest in the American people to build a stronger, more inclusive economy.

The best part? It is paid for by making those at the top finally pay their fair share.

The system has been rigged against most Americans for far too long. We have a chance to fix it now. Let's get it done.

WE NEED TO STOP THE SOCIALIST SPENDING SPREE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, this is a consequential week for the country that we love and its future.

House Democrats are preparing to ram through the most expensive spending package this institution has ever seen, with a combined price tag of $5.5 trillion.

$5.5 trillion, let that astronomical figure sink in.

This package contains a $2.1 trillion tax increase on hardworking families and job creators, the largest in history. It bypasses needed infrastructure priorities in favor of Green New Deal pet projects, and it adds mountains of debt burden to our kids' and grandkids' future.

Meanwhile, all of this reckless spending comes at a time when inflation is already sky-high, and it will only make the cost of daily necessities continue to go up and up.

There is simply no justification for a package so expansive, so excessive, and so extreme.

For the sake of America's future, we need to stop this socialist spending spree in its tracks.

ELECTRIFYING FEDERAL VEHICLE FLEETS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the robust funding to electrify Federal vehicle fleets included in the Build Back Better Act.

Our climate is rapidly changing, and humans are the primary cause.

In 2019, the transportation sector accounted for 70 percent of petroleum used in the United States and was the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions nationwide.

Transitioning to electric vehicles will reduce our carbon output and improve the environment for our children and our grandchildren.

That is why the Committee on Oversight and Reform approved nearly $12 billion to transition the postal fleet and GSA fleets to electric vehicles and to charge them at post offices across the country.

This funding will help purchase more than 300,000 electric vehicles and the devices needed to charge them, making the United States a leader on climate change and building an environmentally friendly fleet of the future.

I urge my colleagues to support the Build Back Better Act and its robust funding for electric vehicles.

□ 1215

ADDRESSING THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CRISIS

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to again request an urgent response to the California drought crisis.

Members of Congress have been back in Washington for legislative business for over one week, and still, my colleagues in the majority refuse to take up this issue.

My legislation, the NEED Water Act and the RENEW WIIN ACT, are critical steps to addressing California's ongoing drought and the water shortages farmers and communities continually face in the State.

Water is the top issue for many families in my district. Securing this vital resource for our farmers and ensuring communities have a clean, reliable source of water has always been a priority of mine in Congress.

It is disappointing that the House majority does not share my priority of taking care of families in rural California and supporting farmers that feed our entire Nation.

I implore my colleagues to step across the aisle to work with me to address the suffering of families and farmers in California. Communities in my district and across the State urgently need our help.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANITA DORR TO EMERGENCY NURSING

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark National Emergency Nurses Week and to honor the contributions of Anita Dorr.

Anita was an emergency room nurse at the Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, New York. She observed that emergency rooms could do better in the many types of crises coming through emergency room doors.

She developed the crash cart, which has drawers that contain defibrillators, life-supporting drugs, and other essential items for crisis care. The crash cart is now universally used in medical settings around the world and has saved countless lives.

Anita also cofounded the Emergency Nurses Association to advocate for nurses and support their training across America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring emergency nurses as well as Anita Dorr's lasting contributions to the medical field and to my community.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, last week during a Committee on Homeland Security hearing, Secretary Mayorkas testified, and he stated on numerous occasions that our border is secure.

Even as encounters of migrants reached historic levels and the amount of narcotics being smuggled across our border soar, Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden administration refuse to admit there is a problem.

The border crisis is fueled by the President's actions, such as his decision to stop building the wall; his decision to cancel successful Trump immigration policies; and his decision to signal that amnesty will be provided to those who come here illegally.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell had a policy known as the Pottery Barn rule, which was, in short, ''You break it, you own it.''

The Biden administration has created this crisis, and now it is time for the President to own the consequences of his actions.

HONORING OUR BRAVE SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember our 13 fallen servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice to save the lives of Americans and our allies in Afghanistan.

These brave men and women—including southern California marines Lance Corporal Dylan Merola, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, and Corporal Hunter Lopez—were young, many in their 20s and incredibly brave, valiantly putting their lives on the line for others.

Their valiant efforts, courage, and heroism in the face of danger will never be forgotten.

We remember their names and their stories always, and we rally with our new Gold Star families.

My heart is also with our wounded soldiers, including Marine Corporal David Nick Traylor from La Habra in my 39th Congressional District. Thankfully, he is safe and is in good care. I am praying for safety for them and their loved ones.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT T. HERBERT

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

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and memory of my friend, Major General Robert T. Herbert, of the Nevada Army National Guard.

An adopted Nevadan, Bob began a 42-year career in the U.S. Army in 1975 at the age of 18. After serving along the East-West German border, Bob moved to Nevada as a test pilot at the age of 25. Later in his career, Bob served as senior policy adviser and director of appropriations for Senator Harry Reid, from 2001 to 2017.

Bob loved anything with a loud engine, having accrued more than 7,000 flight hours as a pilot of both fixed and rotary-wing aircraft. He loved to ride his collection of motorcycles, took great pride in his customized truck, and was in the process of rebuilding a Pontiac Firebird.

Both as a civilian and a soldier, Bob was respected and admired by anyone he interacted with, myself included. Simply put, Bob Herbert was an all-American consensus at everything he tried.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Karen, his parents and family, and anyone else who was lucky enough to call him a friend, including you, Madam Speaker. We will miss you, General.

TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF LIEUTENANT PATRICIA BROWN AND SENIOR DEPUTY SHERIFF PAUL SHIFFER

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the tremendous achievements of two law enforcement officers in Stephens County, Georgia.

Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant Patricia ''Pat'' Brown recently reached her 30-year tenure with the Stephens County Sheriff's Office. After serving in the field for many years, Lieutenant Brown now diligently leads the records division and continues to display exceptional service to her community.

Senior Deputy Sheriff Paul Shiffer reached his 50-year tenure this past year. Yes, I said 50 years of law enforcement service. And he continues to faithfully serve as head of the civil division. Whether he is working extra hours or using his personal time to custom make Christmas ornaments for each employee, Senior Deputy Shiffer has gone above and beyond to serve his community for half a century.

The good folks of Stephens County are fortunate to have Deputies Brown

and Shiffer, and I congratulate them both for their devoted service to the Ninth District.

OPEN BORDERS AND AMNESTY IS THE END OF AMERICA

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration intentionally opened our southern border and empowered drug cartels and human traffickers to flood illegal immigrants into our country with no vetting and no COVID testing or vaccine requirements.

Secretary Mayorkas admitted on Friday that the 12,000 Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, who were released into the U.S., were not tested for COVID or subject to any vaccine mandates.

President Biden and Secretary Blinken promised rigorous vetting for the Afghan nationals they flew into our country, but so far we have seen several arrested for sexually assaulting children and assaulting a female servicemember while on U.S. soil.

This is outrageous.

The Biden administration has a double standard, treating American citizens worse than foreign nationals.

This is what it means to put America last.

Instead of addressing the root cause of Biden's border crisis, House Democrats are now ramming through President Biden's reckless $4.3 trillion socialist agenda, which includes amnesty and free college for illegal immigrants.

Americans want secure borders and sound immigration. Open borders and amnesty is the end of America.

AMERICA'S DEBT IS BEING AUCTIONED

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

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, the Ways and Means Committee went in last Saturday to mark up a $3.5 trillion spending bill, and when they got done, they had a $4.3 trillion spending bill.

I don't know exactly how that happened, but I might have a suggestion on how it could have possibly happened.

I am at a trillion. Now two, two trillion. Now three. Are you able to buy $3 trillion down here? Now 3¼. What do you go for? 3½, 3½. Now 4. Oh, 3½, now 4. At last call, 3½. Oh, 4 trillion, 4–1, 4–1, 4.1, now 2. You can afford 2. 4.2. Now 3. $4.2 trillion, and I have sold it for $4.3 trillion.

You know, Madam Speaker, Missourian Harry Truman said, when you get elected to Congress, you spend your first 6 months up here thinking, wow, how did I ever get here? And then you spend the whole rest of your career thinking, how did some of these other people get here?

If you have watched the boondoggle on the floor this week, you know exactly what I mean.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1301, PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR AMERICANS ACT

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 117–133) on the resolution (H. Res. 688) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1301) to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1301, PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR AMERICANS ACT

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 688 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 688

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House bill (S. 1301) to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-16 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 688, providing for consideration of S. 1301 under a closed rule. The rule self-executes an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–16, temporarily extending the public debt limit.

The rule provides one hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to commit.

Madam Speaker, having just sat through a Rules Committee meeting, it is a pleasant surprise that the Republicans have now rediscovered the issue of the debt. Wow.

Where the hell were you for the past 4 years?

Where was your concern when you all passed the tax cut bill for the wealthy and big corporations that CBO projected would add $1.9 trillion to the deficit? That is trillion with a T. And that is even after taking into account any effects from economic growth.

Give me a break.

Madam Speaker, the question before us today is this: Will the United States of America pay its bills?

I wish that were hyperbole.

We always have. The United States has never defaulted. Never, ever defaulted, not once.

But the actions of my friends on the other side have made the world seriously wonder about the full faith and credit of this Nation.

Raising the debt ceiling has traditionally been something that both parties have agreed to, no matter who controlled Congress or who sat in the White House.

I have been in Congress more than 20 years now. I voted to raise the debt ceiling when I was in the majority, and I voted to raise the debt ceiling when I was in the minority. I voted to raise it under Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents, and I cast those votes even when I vehemently disagreed with our spending decisions.

I opposed the Republican tax cut for the wealthy and large corporations that passed under the last administration. I still think it is awful, awful, awful policy; but I still, nevertheless, voted to raise the debt ceiling under the prior administration because regardless whether we win or lose on policy here, defaulting on our debt would lead to economic catastrophe on a global scale.

□ 1230

Unemployment would rise; the stock market would crater; interest rates would skyrocket; imports would become more expensive; and inflation would increase.

We are not talking about a scenario that only impacts wealthy investors or large corporations. Every single American would be hurt, everyone with a pension or a retirement account, everyone with a small business, everyone with a car or home loan, and everyone who walks into a store, whether they are buying groceries or the latest

smartphone. Our country would be thrown into a recession virtually overnight.

This is the type of disaster that Republicans are flirting with here, Madam Speaker. They are not refusing to raise the debt ceiling to try to prevent President Biden's agenda in the future. This isn't about the bipartisan transportation bill or reconciliation bill, which we have yet to consider, because raising the debt ceiling only pays for the prior debts that we have already racked up. We are talking about the spending Republicans voted for under President Trump.

They ballooned the deficit, and now they are trying to wash their hands of the consequences. It is like going to a restaurant, eating a meal, and refusing to pay the tab when the waiter brings the bill. Only here, they risk bringing down the entire global economy.

All because of what? They are upset that their party doesn't control Congress. Give me a break. We are talking about people's livelihoods here.

Earlier this week, Senate Republicans filibustered a continuing resolution that would have lifted the debt ceiling. Every day Republicans waste playing political games brings us one day closer to a default, one day closer to catastrophe.

I have heard the Senate minority leader and others suggest that reconciliation is some kind of panacea that will allow us to raise the debt ceiling easily and in a partisan way. Well, let me remind them that there are challenges with that, and it will take time, time that we do not have.

Just yesterday, the Treasury Secretary said that we are likely to hit the debt limit on October 18, just days from now.

We have had a lot of fights on this floor. Congress has been a little dysfunctional from time to time. But let me repeat, the United States of America has never defaulted in its more than 200-year history. Not once.

Republicans are playing with fire here. We need cooler heads to prevail. The underlying bill is that chance. It is an opportunity to raise the debt ceiling in a clean way, the kind of approach that would have passed overwhelmingly on suspension a few years ago.

We need to get this done, Madam Speaker. We don't have a moment to spare. Economists estimate that defaulting on our debts even for just a few hours could cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade.

After all that we have done to bring our Nation through the COVID pandemic, that is a hit that we can't afford, Madam Speaker.

So, to my friends on the other side, I get it. You are not going to vote for this even though 97 percent of what is necessitating us to raise the debt ceiling was accumulated before President Biden even took office. Much of it was racked up under President Trump on your watch when you controlled the Congress.

Still, you are not going to vote to do the responsible thing here. That is crystal clear. But please get out of the way and tell all your friends in the Senate to get out of the way, too.

Let us pass this. Let us do the responsible thing.

We will do it with a Democratic majority in the House and the Senate. We are good at cleaning up your mess.

Let's pass this rule and the underlying legislation. Let's step back from the brink. Let's prevent an avoidable economic meltdown. And let's do what America has always done: pay its bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my very good friend, the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today's rule covers a standalone bill that suspends the national debt limit through the end of 2022.

Today's item does not come out of a vacuum. Just last week, the Democratic majority in the House passed a continuing resolution to fund the government through early December. Unfortunately, that bill also included this same suspension of the debt ceiling through 2022. The inclusion of this item meant that not a single Republican in the House supported last week's bill, and not a single Republican in the Senate supported it either.

But today, not content with having run headlong into a brick wall once, the majority is now seeking to do the same thing again. As baseball player and philosopher Yogi Berra once said, today is truly deja vu all over again.

Madam Speaker, I don't know how much more clear Republicans can be on this topic. So long as the Democratic majority continues to insist on spending money hand over fist, Republicans will refuse to help them lift the debt ceiling.

This year alone, the majority has rammed through one partisan spending bill through reconciliation already. That bill spent $1.9 trillion, allegedly for COVID relief, but really about a laundry list of progressive policy priorities. And I remind my friends they were offered a compromise of many hundreds of billions of dollars, but that wasn't sufficient.

Today, the majority is neck-deep in negotiations on an even bigger partisan reconciliation bill, this one supposedly $3.5 trillion but, frankly, likely to run much higher than that. If passed, this one would mean Democrats have pushed through $5½ trillion of spending in 1 year, which is almost one-and-a-half times the amount of normal Federal spending. And that all comes on top of our regular discretionary and nondiscretionary spending.

Madam Speaker, Republicans have been very clear on this for months. So long as Democrats keep pushing these bloated spending measures, and so long as they continue to ram through partisan policies like those found in the Green New Deal, Republicans will not work with them to raise the debt limit.

Since the beginning of this year, Democrats have been pushing their policy agenda despite having the bare minimum of a majority in both the House and the Senate. The results have been shocking: more Big Government socialism, more spending, and higher taxes. They have been doing all this on their own, with only Democrats voting for these measures.

To be clear, this is the choice the majority has made. They have chosen to govern in a majority-rules fashion. They are pushing through bill after bill larded up with huge spending and more and more Big Government socialism all on their own. The majority also has the power to lift the debt ceiling all on their own, using a process they are quite familiar with, reconciliation.

Since they have chosen to ram the rest of their agenda through on their own, they also have the responsibility to lift the debt ceiling on their own. If they want to keep spending the people's money like this, then they alone must act and take responsibility.

Madam Speaker, my good friend alluded to the fact that he has repeatedly voted for debt ceiling increases in his capacity as a Member. I know that to be true, and I respect my friend. I have done that myself. I have voted under both Republicans and Democrats. But I do want to address this point about the debt limit.

The point was best summed up by Speaker PELOSI in her Dear Colleague letter Sunday night. ''The debt limit is a shared responsibility, and I urge Congress to come together . . . on a bipartisan basis, as it has in the past.'' Oh, really? I think we should look at the record and clear that up.

The last five times that Congress voted on raising the debt limit when Republicans controlled the White House, the Senate, and the House, President Biden, who was then in the Senate, didn't vote to raise it a single time. Majority Leader SCHUMER voted to raise it once out of five times. The Democratic leadership voted to raise it once out of five times.

So to somehow pretend that both sides have not on occasion used the debt ceiling to express their concerns or that everybody has rallied to the cause simply does not square with the facts.

Madam Speaker, I will make a bold prediction. I suspect the debt ceiling will at some point get raised, and I suspect it will be before we reach a deadline. And I share my friend's point that, indeed, that needs to happen.

However, when you launch a program as expensive and as expansive as the Democrats have, and you choose to do it on a partisan line way, then don't shirk the responsibility at the end of the day. Don't try to shift it to others. I think that is what is happening here.

One last point, Madam Speaker. We talk a lot about the Trump debt. I remind my friends they were in control the last 2 years of the Trump Presidency. I remind my friends that most of the debt was actually accumulated in that time. And I do remind my friends it was a bipartisan effort. The biggest part of that debt was COVID relief, which we agreed on, on both sides of the aisle and both supported, and we raised the debt ceiling for it.

So, when we work together, we can solve these problems. My friends have chosen not to work with us, and I think now they are going to have to bear the responsibility. I am sure they are up to the task.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Let me say this, and let me preface my remarks by saying I love the gentleman from Oklahoma. He is one of my favorite people here in the Congress. But I would remind him that when the Republicans passed their expensive tax cut for the rich, for the very wealthy, for big corporations, they didn't work with us. They just shoved it through. As I mentioned earlier, CBO tells us that the addition to our debt is close to $2 trillion, and that is after taking into account any potential benefits from growth.

I didn't like that policy. I still don't like that policy. I think the rich already get enough, and I think big corporations get too much in this country. But nonetheless, my view did not prevail.

Then, when we had to vote on the debt ceiling, the issue was: Do we pay our bills?

Now, this is a quote from the distinguished Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY. Let me read it. He says: ''When the United States makes promises, it keeps them, which is why the House voted today to avoid the threat of a debt default.''

That was several years ago, but he is right. When the United States makes promises, it keeps them. I didn't think that was a partisan issue. I didn't think that that was controversial.

But, look, here we are in Washington. Everything is a political fight. I mean, that is the way this place seems to work nowadays. And I get it. I am not even asking Republicans to vote with us to raise the debt ceiling anymore. I mean, it is just a hopeless cause. They have made a political decision. I get it. So, we are not asking for your support. What we are asking for is for you to get out of the way.

In the Senate, Democrats are prepared to carry the burden and raise the debt ceiling to make sure we pay bills, 97 percent of which were accumulated before Joe Biden was President. We are still paying for the Trump tax cuts.

We will do it. We will clean up the mess. What we are asking for is for you to get out of the way. Yet, we have Senators now threatening to use the filibuster to try to derail this, to put one hurdle after another after another.

They said they wanted Democrats to bear the burden. Democrats will do it. We always do. We are good at cleaning up messes that are left for us by our Republican friends. But get out of the way. Get out of the way, and let us do what the American people expect us to do, and that is to pay our bills.

Let me say one other thing. Everybody keeps telling me—and I heard this on the Rules Committee, too—the bipartisan infrastructure bill and the reconciliation, unless I missed something, we haven't passed either one of them yet. I mean, hopefully, we will, but those are things we are going to do in the future.

By the way, on the reconciliation bill, we are doing something that my Republican friends refused to do on their tax cut bill, and that is we are paying for it. So, we understood the issue of the debt, I guess, long before they did. At least we are more consistent than my Republican friends are.

In any event, I would just again say to my friends, we are not even asking you to vote for this anymore because that is a hopeless cause at this point. We are just asking you to get out of the way so we can get this done.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

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

Madam Speaker, just to quickly respond to my friend, I remind him, his leadership didn't vote to raise the debt ceiling. I remind him four out of the last five times we had complete control. I remind him that the majority leader in the United States, Mr. SCHUMER, didn't vote for it four out of five times. And I remind him that then-Senator Biden didn't vote for it once.

So please, please, let's look at the facts here before we start saying how much Democrats have always bellied up to the bar to help us out. That is just simply not the case.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 1897 for immediate consideration. This bill is simple: Before the Biden administration can release any illegal immigrant from custody, the person must have a negative COVID–19 test.

Madam Speaker, the Biden administration's crisis at the southern border is not only a humanitarian and a security crisis, but it is also a public health crisis.

Just last week, Secretary Mayorkas admitted that 12,000 migrants in Del Rio, Texas, who were released by the Biden administration, were not tested for COVID–19 and were not subject to any vaccination or testing mandates. This stands in stark contrast with the CDC's continuing embrace of mask mandates, even for the vaccinated.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with the extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), my good friend and author of this bill, to further explain the amendment.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me the time on this critical issue. I would say to the gentleman from Massachusetts that I am also giving him the opportunity to urge all of our colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can take up the bill, H.R. 1897, the REACT Act.

My commonsense legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to test all migrants illegally crossing our border who they plan to release into our communities for COVID–19.

I have traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border twice this year. On both trips, I have spoken with the brave men and women serving in Customs and Border Protection and also the physicians who are stationed there. I saw the crisis they are facing firsthand. I believe that it is our Congressional responsibility to address this crisis and support our officers.

Earlier this month, the DHS Office of Inspector General called for the Department to improve COVID–19 detection and prevention measures at the U.S.-Mexico border amid record-setting migrant arrivals. I even inquired of Secretary Mayorkas in a hearing whether or not testing was being done, and he alluded and gave the allusion that there was testing. However, to quote directly from the report, ''CBP does not conduct COVID–19 for migrants who enter CBP custody and is not required to do so.''

The report further stated that: ''We recommended DHS reassess its COVID–19 response framework to identify areas for improvement to mitigate the spread of COVID–19 while balancing its primary mission of securing the border.''

Currently, everyone legally entering the United States by plane is required to display a negative test for COVID–19. Why aren't we requiring this of those who come here illegally?

Numerous public health officials—and I am one—have stated that the failure of the U.S. authorities to test adult migrants for the coronavirus in jam-packed border processing centers is creating a potential for new transmissions, including among migrants who may have arrived healthy at America's door.

The administration has correctly recognized the need to test individuals arriving from Afghanistan—and not only are they tested, they are vaccinated for

COVID–19 and other childhood illnesses—but it does not seem to understand the importance of doing the same to those crossing our border illegally.

In August, more than 208,000 migrants were encountered along the southwest border. This means each day, approximately 6,700 individuals were encountered. To put this in perspective, President Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, stated in his tenure that 1,000 apprehensions a day was considered a bad day. We are at more than six times that now, and on top of that, we continue to face a global pandemic.

I applaud the work being done by the CBP agents and officers working around the clock to keep this country safe and healthy. I will also do whatever I can to support their work.

We recently watched a debacle unfold in Del Rio, Texas, where we have learned that DHS did not test any of approximately 15,000 migrants who camped out under the Del Rio Bridge, many of whom who came from South America where they are experiencing the lambda variant. We now know that around 12,000 of these individuals were released into the United States.

Right now, the majority is preparing a reckless multi-trillion-dollar tax-and-spend package. None of the money in that legislation would go to CBP, despite the DHS Inspector General clearly stating that CBP officials do not have the necessary resources to conduct testing.

If the majority already wants to spend trillions upon trillions, why not include money to support CBP and testing for COVID–19?

The current lack of testing at our border is completely unacceptable and irresponsible. It puts the health and safety of CBP border communities, migrants, and all Americans at risk. The current lack of testing is unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, for this reason, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my legislation, the REACT Act, by voting ''no'' on the previous question.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, we are talking about whether or not the United States of America will pay its bills and not default. I mean, that is what this is about. And we could talk about this, but with all due respect to the gentlewoman from Iowa, if we want to solve this pandemic, it begins at home.

She represents a State where just maybe a little more than 50 percent are vaccinated.

Go home and tell your people to get vaccinated.

It is the unvaccinated in this country that are filling up our emergency rooms, that are allowing this disease to be able to mutate.

So there's that old saying, ''physician, heal thyself,'' and to hear this from a party that embraces the conspiracy theories that are out there that are discouraging people from getting vaccinated. But I would encourage the gentlewoman—we can talk about this at another time—but in the meantime, Iowa needs to do better, as well as many other States in this country.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, today, I am voting to approve legislation to cover massive costs incurred by the self-described ''King of Debt'' for wasteful tax expenditures that we, Democrats, strongly opposed.

While his other claim to be ''a stable genius'' never had an ounce of credibility, Trump has indeed earned the undisputed title, ''King of Debt.''

Republicans have a ''dine and dash'' strategy—run up a tab for a massive feast for the wealthiest one percent, and then dodge the bill to cover it. It is surely a new low.

More than $2 trillion for a massive tax scam. Multinational corporations in America today, thanks to their shenanigans, now pay an effective tax rate of less than 8 percent, with 55 corporations paying absolutely nothing on $40 billion in combined profits. That is the equity that they added to our Tax Code as working families around this country paid their fair share.

Even more public debt was incurred as we rightly responded to help Americans recover from Trump's pandemic incompetence. After ignoring COVID and sound medical advice from his own scientific advisors, then refusing the most basic public health measures, his failed mismanagement has been devastating to our country, both in lives and in dollars—hundreds of thousands of American lives. They are marked out on the Mall today with white flags all around the Washington Monument, and they have taken a toll on one American family after another.

Last year, it was bleach; this year, it is horse dewormer. You could not make this stuff up.

While there is no limit to the duplicity of those that are politically enraptured by the Trump personality cult—those with so little commitment to American democracy that they refuse to recognize the result of the last national election and continue promoting the big lie, there is a statutory limit that this Congress faces for our national debt.

Today, it must be raised in recognition of all the damage that Trump and his delusional cohorts have wreaked on our country. Putting ''America First'' or ''Making It Great'' surely includes not driving it off a cliff into a self-inflicted, politically-motivated financial disaster.

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

I am sure my friend from Massachusetts is not aware of this, but Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS has actually run multiple events for vaccines. She has vaccinated people herself. She has spent 24 years in public health in service to the country.

So I agree with you about the vaccine. Nobody in this body has done more to promote it and administer it than Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), my very good friend, to speak more about the need to ensure illegal immigrants are tested for COVID–19 before being released.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question so that we could immediately consider H.R. 1897, the REACT Act. It is urgent that we pass this critical and commonsense legislation offered by my friend and colleague from Iowa, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

We all know that the crisis on our southern border is a national security crisis. My colleague, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS is a physician and I am a pharmacist, so we totally understand. What is less discussed is that it is also a public health crisis. Illegal immigrants are coming across our southern border in record numbers and they are coming from countries with low COVID vaccination rates.

My colleagues are right. The ERs are full of a lot of unvaccinated people, because there are 200,000 or more coming across the southern border every month and 209,000 were encountered in August alone. And the Biden administration is then transporting these illegal immigrants to communities all across our country—in most cases, without the Governor's approval, as is in Tennessee.

Currently, there is no requirement for individuals released by CBP or ICE to test negative for COVID before they are released. That means that any COVID-positive migrants released by the administration are spreading COVID throughout our communities.

Just this week, the DHS Secretary admitted that there were at least 12,000 or more Haitian migrants released into our communities who were not subject to COVID testing mandates—and I won't even talk about the non-SIV Afghans.

Contrast this with the Biden administration's policy of forcing American workers to get tested or vaccinated or its policy of only letting fully vaccinated tourists fly into our country. The lack of COVID testing at the southern border is reckless and it is unacceptable, and it is a detriment to our healthcare system.

But it doesn't have to be this way. There is a solution to the border health crisis.

My friend from Iowa introduced the REACT Act to protect American public health from the border crisis. This critical bill would require testing for everyone crossing our border, and it would require a negative test before CBP or ICE can release these illegal immigrants from custody.

The ultimate solution is just to close the border, but since that is a commonsense solution, it is not going to happen. It is time to implement the proper health screenings for these individuals

entering our country and stop putting Americans at risk.

Madam Speaker, the House should immediately pass the REACT Act because lives depend on it.

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

Madam Speaker, we are on the edge of default, on the edge of catastrophe, and this is the response from my Republican friends.

Madam Speaker, yes, I have nothing but the highest respect for the gentlewoman from Iowa, but I just pointed out that a little over 50 percent of her State is vaccinated. That is not good. And the gentlewoman from Tennessee who just spoke, her State is even worse—something like 45 percent are fully vaccinated. That is dangerous for not only the people of Iowa and Tennessee, but for the people of this country.

Doctor after doctor after doctor have told us that this is spreading because of the lack of attention to getting people vaccinated in this country. So we need to do better.

What we are talking about here today is whether or not we are going to default, whether we are going to court a catastrophe.

Madam Speaker, I will say to the gentleman from Oklahoma, he went through a list of people who voted against raising the debt ceiling in the past. I am willing to bet that many of those were attached to policy items where there was an objection.

I don't recall Democrats threatening to filibuster—threatening to filibuster—raising the debt ceiling. And yet, that is what Republicans are doing, cheered on by Republicans in the House.

So, look, we are happy to clean up your mess. We are happy to do the right thing. All Democrats will vote for it in the House. I am not asking anymore for you to join us because it is a waste of my breath.

But what we are asking you to do is get out of the way so that something really horrible doesn't happen in this country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

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

Madam Speaker, to my good friend from Massachusetts, if we want to deal with urgent matters, why don't we pass a clean CR and make sure the government doesn't shut down in 48 hours. That is urgent. And hopefully we will be able to get about that business shortly.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my very good friend and fellow Rules Committee member, classmate, member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, who has been a passionate advocate on this issue and who will speak more about the previous question.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, please inform the White House that there is a crisis along our southern border. That is why defeating the previous question is so important, so we can take up this amendment.

More than 1 billion undocumented immigrants crossed the southern border this year, including hundreds of thousands in the last several months. It is the highest level in years. In the most recent accounting, over 15,000 illegal immigrants, the majority originating from the country of Haiti, were camped under a bridge in Del Rio. They had no food. They had no water. They had no sanitation. They had no shelter.

The Biden administration admitted in 12,000 of these migrants and Secretary Mayorkas admitted that not a single one was vaccinated or tested for the coronavirus.

It is unconscionable that thousands of migrants continue to stream across our border without being tested while the Biden administration implements mandates for masks and mandates for vaccines for American citizens. But this not only contradicts the guidance from our public health authorities, but it puts American citizens at risk and their communities in danger.

Madam Speaker, I have offered amendments several times throughout consideration of the reconciliation bill that we previously passed, the America Rescue Plan, and during the markup of the Build Back Better plan in the Energy and Commerce Committee to provide funding for and require testing of migrants entering along our southern border. Every time Democrats voted against this commonsense amendment.

So it is hypocritical to declare that Americans must take precautions, Americans must be subject to mandates to protect public health, while allowing non-Americans, noncitizens, to roam free into the country without so much as a temperature check.

Representative MILLER-MEEKS' bill will require a negative coronavirus test before any immigrant without proper documentation can be released from custody. As you know, currently the procedure is catch and release.

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

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this Nation was built by immigrants. And we take in, legally and lawfully, over a million immigrants each year; more than any other country. But those seeking to come here must follow our laws, must follow our current regulations.

Unfortunately, they do not get to cross the border just because they want to; they must acquire proper documentation and take precautions to protect public health, as is currently required by all other Americans by the Biden administration.

Madam Speaker, so I urge my fellow Members to vote against the previous question so we can immediately take up this important bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I just want to point out for the record that in Texas only 51 percent of the population is fully vaccinated. That is better than Tennessee, but still that means half the population.

Madam Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, the gentleman will notice that the primary county that I represent, Denton County, has a significantly higher vaccination rate because we put together a vaccine hub at Texas Motor Speedway. We are very grateful for the participation of all members of the community.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I merely point out that we have a lot of work to do in this country to be able to control the virus.

Madam Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a letter to Speaker PELOSI from Janet Yellen, who is the Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am writing to follow up on my previous letters regarding the debt limit and to provide additional information regarding the Department of the Treasury's ability to continue to finance the operations of the U.S. government.

In my September 8 letter, I explained that Treasury's cash and extraordinary measures would most likely be exhausted sometime during the month of October. Based on our most recent information, including tax payments associated with the September 15 deadline for third quarter estimated tax payments for businesses and individuals, I am now able to further refine that projection.

We now estimate that Treasury is likely to exhaust its extraordinary measures if Congress has not acted to raise or suspend the debt limit by October 18. At that point, we expect Treasury would be left with very limited resources that would be depleted quickly. It is uncertain whether we could continue to meet all the nation's commitments after that date. While this is our best estimate, the federal government's cash flows are subject to unavoidable variability. For example, the government's daily gross cash flow (excluding financing) over the past year averages nearly $50 billion per day and has exceeded $300 billion. As a result, it is important to remember that estimates regarding how long our remaining extraordinary measures and cash may last can unpredictably shift forward or backward. This uncertainty underscores the critical importance of not waiting to raise or suspend the debt limit. The full faith and credit of the United States should not be put at risk.

Furthermore, we know from previous debt limit impasses that waiting until the last minute can cause serious harm to business and consumer confidence, raise borrowing costs for taxpayers, and negatively impact the credit rating of the United States for years to come. Failure to act promptly could also result in substantial disruptions to financial markets, as heightened uncertainty can exacerbate volatility and erode investor confidence.

I am also writing to notify you, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8348(1)(2), of my determination

that, by reason of the statutory debt limit, I will continue to be unable to fully invest the portion of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) not immediately required to pay beneficiaries, and that a ''debt issuance suspension period,'' previously determined to end on September 30, 2021, will continue through October 18, 2021. As a result, the Treasury Department will continue to suspend additional investments of amounts credited to, and will redeem an additional portion of the investment held by, the CSRDF, as authorized by law.

In addition, because the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 provides that investments in the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHBF) shall be made in the same manner as investments for the CSRDF, the Treasury Department will also continue to suspend additional investments of amounts credited to, and will redeem an additional portion of the investments held by, the PSRHBF. By law, the CSRDF and PSRHBF will be made whole once the debt limit is increased or suspended. Federal retirees and employees will be unaffected by these actions.

Again, I respectfully urge Congress to protect the full faith and credit of the United States by acting as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

JANET L. YELLEN.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, let me quote from the letter. It says: ''We know from previous debt limit impasses that waiting until the last minute can cause serious harm to business and consumer confidence, raise borrowing costs for taxpayers, and negatively impact the credit rating of the United States for years to come. Failure to act promptly could also result in substantial disruptions to financial markets, as heightened uncertainly can exacerbate volatility and erode investor confidence.''

We are not asking you to do anything more other than to just step out of the way. We will do the serious business of making sure that we don't default on our financial obligations.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I just want to quickly inquire of my friend. I am prepared to close, if my friend is.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, could I have a quick time check?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I can assure Members I won't use it all.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to quickly point out to my friend who has cited a number of statistics on State vaccinations, and I agree with him. Everyone should be vaccinated. I spend a lot of time in my district urging people to do that. I know my good friend from Massachusetts does the same thing.

But with respect to the previous question, nobody is vaccinated that is coming across illegally. They are not tested, and they are not vaccinated. This is really a commonsense item. I am surprised, quite frankly, my friends have not accepted this in some earlier iteration. My friend, Dr. BURGESS, mentioned he brought it up multiple times. This is actually something we should agree on.

Let's not just let anybody into our country that has not been tested. And if they are found unvaccinated, give them the vaccine. I think we can argue about immigration all day long. I don't know why in the world we argue about that particular issue at all. What my friend from Iowa is proposing is very much common sense.

Madam Speaker, the bill before us today is a deeply misguided bill. It makes in order one item, a standalone bill lifting the debt ceiling through the end of 2022.

Republicans have been very clear on their stance. So long as Democrats continue to spend, spend, spend on partisan reconciliation bills, Republicans will not act to help them lift the debt ceiling. The majority has been governing in a partisan manner since they took control earlier this year. That is their prerogative.

If they continue to insist on ramming their big government socialist agenda through Congress on narrow partisan votes, then it becomes their responsibility to lift the debt limit on their own.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question and ''no'' on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, let me remind my colleagues that MITCH MCCONNELL led three efforts to increase the debt limit under President Trump. He has voted over 30 times to increase the debt limit by over $20 trillion during his career.

He worked with President Obama in 2015, saying then: I made it very clear that after the November election we are certainly not going to shut down the government or default on the national debt. We will figure some way to handle that. What is different now? Not a thing. Nothing.

He did the right thing then. He is simply unwilling to do the right thing today. Instead, he is making up new precedent out of whole cloth, the impacts of which would be devastating.

So this is not just about Senator MCCONNELL, every Republican in the House and Senate should do the right thing and raise the debt ceiling.

It has never been the responsibility of just one party to ensure that America pays its bills. And to pretend otherwise, is to blindly be following a policy that will send our economy off a cliff.

Madam Speaker, I just have to say to my Republican friends, stop doubling down on the insanity. At some point we all have to act like grownups around here and get the people's business done. Too many of my friends on the other side of the aisle continue to get on one knee and genuflect in front of the altar of Donald Trump and all the stuff that goes with that. Well, you know what, it is time that we all act like serious legislators.

We have a discussion on immigration and COVID testing, we ought to have that discussion in a different context, not on the debt ceiling bill.

I will again say to my colleagues, I don't even know how many Members of the Republican Conference are vaccinated. We have people who come here and fight against efforts to get everybody vaccinated, who fight against communities that want to encourage people to wear masks in order to protect the citizens of that community.

We are here to legislate. This bill will fulfill one of the most basic responsibilities Congress has; that is, to ensure that America pays its bills. We always have, Madam Speaker.

And, you know, to try to make this debate into a debate about reconciliation—by the way, which we want to pay for as much of it as possible so it won't add to the deficit and the debt. That is a future debate.

This is about paying all the bills that were accumulated; 97 percent of which was accumulated, not under Joe Biden, but under his predecessor. Stuff that my friends on the other side of the aisle voted for. And to turn this into a political football about what might happen down the road is really ridiculous. It is dangerous. It is reckless.

My friends have said that they want Democrats to basically carry these bills. Happy to do it. On our side nobody wants to default. On our side we all understand the consequences. Mark Zandi, an economist for Moody's, said that it would be such a catastrophe if we defaulted on our debt. He said it would impact generations and generations and generations into the future.

Every economist, no matter what their political affiliation may be, has said the same thing. So we have to do this.

And, again, to try to make this about something else is just trying to avoid dealing with reality. I would say to my colleagues, all we are asking for now—we are no longer asking for your vote—you know, that is a waste of time at this particular point. I have seen all the press releases. I have seen the talking points come out of the RCCC and the RNC. It is maddening to see how this issue can be so distorted. We are not asking for that anymore. You already decided to make this a political issue.

We are just asking you to get the hell out of the way and to allow us to keep this government running on track and not in default. That should not be a controversial issue. It should not be an issue that people walk away from. When you accumulate bills, you got to pay for them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this rule so we can prevent a completely avoidable economic meltdown.

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 688

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 1897) to require a diagnostic test for COVID–19 for an inadmissible alien released from the custody of the United States Customs and Border Protection or the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1897.

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. COLE. 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 217, nays 206, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 305]

YEAS—217

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—206

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Biggs
Roy

NOT VOTING—6

Brady
Carson
Green (TN)
Lesko
Pappas
Pence

□ 1341

Messrs. ROUZER, WALTZ, DAVIDSON, LUCAS, and TURNER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. BIGGS changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''present.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Arrington)
Barragán (Gallego)
Beyer (Connolly)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Salazar)
McEachin (Wexton)
McHenry (Cammack)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Smucker)
Torres (NY) (Jeffries)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. COLE. 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 214, nays 212, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 306]

YEAS—214

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu

Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—212

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—5

Horsford
Houlahan
Lesko
Pence
Smith (WA)

□ 1400

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Arrington)
Barragán (Gallego)
Beyer (Connolly)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Salazar)
McEachin (Wexton)
McHenry (Cammack)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Smucker)
Torres (NY) (Jeffries)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

FEDERAL ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3599) to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 15, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 307]

YEAS—410

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib

Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—15

Biggs
Boebert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
LaMalfa
Massie
McClintock
Norman
Perry
Roy
Rutherford
Sessions
Tenney
Tiffany

NOT VOTING—6

Jackson
Lesko
McHenry
Meeks
Pence
Weber (TX)

□ 1416

Messrs. BABIN and ARRINGTON changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I missed votes today fulfilling my official duties and meeting with constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 307.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 305, "nay" on rollcall No. 306, and "yea" on rollcall No. 307.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Arrington)
Barragán (Gallego)
Beyer (Connolly)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Salazar)
McEachin (Wexton)
McHenry (Cammack)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Smucker)
Torres (NY) (Jeffries)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR AMERICANS ACT

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 688, I call up the bill (S. 1301) to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. UNDERWOOD). Pursuant to House Resolution 688, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–16, is considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

S. 1301

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 16, 2022.

(b) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—Effective on December 17, 2022, the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased to the extent that—

(1) the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on December 17, 2022, exceeds

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXTENSION LIMITED TO NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS.—An obligation shall not be taken into account under subsection (b)(1) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred pursuant to law by the Federal Government that required payment before December 17, 2022.

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

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 1301.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, one of the essential duties of Congress is to preserve the full faith and credit of the United States. Today, we will once again take action to do precisely that.

A suspension of the debt ceiling will prevent us from defaulting on debt we already owe. This is not about new spending. It is about investments that this Congress has agreed to in the past and previously approved.

This is about what the American family does every day. They don't get to say: ''I am not going to make my credit card payment this month. I am not going to make my mortgage payment this month. Oh, maybe I won't make my car payment this month. And I won't honor the personal loan that I signed up for.''

Our vote today is not a novel exercise. Congress has addressed the debt limit 78 times since 1960 to prevent default, 29 times with a Democrat in the White House and 49 times with a Republican in the White House.

Ensuring that the government can finance its existing obligations is a responsibility that we share jointly in this Chamber. Regrettably, that apparently is not the case this time.

Our Democratic Caucus, with some hope and help, I believe, from the Republicans at the right moment, will meet the moment and prevent a devastating financial catastrophe. We will take the action necessary to protect businesses, workers, and families.

When Americans' jobs and retirement savings are on the line, we are going to make sure we do what is necessary to prevent disaster.

Madam Speaker, I encourage every Member to support this critical measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, today's debt ceiling issue is a political and economic crisis of the Democrats' own making. They have known for 2 years this day was coming. They never even bothered to draft a budget for the government, much less pass it, and never lifted a finger to start the bipartisan discussions on how to raise the debt ceiling while addressing America's exploding national debt.

They have insisted on one-party rule all year, from an unnecessary, wasteful $2 trillion COVID stimulus that didn't stimulate the economy or defeat the virus to a national takeover of State and local elections, bailouts of failing State and local governments, ignoring the humanitarian and security crisis at the southern border, and the disastrous surrender to the Taliban in Afghanistan.

House Democrats have made it clear: We are running the place. Just sit down and shut up.

The bottom line on the debt ceiling today: Democrats alone have set fire to America's house and are now demanding Republicans put it out for them.

I urged Treasury Secretary Yellen, who I respect and who has bipartisan credibility, to do what the congressional Democrats have not: engage with Republicans on a reasonable framework of financial stability for our Nation.

There is precedent. Secretary Mnuchin certainly set that, reaching out repeatedly to Democrat leadership on these issues.

Although it should be noted, given the strident blame game now by Speaker PELOSI on the debt ceiling, I remember February 2018 when she, Leader HOYER, Whip CLYBURN, and 116 other House Democrats voted to default on America's debt, shut down the government, and refuse disaster relief to devastated communities across America.

One of the Democrat leaders even said: ''Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the White House. The responsibility to govern rests squarely on their shoulders.''

Well, right now, the Democrats control the House, the Senate, and the White House. The responsibility to govern rests squarely on their shoulders.

I agree that Congress should not play political games with the debt ceiling or

ignore the danger of making permanent the temporary COVID relief with spending that will bankrupt our Nation in the future.

Democrats control everything—the House, the Senate, and the Presidency—and they can easily pass the debt ceiling by including it in their $3½ trillion tax hikes and welfare state expansion, which requires no Republican votes.

But rather than work together, what did Democrats do? As I noted, they rammed through a partisan, nearly $2 trillion so-called stimulus bill. This was unaccountable, partisan Washington spending that only made matters worse, especially rising inflation for working families.

For example, in that bill, Democrats undid a bipartisan agreement to protect taxpayers against the greatest theft of American tax dollars in our lifetime, which by now has lost up to $400 billion to fraud.

They even opened the door to greater fraud by replacing the Republican child tax credit that rewarded work with the cash-for-kids welfare check program with few safeguards.

Stopping fraud and taking care of tax dollars should be a bipartisan goal that would stretch the spending in the Federal Government. Instead, Democrats are demanding this tax and spending binge that will kill 3 million U.S. jobs, drive prices even higher, and impose the largest expansion to the welfare state in our lifetime.

I urge my Democrat colleagues: End the brinkmanship. We can achieve a bipartisan framework. Just look at the Republicans' repeated efforts.

In 2016, the House passed a Ways and Means bill called the Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act, creating a system that would have allowed Congress to make informed decisions about the debt ceiling and consider changes before it became a crisis. Yet, the Obama administration opposed the bill.

Today, Democrats are hardly worried about new burdens as they put the IRS in charge of workers' paid family and medical leave, or hire 80,000 new IRS agents, or impose IRS bank surveillance on the personal and business accounts of Main Street and working families.

And Democrats won't take up a similar bill, the Debt Solution and Accountability Act, offered by Ways and Means Republican Representative LLOYD SMUCKER from Pennsylvania.

Democrats' alternatives these days to a bipartisan framework range from ridiculous to irresponsible.

One Democrat Congressman has proposed U.S. Treasury mint a trillion-dollar coin—a trillion-dollar coin. Why not a quadrillion-dollar coin?

This farfetched idea sounds about as brilliant as many Democrats' own calls to end the debt limit entirely, as the Speaker has sought.

I think Democrats' best answer to Washington's out-of-control spending is to spend more and to tear out the brakes.

Let's be honest. This is an economic and political crisis of the Democrats' own making. There isn't enough money in America to cover what Democrats want to spend, and Americans know it.

That is why President Biden has gone out of his way to sell his $3.5 trillion bill as not adding to the debt, saying the ''Build Back Better agenda costs zero dollars,'' a claim that ranks right up with: ''If you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it.''

Unfortunately for him and for the taxpayers that will have to foot the bill, The Washington Post fact-checker found this claim misleading.

□ 1430

They said that it ''would take dubious gimmicks that will help disguise the true cost of President Biden's agenda.''

Again, considering Democrats have not had a single conversation about spending, stimulus, or the debt with us to date, I think they, by their behavior, have taken responsibility to pass this by themselves.

It is irresponsible to keep raising the debt limit, keep on spending without any framework, or any discussion about this explosion of America's debt.

We need to grow the economy, constrain our spending, work together, both parties together, to get our financial house back in order for our children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), Speaker of the House, for a firm rebuttal.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank him for his masterful leadership of the Committee on Ways and Means to address many of the health concerns and climate concerns, issues of fairness in our economy in such an important way that has been manifested in the rescue package and now in the Build Back Better legislation.

Today, we come to the floor about a very important issue of concern on the economic stability and fiscal soundness of our country.

Madam Speaker, as you recall, last week, House Democrats honored our responsibility to the American people by voting on lifting the debt ceiling and on a continuing resolution to keep government open to avoid a devastating shutdown. Not one Republican voted to lift the debt ceiling or to keep government open, even though there were very important measures to address the needs of people affected by Ida and to help us help the evacuees from Afghanistan, and other issues in there of concern to all Americans.

We all know the full faith and credit of the United States should not be questioned. This is in the Constitution. In the Fourteenth Amendment, Section 4, states: ''The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, shall . . . not be questioned.''

Madam Speaker, even by questioning it, our credit rating was brought down when the Republicans questioned it when President Obama was in office.

Let's just talk about the consequences. Our distinguished chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means talked about what it meant in people's personal lives. And that is really what we are here about, for people in their personal lives, their financial and health security.

The consequences of not lifting the debt ceiling would be catastrophic. The nonpartisan Moody's Analytics found these consequences could include a loss of 6 million jobs, the elimination of potentially $15 trillion of household wealth, sending the unemployment rate surging to 9 percent, and a decline in the real GDP of our country by 4 percent.

What that means in people's personal lives, according to the Joint Economic Committee, default on not lifting the debt ceiling could prompt a lasting downgrade in America's credit, drastically increasing the cost for car loans—families have car loans—mortgages, student loans, credit card bills, and other borrowing. I don't know if there is anyone in the country who doesn't have such a loan, certainly among America's working families.

In a larger sense, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon predicted that such a default ''could cause an immediate, literally cascading catastrophe of unbelievable proportions and damage to America for 100 years. Let me repeat that: ''could cause an immediate, literally cascading catastrophe of unbelievable proportions and damage to America for 100 years.''

As I said before, it would be catastrophic. We must act now.

Yesterday, Secretary Yellen announced that by October 18, the Treasury is set to exhaust extraordinary measures and cash on hand, leading us barreling towards a default. This has been going on since the end of July when the debt limit expired.

Addressing the debt limit is not about future spending. This is about meeting the obligations that the American government has already incurred, including when we worked together on the bipartisan COVID relief legislation last December. Only 3 percent of the current debt that we are lifting the debt ceiling to accommodate has been accrued under President Biden.

A big chunk of this, though, is attributed to at least $2 trillion in the tax scam of 2017 where the Republicans gave 83 percent of the benefits to the top 1 percent. And now we have to lift the debt ceiling to pay for that.

The debt limit has long been a bipartisan issue, and you could talk about times when Democrats and Republicans voted against it, in part. But it is very hard to find a time when they said my vote will take down the debt limit. Democrats have never done that.

Congress has addressed the debt limit 78 times, as the distinguished chairman mentioned, since 1960; 29 times with a Democrat in the White House; 49 times under a Republican President.

More recently, since 2011, each of the seven times that the debt limit was addressed, Congress did so on a bipartisan basis. This includes three times under the most recent former President when Democrats cooperated.

We did so because the full faith and credit of the United States of America cannot be questioned—the Constitution says that—and because of all of the consequences that would happen if we did not lift the debt ceiling. Republicans' refusal to support a suspension of the debt limit now is cynical, hypocritical, and downright dangerous.

As MITCH MCCONNELL himself has said about the need to address the debt limit, this is what he said last time: ''Don't play Russian roulette with our economy.'' Yet, that is exactly what he is doing: playing Russian roulette—interesting that he is playing Russian roulette—with our economy and with the financial security and the well-being of America's working families. The kitchen table concerns: How are they going to pay the bills? Well, now the interest rate will be higher if the Republicans prevail.

That is why today, we will pass this suspension of the debt limit. Democrats are for the people and will never let the full faith and credit of the United States be questioned because we take an oath to the Constitution of the United States—and that is an oath that we always intend to uphold—and because we have a responsibility to the health and well-being of America's working families, and this would have a disastrous effect on them.

Madam Speaker, I salute the distinguished chairman once again, and I urge—and hopefully—a strong bipartisan vote on this legislation.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this fact-check from The Washington Post about this claim we just heard, that 83 percent of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act went to the top 1 percent. They gave that false statement ''3 Pinocchios,'' calling it a ''zombie claim'' and ''galling.'' PolitiFact agreed, calling it ''misleading.''

[From the Washington Post]

THE PINOCCHIO SIX: MYTHS, LIES & DEBUNKED CLAIMS ABOUT TAXES

1. False: Biden: ''All of [GOP Tax Cuts] went to folks at the top and corporations that pay no taxes.''

The Washington Post fact check gave this ''4 Pinocchios,'' saying this is ''simply wrong'' and ''clearly false.''

Three of every four dollars in the 2017 tax cuts went to individuals, cutting taxes for the lowest-income Americans by 10% while cutting taxes for the top 1% by less than one-half of 1%.

In the 2017 GOP tax reform, corporations effectively paid for 85% of their tax cuts thanks to eliminating special tax provisions and broadening the U.S. tax base.

2. Myth: ''The wealthy don't pay their 'fair share.'''

America has long had one of the most progressive tax codes among developed nations, with higher-income people paying higher tax rates, say the Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD).

The top 1% pay 40% of all income taxes, and the top 10% pays 70% of all income taxes, according to the Tax Foundation.

After the GOP Tax Cuts, the rich pay a larger, not smaller, share of income taxes.

3. False: ''83% of Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) tax cuts went to top 1%.''

The Washington Post gave this false statement ''3 Pinocchios,'' calling it a ''zombie claim'' and ''galling.'' Politifact agreed, calling it ''misleading.''

4. False: ''Corporate tax receipts declined by 40% after GOP Tax Cuts.''

Like government revenue that reached record levels in the two years after GOP tax reform, corporate tax receipts are higher and growing after TCJA, despite Democrats' claims.

Corporate tax revenues this year are $285 billion, 22% higher than the Obama-Biden Admin's last year.

The Congressional Budget Office projects corporate tax revenues under TCJA will increase to $379 billion in 2023—a record high.

Biden's own budget scorers project U.S. corporate tax revenues under TCJA will reach 1.63% of GDP by 2025, higher than the 1.55% average in the decade before the GOP tax cuts.

5 Myth: ''55 profitable U.S. corporations paid no taxes last year.''

This is an unverifiable claim by a far-left group (ITEP) using flawed methodology. It is not based on actual tax data—taxpayer data is private and most 2020 tax corporate returns have yet to be filed.

This group confuses the difference between taxable income and financial statement reports.

Similar reports that U.S. multinational corporations only pay very low tax rates on their earnings overseas are flawed either by double-counting, faulty methodology, or cherry-picked data.

6. Myth: ''The Death Tax only impacts two of every 1,000 taxpayers who die.''

Relatively few estates pay the Death Tax, but many more file estate tax returns, and millions of farms and other family businesses are forced to waste precious time and money to avoid a mistake that will result in a confiscatory tax bill from the IRS.

The Death Tax crushes investment in workers & expanded operations, harms growth & opportunity.

The Death Tax ranks as a devastatingly inefficient tax since it raises a very small amount of revenue while placing a very large burden on farms and other family businesses. In fact, the Cato Institute says the Death Tax ''is anti-saving and anti-investment,'' encourages ''wealthy folks to consume their wealth before death,'' and does nothing for U.S. long-term growth.

A growing number of women- and minority-owned businesses are finding themselves subject to the Death Tax as they try to build wealth for the first time and pass it on to the next generation.

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

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today and oppose the Democrat's latest socialist spending spree.

Today, the Federal Government presides over nearly $30 trillion in debt and $100 trillion of unfunded liabilities in Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid.

These catastrophic debts are growing increasingly unsustainable. And now the Democrats are using the debt ceiling as a blackmail to enable passage of an unaffordable so-called human infrastructure bill. I still don't quite understand what that means, but maybe they will enlighten us during the debate.

The Democrats, themselves, can't honestly tell us how much this bill would cost. First, they said it was $3.5 trillion, then the amount was raised to over $4 trillion. And both figures, obviously, underestimate the true cost by trillions of dollars.

Then with an amazing message discipline, Democrats in the House, Senate, and White House, along with their media cheerleaders, suddenly began claiming, in unison, that the bill won't cost anything at all.

They previously argued that ''tax the rich'' would pay for everything. But now, they have apparently conjured a true economic miracle:

No one will have to pay for the astronomical cost of this bill. It is Congress' first self-financing, multi-trillion-dollar spending plan. It is amazing that no Member of Congress ever figured this out before.

Now that the Democrats are full of their new socialist colleagues, you have finally achieved the Marxist dream of abolishing money.

The bill itself is the mother of all socialist spending programs. It is as if the Democrats are rejecting all fiscal restraint and decided that they had one shot to turn America into a socialist welfare state.

Madam Speaker, I reject that transformation and the spending gimmicks needed to enact it. I urge all Members to vote against this scheme and vote down the increase in the debt limit.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), a very capable member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and his great leadership in regard to the issues that we are dealing with today.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, our national debt rose $7.8 trillion under the last President, a Republican President. My Republican colleagues voted for that spending; raising the debt ceiling is about paying those bills. But my Republican colleagues who claim to be the party of fiscal responsibility don't want to pay their bills.

Well, the Republicans are risking economic Armageddon to score political points against a Democratic President. If we don't pass this bill, unemployment numbers will skyrocket, markets will tumble, Social Security payments will be delayed, borrowing costs will go up, so that means for car

loans, for home loans, for farm loans—all of that, because of their irresponsibility—will be out of reach for most Americans. It will be a catastrophe.

Madam Speaker, it is time to stop playing games, political games, and raise the ceiling, as we have done many times before in a bipartisan way.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Madam Speaker, let us be clear. My colleagues across the aisle want to raise the debt ceiling to pay for their 3.5 trillion tax and spending spree.

In my home State of West Virginia and across the country, people are paying more for gas, groceries, and other everyday items because of the liberals' reckless spending.

Taxpayers are sick of footing the bill for the terrible policies which continue to make the problem of inflation even worse.

Americans shouldn't have to pay for the consequences of Democrats' out-of-touch actions. Democrats are responsible for the spending, and they need to take responsibility for the borrowing. This entire Congress, House Democrats have chosen to go it alone and push through liberal items without any Republican input.

The liberals have managed to spend trillions by themselves. They can raise the debt ceiling alone, too. Socialism has a price tag. It is time the Democrats learn that lesson.

□ 1445

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), whose work on infrastructure is a model for the Nation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his leadership on this issue. I agree with his comments earlier.

The notion that somehow this is a wild, Democratic, socialist spending spree and we need to raise the debt ceiling to deal with it is patently false. I just note that there was $5 trillion that was spent recently in the end of the Trump administration and recently here dealing with the COVID crisis.

Much of that spending was passed on a bipartisan basis. It wasn't wild socialist spending. These are funds that the American people desperately needed.

The dismissive comment about cash for kids—give me a break. Being able to provide 69 million American children with monthly payments has resulted in lifting almost half of poor children out of poverty, and it is wildly popular by the American public. This is not reckless. This is reasonable. It is more necessary now than ever.

I do hope we are able to move forward with the broad outline of programs moving forward for infrastructure, the environment, and fighting the climate crisis. In the meantime, we must and we will meet our obligations to pay for money that the Congress has already spent.

Now, I see my colleague BRENDAN BOYLE here who has an idea to stop the lunacy of the debt ceiling charade for a long-term solution. But unless and until we do that, we need to meet our obligations and be able to protect the full faith and credit of the United States, and I hope we do that in a more honest basis.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), the ranking Republican of the Budget Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I truly hope that my Democrat colleagues don't believe the garbage that they have been spouting, but I would say that they probably do. Unfortunately, for months Democrats have been pursuing a radical partisan agenda that contains the most expensive piece of legislation in the history of Congress, all while ignoring our Nation's debt. Now they are scrambling.

First they claimed it was Republicans' responsibility to cosign a loan for their reckless spending bill, even though they control the White House, the House, and the Senate. Then they tried adding a debt ceiling increase to a bill to keep the government open, knowing it would fall on its face in the United States Senate.

Then they argued there wasn't enough time to raise the debt limit on their own, even though they have time and they have tools to do it. In fact, last weekend the House Budget Republicans gave Democrats a chance to address the debt limit by demanding their budget in a markup be revised. They refused. Then we offered to postpone the markup for just 48 hours to allow them to address the debt limit in reconciliation.

Since you love to do everything else in reconciliation, why not to raise the people's debt? You are spending it. It is time for you to get a loan for it. Folks, we are in a crisis right now. My counterpart on the House Budget Committee made the statement: We should raise the debt a gazillion dollars.

This is what we are dealing with, folks. The America people are fed up. They want fiscal accountability. We need a reasonable body in this House.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, a champion of the underserved.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

This is legislation that protects the full faith and credit of our Nation; that protects the well-being of millions of our most vulnerable citizens, including seniors receiving Social Security, veterans, servicemembers, small businesses, as well as physicians treating Medicare and Medicaid patients; and that protects our economic recovery and the global financial system.

The refusal of Republican leadership to extend the debt limit threatens catastrophic damage to America and Americans. Economists estimate that default could cost to United States' economy up to 6 million jobs; wipe out as much as $15 trillion in household wealth; cause the unemployment to surge to 9 percent; and send global financial markets into chaos.

Republicans must work and be real with Democrats to address the debt limit to ensure that hardworking Americans, businesses, and communities across the country do not pay the price.

Raising the debt limit is the only responsible thing to do.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose this disastrous attempt to suspend the debt ceiling.

For the past 9 months, the Democrat-led House has made spending trillions of dollars on Big Government socialist and Green New Deal programs their priority. They have done this while ignoring so many critical needs of our country, which has led to a crisis at our southern border, runaway inflation, rising crime, workforce shortages, and a disastrous retreat from Afghanistan.

For the most part, my colleagues on the left have simply ignored these crises, while Republicans have introduced commonsense legislation and pushed the administration to answer for these very real and concerning issues.

But today we are facing a crisis by their own creation that they cannot ignore: suspending the debt ceiling when we already have $28 trillion in debt. Some of my colleagues have even suggested that we should abandon the debt limit altogether, giving the Federal Government no safeguards to prevent ballooning debt and damaging the United States' credit rating.

Families, farmers, businesses, and even State and local governments have to live within their means and make responsible financial decisions to be successful, but the attitude in Washington continues to pass on massive debt to future generations in exchange for our current lifestyle.

But we aren't looking at this debt crisis in a vacuum. We could be voting on $5.5 trillion in more spending soon if Speaker PELOSI can pull together her caucus.

Suspending the debt ceiling while also proposing trillions in new spending is reckless. Every American, adult and child, already bears the burden of about $85,000 each. Raising the debt ceiling is about future spending. An unlimited debt ceiling until December of 2022 would result in a massive increase in spending by the Democrats.

The last debt ceiling increase covered all of the spending done during the Trump administration and for the first 7 months of the Biden administration. We can't just keep kicking the can down the road for future generations to figure out. We need to stop the reckless spending, taxing, and borrowing now.

That is the best way to protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), a very capable member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, the Republican Party is, in fact, the party of debt and deficit. Ronald Reagan, a Republican, grew the deficit to $152 billion. Bush 1, a Republican, grew that deficit to $290 billion. President Clinton, a Democrat, wiped out the entirety of the deficit and gave $128 billion surplus to Bush 2, a Republican, who turned that $128 billion surplus into a $1.4 trillion deficit. Obama, a Democrat, cut the Bush deficit of $1.4 trillion to $600 billion, from which Trump, a Republican, grew that deficit to $1 trillion.

Over the past 60 years, Democrats have created 21 million more jobs than Republicans. Annual economic growth is almost double. The Democratic Party continues the clean up the mess that the Republicans have made. And the Republicans are running away from the mess that they are responsible for.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, there are several problems with what I am hearing on the floor today. One, this is a blank check for Democrats to continue to spend at unprecedented levels. They talk about this spending for previous expenditures. Not true. This doesn't even set a limit. This would suspend completely the debt limit until December 16, 2022. They can spend as much as they want. It is a big problem.

Number two. Democrats aren't talking about finding ways to reduce the debt. We must tackle that problem. Rather, they believe that they can spend their way into a prosperous economy. In fact, they are attempting to completely erode the foundation of our society that has been built on individual freedom and personal responsibility, and they want to pave the way for the radical socialist agenda.

Unfortunately, we are already seeing the economic damage from their disastrous policies. Inflation is showing a 4 percent increase year to date. Consumer price inflation is higher than that. That is more than double the Federal Reserve's 2 percent goal. Those increases are being felt in my district; they are being felt across the country; and they are essentially a hidden tax on the American people.

Another problem we have, while they are attempting to spend even more money, cause even more economic harm, they will further degrade confidence in the dollar.

And, finally, another problem. This is an exercise in futility, and they know it. They know that this bill is very unlikely to pass in the Senate. So this is simply to score cheap political points today.

Democrats are in full control of the House, Senate, and the Presidency. They can raise the debt at any time. In fact, they passed up another opportunity to amend their budget resolution to include a debt ceiling increase, and they refused to do so.

Madam Speaker, I am strongly opposed to the Democrats' radical socialist agenda, and I oppose this bill which will help them advance that agenda.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, chief architect of the child credit expansion.

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask this body to keep in mind four numbers: 6 million, 9, 15 trillion, and 4. Moody's predicts that if Congress fails to address the debt ceiling, we will lose 6 million jobs, reach a 9 percent unemployment rate, wipe out $15 trillion in household wealth, and see a decline in real GDP of 4 percent.

That would trigger a global market panic not seen since the 2008 financial crisis. The brinkmanship that has been displayed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is really incomprehensible, but also dangerous.

The debt limit has long been a bipartisan issue. Each of the last seven times the debt limit has been addressed, it was on a bipartisan basis. Putting politics ahead of the country is the exact kind of cynicism that makes American people sick. And as a former business leader, these are the games that keep our business community from being able to invest, to innovate, and grow.

So I say to my colleagues, it is your duty to extend the debt ceiling and protect the American people from an economic crash. The Joint Economic Committee, which we all depend on for advice and guidance, predicts a default will result in a lasting downgrade of America's credit, drastically increasing costs for car loans, mortgages, student loans, and credit.

Six million jobs, a 9 percent unemployment rate, $15 trillions in household wealth, and a decline in real GDP of 4 percent is what is at stake. We must vote ''yes.''

□ 1500

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from west Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, it is not our duty to raise the debt limit; it is our duty to not spend so recklessly and so egregiously and irresponsibly that we bankrupt this country, and we rob our children of their freedoms and the opportunities that we have all been blessed with as Americans. That is our duty.

I won't give Republicans a pass on this, Madam Speaker. This place is broken. We play by a different set of rules—if we are honest—than the American people. The pay-fors just for the infrastructure bill are total jokes. It is a gimmick. It is Enron accounting scams. People in our country who operate that way would be thrown in prison. So we are all accountable.

But I have never seen this kind of spending spree to accelerate the curse that we are putting on the heads of our children. James Madison said: '' . . . a public debt is a public curse, and in a Republican Government a greater curse than any other.''

Trillions of dollars have been spent. We were promised bipartisanship and restoration of unity in this place. We are jamming more bipartisan spending bills starting with COVID, which was a bailout of union pensions and which was a bailout of blue States and Democrat-run cities. Very little went to COVID. That is deception.

We are accelerating what Admiral Mullin said was the greatest threat to the United States. He said that the greatest threat to our national security was our national debt. So we promised the cradle-to-grave cash, entitlements, and more handouts without any regard to responsibility and without any requirement for work, and we are going to bankrupt the next generation. We are going to steal from them what we have enjoyed.

This is not a profile in courage.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reconsider all of this spending that is bankrupting the country, and I urge them to vote ''no'' on the reconciliation bill.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), who is a very capable member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of doing what every adult is expected to do: pay their bills. That means raising the debt limit.

Let's be clear: this is not about new spending. This has nothing to do with any of our plans for new investments in infrastructure. Those plans are all paid for through other means. When we raise the debt ceiling, it is so we can pay the bills for money we have already spent. That means the reason we need to raise the debt ceiling right now is to pay Donald Trump's bills—which, as usual, he would rather leave unpaid.

Under the last administration, the deficit grew every year, totaling over $7 trillion in debt increases, requiring Congress to raise the debt ceiling three times.

And why was that?

Because the 2017 GOP tax scam used the reconciliation process to spend $2 trillion on tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy that were not paid for. The American people were told that the tax cuts would pay for themselves, but that was a lie. And now the bill comes due. Again.

But this time the Republicans are refusing to even allow a vote. It is not that they are choosing to vote ''no'', which would be their prerogative, even if it is political and insincere. Instead, they are filibustering to prevent us

from even voting to stop the U.S. from defaulting; something they all said would be terrible.

We are not children who flip a game over when we lose. It is our responsibility to pay the government's bills no matter who is in charge.

Madam Speaker, if you can vote to give tax cuts to billionaire amateur astronauts like Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, then you can vote to pay the bill for it. It is that simple.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), who is the ranking member of the tax policy subcommittee.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record the prior remarks shared were inaccurate.

The fact of the matter is, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act actually resulted in more revenues to the Treasury. Let's not forget that. And the fact of the matter is, a growing economy will do far more for the American people than new government programs that we can't afford.

We are standing here now, and of course, I think we should make good on our debts and make good on our obligations. This bill is not the solution. Instead of focusing on basics of governing, the majority has chosen to spend the past 10 months kind of arguing here and there—a lot actually—first passing their $2 trillion inflation catalyst at the beginning of the year, and now arguing among themselves how to spend another $5 trillion.

This bill is clearly not the solution. This bill isn't bipartisan. It was brought to the floor solely by Democrats and reflects their take-it-or-leave-it approach to governing. It does nothing to address our Nation's spending problem. It is a blank check which allows the majority to spend as much as they want in the coming months unrestrained by a true debt limit for the duration of this Congress.

Democrats control government and can immediately raise the debt ceiling right now. There is a better way, however, than this particular bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE), who is always the great champion of expanding the earned income tax credit.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support raising the debt limit and to keep the main thing the main thing.

I really don't have time to address the Taliban, Afghanistan, the southern border, socialism, and all the rest of the stuff that has been raised. But I do have time to talk about blackmail that was raised here. This is the failure to join the Democrats in raising the debt ceiling to pay for one thing: the $2 trillion that Republicans ran up providing tax cuts to the wealthiest corporations and individuals.

The blackmail is that they want to force us to restore those cuts to the wealthiest people and to raise taxes on regular Americans by trying to upend our initiative to provide, for example, the child tax credit and to blackmail us into not providing those benefits.

We have heard a great deal, Madam Speaker, about how this will hurt the markets and how this will create chaos, but who will really pay the price?

It is everyday people and ordinary people, those Social Security recipients and veterans whose benefits will be delayed; people who won't be able to get a car or a washer and dryer at a reasonable interest rate; and those thousands of people who will lose jobs. That is where the damage will come in.

Madam Speaker, instead of paying these partisan games, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to act responsibly. The full faith and credit of the United States should never be put in jeopardy. And by the way, people are not leverage.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), who is always a champion of the industrial heartland.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and chairman for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to protect the American economy, to save it from catastrophe, and to prevent a default on the obligations of the United States of America. The full faith and credit of the United States can't be questioned. The full faith and credit of the United States should never be a partisan question.

We have passed action to address the debt limit 78 times—29 times with a Democrat in White House and 49 times with a Republican in the White House. In fact, when President Trump was in office, Democrats helped. We cooperated, and we helped to address this issue three times.

Yet now they are refusing to vote and refusing to support, meeting obligations that we already have. A robust debate about the future is fine, and we should have that, and we will have disagreements. But we should never, ever, ever question, let anyone question the promises made by the United States Government.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE), who is a champion of very complicated issues relating to the debt ceiling.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I will attempt to address two things: the present and the future.

First, on the present, there is no question, none—and let's not let the other side get away with this conflating of two different things—this is not about adding new debt. It is about whether or not we are going to pay the bills for the old debt that was already rung up under all of the previous administrations combined, including, and especially, the last one.

That is what this is about.

Are we going to pay our bills?

Of course, the answer is yes. I have voted to raise the debt ceiling under a Democratic administration, and I have done it under a Republican administration because it is the responsible thing to do.

But the second thing is the future.

Why do we constantly keep finding ourselves in this rather bizarre, counterproductive debate that achieves nothing?

We always know the debt ceiling is ultimately going to be raised.

The question is: How much of a political game of chicken will we have to go through?

And that game of chicken comes at a real cost. The last time the United States came close to not raising the debt ceiling was exactly 10 years ago. The GAO found the cost at $1.3 billion, and, my God, just imagine if ever a miscalculation brought about an occasion in which by accident we truly didn't raise the debt ceiling.

When on the Ways and Means Committee I asked Secretary Mnuchin what would happen, he replied that the consequences would be so dire he couldn't even imagine them.

So let's fix this. I have a piece of legislation with Budget Committee Chairman YARMUTH that would take this out of the political sphere. It would depoliticize it. And instead, make this the responsibility of the Treasury Secretary—Democratic Treasury Secretary today, Republican Treasury Secretary tomorrow. That would be the responsible approach and end this game once and for all.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), who is a very capable gentleman. He is champion of all things Philadelphia, as well as quite knowledgeable about the debt ceiling.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise in strong support of this bill. We have to pay our bills and uphold the full faith and credit of the United States. My constituents in Philadelphia don't get a choice. They have to pay their bills. Congress must do the same.

We are working together to finalize legislation to advance the Build Back Better agenda that we share with President Biden. As we do that, we must remember we are elected to govern. Let me repeat that. We are elected to govern.

Yes, the Senate needs to act, but we also must be responsible in this House. We are responsible for protecting the recovering economy against the threat

of severe financial damage. This will clear the way to focus on bold opportunities to support American families.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to act responsibly and join me by voting ''yes'', ''yes'' to avoid the first-ever default in the Nation's debt.

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), who is a member of the Ways and Means Committee and well-known for his midwestern values.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, today is my dad's 88th birthday. As a CPA he taught me about financial responsibility. He taught me about paying our bills on time. I am sure he never could imagine our Congress would or could possibly put the full faith and credit of the United States at risk, but that is exactly the path my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are advocating today.

The stakes could not be higher. Secretary Yellen has said that it would be catastrophic for the United States to default on its debt. There would be chaos in the financial markets, higher interest rates, slowed economic growth, an estimated 6 million lost jobs, and $15 trillion of people's wealth disappeared.

For the last 4 years the Republicans have run up our Nation's debt. The bill is now due, and the Republicans want to tear up the statement and throw away the checkbook.

□ 1515

Burying our heads in the sand won't solve our problems, and it won't keep our creditors at bay. It will, however, cause catastrophic damage to our Nation's credibility, damage to our Nation's economy, damage to our Nation's future, to our children's future.

I urge my colleagues to put the partisanship aside, put the country first. Let's vote ''yes'' on this bill and make sure that our country pays its debts.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) again, a very knowledgeable member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge all of my colleagues in Congress to fulfill our obligation, not just to the people of our districts, but to the people and the economy of our Nation.

Suspending and raising the debt limit simply lets our government pay our bills. It is a very simple responsibility that has been done 78 times since 1960, including 49 times under Republican administrations, and that includes three times during the Trump administration.

We raise the debt ceiling because we have to take into account the spending that we have already committed to, including this time, where 97 percent of the spending was done during the Trump administration.

If my colleagues are concerned with fiscal responsibility, they should know that breaching the debt ceiling will raise borrowing costs and add hundreds of billions of dollars to our debt.

Failure to act on the debt ceiling will not just result in economic catastrophe. It will affect every American family, as borrowing costs and unemployment will rise and markets will crash.

Provoking such a financial crisis through such a sovereign default would be self-sabotage, and it is flirting with brazen irresponsibility. We are better than that. Let's act responsibly, do our job, and raise the debt ceiling.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), whose work on USMCA was outstanding.

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise because I have had enough of the games. I have had enough of the bad faith arguments and enough of the hypocrisy when it comes to the debt limit from the other side of the aisle.

Increasing or suspending the debt limit enables us to fulfill our existing financial obligations, and part of that includes the Republican Donald Trump tax cuts from 2017, the tax cuts that went to the top one-tenth of 1 percent and the largest corporations.

That shows who they prioritized, by giving corporations permanent tax cuts while giving tax cuts to the middle class that expire in 2025 and were so small people didn't even notice that they were given a tax cut in their paychecks.

So, we are trying to fulfill the obligation of their tax cuts, and it does not authorize new spending. It doesn't authorize new spending. It doesn't authorize new spending. What it does is helps pay for that previous spending that has already occurred.

I know my colleagues over here love to talk about the Pinocchios, but I want to say that they sit on a throne of lies, based on the arguments they have been making not only in the Ways and Means Committee but the ones they are trying to fool the American public with today.

If we default, it ruins the creditworthiness of the United States. It causes our credit rating to be downgraded, interest rates to increase, and will make things a lot more expensive. But for them, it is okay as long as they score their political points and put the blame at the feet of the Democrats.

But that is not something that we should be playing with, and that is for both Republicans and Democrats. Do not play with the full faith and credit of the United States. It is irresponsible, and it is beneath you to do that.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the very capable Congresswoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As a member of the Budget Committee, we sat for many hours on Saturday giving this Congress and the American people a budget. So I know that the discussions of my good friends are purely political, and the reason is this. In 2019, during the Trump administration, Majority Leader MCCONNELL, the very person who stood up with such great profoundness and did not want to vote to raise the debt ceiling in order to adhere to the Constitution, as the leader, he voted to raise the debt ceiling, and he said: ''We will raise the debt ceiling because America can't default. That would be a disaster.''

Is there any poorer recollection?

Then for those of us who are historians or love history, in 1789, Alexander Hamilton, the Nation's first and greatest Treasury Secretary, understood that the path to American prosperity and greatness lay in its creditworthiness, which provided the affordable access to capital needed to fund internal improvements and economic growth. That is why we are known as the greatest economy in the world.

I would venture to say to my colleagues that the importance of what we do stands on the premise of the Constitution. We the people have formed to create a more perfect Union and for the general welfare of our people.

Vote to increase the ability to pay our bills and stand worthy in the world's eye.

I want Leader MCCONNELL to remember his words. We need to do this on behalf of the American people.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, and on the Budget, I rise in support of the rule governing debate for RCP 117–16, S. 1301, the ''Temporary Extension of Public Debt Act,'' which provides funding to extend the national debt limit through December 16, 2021 and avoids a wasteful, irresponsible, reckless threatening of one of the nation's singular indispensable assets: the full faith and credit of the United States.

Madam Speaker, American families do not get to choose which bills to pay and which ones to ignore; neither can the United States Congress without putting the nation into default for the first time in its history.

Long ago, in 1789, Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first and greatest Treasury Secretary, understood that the path to American prosperity and greatness lay in its creditworthiness which provided the affordable access to capital needed to fund internal improvements and economic growth.

The nation's creditworthiness was one of its most important national assets and according to Hamilton: ''the proper funding of the present debt, will render it a national blessing.''

But to maintain this blessing, or to ''render public credit immortal,'' Hamilton understood that it was necessary that: ''the creation of debt should always be accompanied with the means of extinguishment.''

In other words, to retain and enjoy the prosperity that flows from good credit, it is necessary for a nation to pay its bills.

Madam Speaker, if our friends across the aisle really want to shrink the deficit, reduce the national debt, practice fiscal responsibility, and bring about sustained economic growth and prosperity, there is a much better, easier, and more certain way to achieve these goals than by tampering with the U.S. Constitution.

The easier and better way is for the American people to keep a Democrat in the White House and place Democratic majorities in the House and Senate.

In the 1990s under the leadership of President Clinton the budget was balanced for four consecutive years, the national debt was paid down, the national debt, 23 million new jobs were created, and projected surpluses exceeded $5 trillion.

Under President Obama the financial crisis and economic meltdown inherited from his Republican predecessor was ended, the annual deficit was reduced by 67 percent, the auto industry was saved from collapse, and 15 million jobs were created.

In contrast, under every Republican administration since President Reagan the size of the deficit bequeathed to his successor was substantially larger than the one he inherited, a major economic recession occurred, and economic growth was lower than it was at the beginning of his administration.

According to Moody's Chief Economist Mark Zandi, it would be ''cataclysmic'' for the United States to default.

Republicans know the debt ceiling needs to be raised; in 2019 during the Trump Administration, Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans voted to raise the debt ceiling, ''We raised the debt ceiling because America can't default[,] that would be a disaster.''

Madam Speaker, this debate over extending the debt limit is not about restraining future spending, it is about paying the bills piled up already under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

To preserve the sanctity of the full faith and credit of the United States, protect American jobs and businesses of all sizes, and ensure the continued growth of the economy, I strongly support the provision in the bill before extending the public debt limit to December 16, 2021.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for S. 1301, the ''Temporary Extension of Public Debt Act.''

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds, and I can't help but remember that, in February 2018, my colleague from Houston, Texas, voted to default on America's debt, to shut down the government, and to withhold disaster funding for Hurricane Harvey in our region.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader, one of the most capable legislators I have known.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for yielding. As you can tell, he is a good friend of mine, and he uses hyperbole in introducing me. I appreciate that.

The ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee just made a comment. I don't think anybody has clean hands on this issue. I tell the ranking member, I don't think anybody has clean hands. I don't know the exact voting pattern of the ranking member. I think he probably has been on both sides of this issue himself. I think I have been.

But I will tell the ranking member, if I am here when there is a Republican President—and I do not wish for that end, of course. But if I am here, I want to guarantee you that I will vote to lift the debt limit—guarantee you.

I said 3 years ago, I would never vote against raising the debt limit and keeping America's creditworthy status, never. In my view, it is intellectually dishonest to do so.

This is a phony issue, and anybody who is intellectually honest with themselves knows it is a phony issue because it has no relationship to what the debt is. The debt relates to when we cut revenues or spend money, not some arbitrary limit that we theoretically put on our debt. We ought to be honest with the American public because too many people demagogue about this issue.

Madam Speaker, on Monday, Senate Republicans voted against keeping the government open and paying the bills that our Nation has already incurred. That was not a reflection of responsible opposition in a democracy.

We talk about the loyal opposition. The loyal opposition ought not to be loyal to the majority, but they ought to be loyal to the country. Instead, their vote is a reckless and irrational action that signaled very clearly to the American people, the financial markets, and the international community that Republicans would choose to precipitate an economic catastrophe for American businesses and families to score political points against President Biden and Democrats. That is what is happening here today.

Three times over the past 4 years, House and Senate Republicans voted to suspend the debt limit when President Trump asked them to do so. I have no idea what President Trump is asking people to do at this point in time, but my experience is it is not the responsible thing.

Madam Speaker, when they asked Democrats for our help taking that needed step in order to prevent a catastrophic default, we joined with them to vote for it.

When Speaker Boehner could only get 78 of his colleagues to vote with him to maintain fiscal responsibility in this country, only 78—I guess 77 because he was the 78th—would follow. And how did those bills carry? Because we, in the minority, joined with Speaker Boehner.

When Speaker Ryan did the same thing, couldn't get the majority of his own colleagues to back him, we gave the necessary votes to pursue and to ensure fiscal responsibility. Why? Because it was the right thing to do, because it was the necessary and responsible thing to do.

Treasury Secretary Yellen told us yesterday that we will run out of extraordinary measures to forestall a default on October 18. That is fewer than 20 days from today.

Yet, we talk about partisanship, and we accuse others of not doing it one time or not doing it another time. This is the one time. This is our time. This is the time that the vote presents itself to us to keep America's creditworthy status and to prohibit a national and international crisis.

There is an urgency to our action, and we twiddle our partisan thumbs.

Leader MCCONNELL, I am sure, has been quoted frequently. I haven't heard all the debate, but frequently. ''Let me make it perfectly clear. The country must never default. The debt ceiling will need to be raised.'' That is his quote.

Now, what he didn't add was: But I am not going to help. But I am going to ask my party to be irresponsible. But I am going to ask my party not to do what I say should never happen and allow the country to default.

I don't know how you rationalize that. I don't know how anybody with intellectual honesty rationalizes that, Madam Speaker, that you think we must never default, but by the way, I won't vote for it.

What does that mean? What kind of language is that? What kind of lack of principle is that?

In order to give him and his fellow Republicans one last opportunity to prevent a default at a time when our recovery from the pandemic is not yet complete and still quite fragile, today, we are considering a clean debt limit suspension, not a number, just a date, which is, by the way, what both Republicans and Democrats have used in the past.

The bill before us simply says the United States of America will pay its bills on time. What a radical proposition.

Yet, our Republican friends cannot summon the intention to do just that. If Senate Republicans still cannot be consistent with their own votes from the past 4 years, they can stand aside and, as Leader MCCONNELL has suggested, vote for cloture to allow Democrats to pass the bill with 51 votes. At least do that. At least have the courage to allow others to display the courage of standing up and voting for what they know is absolutely essential and what they have said is absolutely essential.

But if you believe that the full faith and credit of our country is worth safeguarding, that our businesses and working families deserve to be spared unnecessary economic pain, then vote ''yes'' on both sides of the aisle.

This is not a partisan vote. This is an American vote. This is for our country. This is for our fiscal responsibility. This is for fiscal stability. This is for families.

□ 1530

Don't twiddle your thumbs and say it is a partisan vote. It is not.

A ''yes'' vote on this bill is not a victory for Democrats or for the President. It is the responsible thing to do and a victory for our country. Although we ought never to get to this place, we get to it all time, because we

play these silly, partisan, pedantic, weak, meritless arguments.

Everybody knows we have to do this. To sit there and say, ''Well, I am not going to do it'' is not fulfilling the oath to defend and protect this great Nation and this great democracy.

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

What a bunch of nonsense that we just heard. I respect the majority leader. I love his talk about courage and principle and language and all of that.

But what he didn't tell you was that in February of 2018, Speaker PELOSI, he, Whip CLYBURN, 119 House Democrats, voted to shut down this government, to default on America's debt, and deny hurricane assistance to communities not just in Texas, but across the country. He played politics with America's debt. So did many Democrats that day.

While they lecture us about irresponsibility, here is what we do know. This is a dangerous, irresponsible charade. Democrats are desperate to blame the GOP for this when, in fact, they created this economic crisis.

For 2 years, our Democrat colleagues have known this day was coming and never even passed a budget. They didn't even try to pass a budget to deal with this. They never sat down with Republicans. They have rammed everything through this House this year.

Now, even though they have all of the votes they need, they are just playing political games, willing to shut down this government, willing to deny disaster aid, willing to harm our economy and working families so they don't have to raise this debt ceiling.

The truth is, they don't want to. They can. They don't want to. They are manufacturing this crisis. They have all the votes they need. They are willing to bring this economy to the brink. They have got all the votes they need. All they have to do is include it in reconciliation. They just don't want to. They just don't want to.

We could fact-check so much of what we heard today. We could spend the next 2 hours on this, and we could talk about all of the tax breaks for the billionaires and the wealthy in the new spending bill that is being brought to the floor. Trust me, this isn't just about past debts. This is about a green light to spend America deeper and deeper and deeper into debt.

To quote our Democrat leaders in 2018: ''Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the White House. The responsibility to govern rests squarely on their shoulders.''

Democrats control the House, the Senate, and the White House. This responsibility rests on their shoulders.

I will tell you, Madam Speaker, at the end of this debate, I intend to offer a motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means and include a provision that would prohibit the IRS from implementing a bank surveillance scheme.

The reason I am doing this is because Democrats are leading a campaign to impose bank surveillance on your personal bank account and your business bank account. They are targeting families and farmers and America's small businesses.

They want to give the IRS unfettered access to individual and business bank accounts. It is an outrageous intrusion into the private lives of all Americans. And they want to do that because they think they can raise money to lift the SALT cap, to give tax breaks to millionaires, to create tax havens for billionaires against the very tax hikes that they are proposing. Penthouse occupants are cheering. The building janitor gets nothing.

This is why they don't want to take responsibility for lifting the debt ceiling, because they have huge plans to really harm middle-class Americans while giving huge tax breaks to their friends.

When Democrats want to sit down with Republicans and have a serious conversation about how we raise the debt ceiling, how we address the financial stability of this country, let me tell you, I am in, a lot of us are in. I am hopeful someday we can get to that because that is what our country deserves. I will oppose this debt ceiling.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Madam Speaker, we keep hearing from our colleagues that somehow we are asking them to cosign a loan. I am prepared here to vote to lift the debt ceiling. That is the responsible position.

We have heard a lot today from the other side about why Democrats should shoulder the responsibility of acting responsibly in terms of governance, but that is not how governing simply works.

We have been given great responsibility and privilege to serve this great country, and that responsibility means making hard decisions and putting the good of the Nation ahead of all else, including day-to-day politics.

So in my hand, Madam Speaker, I have a $1 bill. For anybody in this Chamber or who is watching or who has ever had a chance to travel this great country of ours, you know that wherever you go, you can redeem this dollar. The purchasing power of this dollar is well known to all.

But you know what is even more fascinating about this? No matter where you travel in the world, to any nook or cranny of this globe, you put the dollar on the table and they figure out how to redeem it. This argument today is about the full faith and credit of the United States of America. This is signed by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Treasurer of the United States of America. The basis of redemption is the trust that we might even have in strangers as it relates to the transaction of using this dollar to pay our bills.

We have always come together to pay our bills. In 2017, when the debt ceiling was reached, 183 Democrats, every Democrat present, voted to lift that limit, joining 133 Republicans.

Resist the ill-considered parts of the argument that have been offered today and vote for the responsible position to raise the debt ceiling based upon the full faith and credit of the dollar bill that we know is redeemed everywhere across the globe.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

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

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to commit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to commit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Brady moves to commit S. 1301 to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

Strike section 1 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN INFORMATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds appropriated to the Department of the Treasury shall be used to implement any new information reporting requirements on inflows or outflows of deposits and withdrawals in individual and business banking accounts and other financial accounts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to commit.

The question is on the motion to commit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

DHS SOFTWARE SUPPLY CHAIN RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4611) 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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4611

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS Software Supply Chain Risk Management Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY OR SERVICES CONTRACTS.

(a) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary, shall issue guidance with respect to new and existing covered contracts.

(b) NEW COVERED CONTRACTS.—In developing guidance under subsection (a), with respect to each new covered contract, as a condition on the award of such a contract, each contractor responding to a solicitation for such a contract shall submit to the covered officer—

(1) a planned bill of materials when submitting a bid proposal; and

(2) the certification and notifications described in subsection (e).

(c) EXISTING COVERED CONTRACTS.—In developing guidance under subsection (a), with respect to each existing covered contract, each contractor with an existing covered contract shall submit to the covered officer—

(1) the bill of materials used for such contract, upon the request of such officer; and

(2) the certification and notifications described in subsection (e).

(d) UPDATING BILL OF MATERIALS.—With respect to a covered contract, in the case of a change to the information included in a bill of materials submitted pursuant to subsections (b)(1) and (c)(1), each contractor shall submit to the covered officer the update to such bill of materials, in a timely manner.

(e) CERTIFICATION AND NOTIFICATIONS.—The certification and notifications referred to in subsections (b)(2) and (c)(2), with respect to a covered contract, are the following:

(1) A certification that each item listed on the submitted bill of materials is free from all known vulnerabilities or defects affecting the security of the end product or service identified in—

(A) the National Institute of Standards and Technology National Vulnerability Database; and

(B) any database designated by the Under Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, that tracks security vulnerabilities and defects in open source or third-party developed software.

(2) A notification of each vulnerability or defect affecting the security of the end product or service, if identified, through—

(A) the certification of such submitted bill of materials required under paragraph (1); or

(B) any other manner of identification.

(3) A notification relating to the plan to mitigate, repair, or resolve each security vulnerability or defect listed in the notification required under paragraph (2).

(f) ENFORCEMENT.—In developing guidance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall instruct covered officers with respect to—

(1) the processes available to such officers enforcing subsections (b) and (c); and

(2) when such processes should be used.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

(h) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a review of the implementation of this section;

(2) information relating to the engagement of the Department of Homeland Security with industry;

(3) an assessment of how the guidance issued pursuant to subsection (a) complies with Executive Order 14208 (86 Fed. Reg. 26633; relating to improving the nation's cybersecurity); and

(4) any recommendations relating to improving the supply chain with respect to covered contracts.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BILL OF MATERIALS.—The term ''bill of materials'' means a list of the parts and components (whether new or reused) of an end product or service, including, with respect to each part and component, information relating to the origin, composition, integrity, and any other information as determined appropriate by the Under Secretary.

(2) COVERED CONTRACT.—The term ''covered contract'' means a contract relating to the procurement of covered information and communications technology or services for the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) COVERED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY OR SERVICES.—The term ''covered information and communications technology or services'' means the terms—

(A) ''information technology'' (as such term is defined in section 11101(6) of title 40, United States Code);

(B) ''information system'' (as such term is defined in section 3502(8) of title 44, United States Code);

(C) ''telecommunications equipment'' (as such term is defined in section 3(52) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153(52))); and

(D) ''telecommunications service'' (as such term is defined in section 3(53) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153(53))).

(4) COVERED OFFICER.—The term ''covered officer'' means—

(A) a contracting officer of the Department; and

(B) any other official of the Department as determined appropriate by the Under Secretary.

(5) SOFTWARE.—The term ''software'' means computer programs and associated data that may be dynamically written or modified during execution.

(6) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ''Under Secretary'' means the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4611, the DHS Software Supply Chain Risk Management Act of 2021.

With each passing day, we see cyberattacks becoming increasingly more frequent and sophisticated, posing a significant threat to homeland security and the U.S. economy.

The tactics cybercriminals use to steal information or disrupt access to critical information systems are ever evolving. Many prey upon vulnerabilities within the victim's security measures or the victim's software supply chain.

The ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline and the attempted hack of a water treatment plan in Oldsmar, Florida, earlier this year, show just how easily critical infrastructure systems can be compromised.

Last year's compromise of the SolarWinds Orion software supply chain demonstrated how widespread and damaging such attacks can be.

In the SolarWinds attack, cybercriminals were able to add malicious code to a commercial software product that was subsequently downloaded by several Federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security.

As the lead Federal agency for cybersecurity, it is important that DHS lead by example, aggressively protecting its own networks.

To that end, H.R. 4611 would enhance the Department's ability to protect its networks by modernizing how it buys information and communications technology or services.

H.R. 4611 directs DHS to issue Department-wide guidance to improve visibility into the supply chain for software purchased from new and existing contractors.

Specifically, under this legislation, contractors would have to provide a bill of materials that identifies each part or component of the software supplied to DHS and take steps to ensure that each item is free from known security vulnerabilities or defects.

The bill of materials process is akin to the listing of ingredients on a package of food.

Once DHS has this detailed supply chain information, it will have far greater visibility into what it is purchasing and installing on its networks.

□ 1545

With this information, DHS can take more timely action to mitigate risks associated with software on its network.

Importantly, H.R. 4611, which was introduced by my colleague from New York (Mr. TORRES), requires DHS to instruct personnel on how to enforce the new requirements to hold contractors accountable.

Finally, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to review the department-wide guidance and assess how it aligns with President Biden's recent executive order on improving the Nation's cybersecurity.

As the President stated in this order, the Federal Government must take decisive steps to modernize its approach to cybersecurity to keep pace with today's dynamic and increasingly sophisticated cyber threat environment.

I could not agree more.

Enactment of H.R. 4611 would be a decisive step toward improving DHS's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to cyberattacks on its own networks.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4611, the DHS Software Supply Chain Risk Management Act of 2021.

As we have seen over the past year, our software supply chains are increasingly vulnerable. It is vital that the Department of Homeland Security does its part to ensure that software in use by the Department and its contractors is secure.

This legislation will help DHS better understand and track the software and systems in use by its contractors so that it can better mitigate risk within the software supply chain.

I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4611, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), the vice chair of the Committee on Homeland Security and the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, a cyberattack on a software supply chain is like an infectious disease outbreak, spreading widely and rapidly, and causing untold damage far and wide.

The SolarWinds espionage campaign against the United States, which spread surreptitiously through a software product, represents the greatest intrusion into the Federal Government in the history of the United States.

SolarWinds should serve as a wake-up call. The United States Government can no longer take for granted the safety of the software it uses. The Federal Government must be proactive in identifying and correcting cyber vulnerabilities; and as the lead agency on cybersecurity, DHS in particular must emerge as the gold standard.

I am therefore proud to partner, on a bipartisan basis, with my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO), to pass H.R. 4611, the DHS Software Supply Chain Risk Management Act of 2021.

H.R. 4611 would require the DHS Under Secretary for Management to issue department-wide guidance that in turn requires DHS contractors to submit a software bill of materials, identifying the origin of each component of software provided to DHS.

DHS should know the precise origin of the software it uses; whether a software component comes from a questionable firm that fails to follow best practices in cybersecurity; whether it comes from a hostile nation-state intent on planting back doors.

Homeland security can easily die in darkness, and the purpose of H.R. 4611 is to bring greater light, greater transparency to the software supply chains which for far too long have been left wide open to cyber espionage and sabotage. We owe it to ourselves to learn from the experience of SolarWinds, for those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

As the lead Federal agency for cybersecurity, DHS has taken steps to increase public awareness of software vulnerabilities routinely exploited by malicious cyber actors.

To identify and manage these types of vulnerabilities on its own network, DHS needs better visibility into the supply chains of the software it procures.

Enactment of H.R. 4611 would ensure that DHS has access to the information it needs to enhance its ability to manage the risks to its own networks.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4611, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4611, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

DARREN DRAKE ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4089) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate best practices for rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior to law enforcement agencies at the point of sale of a covered rental vehicle to prevent and mitigate acts of terrorism using motor vehicles, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4089

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 ''Darren Drake Act''.

SEC. 2. BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO CERTAIN INFORMATION COLLECTED BY RENTAL COMPANIES AND DEALERS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop and disseminate best practices for rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior to law enforcement agencies at the point of sale of a covered rental vehicle.

(2) CONSULTATION; UPDATES.—The Secretary shall develop and, as necessary, update the best practices described in paragraph (1) after consultation with Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies and relevant transportation security stakeholders.

(3) GUIDANCE ON SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR.—The Secretary shall include, in the best practices developed under paragraph (1), guidance on defining and identifying suspicious behavior in a manner that protects civil rights and civil liberties.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section, including an assessment of—

(1) the impact of the best practices described in subsection (a) on efforts to protect the United States against terrorist attacks; and

(2) ways to improve and expand cooperation and engagement between—

(A) the Department of Homeland Security;

(B) Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies; and

(C) rental companies, dealers, and other relevant rental industry stakeholders.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The terms ''dealer'' and ''rental company'' have the meanings given those terms in section 30102 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) The term ''covered rental vehicle'' means a motor vehicle that—

(A) is rented without a driver for an initial term of less than 4 months; and

(B) is part of a motor vehicle fleet of 35 or more motor vehicles that are used for rental purposes by a rental company.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4089, the Darren Drake Act.

This month the Nation observed the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Next month we mark the fourth anniversary of the deadliest terrorist attack to be carried out in New York City since the 9/11 attacks.

In that attack, a lone wolf, inspired by ISIS, rammed a rented truck into pedestrians and cyclists who were out enjoying a sunny Halloween afternoon on a pathway that ran along the Hudson River.

That attack took the lives of 8 people and injured 11 others. One of the victims of the attack was Darren Drake, a 32-year-old bicyclist and the namesake for this important legislation.

While it is not within our power to bring back Darren Drake or the seven other victims of this tragedy, we do have the ability to learn from this event to better address the threats of vehicle-based attacks.

H.R. 4089, introduced by my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), seeks to ensure that rental vehicle facilities, like the one where Darren Drake's killer rented a truck, are better equipped to prevent vehicle-based attacks.

Specifically, the Darren Drake Act requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop best practices for vehicle rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior in a manner that protects civil rights and civil liberties.

The bill directs DHS to consult and share best practices with State and local partners and rental companies to help strengthen communication and relationships to guard against vehicle-based attacks.

H.R. 4089 is a commonsense measure that acknowledges that vehicle rental companies are important partners in efforts to prevent vehicle-based terrorist attacks and provide them with the tools to identify suspicious behavior and notify authorities.

I urge my colleagues to support the Darren Drake Act and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4089, the Darren Drake Act.

In the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, it is critical that we remain vigilant to threats posed by terrorists and extremist organizations.

Over the past two decades, terrorists have carried out multiple vehicle-ramming attacks in North America and Western Europe.

Al-Qaida and ISIS have promoted these type of attacks for years, including in Inspire, the online magazine of al-Qaida, and Rumiya, ISIS's magazine.

ISIS has called upon its followers to conduct vehicle-ramming attacks by buying, renting, stealing, or borrowing trucks and targeting large outdoor events, crowded pedestrian streets, outdoor markets, and rallies.

This legislation requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate best practices for rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior to law enforcement agencies at the point of sale of a covered rental vehicle to prevent and mitigate acts of terrorism using these motor vehicles.

This represents an important tool for addressing extremist threats—the ability of government and the private sector to work together to mitigate terrorism risk.

I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4089, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4089, the Darren Drake Act, bipartisan legislation I introduced in the Committee on Homeland Security with my Republican colleague and co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), to help prevent terrorist vehicle attacks and to protect Americans nationwide.

This legislation is named in memory of a constituent from my district, Darren Drake from New Milford, New Jersey, who was one of those tragically killed in the terrorist attack in Lower Manhattan on October 31, 2017, when an ISIS-inspired terrorist drove a rented pickup truck into cyclists and runners for one mile along the West Side Highway, killing eight.

The bill takes critical steps to stop these weapons of terror and help prevent terrorist truck attacks by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate best practices for vehicle rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior to law enforcement.

These best practices will be developed and updated in consultation with State and local law enforcement as well as industry experts.

This crucial legislation will provide rental companies and car dealers with the vital information they need to flag and stop potential terrorist threats in their tracks. We can take no chances when it comes to terrorism, which is why this bill will help ensure all rental companies report suspicious behavior at every point of sale. No excuses. We simply cannot afford any excuses when it comes to a question of life or death.

The bill will also require the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress regarding the implementation of these best practices and other ways they are helping improve coordination between the Department and rental vehicle providers.

This commonsense, bipartisan bill is aimed at stopping ISIS-inspired, lone wolf, and domestic terrorists from easily trucks and other vehicles to wreak havoc and cause mass destruction and health. It is an important addition to our arsenal as we work to eradicate threats of terror across our Nation.

I want to thank Darren's parents, Jimmy and Barbara Drake, who have become dear friends, for working with me on this effort. I thank them for their leadership. We will continue working to ensure this measure becomes law, in Darren's memory and honor, to help prevent future attacks and save lives. It is the least we can do.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge all my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to help our Nation fully combat terror wherever it rears its ugly head.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, from the 2016 Bastille Day truck attack in France to the 2017 deadly car ramming in Charlottesville to the 2017 attack that took the lives of Darren Drake and seven others, we have seen the use of vehicles to carry out terrorist attacks become disturbingly common.

Our Nation faces a complex and evolving threat landscape. But the threat of vehicle-ramming attacks is not going away.

As long as would-be terrorists seek to use rental vehicles as weapons of terror, we must provide rental dealers with the ability to do their part.

I urge my colleagues to support the Darren Drake Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4089, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

□ 1600

K–12 CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1917) to establish a K–12 education cybersecurity initiative, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1917

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 ''K–12 Cybersecurity Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) K–12 educational institutions across the United States are facing cyber attacks.

(2) Cyber attacks place the information systems of K–12 educational institutions at risk of possible disclosure of sensitive student and employee information, including—

(A) grades and information on scholastic development;

(B) medical records;

(C) family records; and

(D) personally identifiable information.

(3) Providing K–12 educational institutions with resources to aid cybersecurity efforts will help K–12 educational institutions prevent, detect, and respond to cyber events.

SEC. 3. K–12 EDUCATION CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CYBERSECURITY RISK.—The term ''cybersecurity risk'' has the meaning given the term in section 2209 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659).

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security.

(3) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term ''information system'' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(4) K–12 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''K–12 educational institution'' means an elementary school or a secondary school, as those terms are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in accordance with subsection (g)(1), shall conduct a study on the specific cybersecurity risks facing K–12 educational institutions that—

(A) analyzes how identified cybersecurity risks specifically impact K–12 educational institutions;

(B) includes an evaluation of the challenges K–12 educational institutions face in—

(i) securing—

(I) information systems owned, leased, or relied upon by K–12 educational institutions; and

(II) sensitive student and employee records; and

(ii) implementing cybersecurity protocols;

(C) identifies cybersecurity challenges relating to remote learning; and

(D) evaluates the most accessible ways to communicate cybersecurity recommendations and tools.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall provide a Congressional briefing on the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(c) CYBERSECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the study required under subsection (b)(1), the Director, in accordance with subsection (g)(1), shall develop recommendations that include cybersecurity guidelines designed to assist K–12 educational institutions in facing the cybersecurity risks described in subsection (b)(1), using the findings of the study.

(d) ONLINE TRAINING TOOLKIT.—Not later than 120 days after the completion of the development of the recommendations required under subsection (c), the Director shall develop an online training toolkit designed for officials at K–12 educational institutions to—

(1) educate the officials about the cybersecurity recommendations developed under subsection (c); and

(2) provide strategies for the officials to implement the recommendations developed under subsection (c).

(e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make available on the website of the Department of Homeland Security with other information relating to school safety the following:

(1) The findings of the study conducted under subsection (b)(1).

(2) The cybersecurity recommendations developed under subsection (c).

(3) The online training toolkit developed under subsection (d).

(f) VOLUNTARY USE.—The use of the cybersecurity recommendations developed under (c) by K–12 educational institutions shall be voluntary.

(g) CONSULTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the course of the conduction of the study required under subsection (b)(1) and the development of the recommendations required under subsection (c), the Director shall consult with individuals and entities focused on cybersecurity and education, as appropriate, including—

(A) teachers;

(B) school administrators;

(C) Federal agencies;

(D) non-Federal cybersecurity entities with experience in education issues; and

(E) private sector organizations.

(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C App.) shall not apply to any consultation under paragraph (1).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in the past few weeks, millions of students have returned to school across the country. The range of public health, safety, and security risks that schools face today is truly astounding.

In recent years, schools have increasingly been subjected to ransomware attacks where cybercriminals lock networks and demand ransom payments, sometimes while threatening to release sensitive information, including students' personal data.

According to the K–12 Cybersecurity Resource Center, in 2020 alone, there were over 480 publicly disclosed cyber incidents at schools in the United States, an 18 percent increase over the previous year.

Notably, the rate of such incidents increased in the second half of last year as COVID–19 forced schools to shift to virtual learning, creating new risks, such as the disruption of online classes and online school meetings.

The impacts of ransomware attacks on schools have included the cancellation of classes, the release of sensitive information, like the name of a 9-year-old student being evaluated for a disability, and costs as high as $7.7 million for Baltimore County schools to respond to and recover from a November 2020 attack.

With many schools still operating under virtual or hybrid conditions because of the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, the vulnerabilities to such cyberattacks are even greater.

In December, the FBI Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center released a joint cybersecurity advisory to alert schools to the increase in cyber threats and provide best practices on how to reduce the risk of such incidents.

To further assist K–12 schools, we must do more to help schools guard against cyber threats.

S. 1917, the K–12 Cybersecurity Act, introduced by Senator GARY PETERS from Michigan, requires CISA to conduct a study of the cybersecurity risks facing K–12 educational institutions and develop recommendations based on that study.

By developing an online training tool kit for schools, and making the study and recommendations publicly available, CISA will be able to provide schools with targeted information to better protect their networks and reduce their cybersecurity risk.

An identical version of this legislation was introduced in the House by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and cosponsored by Representatives MATSUI, SLOTKIN, GARBARINO, and CLYDE. The House measure was reported favorably by the Homeland Security Committee by voice vote in July.

Passing S. 1917 today would send this bill to the President for signature, allowing CISA to begin this important work to better secure our schools.

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

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

I rise today in support of S. 1917, the K–12 Cybersecurity Act of 2021.

Schools around our country are increasingly the target of malicious cyber actors and have recently been targeted with a deluge of ransomware attacks.

This legislation introduced by Chairman PETERS and passed by the Senate mirrors the House version spearheaded by Representatives LANGEVIN, GARBARINO, and MATSUI.

This bill requires CISA to conduct a study to develop recommendations and provide resources regarding specific cybersecurity risks facing K–12 educational institutions. Importantly, it requires CISA to do so in consultation with teachers, schools, administrators, Federal agencies, nine Federal cybersecurity entities, and other private-sector organizations.

In doing so, the study required by this bill would help the Federal Government better support schools in defending against cyber threats.

I urge Members to join me in supporting S. 1917, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, while we are in the process of getting the sponsor of this legislation prepared to give his comments, let me say that we all have been involved in making sure that our schools are as safe as possible. Clearly, this legislation, as offered by Senator PETERS and Representative LANGEVIN and others, is integral to making sure that our schools are kept as safe as possible from cyberattacks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), the sponsor of the House version of this bill.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I commend the chairman for his strong leadership on cybersecurity issues and in support of this act before us today.

This bill, the House companion of which I sponsored with Representatives MATSUI, KATKO, and GARBARINO, would help address a serious issue that has not received the attention it deserves: the cyber threats targeting our Nation's schools.

The education of our children is clearly a critical function, yet the increasing frequency and severity of cyber threats targeting K–12 schools have jeopardized the education of students across America.

In the past 4 years, more than 1,000 educational organizations across the country have fallen victim to cybercriminals. More than 400 incidents have occurred in the past year alone. What is more, an increasing proportion of these incidents are ransomware attacks that are particularly debilitating to the operation of our schools.

Our students and educators have experienced more than enough disruption in the past year and a half. We cannot afford to let this issue continue to go unaddressed.

Many of our schools do not have the resources to counter the cyber threats that we face. Without assistance, this problem will continue to get worse, jeopardizing our students' privacy and ability to learn.

Fortunately, this Congress has already demonstrated a recognition of the government's need to provide cybersecurity assistance to entities that perform essential functions yet live below the cybersecurity poverty line, unable to defend themselves against the myriad threats they face.

It is why we took steps to invest $50 million in support for State and local government entities as part of the forthcoming reconciliation bill.

It is also why I fought to increase the budget of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency by more than $400 million earlier this year. I thank Chairwoman ROYBAL-ALLARD for her leadership, and I thank her team and the members of the Appropriations Committee, along with Chairman THOMPSON and his team and the members of the Homeland Security Committee.

It should also be the reason that we pass the K–12 Cybersecurity Act into law without delay.

This bill would direct the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to study the cybersecurity risks facing our elementary schools and secondary schools.

With a detailed understanding of the specific cybersecurity challenges facing our schools, including challenges raised by remote learning, CISA would then be required to develop cybersecurity recommendations and online training tools for educational officials at K–12 institutions. Our educators and administrators would be equipped with the knowledge they need to better defend themselves against cyber threats and keep our schools safe for our students.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MATSUI for her tireless attention to this issue and Representatives GARBARINO, SLOTKIN, and CLYDE for joining us in advancing this legislation. I recognize the efforts of my colleagues in the Senate, Senator PETERS and Senator SCOTT, who deftly shepherded this bill through their Chamber. Finally, I recognize my good friend, Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, for ensuring this bill received the consideration it deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

With sophisticated cybercriminals operating overseas launching ransomware attacks on our schools, it is essential that the Federal Government step up efforts to support the cybersecurity of our schools.

Without more assistance, many of our Nation's school districts will continue to be vulnerable, as many lack the cyber expertise to defend against these incidents.

Enactment of the K–12 Cybersecurity Act would enhance the technical support provided by CISA to schools to help better protect school IT networks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 1917, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1917.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOMELAND SECURITY FOR CHILDREN ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4426) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4426

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 ''Homeland Security for Children Act''.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112) is amended by adding at the end of the following new subsection:

''(h) PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure the head of each office and component of the Department takes into account the needs of children, including children within under-served communities, in mission planning and mission execution. In furtherance of this subsection, the Secretary shall require each such head to seek, to the extent practicable, advice and feedback from organizations representing the needs of children. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply whenever such advice or feedback is sought in accordance with this subsection.''.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL EXPERT AUTHORIZED.

Paragraph (2) of section 503(b) of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 313(b)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(I) identify, integrate, and implement the needs of children, including children within under-served communities, into activities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the risk of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other disasters, including catastrophic incidents, including by appointing a technical expert, who may consult with relevant outside organizations and experts, as necessary, to coordinate such integration, as necessary.''.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report describing the efforts the Department has undertaken to review and incorporate feedback from organizations representing the needs of children, including children within underserved communities, into Department policy in accordance with subsection (h) of section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended by section 2 of this Act), including information on the following:

(1) The designation of any individual responsible for carrying out such subsection (h).

(2) Any review, formal or informal, of Department policies, programs, or activities to assess the suitability of such policies, programs, or activities for children and where feedback from organizations representing the needs of children should be reviewed and incorporated.

(3) Any review, change, modification, or promulgation of Department policies, programs, or activities to ensure that such policies, programs, or activities are appropriate for children.

(4) Coordination with organizations or experts outside the Department pursuant to such subsection (h) conducted to inform any such review, change, modification, or promulgation of such policies, programs, or activities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, during disasters, children are uniquely vulnerable to physical and emotional harm. Sixteen years ago, Hurricane Katrina opened our eyes to the disproportionate consequences of disasters on our Nation's children. It uprooted 300,000 children, forcing them to enroll in new schools, and separated 5,000 children from their families, some for months.

Drawing on the lessons from Katrina, the National Commission on Children and Disasters in 2010 issued recommendations to better protect children during catastrophes. To date, fewer than a quarter of those recommendations have been implemented.

Children today face a diverse range of homeland security challenges that impact their lives. We have seen COVID–19, school shootings, hurricanes, and wildfires disrupt access to education and have far-reaching impacts on the lives of children.

According to a study published this week, children today will experience three times as many climate-related disasters as their grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a Washington Post article on the consequences of climate change for children.

[From The Washington Post]

TODAY'S KIDS WILL LIVE THROUGH THREE TIMES AS MANY CLIMATE DISASTERS AS THEIR GRANDPARENTS, STUDY SAYS

(By Sarah Kaplan, September 27, 2021)

Adriana Bottino-Poage is 6 years old, with cherub cheeks and curls that bounce when she laughs. She likes soccer, art and visiting the library. She dreams of being a scientist and inventing a robot that can pull pollution out of the air. She wants to become the kind of grownup who can help the world.

Yet human actions have made the world a far more dangerous place for Adriana to grow up, according to a first-of-its-kind study of the impacts of climate change across generations.

If the planet continues to warm on its current trajectory, the average 6-year-old will live through roughly three times as many climate disasters as their grandparents, the study finds. They will see twice as many wildfires, 1.7 times as many tropical cyclones, 3.4 times more river floods, 2.5 times more crop failures and 2.3 times as many droughts as someone born in 1960.

These findings, published this week in the journal Science, are the result of a massive effort to quantify what lead author Wim Thiery calls the ''intergenerational inequality'' of climate change.

Drawing on multiple climate and demographic models, Thiery and 36 colleagues compared the risks faced by previous generations to the number of extreme events today's children will witness in their lifetimes. Unless world leaders agree on more ambitious policies when they meet for the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, this fall, the study says, today's children will be exposed to an average of five times more disasters than if they lived 150 years ago.

The changes are especially dramatic in developing nations; infants in sub-Saharan Africa are projected to live through 50 to 54 times as many heat waves as someone born in the preindustrial era.

The disparities underscore how the worst effects of climate change will be experienced in places that contributed least to warming, by people who have had little say in the policies that allow continued emissions to occur, Thiery said. More than half of all greenhouse gases in the atmosphere were generated after 1990, meaning that most of the disasters today's children will experience can be linked to emissions produced during their parents' lifetimes.

''Young people are being hit by climate crisis but are not in position to make decisions,'' he said. ''While the people who can make the change happen will not face the consequences.''

Aggressive efforts to curb fossil fuel use and other planet-warming activities can still dramatically improve the outlook for today's children, he added. If people manage to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels, newborns' risk of extreme heat exposure will fall almost by half. They could see 11 percent fewer crop failures, 27 percent fewer droughts and almost a third as many river floods than if emissions continue unabated.

But the world is nowhere near meeting that 1.5 degree target. A U.N. report published earlier this month warned that, based on countries' current climate pledges, greenhouse gas emissions could actually increase by 16 percent by the end of the decade. That would put the planet on track to warm by 2.7 degrees Celsius (4.9 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.

This makes Adriana angry. The Woodbridge, Va., first-grader already worries about the wildfires in California, where her half brother lives. She has heard about islands being inundated by rising seas, caught glimpses of hurricanes and droughts on the news.

Meanwhile, adults ''don't listen, and they keep doing it and keep making the Earth hotter'' she added. ''Everything will keep getting worse and worse until I grow up. Somebody has to do something.''

The Science paper was partly inspired by Thiery's three sons, who are 7, 5 and 2. But its implications are not restricted to children. Anyone under 40, he said, is destined to live a life of unprecedented disaster exposure, experiencing rates of extreme events that would have just a 1 in 10,000 chance of happening in a preindustrial world.

''It used to be a story of, like, 'yeah we have to limit global warming because of grandchildren,' '' he said. ''This study is making clear that climate change has arrived. It's everywhere.''

The numbers provided in the study are almost certainly an underestimate, said co-author Joeri Rogelj, director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London. Data limitations, and the complexity of the analysis, meant the scientists didn't assess the increased risk of some hazards, such as coastal flooding from sea level rise. The study also doesn't take into account the increased severity of many events; it only looks at frequency.

On the other hand, he noted, countries also have a chance to adapt to the changes that are coming. If the world invests in making communities safer—for example, installing flood barriers, adopting fire-safe building codes, providing shelter for people at risk from deadly heat—disasters don't have to be as destructive for future generations as they are for people today.

''Our aim is for this not to be the conclusion of this debate,'' Rogelj said, ''but for this to be the start of looking at the lived experience of children being born today.''

Kim Cobb, a climate scientist at the Georgia Institute of Technology who was not involved in the new research, called it a ''robust study'' based on established findings from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As a scientist, Cobb said, she was unsurprised by the results.

But Cobb is also a mother to four children. Reading the report through that lens, she said, ''it brings into sharp focus what so many economic models of climate change impacts fail to capture—the vast toll of human suffering that is hanging in the balance with our emissions choices this decade.''

She added: ''The moral weight of this moment is almost unbearable.''

In a report published in conjunction with Thiery's findings, Save the Children International called on world leaders to make the changes necessary to meet the 1.5 degree Celsius target. Wealthy nations must also follow through on their unmet pledge to give $100 billion per year to help low-income countries curb their own emissions and adapt to changes that are already underway, the group said.

Yolande Wright, who directs the nonprofit's climate efforts, also hopes the findings will bolster legal efforts to force climate action on behalf of children. Last year, a federal appeals court threw out a case brought by 21 American young people who argued that the government's failure to act on climate change was a violation of their

rights. Similar cases have been filed in Portugal, Peru and elsewhere.

''Now that we can really quantify how a child in their lifetime will see so many more of these extreme events . . . it helps make the case,'' Wright said.

Environmental attorney Dan Galpern, general counsel and director of Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative, agreed that ''anticipatory research'' like this can help establish governments' and corporations' liability for real harms experienced by kids.

Young people already say climate change has touched their lives and harmed their mental health. In a recent survey of 16- to 25-year-olds, scientists found that three quarters of respondents feared the future and more than half believed they would have less opportunity than their parents. Nearly 60 percent said their governments had betrayed them and future generations—making them feel even more anxious.

''The future for me and everyone who comes after is so insecure,'' said Emanuel Smari Nielsen, a 14-year-old climate activist from Norway. ''When politicians and those with power do not do anything, it makes me feel tired. It almost makes me angry.''

Adriana, the 6-year-old, said she feels ''super nervous'' when she thinks about what the future might hold. In those moments, there's nothing that helps her feel better.

''I just wait till I'm done thinking about it,'' she said.

Experts say one way to help children cope with climate anxiety is to help them feel empowered to do something about it. The Save the Children report calls for communities, countries and global institutions like the U.N. to give young people a greater role in setting climate policy.

Cormac Buck, an 8-year-old from Savannah, Ga., has decided to stop eating meat (except for the occasional chicken nugget). He is part of a group of kids at his school who have asked teachers and administrators to use fewer fossil fuels.

''Sometimes I hear some depressing things happening, like some animals because of climate change are really close to extinction . . . and I feel sad,'' he said. ''And then I normally try to think of a way to stop that from happening again.''

And adults must earn back children's trust, Thiery said, by making the dramatic emissions reductions that have been so long delayed. Our choices now will determine whether kids grow up in a world with four times as many heat waves or seven times as many heat waves, a world with occasional crop failures or chronic food shortages.

''We can still avoid the worst consequences,'' he said. ''That is what gives me strength as a father . . . Their future is in our hands.''

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the safety of our children is central to our country's well-being, and we must ensure that, for its part, the Department of Homeland Security is equipped to consider these needs.

The Homeland Security for Children Act would ensure the unique needs of children are taken into account throughout the Department by mandating the DHS Secretary direct all components and offices to consider children when creating policies and implementing programs.

□ 1615

It specifically directs the Department to seek feedback from organizations that represent children when developing and carrying out policies and programs.

H.R. 4426 would also permanently authorize a ''children's technical expert'' within the Federal Emergency Management Agency to prioritize the interests of children in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives.

Lastly, the legislation, as introduced by my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) would require DHS to report to Congress on the Department's work to incorporate children's interests throughout all its work.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4426, the Homeland Security for Children Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2021.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I write concerning H.R. 4426, the Homeland Security for Children Act. There are certain provisions in this legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 4426, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agrees to forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this Committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 4426 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2021.

Hon. PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFAZIO: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4426, the ''Homeland Security for Children Act.'' I recognize that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4426, and I appreciate your effort to allow this bill to be considered on the House floor.

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

I will include our letters on H.R. 4426 in the Congressional RECORD during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this Nation.

Sincerely,

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4426, the Homeland Security for Children Act.

While terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies have devastating effects on our communities that last for years, the impacts on children whose lives are often shaped by such emergencies can be felt throughout our country for decades. This legislation will help ensure that DHS, especially FEMA, is considering those long-term implications in all aspects of its mission and planning.

I commend Representative PAYNE for his tireless effort over the years to support and protect our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4426. I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's children need our help. Natural disasters have impacted one in three Americans. Since the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic, over 5.5 million children have tested positive, and conditions are not trending in the right direction.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, last week, with kids back at school, the number of infected children had exponentially risen to the third highest level since the beginning of the pandemic.

As a partner to schools, which are critical to infrastructure, the Department of Homeland Security has a critical mission to play in helping to protect children. To do so effectively, it is critical that children's unique needs are front and center in DHS programs and policies. Enactment of the Homeland Security for Children Act will do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4426, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4426, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ONE-STOP PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4094) to conduct a pilot program at foreign last point of departure airports to permit passengers and their accessible property to continue on additional flights or flight segments originating in the United States without additional security re-screening, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4094

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 ''One-Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ONE-STOP SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding 44901(a) of title 49, United States Code, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, is authorized to conduct a pilot program at not more than six foreign last point of departure airports to permit passengers and their accessible property arriving on direct flights or flight segments originating at such participating foreign airports to continue on additional flights or flight segments originating in the United States without additional security re-screening if—

(1) the initial screening was conducted in accordance with an aviation security screening agreement described in subsection (d);

(2) passengers arriving from participating foreign airports are unable to access their checked baggage until the arrival at their final destination; and

(3) upon arrival in the United States, passengers arriving from participating foreign airports do not come into contact with other arriving international passengers or those passengers' property or other persons who have not been screened or subjected to other appropriate security controls required for entry into the airport's sterile area.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR PILOT PROGRAM.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall ensure there is no reduction in the level of security or specific aviation security standards or requirements for screening passengers and their property prior to boarding an international flight bound for the United States, including specific aviation security standards and requirements regarding the following:

(1) High risk passengers and their property.

(2) Weapons, explosives, and incendiaries.

(3) Screening passengers and property transferring at a foreign last point of departure airport from another airport and bound for the United States, and addressing any co-mingling of such passengers and property with passengers and property screened under the pilot program described in subsection (a).

(4) Insider risk at foreign last point of departure airports.

(c) RE-SCREENING OF CHECKED BAGGAGE.—The Administrator may determine whether checked baggage arriving from participating foreign airports referenced in subsection (a) must be re-screened in the United States by an explosives detection system before such baggage continues on any additional flight or flight segment.

(d) AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING AGREEMENT DESCRIBED.—An aviation security screening agreement described in this subsection is an agreement signed by the Administrator, without delegating such authority, and entered into with a foreign country that delineates and implements security standards and protocols utilized at a foreign last point of departure airport that are determined by the Administrator to be comparable to those of the United States and therefore sufficiently effective to enable passengers and their accessible property to deplane into sterile areas of airports in the United States without the need for re-screening.

(e) RE-SCREENING REQUIREMENT.—If the Administrator determines that the foreign country participating in the aviation security screening agreement has not maintained and implemented security standards and protocols comparable to those of the United States at foreign last point of departure airports at which a pilot program has been established in accordance with this section, the Administrator shall ensure that passengers and their property arriving from such airports are re-screened in the United States before such passengers and their property are permitted into sterile areas of airports in the United States. In the case of continued or egregious failure to maintain such security standards and protocols, the Administrator shall suspend or terminate the aviation security screening agreement, as determined appropriate by the Administrator, and shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of such suspension or termination, as the case may be, not later than seven days after such suspension or termination.

(f) CERTIFICATIONS AND BRIEFINGS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days before an aviation security screening agreement in accordance with subsection (d) enters into force, the Administrator shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A copy of such agreement.

(2) A homeland security threat assessment for the country in which such foreign last point of departure airport is located, information on any corresponding mitigation efforts to address any security issues identified in such threat assessment, and the Administrator's plans for ensuring through joint covert testing or other measures compliance with the security standards and protocols set forth in such agreement.

(3) A certification that such agreement satisfies all requirements specified in subsection (b) or, in the event that one or more of such requirements is not so satisfied, an identification of the unsatisfied requirement and information on what actions will be taken to ensure such remaining requirement is satisfied before such agreement enters into force.

(4) A certification that the Administrator consulted with stakeholders, including air carriers, airport operators, relevant interagency partners, and other stakeholders the Administrator determines appropriate.

(5) A detailed briefing on the substance of paragraphs (1) through (4).

(g) SUNSET.—The pilot program described in subsection (a) shall terminate six years after the date of enactment of this section.

(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than five years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Administrator, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report regarding the implementation of the pilot program described in subsection (a), including information relating to the following:

(1) The impact to homeland security and international aviation security, including any benefits and challenges, of such pilot program.

(2) The impact to passengers, airports, and air carriers, including any benefits and challenges, of such pilot program.

(3) The impact and feasibility of continuing such pilot program or expanding into a more permanent program, including any benefits and challenges.

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as limiting the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to inspect persons and baggage arriving in the United States in accordance with applicable law.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATION; TSA.—The terms ''Administration'' and ''TSA'' mean the Transportation Security Administration.

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

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

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

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4094, the One-Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021.

This legislation seeks to simplify and streamline the security screening process for certain international air travelers arriving in the U.S.

It does so by directing the Transportation Security Administration to carry out a pilot program to allow passengers arriving from certain foreign airports to proceed directly to their connecting flights in the United States without having to go through the domestic security screening process.

Under current law, TSA is required to screen international passengers and their belongings upon their arrival in the U.S. before they can continue on to a connecting flight at a domestic airport. In practice, this means that upon landing, passengers must go through a TSA checkpoint with their carry-on items and have their checked baggage rescreened by TSA.

Under the pilot program required under H.R. 4094, arriving international passengers would forego TSA screening when transferring to a domestic flight if they originated from certain airports where strong security measures are in place on the front end.

As amended, this bill requires foreign airports participating in the pilot to uphold security screening standards and procedures that are comparable to those used by TSA. In doing so, passengers and their belongings at these airports will be securely screened before they arrive in the United States so they can more easily catch their connecting flight to their final destination.

Beyond an improved passenger experience, requiring security standards and protocols at foreign airports to be on par with those used in the U.S. could help strengthen aviation security around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, 20 years after 9/11, enhancing transportation security remains a critical priority. With that, I support H.R. 4094, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4094, the One-Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021. This legislation will allow TSA to conduct a pilot program with select foreign airports that will make international air travel both more secure and more efficient.

Streamlining international aviation security for passengers from certified foreign airports would not only encourage airports around the globe to reach U.S. security standards, but it will also help revitalize a struggling international aviation industry. This innovative pilot program shows that it is possible to have both better security and a more seamless passenger experience.

I thank Ranking Member KATKO for his tireless work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to bring this legislation to where it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4094, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), the ranking member.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4094, the One-Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021 authorizes the Transportation Security Administration to establish a pilot program to streamline international travel and enhance aviation security.

Specifically, under this bill, international travelers from certified last point of departure airports would not need to be rescreened upon arrival in the United States for their domestic connecting flight.

H.R. 4094 will improve international aviation security since participating LPD airports must elevate their level of security to that of the United States in order to be certified. Given the desire and competition among international airports to participate, the one-stop security pilot will help to raise the global baseline of aviation security.

The bill ensures robust oversight of the pilot program by requiring TSA to brief and certify to Congress that security standards are maintained at participating pilot airports. Additionally, the pilot program will inform Congress and DHS as to whether a more permanent one-stop program is practical and beneficial to U.S. aviation security.

One-stop screening would enable TSA to better utilize its screening workforce and technology to help facilitate the increased travel volume as we emerge from the COVID–19 pandemic.

Just this morning, the TSA administrator testified before the Committee on Homeland Security about the security and efficiency benefits that this pilot program will have on TSA's operations.

The pilot program will also provide international travelers with a more seamless and efficient travel experience. Travelers will no longer have to rush to be rescreened by TSA during their layover and will have more time at the airport without fear of missing their connecting flights.

The aviation industry will also realize efficiencies as a result of this bill. Air carriers will potentially be able to shorten connection times for travelers and streamline staffing at participating airports. U.S. airports will also see benefits as connecting travelers will have more time to dine and shop while on their layover. This is critically important as the travel and tourism industry continues to struggle with the effects of this brutal pandemic.

For these reasons, and many others, aviation and travel industry stakeholders are very enthusiastic about this legislation, and I appreciate their strong support.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support from Airlines for America, the American Association of Airport Executives, and the Airports Council International North America.

AIRLINES FOR AMERICA,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2021.

Ranking Member JOHN KATKO,
House Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER KATKO: I write to express Airlines for America's (A4A) robust support for H.R. 4094, the ''One-Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021.'' This bill would serve as a critical tool for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), partner governments and the commercial aviation industry to pilot innovative ways to increase security at foreign last point of departure airports while increasing efficiency of screening for passengers and baggage within the United States.

This bill would authorize a pilot program at 10 or fewer foreign last point of departure airports, permitting passengers flying from these airports and their carry-on baggage to continue to additional flights or flight segments within the U.S. without additional security rescreening. U.S. airlines have collaborated positively with the TSA on similar initiatives for years, but unfortunately our collective efforts have been stymied by outdated requirements in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act.

By permitting the TSA to pilot a new concept in a safe and controlled manner, it will be possible to demonstrate how such security enhancement programs may be permanently and broadly implemented. The bill is consistent with standards and recommended practices set by the International Civil Aviation Organization and puts the United States in a position to lead the international community on modern approaches to enhance aviation security.

Safety and security are always the top priorities of A4A and our member airlines, and we are encouraged that this bill maintains the high aviation security standards for flights into and within the United States. Upon passage, we look forward to continued collaboration with the TSA on all One-Stop security efforts.

On behalf of the commercial U.S. aviation industry, A4A strongly supports this legislation. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

LAUREN BEYER,
Vice President, Security and Facilitation,
Airlines for America.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AIRPORT EXECUTIVES,
Alexandria, VA, June 29, 2021.

Hon. JOHN KATKO,
Ranking Members, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER KATKO: On behalf of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and the thousands of men and women across the country who manage and operate our nation's airports, thank you for your continued leadership in Congress on aviation security issues. I am writing to express AAAE's support for the ''One Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021'' that you introduced earlier this week.

This legislation would permit the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to conduct a three-year pilot program at up to 10 airports at which connecting passengers' and their carry-on baggage would not need to be rescreened upon arrival in the United States before connecting to another domestic flight provided that the last point of departure airport has a commensurate level of screening to the U.S. Some of AAAE's airport members had been exploring this concept with TSA prior to the COVID–19 pandemic as a way to eliminate screening redundancy and improve passenger facilitation. We appreciate the necessary changes your legislation would make to permit this concept to be tested on a pilot basis.

Once international travel is allowed to fully resume, which AAAE and our airport members are eagerly awaiting and working to see implemented as quickly and safely as possible in concert with the federal government, the One Stop Pilot Program will provide additional passenger facilitation solutions to make international travel more seamless and secure.

We appreciate your efforts to advance this security screening concept. Our member airports remain interested in piloting this idea. AAAE stands ready to work with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

STEPHANIE K. GUPTA,
Senior Vice President,
Security and Facilitation.

AIRPORTS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL,
June 25, 2021.

Hon. JOHN KATKO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER KATKO: On behalf of Airports Council International-North America, which represents local, regional, and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports throughout the United States, I want to share our support of your new bill, H.R. 4094, the One-Stop Pilot Program Act.

Airports welcome the introduction of this important legislation to establish a pilot program at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that would allow passengers and their baggage departing from approved foreign airports to continue onto their connecting flights without having to go through additional security screening. This one-stop security pilot would create needed efficiencies by eliminating an unnecessary and burdensome rescreening process for passengers and baggage that were subject to a commensurate level of screening at their departing airport. It also would allow TSA to reallocate scarce resources to augment staffing at checkpoint and checked baggage screening locations.

Thank you for your efforts to enhance aviation security and the passenger experience at America's airports. I look forward to

continuing to work with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

KEVIN M. BURKE,
President and CEO, Airports Council International—North America.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, lastly, I thank my friend, Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida, for her partnership on this bipartisan bill, and I thank Chairman THOMPSON, my friend, for his commitment to bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4094.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the pilot program authorized under H.R. 4094 is intended to provide TSA and its international aviation security partners with an opportunity to streamline travel and enhance security.

Importantly, H.R. 4094 includes essential security guardrails to ensure that the pilot is carried out in a way that does not result in lessened security standards regarding, for example, the carriage of small knives on planes or the transfer of upstream passengers without rescreening.

That is why the legislation, which was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), received bipartisan support when it was approved by the Committee on Homeland Security in July.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4094, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

UNMANNED AERIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4682) to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring certain foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4682

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 ''Unmanned Aerial Security Act'' or the ''UAS Act''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OR PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN FOREIGN-MADE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON AGENCY OPERATION OR PROCUREMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (b) and subsection (c)(3), the Secretary of Homeland Security may not operate, provide financial assistance for, or enter into or renew a contract for the procurement of—

(1) an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) that—

(A) is manufactured in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country;

(B) uses flight controllers, radios, data transmission devices, cameras, or gimbals manufactured in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country;

(C) uses a ground control system or operating software developed in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country; or

(D) uses network connectivity or data storage located in a covered foreign country or administered by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country;

(2) a software operating system associated with a UAS that uses network connectivity or data storage located in a covered foreign country or administered by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country; or

(3) a system for the detection or identification of a UAS, which system is manufactured in a covered foreign country or by a corporation domiciled in a covered foreign country.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that a UAS, a software operating system associated with a UAS, or a system for the detection or identification of a UAS referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of such subsection that is the subject of such a waiver is required—

(A) in the national interest of the United States;

(B) for counter-UAS surrogate research, testing, development, evaluation, or training; or

(C) for intelligence, electronic warfare, or information warfare operations, testing, analysis, and or training.

(2) NOTICE.—The certification described in paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Committees specified in such paragraph by not later than the date that is 14 days after the date on which a waiver is issued under such paragraph.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) WAIVER PROCESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a process by which the head of an office or component of the Department of Homeland Security may request a waiver under subsection (b).

(3) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the prohibition under subsection (a), the head of an office or component of the Department of Homeland Security may continue to operate a UAS, a software operating system associated with a UAS, or a system for the detection or identification of a UAS described in any of subparagraphs (1) through (3) of such subsection that was in the inventory of such office or component on the day before the effective date of this Act until—

(A) such time as the Secretary of Homeland Security has—

(i) granted a waiver relating thereto under subsection (b), or

(ii) declined to grant such a waiver, or

(B) one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

whichever is later.

(d) DRONE ORIGIN SECURITY REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a terrorism threat assessment and report that contains information relating to the following:

(1) The extent to which the Department of Homeland Security has previously analyzed the threat that a UAS, a software operating system associated with a UAS, or a system for the detection or identification of a UAS from a covered foreign country operating in the United States poses, and the results of such analysis.

(2) The number of UAS, software operating systems associated with a UAS, or systems for the detection or identification of a UAS from a covered foreign country in operation by the Department, including an identification of the component or office of the Department at issue, as of such date.

(3) The extent to which information gathered by such a UAS, a software operating system associated with a UAS, or a system for the detection or identification of a UAS from a covered foreign country could be employed to harm the national or economic security of the United States.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ''covered foreign country'' means a country that—

(A) the intelligence community has identified as a foreign adversary in its most recent Annual Threat Assessment; or

(B) the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, has identified as a foreign adversary that is not included in such Annual Threat Assessment.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(3) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM; UAS.—The terms ''unmanned aircraft system'' and ''UAS'' have the meaning given the term ''unmanned aircraft system'' in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–95; 49 U.S.C. 44802 note).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 4682, the Unmanned Aerial Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, to help carry out many of its many missions, the Department of Homeland Security has increasingly come to rely on drones.

For instance, DHS utilizes drones to get ''eyes in the sky'' to make timely assessments about the extent of damage caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters in instances in where FEMA cannot easily deploy personnel to affected areas by ground.

In remote parts of the land border, DHS uses this technology to detect and prevent illicit drug activities. With so many unmanned aerial systems in the marketplace today developed in nations that are considered foreign adversaries, there are legitimate security concerns about the integrity of data they collect.

In fact, recent reports suggest that Chinese-manufactured drones might be compromised and used to send sensitive information to the Chinese Government. In response to security concerns, the Departments of Interior and Defense have taken steps to limit their use of foreign-made drones.

H.R. 4682, the Unmanned Aerial Security Act, would direct the Department of Homeland Security to take similar protective measures. It would prohibit DHS from purchasing or using drone systems manufactured in a foreign country that is deemed to be an adversary by either the intelligence community's Annual Threat Assessment or the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Importantly, H.R. 4682 does allow the DHS Secretary to waive the prohibition, case by case, in certain circumstances, such as for counter-drone research, testing, development, training, or for certain intelligence operations.

H.R. 4682 has bipartisan support and was reported out of committee by voice vote.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4682, the Unmanned Aerial Security Act.

It is imperative that the Department of Homeland Security be able to protect the Nation against all threats. This defense includes ensuring that the unmanned aircraft systems, commonly known as drones, that DHS uses and buys, are not made in foreign countries that do not align with our interests; countries such as China.

DHS requires the dominant, air domain capabilities that drones provide to accomplish many of its land and maritime missions. We know that DHS uses drones for surveilling our southwest border. Utilizing drones is a cost-efficient way to protect large areas of the homeland.

However, many of the commercial drones used in the United States are manufactured in China, which dominates the United States market. Of the top 10 drone manufacturers that supply the United States market, a single Chinese manufacturer towers over all the others with nearly 77 percent of the market share.

DHS has issued warnings in recent years about Chinese-made drones, specifically citing concerns that they may be sending sensitive data to their manufacturers in China, where it can be accessed by the Chinese Government.

Our colleagues in the Senate share our concern. In fact, Senator RICK SCOTT has introduced similar legislation to ban the purchase and use of these drones across the Federal Government, not just at DHS.

Given the role that drones have in protecting homeland security, it is more important than ever to require DHS to assess its drone fleets. This bill would require DHS to provide a threat assessment report to Congress on whether the agency has analyzed the threat of its drone from adversarial nations; the number of these drones that the Department is currently operating; and the extent to which the information gathered by these drones may be a threat to the homeland or economic security of the United States.

Second, the bill would prohibit DHS from buying or using drones made in adversarial nations going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Ranking Member KATKO, for being an original cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation. Along with Members on the other side of the aisle, this is truly a bipartisan piece of legislation.

With China looming as a growing threat on the horizon, maintaining our homeland security is of the utmost importance, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) for introducing this bill that seeks to ensure the integrity and security of the drone systems that the Department of Homeland Security operates.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4682, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4682, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS CONTRACT REPORTING ACT OF 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4363) to establish a daily public reporting requirement for covered contract awards of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4363

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''DHS Contract Reporting Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DAILY PUBLIC REPORT OF COVERED CONTRACT AWARDS.

(a) DAILY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall post, maintain, and update in accordance with paragraph (2), on a publicly available website of the Department, a daily report of all covered contract awards. Each reported covered contract award shall include information relating to—

(A) the contract number, modification number, or delivery order number;

(B) the contract type;

(C) the amount obligated for such award;

(D) the total contract value for such award, including all options;

(E) the description of the purpose for such award;

(F) the number of proposals or bids received;

(G) the name and address of the vendor, and whether such vendor is considered a small business;

(H) the period and each place of performance for such award;

(I) whether such award is multiyear;

(J) whether such award requires a small business subcontracting plan; and

(K) the contracting office and the point of contact for such office.

(2) UPDATE.—Updates referred to in paragraph (1) shall occur not later than two business days after the date on which the covered contract is authorized or modified.

(3) SUBSCRIBING TO ALERTS.—The website referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide the option to subscribe to an automatic notification of the publication of each report required under such paragraph.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

(b) UNDEFINITIZED CONTRACT ACTION OR DEFINITIZED AMOUNT.—If a covered contract award reported pursuant to subsection (a) includes an undefinitized contract action, the Secretary shall—

(1) report the estimated total contract value for such award and the amount obligated upon award; and

(2) once such award is definitized, update the total contract value and amount obligated.

(c) EXEMPTION.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall not include covered contract awards relating to classified products, programs, or services.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED CONTRACT AWARD.—The term ''covered contract award''—

(A) means a contract action of the Department with the total authorized dollar amount of $4,000,000 or greater, including unexercised options; and

(B) includes—

(i) contract awards governed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(ii) modifications to a contract award that increase the total value, expand the scope of work, or extend the period of performance;

(iii) orders placed on a multiple award or multiple-agency contract that includes delivery or quantity terms that are indefinite;

(iv) other transaction authority agreements; and

(v) contract awards made with other than full and open competition.

(2) DEFINITIZED AMOUNT.—The term ''definitized amount'' means the final amount of a covered contract award after agreement between the Department and the contractor at issue.

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

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(5) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term ''small business'' means an entity that qualifies as a small business concern, as such term is described under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(6) TOTAL CONTRACT VALUE.—The term ''total contract value'' means the total amount of funds expected to be provided to the contractor at issue under the terms of the contract through the full period of performance.

(7) UNDEFINITIZED CONTRACT ACTION.—The term ''undefinitized contract action'' means any contract action for which the contract terms, specifications, or price is not established prior to the start of the performance of a covered contract award.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4363, the DHS Contract Reporting Act of the 2021. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security spends billions of dollars each year to acquire goods and services needed to carry out its missions.

It purchases everything from disaster relief supplies to passenger screening equipment to software designed to protect Federal Government networks from cyber threats.

The Department's Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office have consistently identified challenges with respect to DHS contract management efforts.

For instance, the DHS Inspector General has identified instances where FEMA awarded contracts to inexperienced vendors that were unable to deliver critical supplies in response to major disasters.

In June 2020, GAO determined that U.S. Customs and Border Protection had misspent funding that Congress specifically appropriated for migrant medical care and related supplies.

H.R. 4363 seeks to improve visibility in DHS' contract awards by requiring daily reporting of contract awards on the Department's public website. The reports are to include key information about the award, such as the purpose of the contract and where work is expected to be performed.

The reports are also to include information about the award recipient, such as the name of the company and whether it is considered a small business.

H.R. 4363 has bipartisan support and was reported out of committee by voice vote. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4363, the DHS Contract Reporting Act of 2021.

The Department of Homeland Security, along with its component agencies, is appropriated billions of dollars every year to carry out its mission. This legislation, authorized by my colleague, Representative HARSHBARGER, will bring long overdue transparency to the money DHS spends when contracting services from the private sector.

I commend Representative HARSHBARGER for her legislation to battle waste, fraud, and abuse, and to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and transparently.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in supporting H.R. 4363, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER).

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4363, the DHS Contract Reporting Act of 2021.

Improving transparency and accountability is an essential way for the America people to gain and have confidence in their government and the Department of Homeland Security.

Currently, there is no clear line of sight into DHS' purchasing decisions. Even though DHS is required to report some contract awards to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, it is not required to report them to other committees with oversight responsibilities such as ours, the House Committee on Homeland Security.

And most importantly, if the American people want to know where their tax dollars are going, that information is almost impossible to find.

Today, if someone wanted to find a DHS contract award, they would have to know how to use and navigate the cumbersome Federal data systems, and even then they may not be successful if they don't already know some key details about the contract.

Furthermore, DHS acquisition management is still on the Government Accountability Office's high-risk list. GAO reports that although DHS has taken steps to strengthen its acquisition requirements development process, DHS continues to face challenges in effectively executing its acquisition portfolio, with many programs not meeting the cost and schedule goals they establish.

I want to change this. The bill I am putting forward today will increase the transparency into these contracts. The DHS Contract Reporting Act of 2021 requires DHS to have a public facing website where it will report all contract awards over $4 million.

To illustrate the current opaqueness of our oversight, I want to ask: Does anybody here know whether all the DHS contracts that should have been awarded competitively actually were? I don't know the answer. But I do know that competition and contract awards helps to lower the cost of services and technologies the Department buys, and to get the best return on investment for the American taxpayer.

To get at this type of information and to have more insight into DHS' awards more generally, this bill also requires DHS to include key aspects of each contract award it reports, such as the total amount it plans to spend; what the contract is for; what type of agreement it is; and whether the government competed the contract award.

According to the government's top 100 contractors report for 2020, DHS alone awarded over $12 billion to its top 100 contractors. And this is an increase in spending of $1 billion from just the previous year.

□ 1645

This includes everything from drones and IT systems to medical services at the border. With these significant levels of increased spending, it is crucial that Congress have better oversight of DHS contracts.

If this requirement would have been in place last year, the American people and Congress would have had that insight into nearly 1,000 contracts DHS awarded in 2020. We need to put this requirement in place now so that Congress can ensure better stewardship of taxpayer dollars next year.

With increased Federal spending across the board, it is more important than ever that this committee does its job to ensure DHS is being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. More accountability will make the Department a better business partner and a better provider of services to the public, and that is why I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I would like to thank Ranking Member KATKO and Representatives LURIA and SLOTKIN for reaching across the aisle and cosponsoring this bill with me.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, DHS obligated the $20 billion on goods and services in fiscal year 2020, making it the fourth highest spending civilian agency in the Federal Government.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the Department's funds are well spent. Enactment of H.R. 4363 would provide greater transparency into the Department's contract awards and enable better oversight of DHS's spending.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4363, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4363, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SALARY HOME RULE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1204) to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the rate of pay of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 259, nays 170, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 308]

YEAS—259

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bucshon
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rogers (AL)
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
Stauber
Stefanik
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Womack
Yarmuth
Young

NAYS—170

Aderholt
Allen
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Latta
LaTurner
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Steel
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—2

Hartzler
Lesko

□ 1718

Mr. HERN, Mses. MACE, HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. GUTHRIE, PFLUGER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Messrs. NUNES, GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. STEEL, Messrs. BALDERSON, KELLY of Mississippi, BERGMAN, BUCHANAN, BAIRD, WITTMAN, GARCIA of California, TURNER, FLEISCHMANN, ELLZEY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Messrs. WALBERG, SIMPSON, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Messrs. GUEST, MOOLENAAR, ROGERS of Kentucky, OBERNOLTE, BRADY, BACON, SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SALAZAR, Messrs. CRAWFORD, GONZALES of Texas, STEWART, SMITH of Missouri, JOHNSON of South Dakota, VALADAO, McCAUL, GIMENEZ, WENSTRUP, LaHOOD, SCHWEIKERT, WESTERMAN, CHABOT, and ARMSTRONG changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. CORREA changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Arrington)
Barragán (Gallego)
Beyer (Connolly)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Salazar)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Reed (Rice (SC))
Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Smucker)
Steube (Franklin, C. Scott)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR AMERICANS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to commit on the bill (S. 1301) to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services

of physical activity recommendations for Americans, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to commit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 219, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 309]

YEAS—211

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—219

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—1

Lesko

□ 1735

Ms. CHENEY changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to commit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Arrington)
Barragán (Gallego)
Beyer (Connolly)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Salazar)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Reed (Rice (SC))
Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Smucker)
Steube (Franklin, C. Scott)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 212, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 310]

YEAS—219

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—212

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs

Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—1

Lesko

□ 1752

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 308, "yea" on rollcall No. 309, and "nay" on rollcall No. 310.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Armstrong (Timmons)
Babin (Arrington)
Barragán (Gallego)
Beyer (Connolly)
Butterfield (Kildee)
Fulcher (Johnson (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McCaul (Salazar)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Reed (Rice (SC))
Reschenthaler (Meuser)
Rush (Underwood)
Ryan (Kildee)
Sires (Pallone)
Stefanik (Smucker)
Steube (Franklin, C. Scott)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

VACATING DEMAND FOR YEAS AND NAYS ON H.R. 978, CHAI SUTHAMMANONT REMEMBRANCE ACT OF 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 978) to require the head of each agency to establish a safety plan relating to COVID–19 for any worksite at which employees or contractors are required to be physically present during the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes be vacated, to the end that the motion be considered as withdrawn.

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

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5305, EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND DELIVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to take from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 5305, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment; that the Senate amendment and the motion be considered as read; that the motion be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, too often, our country fails to get people the mental healthcare they need. This is true for Americans of all ages, and it is particularly acute for our Nation's college students.

They face the hurdles of corporate greed in our healthcare system and stigma against mental health treatment. But they also run into roadblocks with unhelpful or, at times, actively harmful campus policies.

Policymakers need to give students the tools they need to succeed so they can graduate and become leaders in our communities.

I have written legislation, the Student Mental Health Rights Act, that would strengthen mental health policies on college campuses to better protect young people struggling with mental health challenges.

Students have begun a third school year disrupted by COVID–19. They continue to face the challenges of being physically isolated from their peers and navigating remote or hybrid instruction.

The problem is clear: Protecting students' health is urgent and necessary.

□ 1800

MLB RESOLUTION

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support legislation that I, along with Representative JIM HAGEDORN, are introducing to ask the House of Representatives to denounce Major League Baseball's actions in closing a plant in Caledonia, Minnesota, and moving manufacturing jobs to communist China.

For more than two decades, Miken Sports has been located in the Caledonia community. As an integral small business, Miken employs nearly 150 hardworking Americans. This decision to close the plant and move jobs to China directly defies Major League Baseball's position as America's pastime.

There is nothing American about outsourcing jobs to China, removing income from American workers, and destroying a community's economy. We know that very well in Atlanta, Georgia.

Major League Baseball should be an unquestionable supporter of American jobs. The League's decision to close the plant and move those jobs to China is incredibly disheartening. America's pastime should be supported by American-made products and jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Major League Baseball to live up to its responsibility to the American people by reversing this decision to keep these jobs at home and to purchase American-made products, and I ask my colleagues for their support.

INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the historic bipartisan Investment and Jobs Act. This bill will provide critical funding to rebuild our Nation's physical infrastructure and accelerate our

shift to green energy, all while creating good-paying jobs in communities like mine.

In North Carolina, more than 3,000 miles of highway and 1,400 bridges need repair. The average driver spends $500 a year on vehicle maintenance costs, thanks to this rundown infrastructure.

More than 400,000 North Carolina residents lack adequate access to internet. This bill expands broadband access, helping to ensure that everyone has the tools they need to stay connected and participate fully in school and in remote work.

All these investments create good-paying jobs, spurring economic development, and catapulting our Nation into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

ABORTION ON DEMAND BILL

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, last week, I voted in opposition to one of the most radical attacks on the unborn that Congress has ever seen.

H.R. 3755, the abortion on demand bill would create a dangerous national standard that would allow the execution of innocents solely because of their race, sex, or disability.

Our Nation denounces those who devalue life. We condemn China and North Korea for their human rights abuses, and yet, we must reconcile with the fact that some of our Nation's leaders are devaluing the life of American babies.

It is simple. Abortion is murder, and murder is wrong. ''Thou shalt not kill'' is not a statement to reject for the sake of politics.

As a Catholic and a father, I will always defend the unborn. As a conservative Congressman, I will continue fighting to keep taxpayer dollars from being used to fund these violent procedures.

May God have mercy on us all.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the Build Back Better Act is historic, but I want to focus on two of its most important programs: climate change and much-needed social programs.

First, climate change, the most important issue facing the entire world, without exception. The U.S. can double its impact—reducing carbon emissions 50 percent while creating 2 million jobs annually over the next 10 years in clean technologies.

And the Build Back Better social programs respond to needs Americans have long prioritized. Among them, childcare and lower costs for Medicare and college tuition.

Build Back Better pays over the long run with investments for reducing fast-rising climate change issues and pays right now with investments in much-needed social programs.

EROSION MITIGATION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out to the American public and my colleagues in this Chamber and the U.S. Forest Service, the extreme importance of all the fire devastation we have had in Northern California and the need to immediately get upon the effort to cover up the erosion that we are going to have there.

We need to mitigate the erosion that has a great potential to be there. This fire here, the Dixie fire—currently almost put out—has reached, finally, nearly a million acres, on top of the fire last year and another 2 years before that.

We have over 1.5 million acres that have burned and are now a repository for ash and erosion that is going to affect what is known as the Feather River watershed, an extremely important watershed to the California State Water Project whose customers number about 25 million people in California, as well as much of agriculture.

We need that erosion control to happen immediately, especially on the heels of the Beckwourth fire, the Dixie fire, so that we don't have our streams, our rivers, our lakes, plugged up with ash, with soil that makes it impossible for our water supply this coming year to be delivered to people in agriculture.

PRIORITIZE PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

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

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, one of the central values of the Build Back Better Act is pandemic preparedness.

COVID–19 has left a death toll of more than 600,000 Americans and a cost of $16 trillion. If the cataclysm of COVID–19 cannot move our country to prioritize pandemic preparedness, then nothing will.

A wise person once said, Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. And if we fail to pass the Build Back Better Act, we are in danger of reliving a history whose repeat we cannot afford.

The Build Back Better Act would enable the United States to develop and distribute vaccines within a few months of a new pandemic threat. It would enable the United States to develop vaccines not only for particular viruses but whole families of viruses with pandemic potential. It would shore up domestic manufacturing of critical supplies so that we are no longer at the mercy of a fragile global supply chain.

We have the resources to prevent the next pandemic. The only question that remains is do we have the political will to Build Back Better.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–2250. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM); Amendment [Docket ID: DoD-2020-OS-0045] (RIN: 0790-AL41) received September 20, 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–2251. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities — Effective Educator Development Division [Docket ID: ED-2021-OESE-0045] received August 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–2252. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Major final requirements — American Rescue Plan Act Homeless Children and Youth Program (RIN: 1801-AA24) received August 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–2253. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priority and definition — Teacher and School Leader Incentive (TSL) Program [Docket ID: ED-2020-OESE-0199] received August 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–2254. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities and requirement — Innovative Approaches to Literacy [Docket ID ED-2021-OESE-0036] received August 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–2255. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department

of Education, transmitting the Department's Major rule — Total and Permanent Disability Discharge of Loans Under Title IV of the Higher Education Act [Docket ID ED-2019-FSA-0115] (RIN: 1840-AD48) received September 23, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–2256. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Measuring, Evaluating, and Reporting Radioactive Material in Liquid and Gaseous Effluents and Solid Waste [Regulatory Guide RG 1.21, Revision 3] received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2257. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of Regulatory Guide — Measuring, Evaluating, and Reporting Radioactive Material in Liquid and Gaseous Effluents and Solid Waste (RG 1.21, Revision 3) received September 27, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2258. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Operator Licensing Examinations Standards for Power Reactors, Revision 12 received September 22, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2259. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Use of Firm-Fixed-Price Contracts for Foreign Military Sales (DFARS Case 2021-D019) [Docket: DARS-2021-0016] (RIN: 0750-AL37) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–2260. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Improved Energy Security for Main Operating Bases in Europe (DFARS Case 2020-D030) [Docket: DARS-2020-0039] (RIN: 0750-AL15) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–2261. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0045] (RIN: 0790-AL18) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2262. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Entrepreneur Program: Automatic Increase of Investment and Revenue Amount Requirements [CIS No.: 2699-21; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2021-0018] (RIN: 1615-AC75) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2263. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Asylum Interview Interpreter Requirement Modification Due to COVID-19 [CIS No.: 2671-20; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2020-0017] (RIN: 1615-AC59) received September 23, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2264. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Fees for Services Performed in Connection With Licensing and Related Services-2021 Update [Docket No.: EP 542 (Sub-No. 29)] received September 20, 201, 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–2265. A letter from the Vice President, River and Resources Stewardship, Natural Resources, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Authority's final rule — Floating Cabins (RIN: 3316-AA24) received September 20, 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–2266. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Major interim final rule — Presumptive Service Connection for Respiratory Conditions Due to Exposure to Particulate Matter (RIN: 2900-AR25) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2267. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Veterans Care Agreements (RIN: 2900-AQ45) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2268. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Persian Gulf War Veterans (RIN: 2900-AR22) received September 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2269. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's temporary regulations — Recapture of Excess Employment Tax Credits under the American Relief Plan Act of 2021 [TD 9935] (RIN: 1545-BQ09) received September 23, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–2270. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB Only rule — Guidance on the Employee Retention Credit under Section 3134 of the Code and on Miscellaneous Issues Related to the Employee Retention Credit (Notice 2021-49) received August 23, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 688. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1301) to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans (Rept. 117–133). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5409. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. MACE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 5410. A bill to provide for clarification and limitations with respect to the exercise of national security powers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 5411. A bill to hold the salaries of senior government officials in escrow and prohibit the use of official funds for travel by such officials if each of the regular appropriation bills for a fiscal year prior has not been enacted into law by the beginning of the fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, House Administration, Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 5412. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. TURNER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 5413. A bill to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 5414. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure that children in foster care who are placed in a qualified residential treatment program are eligible

for Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. WILD, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 5415. A bill to provide the Secretary of the Treasury authority to increase the public debt limit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Ms. WILD):

H.R. 5416. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to establish additional authorities of the Food and Drug Administration regarding the conduct of pediatric investigations of molecularly targeted drugs to treat cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 5417. A bill to prohibit funding for the implementation and enforcement of federal red flag orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 5418. A bill to prohibit the Department of Transportation and other agencies from promulgating rules requiring a person to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccination in order to engage in interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 5419. A bill to amend certain banking laws to establish requirements for bank mergers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 5420. A bill to provide for the continued payment of social security benefits during lapses in appropriations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. KAHELE (for himself, Mr. CASE, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SABLAN, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 5421. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide research and extension grants to combat plant pests and noxious weeds that impact coffee plants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KAHELE (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 5422. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to modify the macadamia tree health initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Mr. SWALWELL):

H.R. 5423. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the advanced solar manufacturing production credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 5424. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to eliminate certain requirements under the summer food service program for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KIND, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 5425. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect access to telehealth services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 5426. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of staff-assisted home dialysis for certain hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients and to ensure all patients are educated on modality options and receive the resources, information, and support to succeed on the modality of their choice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 5427. A bill to regulate bump stocks in the same manner as machineguns; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mrs. HAYES, and Mrs. MCBATH):

H.R. 5428. A bill to require the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to publish an annual report on indicators of school crime and safety that includes data on school shootings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5429. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to address the timing for the use of funds with respect to grants made to shuttered venue operators; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KELLER, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 689. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2021 as ''National Workforce Development Month'' and recognizing the necessity of investing in workforce development to support workers and to help employers succeed in a global economy; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H. Res. 690. A resolution disapproving the action of Major League Baseball to move one of their equipment production facilities to China and encouraging Major League Baseball to buy American-made products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KIND, Mr. STEIL, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. CHU):

H. Res. 691. A resolution recognizing the celebration of the Hmong New Year in 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. HARTZLER (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MAST, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. OWENS, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. HICE of Georgia):

H. Res. 692. A resolution recognizing the dedication and courage of United States veterans, veterans' organizations, and private citizens who have worked and continue to work to evacuate United States persons and vulnerable Afghans from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Res. 693. A resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of Radio Free Asia and its mission to provide an independent source of news to closed societies in Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-116. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arkansas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 1019, to encourage the United States Congress to review issues related to dairy products and make changes to improve federal milk marketing orders in order to better support dairy farmers; to the Committee on Agriculture.

ML-117. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arkansas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 1010, to encourage the United States Congress to establish a maximum limit of opiate alkaloid contamination of poppy seeds and ensure the safety of imported poppy seeds and to issue import requirements and conduct testing; 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. GOSAR:

H.R. 5409.

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

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2 which provides Congress with the power to ''dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States.''

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 5410.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 11, Clause 14, and Clause 18.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 5411.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 5412.

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

Among other powers, those vested in Congress pursuant to Article I, Section 8 to:

Provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States;

Regulate commerce, and

Make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution Congress's other powers as provided under that Article.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 5413.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 5414.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5415.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

BY MR. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 5416.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

BY MR. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 5417.

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

Article I, Section 8:

Clause 1: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''

Clause 18: ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 5418.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause III

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 5419.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 5420.

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

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution sets forth the power of appropriations and states that ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .''

In addition, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 states that ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States. . . .''

By Mr. KAHELE:

H.R. 5421.

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

U.S Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause), Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Property)

By Mr. KAHELE:

H.R. 5422.

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

U.S Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause), Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Property)

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 5423.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 5424.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 5425.

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

Clause 18, section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 5426.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 5427.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 5428.

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

The United States Constitution Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 5429.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 The Congress shall have the Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof . . .

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 82: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 151: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 303: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 534: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 623: Mr. TRONE and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 911: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 997: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 1016: Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 1041: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1057: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. STEVENS, and Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 1115: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 1133: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1179: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1226: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 1311: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1321: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 1332: Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. STEEL, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HILL, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1348: Mrs. TORRES of California and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1389: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1419: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1442: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 1471: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1476: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 1548: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1551: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 1574: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1656: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 1667: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1676: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1774: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 1813: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1888: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1897: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 1919: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1946: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. MENG, Mr. MANN, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 2007: Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MFUME, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. JONES, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 2049: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 2059: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 2116: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 2166: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2168: Ms. WILD and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 2193: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 2222: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 2249: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 2339: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 2352: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 2453: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2466: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 2530: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2716: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 2748: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2759: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 2811: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SCHRIER, and Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 2840: Mr. CROW, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 2848: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 2930: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 2946: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3031: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3046: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 3089: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3114: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3166: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 3259: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3288: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3294: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3305: Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3342: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3344: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3362: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3446: Ms. BOURDEAUX.

H.R. 3485: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. STANTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARK of

Massachusetts, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3541: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 3548: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 3565: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3572: Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 3577: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3617: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 3645: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 3670: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3685: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 3754: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 3783: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3868: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3967: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4093: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4134: Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 4151: Mr. KAHELE.

H.R. 4194: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 4233: Mr. RYAN and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 4252: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 4379: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4402: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 4445: Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 4449: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 4571: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4575: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4592: Mr. MEUSER, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.

H.R. 4613: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 4635: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 4693: Mr. STEIL and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 4735: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4781: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4785: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ISSA, Ms. WILD, Mr. LIEU, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 4818: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 4833: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 4842: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 4878: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 4941: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 4965: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 4996: Mr. REED and Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 5004: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 5035: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 5048: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 5102: Mr. JACKSON and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 5121: Mr. JACKSON.

H.R. 5142: Mr. GOMEZ and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5150: Mrs. HAYES and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 5177: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 5207: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 5255: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 5256: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 5326: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 5330: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 5342: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 5350: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 5360: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 5379: Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 5390: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 5404: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. OWENS.

H.J. Res. 48: Ms. ADAMS and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. Con. Res. 44: Ms. BOURDEAUX and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 45: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 69: Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CASE, Ms. STEVENS, and Ms. ROSS.

H. Res. 336: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 397: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H. Res. 404: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H. Res. 407: Mr. KATKO.

H. Res. 413: Mrs. MCBATH.

H. Res. 471: Mr. KAHELE.

H. Res. 516: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H. Res. 641: Mr. OWENS.

H. Res. 647: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KIND.

H. Res. 653: Mr. KILMER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. Res. 665: Mr. WELCH.

H. Res. 666: Mr. KATKO.

H. Res. 670: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. PINGREE.

H. Res. 676: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

PT-69. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, relative to The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, H.R. 1280, and urging and requesting the United States Senate to strengthen and pass the bill with all due haste; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PT-70. Also, a petition of Florida State Representative Matt Willhite, relative to Florida House Memorial 71, urging Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans and to fully fund suicide prevention efforts by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 No. 170

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ELIZABETH WARREN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who rules over the waters, hear our cry for help. Lord, protect and defend this land we love. Guide our Nation through the night with Your light from above, using our lawmakers to do Your work on Earth. Lord, stand close to our Senators. Be their shepherd in these challenging times. Give them strength for life's marathon, as You bless them with Your peace.

Mighty God, we will not be defeated, because we place our hope in You.

We pray in Your powerful 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ELIZABETH WARREN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. WARREN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND EXTENDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the CR, the Senate could take action as early as today to address a concern that demands the immediate attention of this Chamber: funding the Federal Government beyond September 30.

To prevent a government shutdown, Senate Democrats will be introducing a continuing resolution that keeps the government open until early December, while also providing long-sought emergency funding to help Americans still reeling from natural disasters from this summer, as well as funding to help resettle Afghan refugees. We can approve this measure quickly and send it to the House so it can reach the President's desk before funding expires midnight tomorrow. With so many critical issues to address, the last thing the American people need right now is a government shutdown. This proposal will prevent one from happening.

I want to thank my colleagues who are working quickly to prepare this legislation.

DEBT LIMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on debt limit, of course, once we fund the government, we still need to address the urgent matter of extending the debt ceiling and preserving the full faith and credit of the United States.

To paraphrase the economist Austan Goolsbee, who just met with our caucus this morning, throughout history, there have certainly been governments that have defaulted on their debt, but never has there been a default caused by pure stupidity—in this case, Republican stupidity.

Well, Democrats are working to prevent such an outcome from happening now. Over the past week, our caucus has tried to find a workable solution to avoid default on our sovereign debt, but the Republicans have stymied us at every opportunity.

On Monday, we considered a continuing resolution which, among other things, would have extended the debt ceiling until the end of 2022, allowing us to pay for the debt incurred by the previous administration. Republicans unanimously voted in favor of default.

So, on Tuesday, we gave Republicans another chance. We offered to solve the debt ceiling impasse by doing exactly what Republicans claimed they wanted all along: Raise it with only Democratic votes. We gave them a chance to oppose it, like they said they would, and allow Democrats to solve this problem ourselves. Again, it was precisely what they asked for. And Leader MCCONNELL cited this precedent several times in the last few days as to how to get out of the debt crisis. But once again, Republicans blocked that proposal in favor of default, and, quite frankly, no Republican provided a good answer as to why. When Leader MCCONNELL came out to rebut, he didn't discuss the merits of our proposal. He said: We don't want Democrats going forward and doing other things.

Well, this is about debt that we have already incurred, debts from the past, spending from the past. It is not about the future.

If we never did debt ceiling—if we always let the debt ceiling lapse because

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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one party or the other didn't like some future action that the other party would take, we would never do it. It is an absurd argument—an absurd argument—because they have no real arguments because we were doing exactly—exactly—what Republicans have asked for: Pass it with your own votes.

So Democrats have offered Republicans multiple, entirely reasonable ways to get out of the mess they created, but instead of stepping aside and letting the responsible party address the debt limit, Republicans have chosen to actively obstruct. Again, we are not asking for Republicans to support raising the debt ceiling. If they want to stop payments from going to veterans and Social Security recipients, be our guest. We are just asking for Republicans to get out of the way. Get out of the way, and let us do what they say they wanted us to do: Raise the debt ceiling without their votes.

Time is short. The danger is real. Yesterday, the Treasury Secretary wrote that if the debt ceiling is not addressed by October 18, the government could enter a catastrophic default—catastrophic—for the first time in history.

Secretary Yellen's warning was unmistakable. A default would be ''disastrous for the American economy, global financial market and millions of families and workers whose financial security would be jeopardized by a delay in payments.'' Yet, every day, the outcome grows more and more likely because of Republican intransigence, because Republicans are deliberately preventing the government from being able to pay its bills.

Now, in solving this crisis, this body cannot and will not go through a drawn-out, unpredictable process sought by the minority leader. It risks the full faith and credit of the United States. To do this through reconciliation requires ping-ponging separate bills back from the Senate and the House. It is unchartered waters. Individual Senators could move to delay and delay and delay. It is very risky and could well lead us to default, even if only one Senator wanted that to happen. That is very possible. So you can't do it this route. Everyone who has studied it knows it is risky, and it is simply a political gambit by Leader MCCONNELL, who has changed his tune several different times. He said over and over again: Just you Democrats vote for it. We give them that chance. Now, he has backed off that and moved into this untenable excuse. It is not a real answer.

If the Republicans really want to prevent a default like they claim they do, they should step aside and let Democrats do the responsible thing. As default gets closer and closer to becoming a reality, our Republican colleagues will be forced to ask themselves how long they are going to keep playing political games while the economic stability of our country is at risk. At stake is the well-being of millions of Americans who did not ask for any of this and would suffer immensely because of Republican obstruction. If Republicans choose to keep making this harder, if Republicans choose to drag out this process, they will own the consequences of their default.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC—S. 2868, H.R. 3755 AND H.R. 5323

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2868) to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022.

A bill (H.R. 3755) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a healthcare provider's ability to provide abortion services.

A bill (H.R. 5323) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I will object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the American people continue to hear about a steady stream of really bad ideas that Washington Democrats are packing into their next reckless taxing-and-spending spree.

There is one clear thread that sort of ties it all together—pain for American families and profit for our adversaries, hurting families and helping China. It is a perfect policy storm that would stick working Americans with higher prices, higher taxes, fewer jobs, and less freedom, while also putting America at a global disadvantage.

That is true about the radical environmental policies, as I explained yesterday. It is true about the Big Government healthcare provisions that would leave us with fewer new drugs and fewer cures. It was true about the Democrats' efforts to stuff a big amnesty for illegal immigrants into the bill. And it is especially true about the tidal wave of huge tax hikes and IRS snooping that Democrats are putting together behind closed doors: taxes on small businesses, taxes on family farms, double taxes on the ones who pass the reins to the next generation, new taxes that would make America one of the least hospitable places in the world to invest, grow a business, or create jobs.

Nonpartisan analysis has confirmed there would be new taxes for big chunks—big chunks—of the 98 percent of Americans who make less than $400,000 a year, shattering President Biden's pledge to leave their wallets alone.

And then there is the bizarre, unpopular new plan to give the IRS big new power to snoop into all of America's personal financial transactions in excess of a few hundred dollars.

Currently, the government has special authorities to demand information on citizens' transactions in excess of $10,000. In theory, this is a targeted tool for sniffing out things like money laundering, terrorism, or massive tax fraud.

Now, the Democrats want to create a new reporting requirement, not for $10,000 transactions but for anything over a few hundred bucks. If American families are sending or receiving $600 from their checking accounts, Democrats want the IRS to snoop through it—a massive new dragnet that would sweep up all kinds of ordinary transactions that normal, law-abiding Americans make all the time. In effect, Democrats want to let the IRS systematically snoop through normal families' checking accounts as though they were all potential financial criminals until proven otherwise.

And then there was the latest fascinating statement from the authors of this awful plan. President Biden recently tried to suggest that, because they want to pair their reckless spending with their biggest tax hike in half a century, that somehow makes the entire package free. The President says it is free? Democrats want to jack up Americans' tax rates, drain money from people's pockets, spend it on socialism, and then say the whole thing nets out to zero dollars?

This might be the best encapsulation of Washington-Democrat thinking I have ever heard. They want to print and borrow trillions of dollars and then set it on fire. But as long as they send your taxes skyrocketing at the same time, it is all a wash. Heads, they win. Tails, you lose. Heads, Democrats waste your money. Tails, they hike your taxes.

This silly magical thinking rightly earned our President multiple—multiple—Pinocchios from fact-checkers. And Democrats' reckless taxing-and-spending spree will earn it zero votes from Senate Republicans.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, yesterday, under oath, General McKenzie and General Milley both confirmed they also agreed with the commander on the ground. They agreed we should keep 2,500 troops in Afghanistan. These top generals gave President Biden exactly the advice the President told the American people he had not received.

To be very clear, the Commander in Chief gets to make the final decision, no matter what the advisers suggest. But he needs to own his decision.

The President publicly misstating what advice he got from his top generals is corrosive to the civil-military dynamic that keeps America safe.

The military did their job. They gave their best military advice. It was rejected. So they saluted and executed the order of the Commander in Chief. That is the way it is supposed to work. But having rejected their advice, the President doesn't get to claim he never received it, nor does he get to claim, as he has since tried to pretend, that the only alternative to his botched retreat was sending 10,000 soldiers back to Afghanistan.

That is a false choice. We have heard directly from the two senior military officers in the chain of command, as well as the President's principal military adviser, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Everyone with an ounce of common sense knows President Biden's botched retreat was not the extraordinary success the President claimed. As General Milley acknowledged, it is more accurate to describe the withdrawal as a strategic failure.

We have now heard confirmation from our top military officers that the terrorist threat in Afghanistan is already growing. And relying on over-the-horizon counterterrorism leaves us with much less ability to do anything at all about it.

What a debacle. We face a greater terrorist threat from Afghanistan than we did before we withdrew, we have less intelligence about that growing threat, and we have fewer tools with which to combat it. This administration gave our enemies in Afghanistan everything they wanted and got less than nothing in return.

So, Mr. President, I know some of my colleagues want to unilaterally declare an end to the War on Terrorism. Ah, if only it were that easy. But the terrorists aren't through with us.

I hope my Democratic colleagues will think twice before they compound the failures in Afghanistan by trying to narrow or repeal the 2001 authorization for the use of military force. I, for one, will strenuously oppose any further efforts by the Democratic administration or this Democratic Congress to take away any more tools or authorities that our military servicemembers and intelligence professionals need to keep our country safe from our enemies.

At some point we will have a different administration that will better understand how to protect America for the long term. At this rate, they will need all the tools they can possibly get.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON LEWIS NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lewis nomination?

Mr. SASSE. I request 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 390 Ex.]

YEAS—70

Baldwin	Hagerty	Padilla
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Booker	Hickenlooper	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Romney
Cantwell	Kaine	Rosen
Capito	Kelly	Rounds
Cardin	King	Rubio
Carper	Klobuchar	Sanders
Casey	Leahy	Schatz
Collins	Lee	Schumer
Coons	Luján	Shaheen
Cornyn	Manchin	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Cramer	McConnell	Stabenow
Duckworth	Menendez	Tester
Durbin	Merkley	Tillis
Feinstein	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Fischer	Murphy	Warner
Gillibrand	Murray	Warnock
Graham	Ossoff	Warren
	Whitehouse	Wyden
	Wicker	Young

NAYS—27

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Sasse
Boozman	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Toomey
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—3

Blunt	Crapo	Moran

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 action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in a few moments, I am going to make a unanimous consent request in regard to Dilawar Syed to be the Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Let me give you a little bit of background on Mr. Syed's nomination and why I am using this unusual process to advance the nomination to the floor for floor consideration.

We all know the tremendous need at the Small Business Administration as a result of COVID–19. We worked together, Democrats and Republicans, and created many new programs to help small businesses. We created the Paycheck Protection Program, both the first—and we modified it—and then a second round. We created the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Loan Advance Program and the Targeted Grant Program.

We provided for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, we established the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and the list goes on and on and on. All this created new programs and responsibilities for the Small Business Administration. And we did this together, Democrats and Republicans, in order to advance the needs for small businesses during COVID–19.

Over $1 trillion of funds were administered by the Small Business Administration as a result of our initiatives. And our constituents had tremendous needs. Tens of millions of small businesses have benefited from what we did to help them through COVID–19.

I know that every one of our offices has gotten numerous inquiries from small businesses as to how these programs were stood up, whether they could qualify, concerns about their applications being filed promptly, the

lack of funds, the need to replenish funds—the list goes on and on and on. That put tremendous demand on the Small Business Administration, and we were pretty tough on the Small Business Administration to get these programs up and running because we knew how desperate it was for our small business community.

Now, the Deputy Administrator's job is to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Agency. That is the position we are talking about for Mr. Syed—the Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Over 5 months ago, the Small Business Committee, under my leadership as chair, had a hearing on Mr. Syed's appointment, and we discovered during that nomination process that he is extremely well qualified to assume these responsibilities. He has spent decades building and developing and scaling successful small businesses, as well as his advocacy for underserved small businesses.

The hearing, I thought, went extremely well and that we would have no difficulty advancing his nomination to the floor of the U.S. Senate. But after his hearing, my Republican colleagues requested information from the Small Business Administration about his loans that he took out as a small business owner. It was a reasonable request. On June 8, I helped arrange to supply that information to the members of the committee, and they reviewed his small business loan applications, Mr. Syed's small business applications.

There was one thing that was pretty unusual about that in that even though he was qualified to receive forgivable 7(a) loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, he decided to repay the loans because he said he didn't need the government to pay on a forgivable loan. He took exemplary action, and after the review, I believe all my colleagues were satisfied that his arrangements with the SBA were exemplary.

Next, the Republicans decided to move to a different target. They accused Mr. Syed of being anti-Israel biased, which was completely, completely unfounded.

The American Jewish Committee wrote our committee to say:

> The unsupported accusations that somehow Jewish businesses or those with ties to Israel may not fare as well under Syed's leadership in the Small Business Administration has no factual grounding. Indeed, he has specifically disavowed support for the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement, which seeks the dissolution of Israel. . . . AJC rejects the charge.

They go on to say it is un-American, the charges that have been made, and I agree.

My colleagues had the right to ask questions for the record, and they did. Mr. Syed responded to those questions for the record, again repeating the fact that he has been against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and that he has worked with companies in Israel and, in fact, visited Israel in order to promote the relationships.

Again, we thought, now, at last, we will be able to move Mr. Syed's nomination. But now the Republicans found a new reason to block his nomination. Committee Republicans announced that they would withhold a quorum on the vote because Planned Parenthood affiliates received loans under the Paycheck Protection Program.

As one of the negotiators of the CARES Act—and this was Democrats and Republicans again working together; negotiated this with Senator RUBIO, Senator COLLINS, and Senator SHAHEEN. Let me explain to my colleagues how nonprofits are treated under the Paycheck Protection Program.

When the SBA considers whether or not a business qualifies as a small business, it considers affiliation. Generally, affiliations exist when one business controls or has the power to control another or when a third party controls or has the power to control both businesses. Control may arise with ownership, management, or other relationships or interactions between the parties.

The CARES Act requires that nonprofits eligible for PPP loans abide by the same affiliation rules that are applicable to small businesses.

The fact is that the Planned Parenthood Federation of America does not exercise control over its member organizations because it does not have common management. Each member organization is its own independent, not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization with its own independent board of directors that is solely responsible for the hiring and retention of its CEO. Planned Parenthood Federation does not have the power to remove CEOs or directors of its individual member organizations.

This type of federated structure is common in the nonprofit world and is the reason why nonprofits such as the YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs also qualify for PPP loans.

The SBA must apply its affiliation rules in a uniform way, and it is wrong to ask the SBA to do otherwise for political or ideological reasons. There is no reason why Planned Parenthood should be singled out for receiving PPP loans, which I must remind my colleagues were created to help keep Americans in their jobs during the pandemic. That is the reason for it. That is why we included nonprofits.

The partisan, unnecessary, and unconscionable inaction of our Republican colleagues shows no concern for the millions of small businesses still relying on SBA support to survive COVID–19 and rebuild their future and that would benefit greatly by having a confirmed Deputy Administrator to work on the day-to-day operations at the SBA.

One last point, if I might. The Small Business Committee reported out Mr. Syed's nomination by a bipartisan vote, but due to a technicality, another vote was required, and the Republican members at this time decided to block the quorum.

As a matter of fairness, as a matter of the needs of the small business community in our States, as a matter of the integrity of this body to have a process that has some degree of respect for the nominees who go through the nomination process, I am going to make a UC request that the nomination be put on our calendar, like any other reported nominee, subject to the action of this body.

Before I make that unanimous consent request, with Senator PAUL's indulgence, I know that Senator PADILLA would like to make a comment. If he would be willing to allow Senator PADILLA to speak next, and then I will make my unanimous consent request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I want to join Chairman CARDIN in calling attention to the unacceptable obstruction by our Republican colleagues who are doing nothing other than playing political games with the confirmation process.

Dilawar Syed is an outstanding and highly qualified nominee to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration. Mr. Syed brings decades of experience as a business leader and entrepreneur in a number of fields. He is a dedicated public servant who helped guide President Obama's support of Asian-American small business owners in the wake of the great recession, and he has served as the founding chair of the California Entrepreneurship Task Force.

He has earned support from business groups and on both sides of the aisle. Notably, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically announced their support for his nomination, citing his very impressive background.

In June of this year, two of our Republican colleagues joined the Democratic members of the Small Business Committee and voted to send Mr. Syed's nomination to the full Senate for confirmation. But, today, Republicans are refusing to allow the Senate to vote on his nomination. In so doing, they are also obstructing the work of the SBA itself—work that has never been more critical.

As the U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrote back in April, ''It is essential for SBA's senior leadership team to be in place to deliver on the agency's COVID–19 small business emergency relief responsibilities.'' Again, critical.

Mr. Syed is ready to serve with dedication and skill as the SBA pursues its mission of supporting economic growth for entrepreneurs and working families. He is also ready to make history as the highest ranking Muslim official in any Presidential administration, and our Nation's hard-working small business owners urgently need his leadership.

My Republican colleagues who are playing these political games to obstruct this nomination are also blocking resources needed by their own constituents.

Let's end this, and I urge the Senate to swiftly confirm Mr. Syed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be discharged from further consideration of PN231, the nomination of Dilawar Syed to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration; that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 1 hour for debate on the nomination equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this motion is an attempt to get around the ruling that the SBA has that Planned Parenthood is, indeed, a small business. This would allow illegal funding of Planned Parenthood affiliates through the Paycheck Protection Program.

Let's be very clear. Planned Parenthood is not a small business; Planned Parenthood is a big business. This is not my allegation; this is a ruling from the Small Business Administration. The Small Business Administration ruled in May of 2020 that Planned Parenthood was a big business, not a small business, and ineligible for the PPP program. The program was intended for small businesses. The current ruling from the Small Business Administration is, they are ineligible because they are a big business.

This program was intended to support small businesses across the country that were forced to lock down during COVID–19. However, the Small Business Administration, despite having previously ruled that they were ineligible, that they were a big business, has now unlawfully approved nearly $100 million in taxpayer funds to Planned Parenthood. On June 30 alone, the Small Business Administration approved four new loans to Planned Parenthood despite a clear determination by the Small Business Administration that these entities are ineligible. So we have a great contradiction here. They say they are ineligible. That is the existing rule from the Small Business Administration. Yet they are still giving them money.

This nomination is for the position of Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, which is responsible for the Agency's day-to-day operations and involved in all policy decisions, including the PPP program.

The Biden administration has continued to obstruct congressional oversight of the illegal Planned Parenthood loans, and the nominee has refused to provide to the committee a commitment that he would take action to recover the funds that are being disbursed illegally.

The Republican members of the Small Business Committee have continued to make it clear that we will not allow a vote on this nominee to occur until the Small Business Administration takes action to recover the illegally disbursed funds to the big business known as Planned Parenthood.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA).

Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me just repeat a comment. I know Senator HIRONO is on the floor, and I want to give her an opportunity to speak on this, but let me make this clear.

The affiliate rules that are used by the Small Business Administration are exactly the same for a for-profit or a nonprofit, and there are lots of small businesses that have a big name next to them that are eligible for the programs under the Small Business Administration before COVID–19 and after COVID–19. The affiliation rules have been in the SBA for a long time, and I read them into the RECORD earlier in my comments.

What they cannot do is pick and choose who they like and don't like. That is not how you administer a program.

So, in the nonprofit world, I gave the example of the YMCAs—a pretty big name but, the truth of the matter is, they are all independently operated, and the national YMCA cannot discharge the CEO of a local YMCA. So we judge the qualifications based upon the local activities. The same is true for a lot of affiliates on for-profit companies: big chains that are independently owned and not controlled. They can qualify for these funds.

I can tell you a lot of organizations that are related in the faith community to an umbrella, but they are not controlled, so, therefore, the affiliate rules allow them to apply independently for these funds as long as they can qualify.

We knew that developing this program. We didn't want to change the affiliate rules because that would have been wrong.

So what my colleague is requesting is just—would be illegal for the administration to say that we are not going to select a particular group because we don't particularly agree with what they are doing or how they operate. That is not how the rules work. That is not what you are allowed to do.

So I regret that my colleague has raised these objections. I think it diminishes our credibility to tell our administrators to administer these programs fairly for all constituencies. And to deny Small Businesses of America a confirmed Deputy Administrator during these extremely challenging times for small businesses does not hurt Mr. Syed; it hurts the small business community.

I thank Mr. Syed for his willingness to serve, and I hope we can find a path forward because this debate has nothing to do with his qualifications or why he should be confirmed.

With that, I will yield the floor.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of Dilawar Syed's nomination to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

I have a letter of support from the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus that I would ask unanimous consent to have printed into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021.

Hon. BEN CARDIN,
Hon. RAND PAUL,
U.S. Senate, Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR CARDIN AND RANKING MEMBER PAUL: As members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), which is comprised of 76 members of Congress, we write to strongly endorse the swift confirmation of Dilawar Syed, who has been nominated to serve as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). He has decades of experience in business, entrepreneurship, and public service, making him extremely well-qualified for this position.

AAPI small businesses have been especially hard hit during the COVID–19 pandemic. In fact, according to a report by the New York Federal Reserve, the Asian American community not only experienced the largest drop in entrepreneurship during the pandemic, but while other communities of color saw a rebound in entrepreneurship as the pandemic continued, that rebound had yet to happen for AAPIs. Mr. Syed has a long history working with all communities, but has particularly strong ties to the AAPI community, having served as a Commissioner on the White House Commission on AAPIs. At this pivotal moment for AAPI small businesses, having Mr. Syed's background represented at SBA is critical.

Mr. Syed, an immigrant who has embodied the values of hard work and ingenuity, has built and scaled businesses with major impacts in technology, healthcare, and business services. He has shown incredible prowess as an entrepreneur in business growth and development. For example, as President of Freshworks, a customer service software company, Mr. Syed grew the company from a few dozen customers to thousands of small and medium businesses across the U.S. During his tenure as Commissioner on the White House Commission on AAPIs, Mr. Syed actively worked to connect entrepreneurs in underserved regions to the SBA and Department of Commerce. From serving as the founding chair of the California Entrepreneurship Task Force to spearheading rapid response engagement during the COVID–19

pandemic with the state's most vulnerable small businesses to increase awareness of critical programs like the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program, Mr. Syed has consistently helped empower and uplift our nation's small businesses.

Mr. Syed's nomination has the support of more than 150 civic, government, higher education and business leaders and organizations, including endorsements from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Black Chambers, National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship, Small Business Roundtable, Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Congress, and many others. Upon confirmation, Mr. Syed would become the highest-ranking Muslim American in the Biden administration to date, as well as one of the highest-ranking AAPIs.

However, we are disappointed to see the treatment Mr. Syed has received from those on the Committee that have held up his confirmation vote, based on false accusations, anti-Muslim sentiment, and efforts to hamstring Committee business unless specific conditions on unrelated matters are met. Since June 16, the Committee has made three different attempts to consider Mr. Syed's nomination, but each time certain members have challenged the proceedings or blocked them from moving forward. On two separate occasions, these members even boycotted the proceedings—denying Mr. Syed fair consideration. Targeting nominees like Mr. Syed for their faith, ethnicity, or place of birth, furthers the perpetual foreigner stereotype to which AAPIs are constantly subjected. We stand firmly against the use of these typecasting misconceptions. These tactics have been rejected by leading civil rights and faith-based organizations and have no place in our government or our nation. There is no question that Mr. Syed is uniquely well suited and highly qualified for this role, and small business owners and entrepreneurs across the country deserve this standard of leadership at SBA. Continuing to block his nomination is a disservice to these business owners and entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Administrator role has traditionally been focused on managing execution of SBA's programmatic mission and day-to-day operations, which includes bringing desperately needed relief to struggling small businesses and entrepreneurs across the nation. This position has been left vacant for over three years and continuing to do so prevents the agency from having a fully staffed senior leadership team at a time when the SBA's importance in our nation's economic recovery is at an all-time high.

Mr. Syed's impressive background both in public service and the private sector in business and entrepreneurship along with his leadership in the AAPI community will undoubtedly be assets in his role as SBA's Deputy Administrator. We are confident that Dilawar Syed is the perfect fit for this role and we urge the Committee to promptly move forward with his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Judy Chu, Member of Congress, CAPAC Chair; Grace Meng, Member of Congress, CAPAC First Vice-Chair; Kaiali'i Kahele, Member of Congress, CAPAC Freshman Representative; Mazie K. Hirono, U.S. Senator; Mark Takano, Member of Congress, CAPAC Second Vice-Chair; Ami Bera, M.D., Member of Congress; Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senator; Ted W. Lieu, Member of Congress, CAPAC Whip; Al Green, Member of Congress; Pramila Jayapal, Member of Congress; Jan Schakowsky, Member of Congress; Ro Khanna, Member of Congress; Dina Titus, Member of Congress; Barbara Lee, Member of Congress; Norma Torres, Member of Congress.

Ms. HIRONO. In the midst of the pandemic, what is normally a very bipartisan small business committee, Republicans are blocking Mr. Syed's nomination. This is particularly egregious behavior by Republicans on the committee because Mr. Syed is exceptionally qualified to hold this position and is widely supported by business groups and communities across the country.

In fact, let me read a paragraph from the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus letter that I just mentioned.

I am reading from the letter:

> Mr. Syed's nomination has the support of more than 150 civic, government, higher education and business leaders and organizations, including endorsements from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Black Chambers, National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship, Small Business Roundtable, Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Congress, and many others. Upon confirmation, Mr. Syed would become the highest ranking Muslim American in the Biden administration to date, as well as one of the highest ranking AAPIs.

Republicans have continued to block this nomination for months. Earlier this summer, they disputed the results of a meeting the committee had to advance the nomination. Since then, they have refused to show up for three other meetings, including one we held last week, denying the necessary quorum for a vote to be taken.

The reasons for blocking Mr. Syed's nomination have changed over time. First, they were concerned about SBA loans his company received during the pandemic, even though these loans were lawful and fully repaid before he was nominated. Then they insinuated he was somehow anti-Jewish and anti-Israel—note the groups that I read that have supported him—despite his widespread support in these communities. And now, they are concerned about lawful SBA loans to Planned Parenthood Health Centers, something that Mr. Syed certainly had no control over.

Throughout the last several months, Mr. Syed has repeatedly made himself available to address any concerns my colleagues might have about his background or qualifications, things that clearly matter in his ability to do the job.

It boggles the mind that Republicans are blocking someone who is the very picture of the American dream: an entrepreneur, a job creator who was born in Pakistan and educated in America, who understands firsthand the challenges businesses have faced during this pandemic. Mr. Syed would be an asset to SBA and the businesses they serve, our own constituents.

Every day that Republicans continue their obstruction, they are doing a disservice to these businesses who can least afford this uncertainty and turmoil in this moment.

Mr. Syed deserves fair consideration.

Republican efforts to block not just this nomination but so many others for the simple reason that they want to slow the process so that this administration can have people in place who can actually do the job to help the American people—enough is enough.

I just say to the Republicans: You know, put your votes where your mouths are. You say you support small businesses; you say you support this, that, and the other thing; and yet you will not let this administration get on with their job to do what is necessary to help small businesses, to help our communities, in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. It boggles the mind. I say: Act like the Senators you are, who were sent here to do your job, and let's get on with this nomination.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Let me thank Senator HIRONO for her comments, and I also thank Senator PADILLA for his comments.

I have never gone through something like this before, where the Republicans are breaking a quorum after they have already voted a nominee for reasons unrelated to the nominee. It makes no sense, and the reasons that they are using makes no sense at all, since they are asking the SBA to violate the law.

We are going to continue. As chair of the committee, I am going to continue to look at every conceivable way that we can get Mr. Syed confirmed. I think he is an extraordinary person who will serve our Nation with great distinction, and I know our small business community needs a confirmed Deputy Administrator.

You know, what surprises me is that our Republican colleagues talk about their support for small businesses, and I said we worked on COVID together to create these programs. President Trump never filled the position of Deputy Administrator so this position has been vacant for a long time.

We need this position. The small business community needs this position. So it is my hope that we will find a path forward as quickly as possible to get this nomination confirmed. I am confident that we will get a strong bipartisan vote for Mr. Syed's nomination and confirmation. Republicans tell me they think he is well qualified.

So let's stop using these parliamentary procedures to obstruct. Let's get on with the business of the Senate.

I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday's Senate Armed Services Committee hearing gave us disturbing new information on the President's Afghanistan debacle. Thanks to yesterday's

hearing, we now know that President Biden pulled troops from Afghanistan against the advice of his military commanders and was less than truthful after the fact when asked about their recommendations.

General Milley and General McKenzie's testimony made clear that they had both recommended that the United States leave a small contingent of U.S. troops in the country—advice that the President ignored.

Thanks to President Biden's ill-considered withdrawal from Afghanistan, here is the situation we now find ourselves in. The Taliban is once again in control of Afghanistan, and just in case anyone thinks this is a kinder and gentler Taliban, let's look at the facts.

The Taliban has stocked its government with terrorists, including former inmates of Guantanamo Bay and members of the Haqqani Network, a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization with a number of members on the U.N. Security Council's sanctions list. Many of the members of the new Taliban Cabinet are on the U.N. Security Council's sanctions list, and the government is well stocked with pre-9/11 Taliban leaders, the same leaders who allowed Afghanistan to serve as a refuge for al-Qaida.

So that is the new Taliban government. What is it doing? Well, in mid-September the Taliban announced that secondary schools would reopen for boys. There was no mention of girls. The Taliban official announced that women would not be allowed to play any sport that might show their bodies. Women are being excluded from the workplace.

In Helmand province, barbers have been barred from shaving or trimming beards.

In one city, the body of an alleged criminal was hung from a crane in the city square, while in Kabul, Taliban members brutally flogged a man accused of stealing a phone. And a senior Taliban leader announced the return of executions and the cutting off of hands as punishment.

A kindler, gentler Taliban this is not.

And this formerly somewhat ragtag group is now the possessor of a significant amount of U.S. military equipment, including weapons, combat vehicles, aircraft, and surveillance equipment, much of it acquired from the Afghan National Security Forces.

And while the President might like to blame the Afghan forces for disbanding, the truth is he bears part of the responsibility for their collapse. For years, the United States trained and equipped Afghan troops to fight the way that we do, including a reliance on close air support and a sophisticated intelligence-gathering operation. And the limited number of U.S. troops still in the country were playing an essential role—providing intelligence, logistics, and air support the Afghan military needed.

Then the President pulled all remaining U.S. support almost overnight. It is no surprise that in the wake of that, the Afghan military quickly collapsed. There is no question that there were preexisting problems in the Afghan forces, including fraud and corruption. But the Afghan military was playing a key role in combating the Taliban and terrorist activity in Afghanistan, and it was the abrupt withdrawal of U.S. support that precipitated its collapse.

Thanks to the President's withdrawal, our ability to combat terrorist activity in Afghanistan and the region has been significantly degraded, as General Milley's testimony yesterday made clear. As the Washington Post reported:

> Al-Qaeda remnants are in Afghanistan and interested in growing, Milley said, but the United States no longer has military or intelligence assets on the ground to keep tabs on the militants.
>
> The withdrawal makes it ''much more difficult for us to conduct intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance,'' Milley said, including missions to locate militants.

That, again, is from the Washington Post.

In short, there is every reason to expect that Afghanistan will once again become a haven for terrorists. In fact, because of the huge number of weapons and equipment we left behind, it is probably more accurate to say that Afghanistan will likely become a terrorist superstate. Meanwhile, as I said, our ability to effectively detect and defend against emerging threats in Afghanistan has been significantly diminished. There is no intelligence or counterterrorism strategy that will fully offset the loss of American boots on the ground.

U.S. military and intelligence personnel still in the country, in coordination with our local partners, were playing a critical role in providing intelligence on evolving terrorist threats in Afghanistan and throughout the region. That intelligence network is now gone. We no longer have human intelligence on the scene.

We no longer have any bases in-country from which to conduct operations. Future missions will have to be staged from distant bases or seaborne assets, complicating the mission and significantly increasing our response time.

That is not just an inconvenience. By compromising our ability to respond to terrorist activity, this withdrawal is endangering our country. For 20 years, we have managed to prevent another major terrorist attack on U.S. soil. How long is that going to last when Afghanistan is once again a haven for terrorists and our intelligence and response capabilities have been permanently weakened?

I haven't even mentioned the damage that the President's bungled withdrawal has done to our relationships with our allies. The President, who, supposedly, was set to restore America's standing in the world, is instead presiding over a national embarrassment that has left our allies wondering whether or not we will keep our commitments. We have damaged our credibility with our allies. It is clear that Russia and China are enjoying our humiliation on the world stage, not to mention the way that our withdrawal has empowered our terrorist enemies.

Ceding Afghanistan to the Taliban and its terrorist allies has not exactly made us look like an intimidating foe. It wouldn't be surprising if terrorists are thinking that all they have to do in future battles is wait us out until we give up and withdraw.

I am sure the President would like to put his chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal behind him, but there is a big problem with that—namely, the fact that his administration still has U.S. citizens left behind in Afghanistan. The administration has been hazy on the details, either because it is not sure how many American citizens are left or because administration officials don't want to give a number. But it is clear that there are still a number of Americans stuck in Afghanistan.

And then there are the tens of thousands of Afghans we abandoned—Afghans who were affiliated with the U.S. Government or worked with the U.S. military and whom we promised to protect. These individuals and their families are currently in grave danger.

My office continues working to evacuate a number of green card holders and at-risk Afghans to safe countries in the region, and several of the individuals we are working with have received death threats from the Taliban.

And while there are dedicated State Department and Defense Department personnel coordinating with veteran-led groups to evacuate Afghan citizens, the administration is still—still—struggling to develop a clear path for getting them out of the country.

We still need to learn more about the chaotic U.S. evacuation, which resulted in the deaths of 13 U.S. servicemembers and scores of Afghan civilians. But one thing is very clear: President Biden made an ill-considered and disastrous decision when he chose to withdraw our troops on an arbitrary timetable, and the Afghan people are currently suffering the consequences.

And should Afghanistan once again become a terrorist haven, as seems likely, our country could also pay a deadly price. We have to make sure it doesn't come to that.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, more than 3 months ago, ProPublica began publishing a series of stories. These stories were based on what they have described as ''a vast trove of Internal

Revenue Service data on the tax returns of thousands of the nation's wealthiest people, covering over 15 years.''

I have spoken about this apparent leak or hack on IRS data before. During the August recess, POLITICO Pro's Morning Tax, writing about ProPublica, noted that ''it's been almost two-and-a-half months since it ran its first story on that leaked tax data and, though the leak is perhaps the worst in the IRS's history, the government has yet . . . to say anything publicly about how it happened.''

As absurd as that statement is, it is also accurate, and I will speak about the accuracy of that. The Biden administration has not said what happened regarding perhaps the worst leak or hack in the history of the IRS.

Now, in doing my constitutional duty of congressional oversight, I have sent letters to the IRS and to the Attorney General and to the FBI, who have provided an embarrassingly small amount of information in response to my letters.

The first ProPublica story was published on June 8 of this year. On June 11, I joined Leader MCCONNELL and Finance Committee Ranking Member CRAPO on a letter to Attorney General Garland and FBI Director Wray. Days later, on June 16, I sent a letter with other Judiciary Committee members asking more detailed questions.

It took almost 2 months for the Department of Justice to respond to these letters by sending me two copies of the same form letter in response to my letter. Dated August 10, one of the letters contains an apparent typo in that it purports to be in response to a letter ''dated June 6, 2021.''

Given that ProPublica began publishing stories about this on June 8, if I was clairvoyant enough to write a letter on the leak 2 days earlier, I would already know what really happened. The fact that the Department responded to two different letters with the exact same form letter and couldn't correctly refer to my letters shows a lack of diligence that is not unique to this matter.

In response to a different letter I sent with Senator CRAPO to the Commissioner of the IRS, Rettig, I received a recent response that states: ''We do not yet have any information concerning the source of the alleged taxpayer information published by ProPublica.''

Now, the IRS Commissioner is advocating for Congress to pass an expansive new reporting requirement for the IRS. Every bank account over $600 is going to be sent to the IRS for their review and use if they want to go after the taxpayers. If Commissioner Rettig doesn't even know whether the ProPublica information came from the IRS, how can he assure us the IRS can properly protect this new information that they want the Congress to pass? I don't think he is going to be able to convince anybody of that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the response I have received from the Department of Justice and the IRS be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRASSLEY: This responds to your letter to the Attorney General and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) dated June 6, 2021, urging the investigation and prosecution of the disclosure of confidential taxpayer information as reported in the media. We are sending identical responses to the other Senators who joined in your letter. We appreciate knowing of your concerns about this matter.

As you may be aware, the Secretary of the Treasury testified recently that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is looking into the matter as is the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA). She further stated that the matter had been referred to the Treasury Inspector General, as well as the Department of Justice.

The Department is committed to taking investigative steps as appropriately predicated and authorized, carefully reviewing referrals we receive, and, as appropriate, considering relevant and admissible evidence in light of the Principles of Federal Prosecution. See Justice Manual 9–27.000. While we understand how important this issue is to you, longstanding Department policy will preclude us from providing your office with any information related to this matter outside the public record.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

JOE GAETA,
Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

JOE GAETA,
Deputy Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I call on Attorney General Garland, FBI Director Wray, and Commissioner Rettig to take the apparent leak or hack of taxpayers' information very seriously and cooperate with our constitutionally mandated responsibility to conduct oversight to see that the laws are faithfully executed.

The protection of taxpayers' information provided to the IRS is of critical importance to the basic functioning of government. Determining the source of the information published by ProPublica should be a top priority for our Nation's tax enforcement Agency and, allegedly, premier law enforcement entity. I intend to continue working with Ranking Member CRAPO of the Finance Committee and anybody else to continue looking into this matter. I hope that we are able to resolve how any confidential taxpayer information was obtained from the IRS and those responsible are held accountable.

TAXES

Mr. President, on another matter, President Biden and congressional Democrats have repeatedly pledged not to raise taxes on anyone earning under $400,000. They have said it so many times that it has begun to sound like a broken record. The thing is, when someone feels the need to repeat a claim over and over, it is likely that they are trying to pull the wool over our eyes. That is exactly the case with the Democrats' tax pledge.

According to an analysis by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, there isn't a single income group completely spared from the Democrats' tax hikes. In other words, it is going to hit a lot of people with incomes below $400,000 a year.

And I know my colleagues know what the Joint Committee on Taxation is. It is an expert group that studies the Tax Code and the impact of tax changes. But, for the public at large, this is a nonpartisan group of people that do a very fine job of saying how changes in the Tax Code will affect whomever they are supposed to affect. Not those making under $400,000, not those making under $100,000, and not even those making under $10,000 will be guaranteed not having their taxes increased, as the President promised.

So going back to the Joint Committee on Taxation analysis, over 12 percent of taxpayers with incomes between $50,000 and $100,000 would see a tax increase. Thirty-five percent of those earning between $100,000 and $200,000 would pay higher taxes. You can't raise taxes on small businesses and other job creators—these entrepreneurs—without hitting the middle class.

Economic studies show that when you raise taxes on businesses, anywhere from 20 to 70 percent of that tax

increase falls on the workers. Now, the Joint Committee on Taxation assumes it is about 25 percent. Whatever doesn't fall on the backs of workers falls on shareholders. And then you need to remember that when it falls on shareholders, there are millions of middle-class Americans trying to accumulate a nest egg for retirement.

So, yes, when you hike taxes on small business from a top rate of 37 percent to over 46 percent—once including the Democrats' proposed surtaxes—you, President Biden, hit the middle class. When you increase taxes on corporations from 21 percent to 26.5 percent—returning our corporate tax rate to one of the highest in the developed world once figuring in State taxes as well—you, President Biden, also hit the middle class.

Yet, Democrats contend their proposal includes tax cuts for the middle class. More accurately, they cut taxes for a chosen group of middle and lower income Americans and a select few millionaires. Unlike the 2017 tax law that was passed by a Republican Senate that cuts taxes for the vast majority of the middle class, the Democrats' tax-and-spending bill leaves most—over 70 percent—of the taxpayers with either a goose egg or a tax hike.

The Democrats' tax bill is about picking winners and losers; it is not about sound tax policy. If you don't have the right family composition or spend your money how Democrats want, you don't get a tax cut, but you may get a tax increase. On the other hand, if you are wealthy and on a waiting list for a $69,000, all-electric, 2022 SUV, you are in store for a $12,500 tax credit—financed in part on the backs of the middle class. Moreover, if you are a multibillion-dollar company with a preexisting commitment to go net zero emissions by 2040, you are in for a multimillion-dollar tax windfall—once again, that tax windfall financed in part on the backs of the middle class.

So I hope the American people won't be fooled by my Democratic colleagues' rhetoric. Their bill hikes taxes on millions of taxpayers, and their narrowly targeted tax cut leaves most out in the cold.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LUMMIS. 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.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCIES AND STABLECOINS

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors will soon be releasing a discussion paper on a potential U.S. central bank digital currency. Additionally, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets is expected to release a set of recommendations relating to the supervision of stablecoins in the coming weeks. I want to lay out my views on central bank digital currencies and stablecoins in advance of these coming discussions.

Financial innovation has the potential to bring new prosperity to the next generation of Americans, reduce systemic risk, and promote inclusion for many who are, unfortunately, at the periphery of our financial system. America's leadership in global financial services is a heritage our country can rightly be proud of, but our country must not become complacent, because this leadership is a privilege, not a right.

I am supportive of the Federal Reserve Board's efforts to study how central bank digital currency, or CBDC, may be appropriate in the United States. I want to lay out what I believe are the key tenets of a consumer-focused U.S. central bank digital currency, including factors such as legitimate need, financial inclusion, programmability, privacy, and avoiding systemic risk. My comments are only focused on a consumer-focused central bank digital currency, as an interbank or wholesale central bank digital currency is a different proposition.

The first principle is legitimate need. A serious value proposition must exist in order to move forward with a central bank digital currency, one that cannot be reliably met by private-sector innovation.

It is important to note that the U.S. dollar is already digitized; that is, it has been reduced to electronic form. Most Americans predominantly use an electronic means of banking every day, and interbank settlement also takes place through electronic channels. These payment rails are generally electronic commercial bank money, however. A CBDC would be central bank money, which represents a direct claim on the Federal Reserve System.

So we must ask hard questions about whether there are other means of accomplishing the goals of a central bank digital currency and identify opportunities, risks, and costs.

The second is financial inclusion.

About 5.4 percent of households in the United States did not have a bank account as of 2019, with a further 18.7-percent of the population being underbanked. A CBDC should meaningfully reduce these statistics. A CBDC also has the potential to reduce the cost of payments for both depository institutions and consumers by removing existing frictions in sending money.

The programmability of a CBDC will also likely promote financial inclusion by giving consumers more control over their money, allowing those from disadvantaged backgrounds access to the latest technology features. This would allow consumers to automate the payment of bills, assist with monthly budgeting, reduce or eliminate overdraft fees, and most importantly, allow hard-working Americans to receive their paychecks earlier.

Some additional factors that must be considered as part of the inclusion are the reduction or elimination of minimum balance requirements, ease of access to a CBDC, and convertibility into physical cash.

Third is the concept of programmability. Money represents value, but it is not programmable today.

Programmability, at its core, is the technological means to specify the automated behavior or control logic of money in a manner that is tied to the actual value itself. Programmability focuses on the characteristics of money, including the identity of the owner, the amount of money being transferred, and the conditions under which the outside world can interact with that money.

A CBDC should contain robust programmability, allowing users to easily specify conditions with respect to that money, such as interest payments; payment versus payment, which is ''I only pay you if you pay me''; delivery versus payment, which is ''I give you a security or a commodity only if you pay me''; escrow, or preventing your child from buying ice cream except on Fridays; and, of course, avoiding overdraft fees.

A central bank digital currency should also be future-proofed, with a core code that can be adapted to fully meet future demands and which also contains room for value-added services built upon the CBDC architecture.

Fourth is the critical role of privacy. A CBDC must have the same level of privacy as physical cash today. Appropriate transactional anonymity is a public good. Americans must have confidence that a central bank digital currency is not being used for surveillance and that their personal financial data is either not being collected or is subject to rigorous technological and legal controls, including the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We cannot allow a CBDC to become a panopticon, or an all-seeing eye, as will soon be the case with China's central bank digital currency.

Fifth is avoiding systemic risk and disruption. A CBDC should not create systemic risk or undue disruption to the U.S. economy. Transitional arrangements for a CBDC may be necessary, and physical cash must remain legal tender as long as Americans desire it, with Congress's having the final say on the future of physical cash.

These are the five principles that I consider essential to any central bank digital currency proposal. Congress must have the ultimate say on whether the United States adopts a central bank digital currency. I encourage my colleagues to think deeply about these issues and to develop their own rubric for the future of money.

Finally, I want to say a few words about stablecoins in advance of the President's working group report that will be coming out shortly.

Stablecoins are a claim on commercial bank money or Treasurys or other securities that are freely tradeable on a distributed ledger or blockchain and that are intended to be redeemable at par for the U.S. dollar. Stablecoins are highly liquid and have higher monetary velocity than other forms of the U.S. dollar. Stablecoins also enable faster payments between individuals and businesses than are possible today.

For these reasons, stablecoins are a very important private-sector innovation that have the potential to promote financial inclusion and new market opportunities. However, stablecoins also present certain novel risks to the U.S. economy.

In particular, stablecoins must be 100 percent backed by cash and cash equivalents, and this should be audited regularly.

I am concerned that some stablecoins are not always fully backed by appropriate assets in a transparent manner. I am also concerned that some stablecoin designs could become a silo for high-quality liquid assets, including Treasurys, which have an important and independent role as collateral in capital markets.

Additionally, stablecoin issuers should comply with anti-money laundering and sanctions law and should exhibit a high degree of resiliency. This includes operational risk, cybersecurity and liquidity, and redemption management, consistent with the Federal Reserve's payment system risk policy.

Some issuers of stablecoins and stablecoin-like instruments, including Paxos and Avanti Bank and Trust, are already inside the regulatory parameter. Properly supervised, stablecoins are not tantamount to the so-called ''wildcat banks'' of the 19th century. It may be the case that stablecoins should only be issued by depository institutions or through money market funds or similar vehicles.

We must do more to ensure stablecoins are subject to right-sized regulations and supervision. But, at the same time, we must ensure that these rules enable innovation that can make payments faster, cheaper, and more inclusive. Properly supervised, stablecoins have an important role to play moving forward.

I look forward to continuing the conversation around financial innovation that we began a few months ago as we consider the future of money in our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

ENERGY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, the difference between medicine and politics—because I am a doctor—is that in medicine, you are forced to look at reality as reality is, whereas in politics we can make up reality. It is: Oh, my gosh, I want it to be this way; so let's assume that it is.

I think it is a time for, at least—one, I think it is always better to look at reality, but, particularly right now, let's talk about it as regards inflation.

Inflation is really hurting middle-income families. We are seeing higher prices in the grocery store, electricity bills, at the gasoline pump eating up their budgets.

President Biden has repeatedly said he would not raise taxes on those making less than $400,000 a year, but rising inflation as a result of his harmful economic and energy agenda is effectively a tax.

This is predictable. Democrats and left-of-center economists like Larry Summers warned about the risk of inflation and predicted a sharp rise in prices. He sounded the alarm at the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. He said that could overheat the economy. It did.

This summer, used car prices were up 45 percent, gasoline 45 percent, whole milk 7.5 percent. American families are paying higher prices for goods and services that are essential, and it continues to go higher. The U.S. Department of Labor reported that consumer prices in June increased 5.4 percent relative to a year ago—the largest increase since August 2008, more than double the target rate of 2 percent the Federal Reserve establishes.

Now, President Biden and his administration, his Treasury Department, have reassured that this inflation is transitory or temporary.

Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported that the Federal Reserve sees inflation ''lasting quite a while,'' given their recent and upcoming actions—so, if you will, belying the reassurances of the administration.

Looking particularly at energy, it is not surprising that electricity and gasoline prices are soaring, and the average price of gas has now gone over $3 a gallon since May. The national average is $3.19, $1 more per gallon than a year ago—now, again, predictable.

One of the first things President Biden did when he took office was to cancel the Keystone XL Pipeline, killing 11,000 jobs that went with it—by the way, not jobs for bureaucrats in Washington, DC, doing quite well during the pandemic because they continue to get paid, but jobs for construction workers who, if they don't have this job, don't have another job and have less ability to take care of their family and to better provide for their child's future.

He stopped domestic oil and gas leases and only does that which the court tells him he has to do.

Oddly, since he did all of this in the name of addressing issues of carbon emission, the administration then removed sanctions so that Russia can complete the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, going from Russia to Germany, and now is asking OPEC, which includes Iran, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, to increase oil production so we can import their oil—so much for the energy independence our country, researchers, and companies worked so hard to develop.

And now we see with every draft of the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spend bill that the Democratic Party seems intent on driving prices higher, increasing our energy dependence on other countries, and hurting our domestic workforce. And I think, if we are going to go back to reality, the American people would ask not to describe these actions as being done for the good of the environment or the climate. I totally believe we must address climate, but the stark truth is that President Biden's energy policies prioritize shutting down domestic production and domestic jobs in favor of using dirtier Russian gas.

Why do I say dirtier? There is a National Lab that recently reported of natural gas produced in Louisiana and exported to Europe compared to gas coming to Europe from Russia, that over the 20-year horizon the carbon intensity is 43 percent less for gas that comes from the United States to Europe than from Russian gas coming to Europe, and 10 percent less over 100 years.

If you really cared about lowering greenhouse gas emissions, creating jobs for the American worker, and strengthening our economy and our national security, you would encourage the production of U.S. natural gas and ship it around the world, displacing that which was coming from countries such as Russia.

It seems as if the administration is more interested in virtue-signaling than truly pursuing a low-carbon solution, and I would love for someone to explain why the administration is so hell-bent on shutting down energy production in the United States, with the good-paying jobs and the economic opportunity, especially in Louisiana but not only in Louisiana. And it is done in a cleaner, more environmentally friendly way than in almost every other part of the Nation. It is as if they would rather the United States be dependent on foreign sources, those that are often not allies, than to produce energy cleanly, creating American jobs in the United States of America.

The United States is a global leader in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions entirely, almost, because of the increased production of U.S. natural gas.

As production increased and prices fell, natural gas replaced coal, so that now, off the top of my head, I think I know that, in absolute amounts, greenhouse gas emissions in the United States are less now than they were in 2004. And if not, they are almost there.

Our economy is a lot bigger, and we have a lot more people, and yet we have managed to hold greenhouse gas emissions at a declining rate because we produced natural gas.

We need to encourage exploration and production in our country. We should not be shutting it down, and we should not be shutting down the good jobs that go with it. The administration's backward and disastrous energy policy is playing out before our eyes. It

is not good—destroying American jobs, contributing to inflation, and strengthening the geopolitical position of our geopolitical rivals. The administration's actions are directly leading to higher gas and utility prices.

There is a way out of the inflation, but it is not empty virtue-signaling. It is not putting American workers out of jobs. It is to restart American energy production, hold lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, and get American energy in our country back on track, recreating the jobs that have been destroyed, and, by the way, increasing a greater ability to export to other countries around the world, helping to lower global greenhouse gas emissions.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, by now we are all very familiar with the toll that COVID–19 has taken on the American people. If there is cause for encouragement coming from all of this, it is that our collective experience has helped to destigmatize mental health problems.

The down side is that now we tend to look at everything through the lens of the pandemic. But the fact of the matter is that for millions of Americans, their private battles with mental health began well before March of 2020.

It is from that perspective that I want to examine the Wall Street Journal's truly excellent ongoing investigation into Facebook's refusal to address the serious, and at times threatening, failings of their platforms.

On September 14, the Journal published an article revealing that Facebook, Inc., executives know that their popular Instagram photo-sharing program is toxic—toxic—especially for young women and girls.

They know for a fact that 32 percent of teen girls said that, when they felt bad about their bodies, Instagram made them feel even worse.

They knew that Instagram makes body image issues worse for one in three girls. They knew that teens blame Instagram for increases in the rate of anxiety and depression. How did they know all of this? Because they, Facebook, had done their own research.

In 2019 and 2020, Facebook's in-house analysts performed a series of deep dives into teen use of Instagram that reveals that ''aspects of Instagram exacerbate each other to create a perfect storm.'' This is their awareness. That ''perfect storm'' that they mention manifests itself in the minds of teenagers in the form of intense social pressure, addiction, body image issues, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts. This multibillion-dollar company is dragging their young users to Hell, and they are doing it on behalf of a fantasy.

Much of the problem has to do with the fact that, by its very nature, Instagram forces its users to confront the unattainable. Facebook's researchers found that young users who spend their day scrolling past filtered faces and lavish lifestyles can spiral into a so-called ''social comparison journey'' that mimics the grief cycle. Sixty-eight percent of teen girls and 40 percent of boys experience this when they use Instagram. This is their research—their research. Sixty-eight percent of teen girls and 40 percent of teen boys experience that grief cycle.

Yes. Heartbreaking, infuriating, and guess what—it gets even worse. The internal research also shows that Facebook execs at the highest levels were in on the scheme to use these traumatized young users to pull members of their households into Instagram. Younger family members were of particular interest.

This reporting is sunshine on a particularly disgusting aspect of Facebook's strategy to shape the world in their image.

Facebook often touts their compliance with COPPA and other child protection standards as proof of their commitment to online safety. Oh, but if it were only so. But the Wall Street Journal reports show that Facebook has actual knowledge that they are collecting personal information online from kids under 13 years of age. These are children. They are suffering. But in the eyes of Facebook, they are the product. They are the product. They are the product that Facebook is using to get data so that they make more money. It is sickening.

All of this and more was revealed to me and my staff by a very brave and well-informed whistleblower from within Facebook. I have been working closely with my colleague Senator BLUMENTHAL to bring this information to light, and I thank him and his staff for being excellent advocates on behalf of young people and teenagers.

On October 5, Senator BLUMENTHAL—Chairman BLUMENTHAL—and I will host a hearing in the Commerce Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security Subcommittee where the whistleblower will offer an insider account of Facebook's total lack of governance and the growth-focused tunnel vision that has caused the company's leadership to ignore everything they know about the real world.

At this point, I want to emphasize a few important points we can extrapolate from what we know thus far.

Facebook's internal research revealed at the very least a strong correlation between use of their platforms and some forms of deteriorating mental health in kids and teens. But here is the larger issue: Even if Facebook didn't find proof of a causal link, it is unreasonable to assume that a company as large and successful as Facebook would ignore the social environment in which their young users live and scroll.

If you accept this general assertion, which I hold is reasonable, then you must also accept that Mark Zuckerberg and the rest of Facebook's top executives were very well aware of the real-world context behind all of that research, and the context will make you sick.

Between 2009 and 2019, the percentage of high school students who experienced ''persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness'' increased by more than 10 percent. The percentage of high school students who seriously considered attempting suicide increased by 5 percent. Numbers regarding suicide plans and suicide attempts also trended in the wrong direction. And even less severe mental health crises can lead to risky sexual behavior, drug use, truancy, delinquency.

This is all no secret. It is publicly available information compiled by the CDC, accessible by anyone capable of executing a Google search.

It is getting harder for our kids and grandkids to make it through the day. They haven't even had a chance to live yet, and already they are experiencing hopelessness and despair. They feel so terribly about themselves that they would rather die than live another day.

Facebook has evidence that their platform facilitates these mental health spirals for young users. Yet they focused on how to trick them into thinking that scrolling through content that makes them miserable is somehow healthy and normal behavior.

Our children are not all right, and I am willing to state for the record that the people pushing success buttons at Facebook—they really do not care.

On September 21, the New York Times published an expose on the company's frankly shocking efforts to rehabilitate its image by promoting pro-Facebook content into user news feeds. By all accounts, this reporting backed the company into a corner. They were caught redhanded manipulating the flow of information, which is a charge that in other contexts has drawn fire from activists, politicians, and even Facebook itself.

In response to the well-earned backlash that Facebook received, Mark Zuckerberg chose to avoid accountability and instead made a joke about an anecdote the Times reporters included regarding a video he had posted of himself cruising around on a glorified surfboard. That is the sort of reaction you see from a person who feels that they are invincible. When they feel like they are so rich and powerful and so totally in control of their own destiny that they are the master of the universe, that no one can touch them, that is what you get.

In light of all we have seen in the past from this company and all that we have learned so far from the whistleblower, I think it is time to adjust Mr.

Zuckerberg's thinking. Accountability—yes, indeed. There is bipartisan agreement that it is time for accountability to come, and I sincerely hope that Mr. Zuckerberg and the rest of his Facebook colleagues are prepared for what is coming.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ABORTION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee had a hearing to discuss two of our Democratic colleagues' biggest headaches: the Supreme Court of the United States and State laws that protect the right to life.

This wasn't the first time we have seen an attack on both waged by Members of the Senate. Last year, the majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, walked across the street to the Supreme Court and threatened two Supreme Court Justices by name based on an abortion case that they were considering.

Sadly, it seems that our Democratic colleagues have simply given up when it comes to protecting innocent life. In 2020, February 2020, the Senate voted on a bill that would outlaw elective abortions after 20 weeks, when science tells us that a fetus can actually feel pain. Had this bill become law, it would have put U.S. domestic policy in line with that of most of the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, we happen to be in a small category, including North Korea and communist China, when it comes to the ability to get an abortion well into the period of gestation, including up to late-term abortions. As it stands today, the United States is currently one of only seven countries to allow elective abortions after 20 weeks. As I said, those seven countries include the Communist Party China and North Korea. But our Democratic colleagues filibustered that bill too.

Then came one more opportunity to protect the most vulnerable among us. The Senate voted on legislation requiring doctors to provide lifesaving care to infants who survive abortions, just like any other newborn child would receive. That sounds like common sense, right? Well, if you ask the American people, they say yes. More than three-quarters of the American people, when it comes to polling, said they support providing medical treatment for babies who survive abortions. But there are no Federal laws requiring healthcare providers to care for these children just as they would any other infant in their care. And, yes, you guessed it—Democrats blocked that bill too.

The attack on innocent life has been years in the making, but we have never seen anything quite like the latest endeavor that has come from the House of Representatives. The so-called Women's Health Protection Act is actually ''NANCY PELOSI's Abortion Protection Act.''

This isn't just about messaging. The Senate version of the bill is cosponsored by all but two of our Democratic colleagues. Clearly, the provisions included in this bill don't represent the beliefs of just some small subset of the Democratic Party. Apparently, it is mainstream within the Democratic Party.

But it is clear that this is a no-holds-barred attack on the right to life. One of the most outrageous and unprecedented aspects of the bill is it limits State laws limiting abortion even after viability. This goes far beyond where the Supreme Court went in Roe v. Wade. It also undermines another landmark abortion case, Planned Parenthood v. Casey. In Casey, the Supreme Court abandoned the trimester framework of Roe, replacing it with a viability standard to determine a State law's constitutionality. Even the author of Roe v. Wade and of Casey agreed that this viability standard was largely arbitrary. But this decision came in 1992, when a baby was considered viable after 23 or 24 weeks. But the marvels of modern medicine continue to challenge this estimate. Last June, a baby was born at 21 weeks and 2 days, and this past summer, he celebrated his first birthday.

The extreme legislation attacking the right to life coming out of the House and now embraced by Senate Democrats would undercut the Supreme Court's ruling in Casey v. Planned Parenthood and would invalidate State laws that limit abortions after 20 weeks, which is now the consensus period of viability.

A number of States have passed laws to restrict access for different gestational periods—for example, in Massachusetts and Nevada, for example, abortions are restricted after 24 weeks. In California, Washington, and Illinois—they are among the many States that restrict abortions after viability. But the Democratic proposal is so extreme, it would invalidate the laws passed in each of these blue States.

If this proposal, the Pelosi abortion bill, became law, it would allow healthcare providers to perform abortions at any point so long as it is done to preserve the mother's health. This actually undermines the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that said it is constitutional to limit so-called partial birth abortions as a barbaric practice that does not have constitutional protection.

But the provision that would allow abortion at any point in the pregnancy so long as it is done to preserve the mother's health—that doesn't mean the pregnancy actually threatens the life of the mother. Let's be clear on that point. If a single healthcare provider determines that the birth of the baby would impact on the mother's mental health, an abortion would be legal at any point in the pregnancy up to birth.

This is way out of step with where most Americans are. A poll this last summer found that 65 percent of Americans believe that abortion should be illegal during the second trimester, the second 3-month period of pregnancy. An abortion opposition, I should say, to a third-trimester abortion is even stronger. These are the so-called late-term abortions where the fetus is fully formed and even viable outside of the mother's womb. Eighty percent of Americans oppose third-trimester abortions but not Pelosi's abortion act, embraced by all but two of the Democrats here in the U.S. Senate.

The American people clearly do not want abortion laws that put us in the same league as China and North Korea—two of the world's most aggressive human rights abusers. Until 2016, China had a strict one-child policy. Families who didn't comply with that policy could be fined, lose their jobs, and the baby would even be the subject of a forced abortion. And it became common in China, as a result of this limitation on pregnancy, for families to prefer a son and undergo gender-selection abortions. If you are pregnant with a female child, well, abortion is fair game because they preferred to use abortion as a means to select the gender of their child.

Democrats' legislation doesn't simply remain silent on gender-selective abortions; it goes so far as to prohibit States from outlawing abortion as a method of gender selection. Not only that, it undermines State efforts to protect unborn babies with disabilities or Down syndrome. Unborn children being killed solely on gender or disabilities is a devastating problem in other countries. We cannot allow such a grotesque practice to become mainstream here in the United States. We are better than that.

The list of atrocities included in this legislation is a long one. It requires healthcare providers who hold deep religious objections to abortion to violate their own deeply held religious beliefs and kill unborn babies. It invalidates informed consent laws, which require healthcare providers to share accurate information with their patient about the baby and whether specifically the child can feel pain. It gives the Attorney General of the United States sweeping authority to block State laws that try to protect innocent human life. So this radical proposal from the House, now embraced by all but two of our Senate Democrats, would overturn existing State laws and allow abortions on a scale our country has never seen before.

I think it is a sad commentary on the conscience of America when all but a handful of our Democratic colleagues are fighting to implement these radical policies. But we cannot and we will not stay silent at a time when our most vulnerable are being attacked in such a manner. We have a moral imperative to defend those who cannot defend themselves, born or unborn, to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Babies with heartbeats, fingerprints, taste buds—they deserve to have protection of the law too. The Declaration

of Independence, after all, says that we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including the right to life. I have always been proud to defend that right, and at no time in my lifetime has it ever needed more defense than right now in the face of these outrageous proposals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier today, as we just heard from my colleague from Texas, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the abortion ban that took effect in the State of Texas earlier this month. I hope every American who tuned in to this hearing listened very closely—very closely—because here is what we heard:

My Republican colleagues on the committee literally made no effort to defend the Texas abortion law, the Texas abortion ban—SB 8, as it is known in Texas—not a single effort to defend it on its merits. They made no effort to engage on the issue of the shadow docket process through which the Supreme Court allowed this bill to become law, and they made no effort to argue that women's constitutional rights should be protected.

What we witnessed during today's hearing was the opening salvo on the fate and future of Roe v. Wade. Here are the facts:

This Texas law is no ordinary piece of legislation. To quote Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, it is ''a flagrantly unconstitutional law engineered to prohibit women from exercising their constitutional rights and evade judicial scrutiny.''

This law has effectively banned abortion after 6 weeks in the Nation's second largest State, even in cases of rape and incest. The fact is, many women do not even know they are pregnant by 6 weeks.

The architects behind SB 8 took an extreme proposal that clearly violated Supreme Court precedent and paired it with a new, disturbing private bounty hunter enforcement scheme, and they did so in the hope that the courts would not block the law because it wasn't clear who should be sued.

At midnight on September 1, the Supreme Court allowed SB 8 to go into effect. As a result, millions of Texas women have had their constitutional rights challenged and suspended.

This attack on women has already caused irreparable harm to countless women who lost their right to reproductive care in Texas.

At today's hearing, we heard from Donna Howard, a State representative from Texas. In her written testimony, she shared the story of a woman who was denied the healthcare she was entitled to under the Federal Constitution. The woman went in to an appointment on August 31 of this year, and at the time, there was no heartbeat detected on the State-mandated sonogram. But when she came back the next day to have the procedure done, a cardiac motion was detected.

Representative Howard said of this woman that at only 5 weeks—5 weeks of pregnancy—she was too late to receive an abortion under the provisions of this new law. She was devastated. She already had a child at home and knew that bringing another child into their lives threatened her family's situation and their financial security.

As Representative Howard went on to note, having an abortion was ''the right decision for this mother's life and her family's well-being.''

But the Texas law went into effect, and the Supreme Court deprived this woman of her constitutional right.

SB 8 marks a turning point in the decades-long campaign to undermine the Supreme Court's holding in Roe v. Wade. For years, legislative efforts to ban previability abortion have been stopped by courts. Until now.

The legal architects behind this Texas law crafted a scheme to avoid judicial review. They lifted the responsibility of enforcement from the State and put it in the hands of private citizens. Listen to this: As a result of this Texas law, they have turned ordinary citizens into bounty hunters.

I want to clarify something. I have read it and asked the Texas State representative to verify. It has been said that you can sue a person who aids and abets an abortion in Texas and recover $10,000 costs and attorney's fees. That is not what the law said. The law says you can recover not less than $10,000 in costs and attorney's fees. The first lawsuits have been filed already against doctors in these clinics, and they are seeking damages in the amount of $100,000 or more.

You don't even have to live in Texas to receive this bounty. Consider Dr. Alan Braid, the first person to be sued under this new Texas law. Earlier this month, Dr. Braid, a practicing OB–GYN in San Antonio, penned an op-ed in the Washington Post explaining why he is continuing to provide abortions despite the law.

As someone who has worked in medicine since 1972, the year before Roe v. Wade, Dr. Braid remembers a time when women could not safely access abortion care. He believes he has a ''duty of care'' to his patients, and he refuses to ''sit back and watch us return to 1972,'' in the doctor's own words. Well, as I mentioned, he is already facing the legal consequences of this new Texas law.

Who is exactly the bounty hunter who filed the first lawsuit against him? You might guess it is a fellow Texan, right? You are wrong. It is a disbarred lawyer who lives in Arkansas, a bounty hunter; $100,000 is what he thinks this law is going to give him.

That lawsuit being filed against Dr. Braid illustrates how irregular this Texas law's bounty hunter enforcement model really is. Anyone from any State can file a lawsuit against any physician. But when we include the categories of people who aid and abet the person receiving the abortion, the categories go wide afield, from the people who gave her advice, the folks who gave the transportation to the clinic, the minister who counseled her—all of these things makes them eligible to be sued for a minimum of $10,000 now in Texas.

There is a reason why the Texas legislators designed the law this way. They sensed an opportunity on the Supreme Court. They knew an emergency legal challenge to this Texas law had a good chance of coming all the way to the Supreme Court. And they knew the Supreme Court has shown a willingness to allow sweeping changes to the law to take place on a short timetable without detailed explanation.

It was interesting to listen to the Republican Senators go into orbit over the fact that we would raise questions about the shadow docket. It is a motions docket where the Justices on the Supreme Court can decide an issue on a very short timeframe without even explaining their position.

That is exactly what happened with SB 8. When the law came before the Supreme Court, a majority of Supreme Court Justices, late at night, allowed it to take effect.

The next day, the Court issued a one-paragraph opinion to explain it. It said they would not stay Texas's abortion ban because of the law's ''complex and novel'' procedural questions. In other words, the Texas legislators got their way. By designing SB 8 with a new bounty hunter enforcement model, Texas lawmakers managed to evade judicial review.

In her dissent, Justice Sotomayor explained how this scheme worked. She said, ''The Court has rewarded the State's effort to delay federal review of a plainly unconstitutional statute, enacted in disregard of the Court's precedents, through procedural entanglements of the State's own creation.''

The Court's ruling on SB 8 is distressing for a number of reasons. For one, it has galvanized lawmakers across the country to undermine constitutional rights in their States. Over the past month, lawmakers and candidates in Arkansas, Florida, South Dakota, and other States have pledged to follow suit and copycat the Texas law. They saw what happened when this bill came before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court basically said it can go forward.

Additionally, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court has now signaled that it is willing to use the shadow docket to allow even laws unconstitutional on their face to take effect, as long as it aligns with certain ideological norms.

Another witness we heard from today was Professor Steve Vladeck, an expert in constitutional law who has written extensively about the Court's shifting use of the shadow docket.

The shadow docket, of course, refers to situations where the Court issues

decisions outside the traditional merits docket. Historically, shadow docket orders are used to help resolve routine or procedural questions frequently without public deliberation, full briefings, or even signed opinions.

But as Professor Vladeck testified, there has been a notable uptick in the Supreme Court issuing shadow docket orders that are ''having a far broader substantive impact, for better or worse, compared to [the] emergency rulings in the past.'' And many of these shadow docket orders appear to be driven by ideology.

Let me tell why I say that. Listen to these numbers. During the 4-year Presidency of Donald Trump, the Supreme Court issued 28 grants of emergency relief on the shadow docket at the request of the Trump administration—28 grants of shadow docket relief out of 36 requests. Each of these orders advanced President Trump's political agenda, including one that allowed the resumption of Federal executions for the first time and in nearly two decades.

Now, let's do a comparison. If there were 36 requests of the Supreme Court for shadow docket opinions and 28 of them were granted in the 4 years of Donald Trump, how about previous Presidents? During the 16 years of the George W. Bush and Obama Presidencies, from 2001 to 2017, the Supreme Court issued four—four—orders in 16 years. In this last 4-year period of time, they granted 28 out of 36 with the Trump Justice Department.

With its handling of Texas's abortion ban, as well as other shadow docket orders, the Supreme Court's conservative majority has indicated a willingness to change substantive law in sweeping ways without due deliberation and public reporting.

In doing so, they are undermining confidence in the Court, and the conservative majority has opened the door for ideologically driven legal schemes to rewrite laws from the shadows, like SB 8. This is a five-alarm fire for due process, as well as our constitutional rights.

And as I expressed during this today's hearing, I hope every Member of the Senate—Democrat or Republican—will join together to protect and preserve independent, transparent, and reasoned judicial decision making based on the rule of law.

At a time when the public's confidence in our governmental institutions has been greatly eroded, we must restore it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2840

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I rise again today to express my objection to President Biden's sweeping vaccine mandate and to offer legislation that would protect Americans from this Federal intrusion.

As I said yesterday, the Federal Government has no business mandating COVID–19 vaccination for all Americans. Unfortunately, at least some of my colleagues disagree. The President of the United States said, while announcing the mandate, ''This isn't about freedom or personal choice.''

''This isn't about freedom or personal choice.'' It stuns me to think that a sweeping Federal mandate could be about anything other than freedom or personal choice. It is like robbing a bank and then saying it is not about the money.

Our Constitution was designed to protect the liberties of the people of the United States. But now, the government is being used by the Executive to force Americans to be vaccinated or to be terminated.

Yesterday, I came to the floor to speak about those Americans with sincerely held beliefs, whether religious or otherwise. My bill yesterday would have simply required that any mandate of this sort contain an exemption for those individuals.

Now, I don't believe that such an exception would be sufficient to resolve the constitutional and the policy problems with such a mandate. But there are millions of Americans who would be able to live according to their beliefs if, in fact, such an exemption were included by law, which it should be.

Lamentably, my colleague the senior Senator from Washington objected. So I pledged to come back again today and tomorrow, for as long as it takes, to win the fight against this egregious mandate.

Today, I am providing another opportunity for this body to protect Americans.

This mandate poses a real threat to the well-being of millions. Those who choose not to be vaccinated are at risk of losing their jobs. My office has been in contact with 144 Utahns who are concerned about this very issue. I shared some of their stories yesterday.

Despite what many on the other side of this debate would have you believe, these are, in fact, everyday Americans: people with preexisting medical conditions, like autoimmune disorders. These are people who are just wanting to provide for their families and not to be able to expect that. These are pregnant mothers who are concerned about the safety of their own health and that of their unborn children.

Some of these people are the heroes of yesterday. They are first responders; they are medical professionals and essential workers who sacrificed to carry our Nation through the hardest days of this pandemic. And they are still heroes today. These Americans are not the enemy.

President Biden and those who support this effort are grasping for solutions they believe can bolster their political position and shift blame on the status of the pandemic. Those paying the price are the people back home, including many of the people I just described.

So today, I offer another proposal. This bill would provide those Americans harmed by this mandate with a means of recourse. Under this bill, those who lose employment or lose their livelihoods due to this mandate may sue the United States for relief. The bill would make these very Americans whole after the President of the United States made working impossible for them.

This bill is only one of many that I have introduced to combat this unconstitutional, unwarranted, indefensible mandate. While I believe this mandate will eventually be invalidated in court—I am quite confident that it will—until that day comes, these bills can provide businesses and the American people with the certainty that they need to make their own decisions. We will be protecting their God-given and constitutionally protected right to make medical decisions for themselves.

So, Madam President, I am here today and I will be back tomorrow and fighting against this mandate for as long as it takes.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2840, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, more than 680,000 Americans have died from COVID. The majority of these deaths occurred before we had viable, effective, and safe vaccines. Doctors were begging for these vaccines to save lives, and now we have three safe, effective, widely available vaccines in America. All three have been proven successful and safe.

However, one in four adults in America still refuses to get the vaccine. According to the CDC, these unvaccinated individuals—listen to this—are 10 times more likely to be hospitalized from COVID, 10 times more likely to die from COVID than those who got the shot. And as long as large numbers of Americans remain unvaccinated, this virus is going to continue to spread and raise the risk of mutation and more deadly variants.

We have tried approaches to incentivize people. What more can we do? We created a lottery in Illinois and said: If you are vaccinated, you are automatically buying a lottery ticket; you don't even have to pay for it.

The head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons union for employees, with only 50 percent of those working in Federal prisons vaccinated, said they were going to set up a popcorn machine at the prisons in the break room in the

hopes of getting people to be vaccinated—trying everything to get people to try the vaccine.

We have tried every approach to incentivize them, but the vaccine numbers are not where they need to be. So, facing this reality, the President accepted responsibility to try harder. He has directed Federal Agencies and OSHA to mandate vaccination for Federal employees and certain private workers. These directives were issued under the OSHA Act and other established legal authorities; and, listen, they have been welcomed by the Business Roundtable and other employers who were waiting for a signal from the White House that we were serious, and they are supported by a majority of the American people.

I recognize that some of my colleagues disagree with that action, and that has prompted this bill from my friend and fellow Senator from Utah. His bill, the Don't Jab Me Act, would create a private right of action for any ''aggrieved individual'' to sue the Federal Government ''for injuries sustained as a result of a COVID–19 vaccination mandate.''

I know that the Senator is careful in his words. I would ask him to look carefully at that word ''injuries.'' It is misleading.

COVID–19 vaccines are safe and effective. They were evaluated in tens of thousands of clinical trials. They meet the FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and quality. They have undergone and will continue to undergo the most extensive, intensive safety monitoring in history.

In an extremely rare case that an individual suffers an injury, a harm, from a COVID–19 vaccine, there is a system in place to provide compensation. Under the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program, a person can already seek to recover damages for physical injuries suffered because of COVID–19 vaccines.

The Senator from Utah's bill appears to go beyond compensating individuals for physical injuries caused by the vaccine. It lets people sue the government for ''injuries sustained as the result of a COVID–19 vaccine mandate.''

Now, what kind of injuries might there be?

Well, we surely don't know. The bill does not define the type of injuries that a person could sue for. The entire bill is two and a half pages of very vague language.

What we do know is that the bill, if enacted, would authorize a flood of lawsuits by individuals claiming that a vaccine mandate injured them in some physical, maybe nonphysical way. We don't know.

It is ironic. For more than a year, my Republican colleagues claimed the pandemic would create a tsunami of COVID lawsuits. Remember all of the times Senator MCCONNELL went to the floor and said: Hang on tight. The trial lawyers are just going to be hell-bent now, filing lawsuits all across America. There will be a tsunami of lawsuits.

Well, it never happened. Despite that fact, the Senator from Utah is apparently urging a new set of lawsuits to be filed.

I am a former trial lawyer. I made a living at it. When people have been harmed, I support their day in court, but liabilities laws need to be carefully calibrated to promote the right behavior and incentives. This short, vague bill does not even try to strike a balance between health and safety. It is a shot across the bow to entities that are using vaccine mandates.

Remember, courts have long rejected challenges to vaccine requirements imposed by public entities. And the Senator might take a look at his home State. In Senator LEE's home State of Utah, there are public actors, like Salt Lake Community College, the University of Utah, and Utah State University, that are using COVID vaccine mandates to promote health and safety.

And I want to show the Senate this chart because it tells an amazing story.

Remember the report about all the attorneys general who were going to file lawsuits, in keeping with the Senator's message, against Joe Biden for these mandates for these employees?

Well, we took a look at their State.

Twenty-four States threatened lawsuits against Joe Biden for the very reason stated by the Senator from Utah.

How are they doing compared to all the other States, the 26 States that didn't file a lawsuit?

Well, it turns out the infection rate for COVID–19 over the past 3 months is more than twice in those States as it is in the States not filing these lawsuits. Since mid-June, the death rate is almost three times the rate of those States that didn't file the lawsuit, and the vaccination rates are significantly lower.

So for those who have an idea about guiding the State to the right outcome, shouldn't public health and safety be important?

I am sure we all understand the issue of liberty and how important it is to America, but there was a word before liberty that the Founding Fathers used: life. Life.

These vaccine mandates are about saving lives in America, and it is for that reason that I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I appreciate the insight provided by my friend and distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois and the assistant majority leader.

I respectfully submit that this is about allowing people to obtain redress for, among other things, the awful Hobson's choice people are facing and are increasingly going to be facing as this mandate kicks in. It hasn't been issued yet. We still don't know what is in it. We still don't know his precise basis for the authority. We assume that he would have told us his precise basis for the authority if, in fact, it existed.

I have scoured the U.S. Code looking for authority for the President of the United States to implement this unilaterally, and I have found none. So it is very significant, therefore, that when you are going to put this kind of a Hobson's choice in front of the people, you ought to be able to at least have the decency to tell them what your source of authority is. He still hasn't done it.

If we assume that he is going to come up with one and that he is going to issue a mandate, that mandate is going to put a whole lot of people in a terrible position, forcing them to choose between getting a vaccine that, for whatever reason, they don't want and termination—between submission and poverty. That is unfair.

Now, look, I get the fact that a lot of us were and are enthusiastic and grateful for the vaccine. I have received the vaccine, as has every member of my family. I think the vaccine is a good thing. I also understand that there are people who feel differently. In some cases, there are people who have been advised by board-certified medical doctors not to get the vaccine based on the existence of one or more autoimmune diseases, past personal or family history, and their idiosyncratic reactions to other vaccines or to this vaccine. There are other people who might have religious or other sincerely held personal beliefs that might make this choice a really unfair one for the Federal Government to force upon them.

So, yeah, I am glad we have got the vaccine. I think the vaccine is good. I think the vaccine is helping a lot of people. But to tell every American that he or she must get this under penalty of losing a job, and then for the President, after acknowledging that he doesn't have authority, to mandate this for every American turns America's employers—all those with more than 99 employees—into the COVID–19 vaccine police for the entire country.

It is unjustifiable, even at a policy level, before we get to the obvious constitutional defects and the lack of any semblance of any statutory authority. So I am disappointed that we can't pass this one today. I will be back again tomorrow. I will continue to come back for weeks to come because the American people deserve better than this. They deserve not to have people in Washington, DC, purporting to make very personal healthcare decisions for them and conditioning their own private-sector employment on compliance with the dictate of one man in Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator PETERS and I be allowed to continue to complete our remarks before the roll-call vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT T. ANDERSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the Senate is about to vote on the

nomination of Robert Anderson to serve as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and I am here to tell you, Madam President, that I oppose this nomination.

Now, if confirmed, Mr. Anderson will serve as the Department's chief attorney and also as the principal legal adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Haaland. He would oversee more than 430 attorneys and a staff within 6 legal divisions. He would be responsible for ensuring that business conducted in the Interior Department follows the law and is done transparently. He would be granted tremendous powers to shape how the Department fulfills its mission by issuing final legal interpretations on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Department.

These decisions directly impact homes and businesses in Wyoming and throughout the Nation. These decisions can make or break our Nation's ability to protect our environment, to use and enjoy our natural resources, to create good-paying jobs, and to pay for services such as public education.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Anderson has both taught and practiced law, primarily focused on Tribal issues. Now, I am concerned that Mr. Anderson lacks sufficient legal experience beyond the Tribal law to effectively navigate the complex web of issues governing the multiple use of public lands and Federal lands.

I am very concerned about Mr. Anderson's actions, specifically actions he has taken as the Principal Deputy Solicitor since January 20 of this year. He has revoked many solicitors' opinions issued under the Trump administration. His work has paved the way for the Biden administration's punishing policies that are in direct conflict with the Department of the Interior's multiple-use mandate.

Mr. Anderson's responses to questioning by Senator CASSIDY during his nomination hearing were particularly concerning to me. Senator CASSIDY asked whether the nominee agreed that the requirement to ''maintain''—maintain—oil and gas leasing programs meant to lease some more—not just maintain the leases that were already leased, but continue leasing. Mr. Anderson responded that he thought it was an open question.

Madam President, to suggest that the Secretary is no longer required to plan for and hold new offshore oil and gas leases simply and unfortunately but truly ignores the law of the land. Let me be clear. The Secretary of the Interior is required to comply with the law like everyone else. Mr. Anderson's willingness to put the Biden administration's war on American energy ahead of following established law, in my opinion, disqualifies him from serving as Solicitor.

I will vote against Mr. Anderson's nomination, and I will urge other Senators to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATON OF JONATHAN EUGENE MEYER

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of Jonathan Meyer's nomination to be general counsel of the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS.

Mr. Meyer is an accomplished lawyer and dedicated public servant who is well qualified to serve as the Department's chief legal officer. His nomination maintains bipartisan support, including from former DHS general counsels who served under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Mr. Meyer's previous government service spans 17 years and includes senior roles in the Department of Justice, the U.S. Senate, and as the deputy general counsel for DHS during the Obama administration.

Since returning to private practice in 2016, Mr. Meyer's legal work has continued to focus on cyber security, technology, and homeland security. Throughout the confirmation process, Mr. Meyer has demonstrated that he understands the complex legal issues facing DHS and the importance of ensuring that the Department cooperates with Congressional oversight.

DHS has not had a Senate-confirmed general counsel for over 2 years. DHS needs qualified, Senate-confirmed leaders in place to effectively carry out its critical mission of safeguarding our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Mr. Meyer today.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 264, Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 391 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	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	
Graham	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Crapo	Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 159, Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 392 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Portman	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Graham	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Crapo	Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time on executive Calendar Nos. 264 and 159 be considered expired at 4:45 p.m. today; that the vote on confirmation of the Anderson nomination occur at 4:45 p.m. today; and that the vote on confirmation of the Meyer nomination occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader on Thursday, September 30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, in a few minutes, I will put forward the unanimous consent request that the Senate take up and approve a highly qualified and unquestionably noncontroversial nominee. I am going to take just a few minutes to talk about Jonathan Davidson, nominated to be the next Deputy Under Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the Treasury Department.

To do this briefly, there are a few key points to make about this important nomination. To start, Jon isn't just a person off the street being nominated for a new job in the Biden administration. In fact, my guess is, virtually every Member of this body, Democrats and Republicans alike, have worked with Jon at one point or another.

From 2011 until he was nominated this past spring, Jon served as chief of staff to another Finance Committee colleague, Senator BENNET. He is known as somebody who is honest, who is hardworking, and who is committed, most importantly, to bringing people together to tackle big challenges, and he has been doing it a long time.

Before his work with Senator BENNET, Jon served as chief of staff to Senator Paul Sarbanes. He spent time in the office of Representative JOHN SARBANES, and he was later chief counsel to our friend and colleague, Senator MARK WARNER. You don't have to take it from me that Jon knows his way around the Congress. All of those Members trusted Jon as a right-hand man.

The second issue: I can't find any controversy with respect to his nomination. He cleared the Senate's Finance Committee on a 28-to-0 vote.

Let me repeat that: 28-to-0 vote.

In fact, the Finance Committee reported out several nominees this Congress without any Republican opposition, none at all. Normally, that would be enough to pave the way for prompt and full Senate consideration, but I think we all understand these are not normal times here in the U.S. Senate.

It used to be the case, at the end of July, the two sides would come together and look to pass a package of noncontroversial nominees by unanimous consent. My Finance Committee team thought this would be the case this year. Unfortunately, that did not take place. Senate Republicans were just in no mood to clear even the most uncontroversial nominees.

This is an extraordinary level of obstruction beyond what you saw when the previous administration was staffing up. For example, let's take the previous two nominees for the same position Jon is up for.

Drew Maloney was the first Trump nominee for Legislative Affairs at Treasury. The Finance Committee held a hearing on this nomination on June 7, 2017. The committee voted on his nomination a week later, favorably reported by a vote of 25 to 1. A few weeks after that, the full Senate passed his nomination by unanimous consent, along with several other nominations for roles in the Trump Treasury Department. That is how the process generally unfolds.

Two years later, Brian McGuire was nominated to replace Mr. Maloney. His hearing was held July 24, 2019. The Finance Committee approved his nomination a week later. He was confirmed to serve in the Trump administration on September 24.

In both cases, these two nominees, colleagues, were confirmed 2 months after their hearings.

Jon Davidson has been waiting 4 months since his hearing on May 25—nearly twice as long as Trump nominees waited for the same job.

I think we all understand that it is essential to have qualified individuals heading up offices of Legislative Affairs. They help to make sure administrations follow the laws, just as the Senate passes as intended. They help Members write legislation. They make sure that all Members get responses to their questions with respect to oversight.

Setting everything else aside, you would think Senate Republicans would be especially interested now in making sure the Senate can perform that essential oversight. I myself am looking for some straight answers to a number of oversight requests I had posed to the Treasury Department, and having Jon installed in his new role as Treasury would sure help to move that process along. Federal Agencies and the Congress need these legislative point guards in order for Agencies to run as smoothly as possible.

This isn't a policy position, nor is Jon Davidson a nominee who raises any major concern from anybody. I have yet to hear even anything resembling a substantive reason from Senate Republicans for opposing a nominee like Jon Davidson, who got a 28-to-nothing vote out of committee to lead this office. There is no reason for delaying any longer.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the following nomination: Calendar No. 168, Jonathan Davidson, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Is there objection?

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Reserving the right to object. Mr. President, this continues a discussion we have been having for days and indeed weeks and indeed months. Joe Biden is being flagrantly

lawless, in that he is refusing to impose mandatory congressional sanctions passed by Congress in the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, also known as CAATSA.

CAATSA was designed for precisely the purpose of taking away the President's discretion to impose sanctions on Russia in cases where Congress deemed it necessary to mandate them.

CAATSA passed Congress overwhelmingly. The vote was 98 to 2. Indeed, in September 2020, my colleague Senator WYDEN wrote a letter that was joined by 10 other Democrats about Russian malign activities.

Senator WYDEN's letter stated: ''Congress has mandated a broad range of sanctions tools, and it is long past time for the administration to send a direct message to President Putin.''

The letter continues, specifically citing the ''sanctions mandated provided for in'' CAATSA.

President Biden is legally obligated to Nord Stream 2 AG, the company responsible for the planning, the construction, and the eventual operation of Putin's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline.

Nord Stream 2 AG has committed acts that require the imposition of these mandated sanctions under CAATSA Section 228. Section 228 mandates sanctions on any company that conducts any ''significant transactions,'' including ''deceptive transactions,'' for Russian companies that are already sanctioned.

In May, the Biden State Department sent Congress a certification confirming that Nord Stream 2 AG had engaged in those actions. It is clear that Nord Stream 2 AG falls under the mandatory sanctions of CAATSA. Nobody, not even the Biden administration, denies that the Biden State Department sent that certification confirming those actions. Nevertheless, President Biden and, in particular, the Department of Treasury is refusing to implement the law.

I have spoken directly with Secretary Yellen. I have spoken directly with the Deputy Secretary of Treasury. The law is clear and unequivocal. And because of the political agenda of the Biden White House, because of President Biden's desire to surrender to Vladimir Putin and to give him a multibillion-dollar pipeline, weakening America, weakening Europe, and giving vast resources to Putin to hold Europe subject to energy blackmail, Treasury is refusing to follow the law.

Nevertheless, I have been willing to offer a compromise. I have placed holds on nominees to the State Department and some of the nominees to the Treasury Department. And I have offered a compromise to lift the holds on this nominee and other nominees to the Treasury Department, and also to lift the holds on career nominees to State if either the Biden administration follows the law in CAATSA and impose sanctions. That is option A. That would be the best option.

Or option B, if they decide because, for whatever political reason, they believe surrendering to Putin is a good idea notwithstanding America's national security interest, there is a second option that I have offered to lift those holds, which is they could impose the sanctions under CAATSA and then immediately delist Nord Stream 2 AG. That would prevent the sanctions from going into effect, but it would also trigger an automatic vote here in this Congress to override that decision.

I have made that offer, along with Senator TOOMEY, in writing months ago. It is a reasonable compromise, and yet the Biden administration won't take it. They won't take it because they are terrified, if and when Congress votes on that override, that an overwhelming bipartisan majority of Congress in the Senate and the House will vote to override Joe Biden's indefensible decision to surrender to Vladimir Putin.

Nonetheless, in the spirit of reasonableness, I am happy to offer the Senator from Oregon the same deal or a similar deal, at least, right here and right now.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2894

Mr. President, there is a bill that I filed that imposes CAATSA 228 sanctions on Nord Stream 2 AG. Every Democrat in this Chamber has supported sanctions on Nord Stream 2.

In a moment, I am going to ask for unanimous consent to pass the legislation simply mandating that the Biden administration, that the Treasury Department—and this is a Treasury nominee that we are discussing—follow the law.

If the Senator from Oregon will agree to my unanimous consent request and that bill passes the Senate, I will not object to this nominee if the Senator from Oregon is willing to accept that, because that will move the process along. The objective is to stop this pipeline that strengthens Putin, weakens Europe, and weakens America.

And, indeed, if we pass the legislation mandating the CAATSA sanctions, I won't object to this nominee. When that legislation passes the House, I will lift my hold on another Treasury nominee. And when the President does the right thing and signs it into law, I will lift my holds on all the Treasury nominees.

So it is a reasonable, incremental step forward that gives the Senator from Oregon the chance to demonstrate that when Democrats give speeches about how Nord Stream 2 is bad for America, bad for Europe, bad for the environment but good for Russia and Putin, we can now discover whether or not Democrats actually believe what they have said in speeches so many times.

Therefore, I ask that the Senator modify his request so that in addition to confirming the nomination and, as if in legislative session, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2894, which is at the desk; 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. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, let's understand exactly what is at issue here. Jonathan Davidson has been nominated to be the Deputy Under Secretary for Legislative Affairs. In that particular role, he would not be directly involved in decisions over sanctions, No. 1.

No. 2, when it comes to Nord Stream 2, the Biden administration, to their credit, has recognized the threat from Russia, but also that the pipeline is nearly complete and the Trump administration failed to stop the construction.

Everything my colleague from Texas is raising in his concerns about Nord Stream 2 is already happening with another pipeline—Turk Stream 2—and my colleague is aware of this. He has been briefed repeatedly.

Now, for those who don't have access to the same kind of information that my colleague has, gas is already being diverted from Ukraine into Europe through Turk Stream 2 because the past administration did nothing about that pipeline either.

The Biden administration has actually put a plan forward to mitigate the effects of Nord Stream 2 and has received concrete agreements from the Germans to move Ukraine toward energy independence and address Russian threats.

I am just going to close with just another dose of good government. The 9/11 Commission specifically warned about the need to have senior, confirmed individuals in place to avoid a threat to the homeland. And, by the way, we did that during the Trump administration. We have far less people confirmed today than we did in 2001, before 9/11.

In my view, this has got to end. For these reasons, I object to the UC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection to the modification is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I recognize that my friend from Oregon has been busy with affairs on the Finance Committee and so has not been involved in the now 2 years of debate over Nord Stream 2 on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But, unfortunately, that has resulted in the Senator from Oregon being given talking points—perhaps from the administration, perhaps from colleagues—that are simply factually incorrect. I am sure that is inadvertent.

The Senator from Oregon just said that there is no way to stop this pipeline, and that the Trump administration failed to impose sanctions to stop

the pipeline. Both of those statements are factually wrong.

I was the author of two separate pieces of legislation that passed into law concerning Nord Stream 2. Both were bipartisan legislation. Both, I authored with Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Democrat, in the Senate. Both passed with overwhelming bipartisan support from both Houses of Congress.

The first bill passed in December of 2019. Nord Stream 2 at the time was more than 90 percent complete, and the argument then that was being pushed by Russian disinformation and that, sadly, has been echoed by the Biden administration and was just echoed by the Senator from Oregon—the argument from Russian disinformation was, the pipeline can't be stopped; it is too late.

We know that was Russian disinformation because it was conclusively disproved. Putin stopped building the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline the very day that the Cruz-Shaheen bipartisan sanctions were signed into law—not the next day, not the next week. That day, we stopped the pipeline in its tracks.

But, Mr. President, it was not only stopped for 1 day; it was stopped for more than a year. For December of 2019, for January, February, March—every month in 2020, the pipeline lay dormant. It was a piece of metal at the bottom of the ocean. So the claim that we cannot stop this pipeline is flat-out false because we did.

By the way, when the Senator from Oregon said the Trump administration couldn't stop this pipeline, that, again, is just incorrect. When the President signed the legislation, the pipeline was stopped that day. It remained stopped for over a year.

When did Putin return to building this pipeline? The date is important. Putin returned to building the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline on January 24, 2021, 4 days after Joe Biden was sworn into office. And he did so because Joe Biden and his team had already conveyed weakness that they would not enforce U.S. sanctions law and that they would roll over and give Putin and Russia a generational geopolitical gift. The only reason Putin began building again is because the Biden White House defied U.S. law to surrender to Putin.

Now, Joe Biden is entitled to believe that is a good policy idea. What he is not entitled to do is ignore U.S. law. And the Senator from Oregon suggests this nominee has nothing to do with that. Well, it is the Department of the Treasury that is ignoring the CAATSA law, that is refusing to follow the policy.

Sadly, this moment marks a new threshold in that debate. Up until this point, it has only been the Biden White House that has been surrendering to Russia. Sadly, now we have a Democratic Member of the Senate objecting to legislation to stop the Biden White House from surrendering to Russia. That is a move in the wrong direction.

That being said, my offer of reasonable compromise remains if we can come together as we have repeatedly, Republicans and Democrats, to force the President to obey the law and to stop surrendering to Russia in a way that hurts America, hurts Europe.

By the way, the European Parliament—my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle like to consider themselves lovers of our friends in Europe. The European Parliament voted on Nord Stream 2. The vote was roughly 500 to 50 against Nord Stream 2 because it makes our European allies subject to energy blackmail by Putin and his successor dictators.

This is bad for America, bad for Europe, bad for peace, bad for the environment, but good for Vladimir Putin and for Russia. Joe Biden is mistaken to be committing this surrender, and my friend from Oregon errs in joining Joe Biden in that surrender to Russia.

I hope the Senator from Oregon reconsiders. I hope Congress comes together again. But as long as that does not happen, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection was heard.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am going to be very brief and then make a unanimous consent request.

Again, we have a difference of opinion with respect to the facts. That is what the Senate is all about—real debate. In a moment, I am going to ask unanimous consent to put into the RECORD at this point an article from just a few days ago from the Wall Street Journal that makes the truth about Nord Stream 2 AG very clear.

In effect, in the Wall Street Journal article that we are going to put into the RECORD, the pipeline owner said last week that construction on the pipeline has been completed.

There is no reason to object to this very talented individual, John Davidson, to head this important post after he got a 28-to-0 vote in the Senate Finance Committee.

I think this article in the Wall Street Journal that I have just asked to be printed in the RECORD at this point in the debate, so we can make sure the facts are correct, supports our basic proposition on this side of the aisle.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 13]

SENATE REPUBLICANS VOW TO BLOCK TREASURY NOMINATIONS UNTIL NORD STREAM II FIRM IS SANCTIONED

(By Ian Talley and Brett Forrest)

WASHINGTON.—Senior Senate Republicans on Monday threatened to indefinitely hold up the nominations of five top Treasury Department officials if the Biden administration doesn't blacklist the firm managing Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline project.

Sen. Pat Toomey (R., Pa.) and Ted Cruz (R., Texas) said they are prepared to approve the nominations, including two national security posts that oversee sanctions and counterterror finance, if the Treasury Department blacklists Russia-owned Nord Stream 2 AG.

The Biden administration has implemented sanctions against several firms that have provided support to the project but not against Nord Stream 2 AG, saying that it would irritate relations with critical ally Germany and do little to stop the project, given that it was near completion. Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled gas-export monopoly and the pipeline owner, said last week that construction on the pipeline had been completed. But there are still bureaucratic hurdles that have to be overcome to get it running.

Nord Stream 2 is designed to accommodate the transmission of 55 billion cubic meters of gas annually, the company said.

Republicans say they are concerned the pipeline project bolsters Europe's reliance on Russian energy and gives Moscow leverage over Washington's trans-Atlantic allies. By holding up the five top Treasury nominations, they hope to pressure the administration into sanctioning the managing firm and stymie the pipeline's startup.

''The administration's so-called 'deal' with Germany hands Vladimir Putin a geostrategic victory, entrenches corrupt Russian influence in Europe, and drastically weakens the security of Ukraine, Poland, and other states on the frontline of Kremlin aggression,'' Mr. Toomey, the ranking member of the Banking Committee, and Mr. Cruz said in a letter to the chairmen of the Senate Banking and Foreign Relations Committees.

A Treasury spokeswoman said that while the department has experienced career staff who are experts in their fields, ''The Senate should move quickly to confirm these nominees who are integral to disrupting illicit finance, combating terrorism, and administering sanctions.''

Nord Stream 2 AG officials didn't respond to a request for comment.

The Banking Committee is scheduled to vote Wednesday on the nominations of Brian Nelson as the Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence and Elizabeth Rosenberg for the role of assistant secretary for terrorism financing.

Without Republican support in the committee, Democratic lawmakers face long odds getting the nominations approved.

That could leave empty the post responsible for overseeing U.S. sanctions policy, extending a vacancy that has already lasted nearly two years. The nominations of Jonathan Davidson as deputy undersecretary, Lily Lawrence Batchelder as assistant secretary for tax policy and Benjamin Harris as assistant secretary for economic policy all have been committee-approved, but full Senate ratification has been held up by Mr. Cruz.

The Texas Republican said he's prepared to lift his holds—as well as those he has on nearly two dozen State Department appointments—if the administration commits to sanctioning the Russian project management firm.

Sen. Robert Menendez (D., N.J.), the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The chairman of the Banking Committee, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio), directed questions to the State Department and White House. ''Decisions on sanctions regarding the NS II pipeline are made by the administration,'' a spokeswoman for Mr. Brown said.

The Republican senators say a federal law called the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, signed into law in 2017, mandates blacklisting companies or individuals involved in evasion of the act's sanctions. They say the provisions allow for the administration to delist the company, but that opens the door for Congress to vote on the issue.

Republican aides said the law mandating sanctions had bipartisan support, fueled by concern the Trump administration would treat Moscow too favorably. Given that some Democratic lawmakers opposed the Biden administration's Nord Stream 2 decision, those aides said Congress could vote to keep the firm on Treasury's blacklists.

The risk of sanctions, the aides said, could dissuade companies from providing certification.

In November, Norwegian certification company DNV suspended its work on Nord Stream 2 after assessing that its activities could expose the company to sanctions under Protecting Europe's Energy Security Act, a 2019 U.S. law specific to the pipeline, a company spokesman said.

Last week, Germany's energy regulator Bundesnetzagentur received Nord Stream 2 AG's application for an operating license. The company has four months to engage an independent certification company to complete an assessment of the pipeline's operational integrity.

Once a certification is complete, the German regulator would send its decision to the European Commission, but this isn't the final hurdle to gas flows. Initial deliveries could face additional, unrelated delays. Last month, a German court rejected Nord Stream 2 AG's bid to bypass a European Union pro-competition regulation mandating that a gas producer and the company that transports the gas be separate entities.

One of the congressional aides said the Biden administration, besides worrying about creating diplomatic friction with allies, may also be concerned about setting precedent regarding sanctions, because Treasury officials also could have to sanction other companies.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I don't have objection to the article being included in the RECORD, but I would note that, once again, the Senator from Oregon is limited by the fact that he has not participated in the debate on this in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the last 2 years, because what he stated in his first remarks was that there was no way to stop the pipeline initially and the Trump administration failed to do so. That was factually incorrect.

We stopped the pipeline the day President Trump signed the bipartisan Cruz-Shaheen sanctions into law. That was December of 2019, and the pipeline was stopped for over a year. As I mentioned, on January 24 of 2020, 4 days after Joe Biden was sworn into office, Putin began—returned to building the pipeline because Biden had already telegraphed his surrender to Russia.

Now, what my friend from Oregon just said is—he repeated news coverage that the pipeline is now, today, complete. That is, in fact, correct, that because Biden surrendered on this point, Putin went all in and finished the pipeline. But this is where being part of the Foreign Relations Committee discussion matters, because even though the pipeline is now physically complete, it does not mean it is operative. After the pipeline is physically complete, there are months of certifications required and multiple authorities.

The legislation that Congress passed as a bipartisan matter also imposes sanctions on any entity, any company that certifies the pipeline. Indeed, the position of the Biden State Department has been that even when the pipeline is complete, we can stop it from ever going online by stopping certification.

So the legislation that I just asked for consent would do exactly that—it would stop certification, and it would leave it as a hunk of metal rather than an operating pipeline enriching Putin at the expense of Europe and America. So we still have time to stop this.

One final observation. This morning, I spent a couple of hours in a classified briefing on this topic, on Nord Stream 2. A question that I posed to the Biden State Department—I said: What exactly did Joe Biden, did the administration get in exchange for surrendering to Russia in a way that will impact this country and Europe for decades to come?

The answer, I will say, was altogether unsatisfactory. The only thing the Biden White House got was good will from Angela Merkel, whose party was just defeated resoundingly this past weekend in the election. So Angela Merkel is on her way out. We got good will from someone who will very soon no longer be the leader of Germany.

Instead, the German people voted in—elevated the Greens, who were vocally opposed to the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. So the new government in Germany is not going to appreciate Biden surrendering to Putin in a way that hurts the environment and hurts Germany. But we have alienated the Ukrainians; we have alienated the Poles; we have alienated Eastern Europe. The European Union voted 500 to 50, roughly, against Nord Stream 2. We got nothing, and we hurt U.S. jobs.

This is foolhardy, and I am hopeful that the Senate will exercise our historical role over foreign policy and prevent a President and an administration from making this mistake.

I would note, Secretary of State Blinken and the State Department argued vociferously in the interagency process to sanction Nord Stream 2 AG, and it was the political operatives at the Biden White House who overrode the State Department. They should not have done so, and today the Department of the Treasury should follow the law and impose sanctions under CAATSA or delist them and trigger a vote in this Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

(The remarks of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. LEE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2895 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2895

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2895, introduced earlier today. 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. Is there objection?

Ms. CANTWELL. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, Senator SCOTT's bill would prohibit the Department of Transportation, Amtrak, Transportation Security Administration, or other Agencies from requiring passengers in interstate transportation to show proof of COVID–19 in order to travel.

I appreciate my colleagues—all of whom I serve with on the Commerce Committee. I know that they know well—we have had a lot of discussions about the impacts of COVID–19 on our transportation sector. They know very well that we had to spend a lot of resources keeping our transportation sector moving.

Why?

Because we have to move goods and services and products. During COVID–19, we had to move essential workers, and we had to move product.

There is no doubt our transportation system needs to have keen oversight as it relates to moving in even a pandemic. That is what we did. I am proud of the work that we did. But it is not lost on anybody that COVID–19, the deadliest pandemic in U.S. history—as of September 28, there have already been 700,000 COVID–19-related deaths in the United States and over 43 million infections. In my State, 7,586 deaths and 652,000 cases.

So the point is here, we have been fighting this pandemic with all of these tools and no one has ever suggested the one—that Senator SCOTT nor my colleagues from the Commerce Committee are saying what the President might do. That is not what he has suggested.

In fact, I was very involved in an area of transportation where we wanted to get cruise ships back in service to Alaska at a critical moment—both for Alaska and a critical moment during the pandemic. Not everybody was ready to have that happen; not everybody was ready to move. And yet it meant so much to Alaska that we all worked together. And in some instances, those cruise ships said: We are going to require the vaccine.

So the point is here, we are not trying to mandate this. Now, if the President and the industry feel that it is important to have a workforce so that that workforce continues to serve us and conserve the growing response to the pandemic—which I mean responding to the aftermath of the pandemic—that is why we spent money. That is why we are trying to take off. That is why we are trying to return a workforce. That is why we are returning

kids to school. That is why we are trying to get our hospitals staffed. That is why we are doing things.

That is the only thing the President said, is that those people should get a vaccine. He has not said, if you want to get on an airplane, you have to get vaccinated—maybe if you are flying overseas and have to work with another country.

My colleague from Florida knows all too well because he and I are working together to try to get temperature checks in a very broad way established at airports through the U.S. We have agreed that is a smart thing to do. It has been done on an international basis for a long time and it prevents people from getting on a plane who are sick. The President has not said this.

To now put a bill through that might have prohibited the cruise ship industry reestablishing service up to Alaska because now, all of a sudden, you are going to have all of these things is not the way I want to go.

I like what we have been able to achieve. It has taken hard work and working together. It does not take us passing this bill by Senator SCOTT.

I object, and I hope my colleagues understand that we are willing to work on anything related to the transportation sector so it can keep our U.S. economy moving.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. First off, I am disappointed my colleague objected. I think No. 1 is this is unconstitutional. First off, President Biden promised he wouldn't be doing this. This is unconstitutional.

Here is what it is going to do. If you talk to businesses around this country, they are already struggling to get people back to work because of excess funding that has been provided. And now we are going to tell a bunch of people that you can't come back to work because you haven't been vaccinated. We are going to tell people, you can't get on an airplane because you haven't been vaccinated.

This is wrong. This is not what the Federal Government ought to be doing. They ought to do what I did when I was Governor. You give people the information and feel comfortable that the American public will make a good decision.

I think this is a mistake. I hope my colleague will change her mind. And I hope this President will not continue down the path of requiring Americans to get vaccinations, because I don't think it is fair to Americans and I think it is unconstitutional.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN MEUSCHKE

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize a friend of mine, Susan Meuschke, who is the Executive Director of the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. She is retiring after three decades working on behalf of women and children in my home State of Nevada.

Sue has been a champion for victims of domestic violence and their families since she worked as a volunteer for the Committee to Aid Abused Women in Reno, NV. It was there—listening to the stories of women dealing with family violence—that she began to understand both their struggles and their courage.

Sue went on to work with the coalition for 32 years, helping develop it into a powerful organization statewide for those affected by domestic and sexual violence.

I have had the pleasure of working with Sue since I was Nevada's attorney general, and together we passed legislation to create dedicated funding for domestic violence programs. She has continued to be a resource for me during my time in the U.S. Senate, as I have worked to prevent sex trafficking, to stem the tide of violence against Native women, and push for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

During the height of the COVID–19 pandemic, I pushed to make sure that our next COVID package included more support for survivors of domestic violence. Sue worked to distribute those Federal funds fairly and effectively to Nevadans, and she worked especially hard to promote a microloan program that families could use to regain financial independence.

As Sue enters her retirement, I want to make sure everyone in Nevada appreciates her decades of advocacy. She has made a profound difference for families in the Silver State. I have no doubt that whoever succeeds Sue at the coalition will continue to work tirelessly to end domestic and sexual violence, because, honestly, we still have so much work to do.

That is why I am here on the Senate floor today. The reality is that women's rights are under attack around the country, and that includes reproductive rights. Anti-abortion extremists are going to great lengths to stop women from seeking reproductive care. As of June, they had proposed 500 new laws restricting reproductive rights and passed 70 of these laws.

Let's start with Texas, where a new law prohibits abortions before many people even know they are pregnant. The law lets anyone sue those who aid and abet abortions and get a $10,000 reward. It has the potential to create a whole industry of vigilantes prying into their neighbors' lives, all to stop women from being able to access reproductive healthcare.

The American people—70 percent of us—oppose deputizing private citizens to collect these kinds of bounties.

But even though the Texas law is extreme, the Supreme Court has refused to stop it from going into effect. That means that, right now, 7 million women of reproductive age in Texas have been deprived of a key constitutional right, a right that they have had for 50 years.

Clinics in Oklahoma City, OK, and Little Rock, AR, have seen the number of Texas women seeking abortions jump tenfold in a matter of days.

But it is not just Texas where the right to medical care is threatened. Dangerous abortion bans have been signed into law in Mississippi, Arizona, and Georgia, among others. And all of this is happening because anti-abortion extremists have been working for decades to limit women's choices.

Let's be very clear: they are on the brink of success. On December 1, the Supreme Court is set to hear oral arguments in a case called Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health, which deals with an abortion ban in Mississippi. This case was specifically chosen by anti-choice activists to help strike down Roe v. Wade.

Sadly, the Court has given every signal it is willing to do the activists' bidding by overturning Roe v. Wade and allowing these bans to take effect. That is why I and 47 of my Senate colleagues filed a friend of the court brief last week, calling on the Supreme Court to stick to the settled precedent of Roe and strike down the Mississippi law.

But if the Supreme Court doesn't abide by 50 years of its own rulings, well, there are 19 States where abortion would be illegal the day after a Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe V. Wade, and others where abortion bans would likely follow.

All in all, nearly half of women nationwide will see the nearest clinic close. The average distance to the nearest clinic for those seeking reproductive care will jump from 25 to 279 miles. Anyone who has ever worked a minimum-wage job knows that they don't have the luxury of traveling hundreds of miles for healthcare.

Women's healthcare isn't optional. Nevadans know this. That is why we worked so hard in Nevada to protect the right to choose.

In the nineties, we passed a ballot initiative to enshrine choice into law, and we have actually done away with the kind of restrictions on abortion that are popping up in State after State.

But what we are seeing in Texas and other States across the country threatens the future of Roe V. Wade everywhere. Let me be clear: It threatens the future of Roe V. Wade everywhere. And without Roe, there will be no Federal protections in place, paving the way for anti-choice lawmakers to pass legislation to restrict reproductive rights anywhere in the country.

And that is why it is so important for the Senate to pass the Women's Health Protection Act. This bill would outlaw bans in other medically unnecessary restrictions on abortion across the country. It would mean that States could not impose medically unnecessary ultrasounds, excessive waiting periods, and extreme burdens on

healthcare providers intended to limit abortion access.

In Nevada and across the country, the vast majority of voters believes that women should get to make their own decisions about their reproductive health, including when and whether to have a child. We cannot let a dedicated minority take that right away from the rest of us.

Let me just say, I am going to keep working on this issue because it is so important to Nevadans and to women all over this country. This is about making sure that women can control their own bodies and their futures, and I will always stand up for that.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON ANDERSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired on the Anderson nomination.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Anderson nomination?

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 393 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Portman	Young
Grassley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—3

Cotton	Crapo	Moran

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

REDUCE ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I want to talk a moment about my REDUCE Act, which is the act to reduce plastic pollution, of which we have a lot.

Humans have created 8 billion tons of plastic, and it is all over the place. It is in our water. It is in our rivers. It is in our food. The Presiding Officer is from Colorado. As he knows, there was a study done that tested the rain falling in Colorado that showed that there were microplastics in the raindrops in Colorado.

So we have a plastics problem, and this is a bill whose intention is to solve that plastics problem.

I want to have you think about three numbers while I am making this speech: 2 percent, 10 percent, and 2050; 2 percent, 10 percent, and 2050.

What is 2 percent? Two percent is how much recycled plastic the plastics industry uses in single-use, disposable, throwaway plastic.

We had a hearing in the Environment and Public Works Committee, led by Chairman CARPER. We had witnesses in who were experts. They said it is actually less than 2 percent. So the plastics industry is comfortable with a business model in which they are only using recycled plastic for less than 2 percent of their production of single-use, disposable stuff.

They will then say: Well, yeah, but we don't need to worry about that because then it goes into the recycling bin.

Well, first of all, that is not much help if you are only going to use 2 percent recycled plastic in your plastic manufacturing and then 98 percent is all new fossil fuel-based plastic.

But here we get to the second number, 10 percent. When you put plastic in that blue bin and send it out to be recycled, less than 10 percent of that plastic actually gets recycled. Some people have said 6 percent. Some people have said 8 percent. Some people have said 9 percent. But pretty much everybody agrees that less than 10 percent of what you put in the recycling bin to recycle ever gets recycled. And the plastics industry is cool with that too.

The plastics industry is cool with 2 percent recycling content in their throughput, in their supply, and they are comfortable with 90 percent or more of your recycled plastics sent out in the blue bins never being recycled.

This brings me to the third number, 2050. Twenty-fifty is the year which, on present trends, will produce the following state of affairs: There will be more waste plastic floating in the Earth's oceans by mass than there will be living fish. That is the trajectory we are on with an industry that is totally content to use only 2 percent recycled plastic in its production and to have the recycling system recycle less than 10 percent of the plastic that goes in. That is where we end up by 2050. And if we are content in this room to confer on our children and grandchildren a world in which there is more waste plastic floating around than there is living fish, then shame on us.

This is a trajectory we have to change, and my bill will change it. But, of course, the plastic industry doesn't love this. They are happy with using only 2 percent recycled plastic in their production. They are happy with less than 10 percent of recycled plastic in the blue bin ever getting recycled. They don't seem to give a red hot damn about the trajectory we are on with where we are going to be with waste plastic in the oceans. But they obviously care a lot about the bill because if you lived in Washington, DC, and you got the Washington Post on Wednesday, September 22, you got this little gem tucked in your newspaper on the front. It is a very glossy, multicolored handout, and it says:

Stop the plastic tax. Keep everyday goods affordable.

And then it shows a whole bunch of everyday goods: a bicycle helmet, reusable plastic containers that you use in your refrigerator to put stuff away when you are putting it back in the fridge, sneakers, a plastic child's toy, and a baby diaper.

Not one of those things is covered by our plastics tax—not one of them—not personal hygiene products like a diaper and not multiuse products like a child's toy or a sneaker or a bicycle helmet or the plastic containers that you store stuff in in your refrigerator.

If you flip it over, they go at it even further. There is a child's baby seat. There is solar paneling. There is a toothbrush. There is a cellphone. And there is a little package of tomatoes in Saran wrap in one of those foam Styrofoam containers.

The one thing on this whole page that this plastics pollution fee would touch is that disposable bit of foam. And if you would rather have that in the ocean instead of being recycled, fine; vote against this bill. But if you would like to see that kind of junk get properly disposed of, you need to support the act.

So why do you think the industry got this so wrong? Bicycle helmets, children's toys, car seats, toothbrushes? Do you think they actually didn't know what was in the bill or is it possible that they are just lying about the bill? And what conclusion do you draw when an industry is lying about a piece of legislation? The conclusion that I draw is that they know they would lose if they argued on the truth, and so they lie.

And they spent a lot of money on this. This is, you know, glossy. This is multicolor. We in politics, we send out mailers. This is not inexpensive. You put this onto every Washington Post—that is a big deal. They flooded the DC metropolitan area with this glossy pack of lies.

So let's just take a quick look at some of the stuff that they have been saying. Their myth is that the REDUCE Act affects all plastic products. No. Read the bill. It is a fee on single-use plastics that targets the fossil fuel companies that make the fossil fuel feedstock for those single-use disposable plastic products.

All you have to do is read the bill to see that. I don't know how we could make that any clearer. We specifically exempt anything other than single-use disposable plastics.

Further, if it is a single-use disposable plastic that is used in healthcare, that is used in hospitals, in patient treatments, we understand that; we exempt that too. It is the plastic spoons and the straws and the wrapping and the foam containers and all the rest of that junk that you can walk down any beach in America and see; that is the junk we are trying to see gets properly recycled by charging a fee on the people who are throwing this stuff out into the environment and not recycling it—or at least 98 percent not recycling it.

Here is the other myth: The REDUCE Act disadvantages U.S. businesses; we will fail in international competition if we do this.

Not true. If you are importing plastic, you have to pay just the same way as if you used U.S.-made plastic. This is a fee on plastic that touches the U.S. economy if it is going to be single-use disposable, and we are going to need to think about recycling it. It applies to any company doing business in the United States and imports from foreign companies. So that is another made-up myth.

And the last one, which is really—maybe it is designed to annoy me, but it is that the fee on plastics to encourage recycling would actually harm our climate; that this is an anti-climate piece of legislation.

The fact of the matter is that by the middle of the century, plastics will account for about a quarter of global oil consumption. This is what the fossil fuel industry is banking on for its future as we start driving electric cars that are nicer than internal combustion cars and cheaper and easier to maintain.

By 2030, greenhouse gas emissions from new plastics production will reach 1.3 billion tons—1.3 billion tons—which is equivalent to running 300 coal-fired powerplants. That doesn't sound to me much like sustainability.

This REDUCE Act is a fair and sensible and effective response to plastic pollution that is filling up our oceans, our rivers, and even our raindrops. The costs will be paid by the fossil fuel industry where the profit is made.

And by the way, when they try to push that cost down to consumers, good luck, ExxonMobil, telling Coca-Cola: We are raising our prices to you. Coca-Cola and all of its beverage companies have got pretty significant market clout, and they might just say: Not so fast, pal; you eat that cost. This is your mess; you clean it up.

Anyway, it is a good discussion to have because 2 percent of the plastics stream being recycled, 10 percent or less of plastic in the blue bins ever actually being recycled, and an ocean that has equal parts waste plastic and fish in it by 2050 is not acceptable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TAXES

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor today to talk about the massive tax increases that are being proposed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and by the Biden administration and by the Democrats in the House as a way to pay for this big, new spending package—$3.5 trillion is what it is advertised as, although some say that, if you do the full 10-year calculation, it is more like $5 trillion. But it is a lot of money, and the way it is paid for is by a huge increase in taxes. It is the biggest tax increase, actually, we are told, in over 50 years.

And I have been on the floor talking about this a few different times, and I talked about the impact on the economy, generally. I talked about the impact on our competitiveness internationally, which we finally fixed in 2017, which was really a bipartisan idea to go to a different kind of system, and it has worked so well.

But today I want to talk about another sector of our economy that is going to be hit really hard by these taxes, and that is small businesses, the backbone of our economy where most people work. Specifically, I want to focus on how these small businesses are going to be hurt by the specific tax issues that are being proposed.

Small businesses are generally defined as having 500 or fewer employees and make up about 99 percent of our companies in America. There are some really big companies, but when you look at the small businesses, they are, by far, the vast majority of our businesses—about 32 million of them. They employ over half of the U.S. workforce, and they account for nearly two-thirds of all jobs created in the United States since 2000. Now, that is according to the Small Business Administration.

So more than half the employees are there, but they actually are responsible for creating more jobs than big businesses. Think about it. Small businesses are more agile. It tends to be the startup businesses. It tends to be businesses that are hiring more people. So small business is really important. It is the backbone to our economy.

I grew up in one of those small businesses. When I was a kid, my dad left his job as a salesman for a bigger company, where he had healthcare and the benefits that come with that. And he sort of put it all at risk to start his own business.

He started off with five employees. My mom was the bookkeeper. They lost money the first few years, like a lot of small businesses do, but he hung in there. And my brother worked there and my sister worked there and I worked there. I worked on the shop's floor. I did the maintenance.

It was a lift truck—forklift truck dealership, so we would grind down the lift trucks and paint them. And I learned how not just to work hard but learned how a small business can succeed. And it is not easy.

After losing money the first few years, my dad found his niche and became a successful small business. My brother later took the business to an even higher level, but it was still a small business that struggled depending on what was happening in the economy, external factors they couldn't control, like every small business.

It gave me a firsthand look as to how difficult it is and how important it is, both, to have small businesses out there. My dad was absolutely committed to ensuring the people who worked there felt like they were part of it, so he had a profit-sharing plan. It didn't work too well when there was no profit, but once there was profit, it worked pretty well. And there were guys who turned a wrench their whole career, lift truck technicians whom I have known my whole life, who are about my age, who are retiring today with a nice nest egg because of that profit-sharing plan and, then later, a 401(k). So I have seen what small businesses can do for their employees, for the local economy, for the broader community.

During COVID–19, small businesses have really struggled. It has been tough. They have been stretched really thin. As I am sure is the case with every single one of my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate, I have heard from a lot of small business owners across my home State of Ohio who have told me about the issues that they faced due to shutdowns, due to people being sick, due to the very difficult job right now of just getting workers to come to the business and to stay in the business. Workforce problems are the No. 1 issue I now hear about back home.

And due to the supply chain disruptions, taking longer and longer to get products and products having a higher and higher price due to the inflation that is reflected in that, it is tough right now. Despite these hardships, a lot of the small businesses I know have made it a real priority to ensure they are taking care of their people.

We helped them do that here through the PPP program, the Paycheck Protection Program. I strongly support it because I have seen it work. I have seen employees be able to stick around through the worst of COVID and now be able to come back to work.

We have got another surge going on right now in my home State and around the country with the Delta variant, but we are learning better how to keep people at work and how to ensure that folks are taken care of. Often these small business owners have done this out of their own pockets; in other words, they have lost money during the

COVID period in order to keep the business going. And if they can afford to do that, great; they can keep the doors open. Some have not been able to do that, and they have had to close their doors.

So this is a time when there is a lot of uncertainty out there in the economy. It is a time when businesses have kind of been through the roller coaster of COVID. It is not the time to raise taxes on small businesses.

Back in 2017, Congress had the value of these small businesses in mind when we wrote the historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reforms. Through provisions like lowering the individual rate of taxation and enacting what is called the section 199A deduction, we gave small businesses needed tax relief and encouraged them to invest in growing their operations, hiring more workers, lifting wages.

And it worked. The success of small businesses in 2018 and 2019, before COVID and after the 2017 bill was put into effect, was truly extraordinary. In February of 2020, just before COVID hit, we had the 19th straight month of wage increases of 3 percent or more on an annual basis. Nineteen straight months we had wages going up.

Isn't that what we all wanted? That was the whole idea, to have an opportunity economy where people can get ahead. And wages were going up faster than inflation, which, unfortunately, is not the case now. In many instances, even when people are getting some wage gains right now, with 5 percent-plus inflation, it is eating it up.

We also had a situation back then where we had not just wage growth but we had a reduction in poverty. We had the lowest poverty rate since we started keeping track of it back in the 1950s, prior to COVID. I think a lot of it was because those tax cuts actually worked. And, again, for a small business, it is really important because that is where most people are employed.

We also had the lowest unemployment in 50 years in this country and the lowest unemployment ever for certain groups, including Blacks, Hispanics, the disabled. So a lot of stuff was going right. Then COVID hit.

Now we are coming out of COVID. Again, the wrong time to raise taxes. That Tax Code we put in place in 2017 gave small business the chance to succeed and, therefore, gave a lot of individuals the chance to meet their American dream.

The overall economy has improved some since 2020, but a lot of small businesses have not seen that rebound yet. COVID, particularly, has hurt our hospitality sector. I am in that business. My family business is in that business as well. It is tough.

The travel business, entertainment business, and every small business, again, that I know has been hit with higher inflation for their input. So things are more expensive coming in, and yet it is hard to be able to raise your prices, so they are caught in a squeeze. Finding workers again has been a real change—the supply chain issues we have talked about.

So why would Democrats propose billions in tax hikes on small businesses right now?

We ought to be helping our small businesses instead, not making it harder to stay afloat. Remember, as I said, these are the biggest tax increases we have had in over 50 years.

Democrats claim they are just going after large corporations, but, unfortunately, that is not what is happening. A lot of small businesses are going to be caught in the crosshairs of the income tax hikes that Democrats are proposing. That is primarily because about 95 percent of small businesses operate as what is called pass-throughs.

The vast, vast majority of small businesses are partnerships, sole proprietorships, or companies that are limited liability companies with subchapter S companies. So the business doesn't pay the taxes directly. The tax is actually paid by the owners of the business, on their 1040—individual tax return.

What that means is that success of pass-throughs, which combine to employ about 58 percent of the Nation's workforce, will be taxed in line with whatever the income tax level is. And there are many reasonably successful pass-throughs that will be lumped into the top bracket of the Tax Code, which starts at $400,000 in income.

These small businesses, through the owner, will end up paying a 39.6 percent increase tax, plus a 3.8 percent surtax on small business income. You add to that the average State income tax of about 5 percent, and that puts the figure for small businesses at about 48 percent on average—and well over 50 percent in some States—48 percent taxes. That is tough. And it is a big tax increase for a lot of those businesses. Again, they are pass-through businesses, so the owners are the ones who pay the taxes.

If they weren't paying the taxes, they wouldn't often get a dividend from the company to pay those taxes; they would be investing more in that business. So it hurts the businesses directly. But a pass-through doesn't even have to reach that level of success we talked about—the $400,000 income level—in order to be hit with tax increases. That is because, contrary to what has repeatedly been said by the Biden administration, according to the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation analysis of the House Ways and Means, Democratic tax proposal, a lot of taxpayers making less than $400,000 are going to see higher taxes. Some percentage of taxpayers in every income bracket will see their rates go up, even folks making between 40,000 and 50,000 bucks per year. Check out the analysis yourself. You can go online, Joint Committee on Taxation, and look at it.

In fact, according to these distribution tables by the Joint Committee on Taxation, more than one in three taxpayers making between $100,000 and $200,000 per year will be paying higher taxes in 2023. By 2031, more than three-quarters of those middle-income taxpayers—between 100- and 200,000 bucks a year—will be paying higher taxes.

Remember, again, this is not just a tax on individuals; it is a tax on small businesses that are taxed through individuals.

On top of that, Democrats want to cap the invaluable 20-percent deduction on qualified business income that was designed to help pass-throughs compete with larger C corporations.

Again, in 2017, not only lowered the rates to help small businesses, but we said: If you are a small business, you can get this deduction—this 20 percent deduction—on qualified business income.

And for the small businesses listening this evening: Watch out. I know you have enjoyed that deduction and you have needed it to be able to stay afloat during COVID. That is now at risk.

And successful small businesses earning more than $5 million a year will be saddled with an additional 3-percent surcharge on top, resulting in over 50-percent average income tax. That means small businesses are going to have a harder time hiring workers or paying them competitive wages.

In all, the average pass-throughs should expect their Federal tax rate to rise from about 29.6 percent—about 30 percent now—to 46.4 percent under the Democrats' new plan.

Folks, that is not soaking the rich. That is slamming small business owners all across America, as well as their employees, many of whom are just trying to make ends meet.

But Democrats don't just want small businesses to give more of their money to the Federal Government; they want to make small businesses give more of their time as well in the form of burdensome new information requirements that would bury the IRS in a sea of useless information, largely, that would end up causing the most trouble for small businesses that don't have the lawyers or the accountants and other professionals to handle these burdensome new requirements.

Under this Biden administration bank reporting proposal, individual and businesses would be required to report to the IRS inflows and outflows of money out of an account—things like expenditures and payments. The Biden administration proposal starts this reporting as low as $600.

But even at that higher number that they are talking about now, what would be reportable would represent a radical shift in the information required to be given to the IRS, which normally just takes in information related to income. This wouldn't be about income. This would be about payments and expenditures.

So my hope is that these information reporting requirements, which is an additional burden on small businesses, is

something my colleagues look at and say: Let's not raise taxes on small businesses, but also let's not increase these burdens that will, again, fall mostly on the smaller businesses that don't have the ability to handle that kind of new information and bureaucracy.

The upshot is that the hundreds of millions of accounts with major financial institutions; e-payment apps, like Venmo; and cryptocurrency exchanges, like Coinbase, are going to be subject to more paperwork and confusion.

So as an example, if you have one of the 403 million active PayPal accounts, your personal account information will be sent to the IRS and likely result in confusion at some point. Imagine trying to prove that the money you are pooling together for a vacation for personal use or for your weekly pizza night with buddies aren't business income. You may have to prove that now.

These small business tax hikes and burdensome new reporting requirements are just one part of a set of tax overhauls that leave no stone unturned—from death taxes to marriage taxes, capital gains tax increases, retirement account tax increases, and many more.

It is no surprise that the president of the National Federation of Independent Businesses wrote last week that ''small businesses aren't just looking at one or two tax hikes under the proposed plan. They're looking at a slew of tax increases that would hit them from every angle.''

We all ought to be particularly concerned that Democrats want to overhaul so much of our Tax Code when these economic trends are so uncertain—high inflation, continuing COVID concerns, major supply chain disruptions.

By the way, it now takes 80 days—twice as long as it did before the pandemic—to move goods from Asia to North America. Once goods reach the west coast, the wait time for containers sitting at the docks waiting to be moved by train or truck is the longest it has been since last summer, in the middle of even worse COVID conditions. This is not the time to make things worse for small businesses.

And at a time when tax receipts are at or above the historical average, why do Democrats feel so strongly that America is undertaxed?

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office—or CBO—projects corporate tax receipts will climb to $379 billion in 2023, or 1.5 percent of our economy. According to the Tax Foundation, this would be ''a record high in nominal terms and nearly matching average corporate tax collections as a share of GDP'' prior to the 2017 tax reforms.

So payroll tax revenue has risen by 4 percent as well, suggesting that workers are taking home bigger paychecks than before. To say that we are undertaxed doesn't seem to be consistent with the data we are getting. Again, check it out. The Congressional Budget Office has its own website. You can learn about this. The Tax Foundation has its own website. You can learn about what is going on in terms of our tax collections.

As a share of the GDP, those tax collections will be back up right where they were before the 2017 tax bill, in a couple of years, if we simply continue as we are.

So the opportunity economy we talked about earlier, I think, in large part created by the 2017 tax reforms is on track to bring historically high tax revenues to the Federal Government as we get out of this COVID crisis.

Really, one of the biggest factors in holding back our economy at this point is surging inflation that is, unfortunately, wiping out a lot of the income gains that we have seen.

But inflation is driven largely by the trillions in unprecedented stimulus spending the Biden administration has pushed on the American people already.

Remember the $1.9 trillion back in March focused—so the Democrats said—on COVID; but, in fact, when you looked at it, most of it was not about the COVID crisis, but it was a lot of new stimulation to the economy—a lot of stimulus.

And at the time, people on both sides of the aisle—Republicans and Democrats—who were experts on the economy said this is going to be problematic; this is just a lot of new money to throw into the economy.

Larry Summers, former Secretary of the Treasury under Democratic administrations and a Democratic economist, said this is going to lead to higher inflation. He was roundly criticized for that by many in the media and many on the other side of the aisle. Unfortunately, it turns out he was absolutely right. It has led to this high inflation that, as we learned this week from Chairman Powell of the Federal Reserve, is not transitory, as was said early on. Unfortunately, this current inflation is going to continue at least through this year and next year, we are told.

So this new $3.5 trillion in social spending is going to add to that—more stimulus. The economists call that adding to the demand side of the economy. So you are adding to the supply side of the economy; it would be counter-inflationary. But you are adding to the demand side, what people want to buy—you are adding to inflation. So more money out there to be buy the goods; fewer goods raises the cost of everything.

So my concern is we are going to drive inflation even higher if we go ahead with this $3.5 trillion social spending paid for, again, by these tax increases that are going to hurt small businesses.

I can't understand why Democrats are so insistent on jamming this partisan tax-and-spending bill through the U.S. Congress.

Why would you want to throw out the Tax Code that fueled that unprecedented opportunity economy we saw prior to the COVID pandemic?

I know none of my Republican colleagues are going to support these tax hikes because they believe they would be devastating to small businesses and to our economy at large. And I would urge any of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who care about our long-term economic health to take a long look at what this tax plan would actually do, what it would mean to our competitiveness, what it would mean to individuals and families, what it would mean to small businesses, and instead make the smart choice to reject these tax increases on the small businesses—the very small businesses that drive the economy in the United States of America.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we are ready to move forward. We have an agreement on the CR, the continuing resolution, to prevent a government shutdown. And we should be voting on that tomorrow morning. So I am going to make that an order now.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 5305

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion of morning business on Thursday, September 30, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 137, H.R. 5305; that Senator LEAHY, or his designee, be recognized to offer substitute amendment No. 3830 and that the amendment be reported by number, that only the first-degree amendments in order be the following: Cotton No. 3833, Afghan refugees; Marshall No. 3831, vaccine mandate; Braun No. 3832, No Budget No Pay; that at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, the Senate vote in relation to the first-degree amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order; that upon disposition of the amendments, the Senate vote on the substitute, as amended, if amended; that the bill be considered read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with the Braun and Marshall amendments and passage requiring 60 affirmative votes for adoption; and that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote, all without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in

a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly about the recent decision by the National Jurisdiction Sentencing Court in Honduras to acquit Honduran nationals Edwin Espinal and Raul Alvarez. Both men were found to have been falsely accused of aggravated property damage, aggravated arson, and the use of homemade explosives, charges for which it turned out the government had no credible evidence.

Espinal and Alvarez spent 19 months in a maximum-security prison awaiting trial. They were reportedly subjected to harsh conditions, including receiving only 2 hours of sunlight per month. Despite being accused of common crimes, special courts created to try members of organized criminal networks presided over the process, including a judge located at a military base. It took 4 years for a court to rule on their case and to finally absolve them of charges that were determined to be without merit.

Espinal and Alvarez, like dozens of other protesters, were arrested during the 2017 electoral turmoil that culminated in the reelection of current President Juan Orlando Hernandez. Their case was used as a means to silence protesters and stifle discussion of the democratic process and the need for transparent elections.

Edwin Espinal is a human rights defender who has faced political persecution since 2009. He is not alone. Many human rights and environmental defenders, as well as independent journalists in Honduras, have suffered threats, arbitrary arrests, beatings, and assassinations by Honduran police or others acting on their behalf.

I and others here have repeatedly voiced our concerns with the Honduran Government's misuse of the judicial process to silence dissent. Bringing charges with no credible evidence and holding social activists and other critics in prison and subjecting them to lengthy criminal processes undermines due process and erodes public confidence in the integrity of the police and the courts.

I am also concerned with the lack of due process in the case of the eight imprisoned water defenders from Guapinol that has dragged on for years. And like many, I am waiting for the official sentencing hearing of Roberto David Castillo, the convicted coauthor of the murder of Honduran environmentalist and indigenous activist, Berta Cceres.

With another election just around the corner in Honduras, I urge the Honduran Government to support a free and fair electoral process, as well as freedom of expression, association, and assembly for all Honduran citizens. And I hope that the Honduras' next leaders will reject the corrupt practices and impunity of the past and support an independent judiciary, uphold the rule of law, hold the police and other public officials accountable when they abuse their authority, and restore the faith of the Honduran people in government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

TRIBUTE TO ELLE PURRIER ST. PIERRE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it was with great pride that Americans across the country tuned in this summer for the return of the Olympic Games. I want to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of one Vermonter who traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to represent our Nation—and our State—in these celebrated games. Elle Purrier St. Pierre represented the United States in the 1500-meter run at the 2020 Olympic Games. This was Elle's first turn as an Olympian, and she certainly made her mark, qualifying for the final in the 1500-meter, in which she crossed the line in 10th place.

Elle is a Vermonter in the truest sense of the word. She grew up working on her family's dairy farm in Montgomery Center, a town of less than 800 people along the Canadian border. During her freshman year of high school, she stumbled onto the Richford High School track team, initially skeptical of long-distance running. Nonetheless, her raw talent and grit quickly became clear, and she went on to become one of the most decorated high school runners in State history.

In college, she ran for the University of New Hampshire, where she garnered 11 NCAA Division One All-American titles and a championship victory in the indoor mile her senior year. Upon graduation in 2018, Elle signed with New Balance to run professionally. Although she has only run professionally for 3 years, she has set new national records in the indoor 1-mile and 2-mile distances.

In June, Elle won the 1500-meter at the U.S. Olympic Trials, breaking the Olympic Trial record and securing her spot on the U.S. Olympic team in the process. Elle sailed through the qualifying rounds of the 1500, made it through to the finals where she competed against the strongest and fastest runners in the world. While her friends and family could not join her in Tokyo, they and so many others gathered in the Richford High School cafeteria in the early hours of the morning to watch each of her races live.

Even as her success as a professional runner has taken her across the globe, her Vermont roots remain strong. Elle still considers Montgomery Center her home, where she lives with her husband, Jamie, who is also a dairy farmer. On September 25, Elle was celebrated at a welcome home parade through the town of Richford. Throngs of fans cheered her on as she took her well-deserved victory lap.

It is hard to overstate how proud we Vermonters are of Elle. She is only the second Vermonter to compete in the Olympics for track and field. At only 26, I am sure we will see more from Elle in the future. I am very excited how Elle continues to perform in the years to come.

I ask unanimous consent that the article ''Welcome Home, Elle! Richford Community Hosts Parade in Honor of Home-Town Olympian Elle Purrier St. Pierre,'' published in the St. Albans Messenger, be printed in the RECORD.

WELCOME HOME ELLE! RICHFORD COMMUNITY HOSTS PARADE IN HONOR OF HOME-TOWN OLYMPIAN ELLE PURRIER ST. PIERRE

(By Ruthie LaRoche)

On Saturday, Sept. 25, Elle Purrier St. Pierre walked beneath the American Flag, hoisted high on the Richford Volunteer Fire Department's ladder truck as part of a Welcome Home parade held in her honor.

This August, Purrier St. Pierre represented the United States of America, racing in the women's 1500 meter at the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

Purrier St. Pierre walked just steps behind a white and red heifer draped in the Stars and Stripes, the community she represented with pride, cheering and waving as she passed.

A little while later, Purrier St. Pierre stood on a podium, the crowd of parade-goers now encircling her, listening in rapt attention as she spoke of her journey to the Olympic stage.

Many knew her story well, but I'm sure there were portions very few knew, and it was the unknown story that made the community support so much more special.

''Representing the United States of America on the Olympic and world stage has been one of the highest honors of my life so far,'' said Purrier St. Pierre.

''Competing at the Olympics is the epitome of sports, and wearing those three letters (USA) across my chest was one of the best feelings I've ever had.''

PURRIER ST. PIERRE SPOKE OF HER TIME IN TOKYO AND THE THOUGHTS OF HOME THAT BUOYED HER UP FROM HALF A WORLD AWAY

''These Olympic Games were different than most, but they were still astounding and historic. I tried to embrace the challenges brought on by the pandemic but found myself feeling very isolated throughout the experience,'' said Purrier St. Pierre.

''I spent many days alone since no friends or family members were allowed to travel to Tokyo. I was trying to mentally and physically prepare to compete against runners who were the best in the world.''

PURRIER ST. PIERRE WAS PREPARING TO COMPETE IN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RACE OF HER CAREER

''I knew I had prepared well for many years, but I'd be lying if I didn't say it wasn't extremely daunting. Something that helped me regain my courage was remembering the great country, state, and community I was representing,'' said Purrier St. Pierre.

''I was thousands of miles away, but I felt the love from this place and all of you. That love and support helped me persevere through the games.''

ON THE TEAM BUS IN TOKYO, PURRIER ST. PIERRE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HOME THAT BROUGHT TEARS TO HER EYES

''I was on my way to the track to make my Olympic debut; I opened my phone and saw a

picture of the American flag hanging from the Richford fire truck high above Main Street, and I immediately began to cry,'' said Purrier St. Pierre.

''I cannot begin to explain how much your compassion and support through this experience has meant to me.''

As she took the track, Purrier St. Pierre thought of the community behind her.

''I was racing for way more than myself; I was racing for all the people that got me there and hoping to inspire the next young generation in this great community,'' said Purrier St. Pierre.

''I was humbled to see the Franklin County community come together to support one of their own; I could read your messages, see your signs, and watch in awe as you all showed up to the Richford High School gym to cheer me on.''

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yea on Roll Call Vote 387, on the Confirmation of Monica P. Medina to be an Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yea on Roll Call Vote 389, on the Confirmation of Todd D. Robinson to be an Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MARIANI AND DEVIN McLAUGHLIN

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Mike Mariani of Spofford and Devin McLaughlin of West Chesterfield as September's Granite Staters of the Month. Mike and Devin are currently biking nearly 4,000 miles across the United States to raise money and awareness for suicide prevention efforts following the loss of Mike's brother to suicide in 2018.

Three years ago, Mike lost his 16-year-old older brother Nathan. Nathan was a junior at Keene High School at the time and was known to friends and family for his sense of humor and love for the outdoors.

In his memory, Mike and his best friend Devin launched Pedaling for Prevention, an initiative to raise awareness for suicide prevention by cycling across the country. Pedaling for Prevention also raises money for The Samaritans in Keene, which is a nonprofit that provides resources, including an anonymous crisis hotline, to help Granite Staters battling depression or thoughts of self-harm.

This cross country bike ride was initially scheduled for last year, but the COVID–19 pandemic forced Mike and Devin to change their plans. Instead, the pair travelled across New England and held socially distanced meet-and-greets where folks could share their stories about losing loved ones to suicide and help reduce the stigma around mental health. On their return home, the duo received a warm welcome from their community, including a ride through town on the top of a fire truck, courtesy of the Chesterfield Fire Department.

Mike and Devin started their long-awaited cross-country journey earlier this summer. The two are currently exhibiting an incredible show of endurance by pedaling 3,762 miles across the entire United States and providing social media updates to spread awareness about the importance of suicide prevention. On their journey, they are also sharing their story with people they meet along the way to further expand their reach.

These two thoughtful, brave, and determined young people embody what it means to be a Granite Stater. After a heartbreaking loss that reverberated through an entire community, Mike and Devin decided to make a positive impact by spreading a message of resilience and hope, all the while educating others about suicide prevention and the importance of reaching out for help.•

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK COLLINS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Patrick Collins, a pillar of Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami, FL, for his 50-year commitment to the edification of thousands of young men in the community. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Collins served as a teacher, chair of the social studies department, founder and moderator of Close Up and Founding of a Nation, tennis coach, and cofounder of the overseas study program.

Mr. Collins' decades of service shaped numerous generations of students and are evidenced by his students' testimonies. From his students, one can learn how Mr. Collins complemented their civic education with the values of citizenship, patriotism, responsibility, and leadership. Ultimately, his passion and love for his country has created a legacy that has positively impacted the Miami community, State of Florida, and country at large through the moral compass that he worked to instill in every single one of his students.

I admire Mr. Collins' virtuous character and am grateful for the fruit of his work. I look forward to continuing to learn of the impact that his students have on our communities and know that he serves as an exceptional example to educators across the country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Miami Herald dated September 23, 2021, about Patrick Collins be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

FOR 50 YEARS, BELEN EDUCATOR HAS GIVEN FLIGHT TO STUDENTS' PASSION TO SERVE

(By Rafael A. Yániz)

Patrick Collins, a beloved and influential educator at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, will be honored on Sept. 25. Belen Jesuit Preparatory School

''Before you stand up, you must know the first word that is coming out of your mouth.'' This was the first piece of advice that Patrick Collins—Belen Jesuit Preparatory School's social studies department chair and 11th–grade U.S. government teacher—gave me.

Decades later, I think of his advice whenever I am about to speak in any formal setting.

And I am not alone in remembering him and his guidance, for which, after five decades, he will be honored at Belen on Saturday, and most deservedly so.

''All prayers in the world can be condensed into two words,'' he told me. ''Thank you''

''I've tried to instill in students a sense of gratitude to say Thank you, when they walk through Arlington National Cemetery, through the halls of Congress, through their cities, to find a niche in their lives to do something that benefits another citizen. That way, we can continue on to the betterment of ourselves and our country.''

Collins' career has had a lifelong impact on generations of Belen Jesuit students during the course of his 50 years at Miami's storied all-male prep school, who have applied his lessons to make our community and our country better.

''In my era, we were rambunctious,'' said José Cil, CEO of Restaurant Brands International, the parent company of Burger King, ''but he set a really high bar and drove us to excel—even if you weren't an excellent student.''

Collins' passion for teaching beyond the textbook inspired him to succeed.

Former U.S. Congressman Joe Garcia agreed. ''Mr. Collins' addition to Jesuit pedagogy is the insight that being a 'man for others' requires you to engage in the broader society without cynicism—without hatred—but always with an openness to engage in critical thought,'' Garcia said. ''In the ideal republic, he is the ideal citizen.''

Carlos Trujillo, former U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, said, ''The impact Mr. Collins has had as a U.S. government teacher producing government servants, very few teachers across the country have had that kind of impact in their careers.''

''To this day, I still apply the lessons I learned from Coach Collins inside and outside of the classroom,'' said Cesar Conde, chairman of NBCUniversal News Group, who played tennis under Collins' coaching.

''I first began to understand the importance of a free press and the role of great journalism in our democracy while studying in his government classes. And, during a Close Up Foundation trip to Washington, D.C. that he led, I was directly exposed to the federal government, which inspired me to apply to the White House Fellows Program years later.'' Conde subsequently served under then-Secretary of State Colin Powell.

''He taught me to dream big and then work hard to achieve those ambitions,'' explained Mr. Conde.

Eddy Acevedo, chief of staff and senior advisor to the CEO of the Wilson Center, astutely observed, ''Anyone who grows up in Miami thinks about getting involved in politics, in government, in public service.''

Former U.S. Congressman Carlos Curbelo was one of those students with an innate desire to serve.

''He provided us with a thorough understanding of what government is and how it works, the way the system is designed to impede the passage of legislation, and what people have to do to overcome those challenges.''

Garcia, who lost to Curbelo, added, ''Mr. Collins teaches a realistic understanding of the political process, but he provides the inspiration to make working through that difficult process an act of service for society's most vulnerable members.''

That sentiment was not lost on Manny Diaz, chair of the Florida Democratic Party.

''Mr. Collins asked us on the first day of class if we knew what our rights were if we found ourselves on a country road in Alabama and a big sheriff arrested us because we looked Hispanic. I wanted to know the answer to his question.''

Collins' influence led Javi Correoso, Uber's public affairs senior manager, to pursue his passions.

''He instills in you that the meaning and purpose of public service is not the shining moments like running for office or photo ops, it's about rolling up your sleeves and helping citizens get a response from their government,'' Correoso said.

He also credits Collins for connecting him with former U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. ''It was the middle of football season, and I needed the 10 points extra credit wiggle room in my grade that semester.'' He was able to snag those extra credits by volunteering in her campaign office.

''I couldn't tell you what political party he belongs to,'' Ros-Lehtinen said of Collins, ''but he belongs to the fellowship of man. We need to clone him. He's always been a voice of reason and commonsense in my life.''

Collins is clear about what drives him: ''I'm influenced by the experience of my great grandfather. He was an Irish immigrant who struggled, through perseverance and grace, he was able to succeed,'' he said. ''I'm a beneficiary of that generation of Irish Americans who feels it would be selfish to solely benefit from the opportunities in this country. I feel like I owe it to him and to my family that the notion of civic responsibility continues to those I have met through the Cuban immigration experience that is Belen Jesuit.''

Rafael A. Yániz is a Belen Alumnus and an attorney and political analyst based in Miami.

Read more here: https://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/op-ed/article254479452.html#storylink=cpy●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:53 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 848. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1154. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1228. An act to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya.

H.R. 1693. An act to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2617. An act to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4250. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4686. An act to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4981. An act to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking.

At 6:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1301. An act to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1154. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1228. An act to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1693. An act to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2617. An act to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4250. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4686. An act to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2868. A bill to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022.

H.R. 3755. An act to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

H.R. 5323. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2244. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Data Collection for Analytics and Surveillance and Market-Based Rate Purposes'' ((RIN1902–AF22) (Docket No. RM16–17–000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2245. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals Under TSCA Section 6(h); Phenol, Isopropylated Phosphate (3:1); Compliance Date Extension'' ((RIN2070–AK89) (FRL No. 6015.5–03–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2246. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Limited Approval and Limited Disapproval, California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 8609–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2247. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District, Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District, and Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District; Combustion Sources'' (FRL No. 8777–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2248. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Iowa; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 8704–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2249. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revision to Emission Data, Emission Fees and Process Information Rule'' (FRL No. 8695–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2250. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Extension of the Laboratory and Analytical Use Exemption for Essential Class I Ozone-Depleting Substances'' ((RIN2060–AU80) (FRL No. 7810–02–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2251. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 2020 Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 8931–02–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2252. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; AK, Fairbanks North Star Borough; 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS Serious Area Plan'' (FRL No. 8909–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2253. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Iowa; Polk County; State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 8711–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2254. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Mecklenburg Miscellaneous Rules Revisions'' (FRL No. 8939–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2255. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; AL; NOx SIP Call and Removal of CAIR; Correction'' (FRL No. 8975–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2256. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20–9.B)'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 8214–02–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2257. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (21–1.B)'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 8320–01–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2258. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Arizona: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 8828–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2259. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.21 Rev 3, Measuring, Evaluating, and Reporting Radioactive Material in Liquid and Gaseous Effluents and Solid Waste'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2260. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Safety Evaluation of Technical Specifications Task Force Traveler TSTF–554, 'Revise Reactor Coolant Leakage Requirements' '' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2261. A communication from the Chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) Contest'' (RIN1018–BF62) received on September 15, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2262. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Conservation, Permits, and Regulations, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Hunting; 2021–2022 Seasons for Certain Migratory Game Birds'' (RIN1018–BE34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2263. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Arenaria cumberlandensis (Cumberland Sandwort) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants'' (RIN1018–BD82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2264. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Trifolium Stoloniferum (Running Buffalo Clover) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife'' (RIN1018–BC80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2265. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Candy Darter'' (RIN1018–BD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2266. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo'' (RIN1018–BE29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2267. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Textual Descriptions of Critical Habitat Boundaries for Plants'' (RIN1018–BF82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2268. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the California Condor in the Pacific Northwest'' (RIN1018–BC65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2269. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Yellow Lance'' (RIN1018–BD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2270. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Critical Habitat Designation for the Jaguar in Compliance With a Court Order'' (RIN1018–AX13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2271. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment of the Sierra Nevada Red Fox'' (RIN1018–BC62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2272. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Suwannee Moccasinshell'' (RIN1018–BD09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2273. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for Beardless Chinchweed and Designation of Critical Habitat'' (RIN1018–BD35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2274. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Neuse River Waterdog, Endangered Species Status for Carolina Madtom, and Designations of Critical Habitat'' (RIN1018–BC28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2275. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl; Delay of Effective Date'' (RIN1018–BF01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2276. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl; Delay of Effective Date'' (RIN1018–BF01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2277. A communication from the Chief of the Domestic Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Northern Mexican Gartersnake'' (RIN1018–BD96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2278. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removing the Waiting Period for Entitlement to Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits for Individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis'' (RIN0960–AI59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2279. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 and Updates to the IRF Quality Reporting Program; Payment for Complex Rehabilitative Wheelchairs and Related Accessories (Including Seating Systems) and Seat and Back Cushions Furnished in Connection with Such Wheelchairs'' (RIN0938–AU38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2280. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; FY 2022 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System and Quality Reporting Updates for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2021 (FY 2022)'' (RIN0938–AU40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2281. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Updates to the Quality Reporting Program and Value-Based Purchasing Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2022; and Technical Correction to Long-Term Care Facilities Physical Environment Requirements'' (RIN0938–AU36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2282. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; FY 2022 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update, Hospice Conditions of Participation Updates, Hospice and Home Health Quality Reporting Program Requirements'' (RIN0938–AU41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2283. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Policy Changes and Fiscal Year 2022 Rates; Quality Programs and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Requirements for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals; Changes to Medicaid Provider Enrollment; and Changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Program'' (RIN0938–AU56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2284. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2021–0107 - 2021–0110); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2285. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2021–0095 - 2021–0104); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2286. A communication from the Inspector General or the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2287. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2288. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2020''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2289. A communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's fiscal year 2020 Actuarial Evaluation of the Expected Operations and Status of the PBGC Funds; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2290. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priorities and Requirement - Innovative Approaches to Literacy'' (34 CFR Chapter II) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2291. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Requirements; American Rescue Plan Act Homeless Children and Youth Program'' (RIN1801–AA24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2292. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priorities - Effective Educator Development Division'' (34 CFR Chapter II) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2293. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priority and Definition - Teacher and School Leader Incentive (TSL) Program'' (34 CFR Chapter II) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2294. A communication from the Compliance Specialist, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rescission of Joint Employer Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act Rule'' (RIN1235–AA37) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2295. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Regarding 'Intended Uses'''' (RIN0910–AI47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2296. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements; Delayed Effective Date'' (RIN0910–AI39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2297. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Butterfly Pea Flower Extract'' (21 CFR Part 73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2298. A communication from the Compliance Specialist, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rescission of Joint Employer Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act Rule: Delay of Effective Date'' (RIN1235–AA37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. WARREN:

S. 2882. A bill to amend certain banking laws to establish requirements for bank mergers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2883. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rehabilitation expenditures for public school buildings to qualify for rehabilitation credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2884. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide research and extension grants to combat plant pests and noxious weeds that impact coffee plants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2885. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to modify the macadamia tree health initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 2886. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the donation and distribution of capes, horns, and antlers from wildlife management activities carried out on National Park System land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2887. A bill to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2888. A bill to reduce passenger, crewmember, and airport personnel risk of exposure to COVID–19, decrease the risk of transmission of COVID–19 on board aircraft and to United States destination communities through air travel, and protect children and other vulnerable individuals by preventing further spread of COVID–19 in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2889. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to address the timing for the use of funds with respect to grants made to shuttered venue operators; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2890. A bill to allow the participants in the National Health Service Corps to defer their obligated service in order to receive training in palliative care services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2891. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 2892. A bill to provide for continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, other than for the legislative branch and the Executive Office of the President; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2893. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2894. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to Nord Stream 2 AG pursuant to the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2895. A bill to prohibit the Department of Transportation and other agencies from promulgating rules requiring a person to provide proof of COVID–19 vaccination in order to engage in interstate commerce or travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2896. A bill to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to clarify whistleblower rights and protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 2897. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the exclusion from gross income for qualified scholarships does not apply to athletic scholarships if the recipient receives certain income derived from the recipient's name, image, or likeness; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 2898. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide for improvements to State unemployment systems and to strengthen program integrity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2899. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to address deficiencies and make necessary upgrades to the security camera and radio systems of the Bureau of Prisons to ensure the health and safety of employees and inmates; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2900. A bill to suspend the enforcement of certain civil liabilities of Federal employees and contractors during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2901. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to provide for increased oversight of recovery housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2902. A bill to modernize Federal information security management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 394. A resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of Radio Free Asia and its mission to provide an independent source of news to closed societies in Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 395. A resolution recognizing September 28, 2021, as ''National Voter Registration Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. REED, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 396. A resolution commemorating the centennial of the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 397. A resolution recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 337

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 337, a bill to establish a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Council.

S. 535

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.2 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, a bill to prohibit Members of Congress from purchasing or selling certain investments, and for other purposes.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1271, a bill to reauthorize the Clean School Bus Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1315

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1315, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items under the Medicare program.

S. 1593

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1593, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the designation of general surgery shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 1735

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1735, a bill to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1759

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1759, a bill to establish a MicroCap small business investment company designation, and for other purposes.

S. 1785

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1785, a bill to repeal the debt ceiling, and for other purposes.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors 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. 1996

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to protect human rights and enhance opportunities for LGBTQI people around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 2011

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2011, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

S. 2040

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2040, a bill to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about a consumer if the consumer is a victim of trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2178, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel employed by States or their political subdivisions, and for other purposes.

S. 2305

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2305, a bill to enhance cybersecurity education.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) 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. 2372

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2493

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2493, a bill to extend the deadline for eligible health care providers to use certain funds received from the COVID–19 Provider Relief Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2736, a bill to exclude vehicles to be used solely for competition from certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

S. 2863

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2863, a bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Taliban and persons assisting the Taliban in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 321

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 321, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2050.

S. RES. 360

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 360, a resolution celebrating the 30th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine from the former Soviet Union.

S. RES. 391

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 391, a resolution expressing concern about the rise in illicit mining and trafficking of gold in Latin America and the pervasive problem that such mining poses for the security, stability, and environment of the region.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2883. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rehabilitation expenditures for public school buildings to qualify for rehabilitation credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today, I want to discuss legislation I am introducing, the School Infrastructure Modernization Act.

To claim the Federal tax credit for historic preservation, a building renovation must be for a different purpose than that for which the building was previously used, a requirement known as the ''prior use'' rule. This bill waives that requirement for renovations of K–12 public school buildings. This will make it easier to restore historic-but-dilapidated school buildings across the country so our children have safe, modern spaces in which to learn.

As a Richmond City Council member and later mayor, I faced challenges familiar to many municipalities: overcrowded schools, aging buildings, and limited dollars in the budget. But in one particular case, I and a group of local stakeholders identified a creative solution. On one hand, we had an overcrowded Thomas Jefferson High School with in-zone and magnet students. On the other hand, we had a closed Maggie Walker High School that needed renovations. We put together a financing package that made use of Federal and State historic tax credits to renovate Maggie Walker High School and satisfied the prior use rule by consolidating the magnet program from Thomas Jefferson into a new Maggie Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies. Today, some 20 years later, this is one of America's highest performing public high schools. Without the Federal historic tax credit, this would have been too expensive to make happen.

This bill will make it easier to do similar projects around the country. More modern school buildings will bolster the quality of public education, and carrying out these projects will generate private sector infrastructure investment and jobs. In Virginia alone, according to a 2013 study, more than 800 K–12 schools are at least 50 years old, representing some 40 percent of all the K–12 schools in the Commonwealth.

As the Senate considers tax reform and a comprehensive infrastructure package, I encourage my colleagues to support this common-sense incentive that is good for education, good for infrastructure, and good for jobs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2884. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide research and extension grants to combat plant pests and noxious weeds that impact coffee plants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Coffee Plant Health Initiative Amendments Act, a bill that allows the Secretary of Agriculture to provide research and extension grants for the purposes of protecting coffee plants from outside threats such as invasive pests and weeds.

Coffee serves as a cornerstone of Hawaii's agricultural industry, both in terms of culture and economics. Coffee has been grown in Hawaii for almost 200 years and is revered all over the world for exceptional quality and taste. Coffee is grown on every main island in Hawaii, with half of the acreage on Hawaii Island and the other half spread across Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Hawaii remains the largest grower of coffee in the United States, with over 27 million pounds produced and yielding just over $54 million during the 2019–2020 season.

Like all natural ecosystems in Hawaii, coffee production has experienced numerous threats from pests and weeds. These include the black twig borer, root-knot nematode, green scale, crab spider, coffee berry borer, and coffee leaf rust, to name a few. In response to the 2010 arrival of the coffee berry borer in Hawaii, I successfully included the coffee plant health initiative provision in the 2014 farm bill. This provision allowed the Secretary of Agriculture to provide research and extension grants to help the coffee community combat the coffee berry borer. The resulting Federal assistance provided has been instrumental in providing coffee producers the tools they need to protect their coffee crops from the coffee berry borer.

Within the past year another coffee pest has emerged in Hawaii, a fungus known as Coffee Leaf Rust. Like the coffee berry borer, Federal funds are needed to research and develop pest management strategies to equip coffee producers with the knowledge and tools necessary to safeguard their coffee yields.

This bill builds upon the 2014 farm bill coffee plant health initiative provision by expanding the scope of research and extension grants to all invasive pests and noxious weeds threatening the coffee industry, not just the coffee berry borer. While our researchers and coffee growers are currently battling coffee leaf rust, future pest and weeds not currently in Hawaii, like the Coffee Leaf Miner and Coffee Wilt Disease, are likely to emerge. This expansion of the coffee plant health initiative will provide much needed Federal resources to help our coffee community quickly respond to the myriad pests waiting in the wings.

This bill is supported by the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the Hawaii Coffee Association, the Kau Coffee Growers Cooperative, Kauai Coffee Company, LLC, Puerto Rico Coffee Roasters, LLC, and the Puerto Rico Farm Bureau.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2887. A bill to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Outdoors for All Act.

This legislation would ensure that access to local parks and outdoor recreation is equitable and available to all.

The Outdoors for All Act would codify and guarantee annual funding for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program, which provides grants to build new outdoor recreation spaces, improve existing parks, and form connections between underserved, urban communities and the outdoors.

It specifically invests in parks and open spaces in areas where 80 percent of Americans live. Any urban area with a population of at least 30,000 can qualify for grants, which can benefit residents in all 50 States.

These grants would fund projects in park-poor, urban communities, and the bill would require the National Park Service to prioritize projects that support underserved communities, provide job-training to youth, and leverage resources through public-private partnerships.

As our cities grow and the effects of climate change intensify, this bill will increase equitable access to the many benefits of local parks, from job creation, to shade and tree cover, to clean air.

Nationwide, 100 million people, including 28 million children, do not have a park within a half-mile of home. That is almost one third of America.

Additionally, in the 100 most populated cities, neighborhoods where most residents identify as Black, Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Asian American and Pacific Islander have access to an average of 44 percent less park acreage than predominantly White neighborhoods.

For example, in Los Angeles, low-income communities and communities of color lack equal access to parks; a Los Angeles County survey found that Compton reported only 0.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, in contrast to Malibu, which has 55.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

This bill would address this staggering inequity in Los Angeles and across the country and make equity and justice a key focus of park investment and planning.

I thank my colead Senator COLLINS and all of the bill's cosponsors for championing this effort with me in the Senate. I also thank Congresswoman BARRAGÁN for her steadfast dedication to park equity.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Outdoors for All Act as soon as possible.

Thank you.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2888. A bill to reduce passenger, crewmember, and airport personnel risk of exposure to COVID–19, decrease the risk of transmission of COVID–19 on board aircraft and to United States destination communities through air travel, and protect children and other vulnerable individuals by preventing further spread of COVID–19 in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the U.S. Air Travel Public Safety Act. This bill would require airline passengers flying domestically to provide proof that they are fully vaccinated and also encourage more healthcare workers to be vaccinated against COVID–19.

The rise of the Delta variant and the latest COVID–19 surge in the United States continue to hit hospitals hard, and nearly all patients who are hospitalized or dying from COVID–19 are unvaccinated.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, surveillance data has shown that even after the more transmissible Delta variant became dominant during the summer, people who were fully vaccinated were still about five times less likely to be infected and more than 10 times less likely to be admitted to the hospital or die compared to those unvaccinated.

Further CDC studies have supported that our vaccines remain effective against the severe consequences of COVID–19. For this and other reasons, we must take every opportunity to get all eligible Americans vaccinated as quickly as possible.

We know that travel is a significant factor in the spread of COVID–19. According to a study published in the ''Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences,'' people traveling to other counties or States last year contributed to higher COVID–19 case numbers in their destination communities. This was especially true during the 2020 summer and winter holidays.

As friends and family gathered together for Thanksgiving, in particular, we experienced the start of major back-to-back surges that would culminate into the highest daily cases, hospitalizations, and deaths reported nationally during the pandemic.

While scientists aren't expecting COVID–19 peaks to reach these levels again, hospitals may still find themselves overwhelmed if large numbers of COVID–19 and influenza hospitalizations coincide this winter.

The U.S. Air Travel Public Safety Act would add an additional preventative layer to COVID–19 safety measures for domestic air travel. Specifically, it would require airline passengers to provide proof of vaccination before boarding a domestic flight within the United States.

The bill would also offer alternatives to airline passengers not yet fully vaccinated by allowing them to provide either proof of a negative COVID–19 test result or documentation proving that they have recovered from COVID–19.

Current CDC guidance notes that fully vaccinated travelers are much less likely to get and spread COVID–19 than people who are unvaccinated. Furthermore, new research published in a Mayo Clinic Proceedings study shows that COVID–19 testing requirements for airline passengers could have a meaningful effect on detecting active infections either immediately before or after a flight.

This legislation builds on current requirements in place since January 2021 that require proof of a negative COVID–19 test result for all airline passengers, including U.S. citizens, arriving from a foreign country to the United States. Many Americans have already experienced this process, and airlines are required to collect this passenger COVID–19 information on behalf of CDC.

When added to current safety interventions required for domestic flights, these measures could decrease the risk of transmission during air travel, as well as the potential of air travelers spreading COVID–19 at their destinations.

The bill would also require CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices—ACIP—to develop recommendations for COVID–19 vaccine use in healthcare settings and among health care personnel in other settings. ACIP currently recommends that healthcare personnel be vaccinated for vaccine-preventable diseases, such as Hepatitis B, measles, and influenza.

ACIP's recommendation for the COVID–19 vaccine would further encourage health workers to get the shot and reduce the chances of spread. This is particularly important as vaccination rates among health workers remain lower than optimal.

This legislation may also positively affect vaccine acceptance among the general public. According to a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, about 3 in 10 people surveyed who were waiting to be vaccinated said they would be more likely to get vaccinated if airlines required passengers to be vaccinated. This number increased to about 4 in 10 among unvaccinated individuals who said they would only get the vaccine if required.

We must ensure the millions of airline passengers that crisscross our country aren't contributing to further COVID–19 transmission. This is especially critical for young children, who remain ineligible to be vaccinated and are increasingly accounting for reported COVID–19 infections nationwide.

I want to thank the Infectious Diseases Society of America for their support for this bill. Getting vaccinated is a matter of life and death, and it is the only option to safely returning to normalcy. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue, and I urge my fellow Senators to support the U.S. Air Travel Public Safety Act.

Thank you.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2891. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 10 years ago this month, Congress worked on a broad bipartisan basis to pass the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, the biggest change to the United States patent laws in half a century. The patent system exists to create incentives that promote the progress of science and the useful arts for the benefit of the public. Our whole economy depends on a working patent system that reinforces high-quality patents while ensuring that poor-quality patents cannot throw a wrench into the gears. Today, I am proud to introduce, alongside Senator CORNYN, the bipartisan Restoring the America Invents Act to ensure that the improvements we made to maintain high patent quality in the Leahy-Smith Act continue to work as Congress intended.

One of the challenges we confronted 10 years ago was that too many invalid patents were being issued. Instead of rewarding true innovation, these patents were being used to indefinitely extend monopolies, quash competition, and harm American consumers. For example, in the pharmaceutical industry, brand-name drug companies would artificially extend a drug's patent term by patenting minor and insignificant changes to the underlying product. In other industries, entities that did not even make products would buy up tens of thousands of questionable patents covering simple and obvious actions like doing business on the internet, and they would sue thousands of small businesses that sold innovative products online.

One of the biggest accomplishments of the Leahy-Smith Act was that it empowered members of the public to challenge a patent's validity at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office—PTO—directly, providing a faster, less expensive, and more accessible avenue than litigation in the courts. These proceedings, called inter partes review

and post-grant review, have been wildly successful. According to one economic impact study, in one 5-year period, the Leahy-Smith Act saved the U.S. economy $2.64 billion in litigation costs alone, with more than $1 billion more in added personal income for Americans.

The Leahy-Smith Act's new proceedings have been used thousands of times and have had the aggregate impact of improving the quality of patents in our patent system. Unfortunately, over time and especially during the last administration, the PTO has limited the availability of these proceedings beyond what Congress intended. The PTO began routinely declining to hear challenges brought by members of the public, even when those challenges met timing requirements, met all other statutory criteria, and would have likely succeeded on the merits. In 2020, roughly one in five challenges was summarily denied proceedings by the PTO, undermining the intent of the Leahy-Smith Act.

Furthermore, whether a patent is valid should not depend on which party is in the White House or what individual is in charge of the agency. During the last administration, there was reported nontransparent meddling by the PTO Director in the work of the administrative patent judges who were making inter partes and post-grant review decisions. While the Supreme Court has recently held that the PTO Director should have the last word on patentability decisions, the public deserves to know when decisions are being made by dedicated civil servant judges and when they are being made by the politically appointed Director.

This bill fixes both problems and generally restores the Leahy-Smith Act to what Congress intended 10 years ago. It requires institution of inter partes review petitions that meet the statutory criteria and further encourages district courts to stay litigation when a parallel proceeding at the PTO will resolve the same validity issues. The stay factors in this bill are intended to put a heavy thumb on the scale in favor of a district court stay, preventing duplicative proceedings, and protecting patent owners from having to repeatedly defend their patents. The Restoring the America Invents Act further imposes transparency. The PTO Director must provide a separate written opinion when overriding part or all of a decision of administrative patent judges, and the PTO Director may not interfere in any way in the judges' initial decisionmaking. The public and any reviewing court should get to see the judges' decisions first, before any political actor might change the outcome.

This bill further clarifies other aspects of the Leahy-Smith Act. It clarifies the intent of the Leahy-Smith Act that the PTO can address, in inter partes review proceedings, certain clear instances of invalidity: double patenting, where applicants amass dozens of patents covering trivial iterations of an already-patented drug or other product; and admissions by the patent owner, in the patent itself, that someone else first came up with the invention. It clarifies that, when patent owners want to amend their patent claims during these post-issuance proceedings, the PTO must fully examine and vet those claims before issuing them. Likewise, the bill prohibits the PTO from issuing new claims to a patent that are essentially the same as existing claims, addressing the problem of patent thickets. And the Restoring the America Invents Act addresses multiple related proceedings pending at the PTO, specifying that the PTO must decide ahead of time how to proceed, to avoid conflicting outcomes from separate parts of the agency. This is in addition to the agency's ongoing obligation to make rules addressing common situations, such as under 35 U.S.C. §316(a)(4). The PTO should study frequent scenarios and determine whether new regulations are needed to address them.

Fundamentally, we need to address why the PTO issues invalid patents in the first place. But when these invalid patents have already been issued, they need to be addressed on the back end. On this 10th anniversary of the Leahy-Smith Act, I am proud to introduce this bill—the Restoring the America Invents Act, that will restore the patent system so it can continue to accomplish its goals into the next decade and beyond, reinforcing high-quality patents while ensuring that poor-quality patents don't disrupt the American economy, costing Americans untold sums in unreasonable drug costs and overly inflated prices generally. I am excited to work alongside Senator CORNYN, on a bipartisan basis, to pass this important piece of legislation. The Founders envisioned the patent system to promote the progress of science and the useful arts for the benefit of the public. It is time to get back to the Founders' vision. I hope the Senate will act quickly to pass this critical legislation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2895. A bill to prohibit the Department of Transportation and other agencies from promulgating rules requiring a person to provide proof of COVID–19 vaccination in order to engage in interstate commerce or travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, the past 18 months have been trying for our Nation.

Thankfully, the vaccine has brought normalcy back to the lives of many Americans. In record time, thanks to the hard work of the Trump administration and scientists across our country, we developed a safe and effective vaccine to protect Americans against COVID–19.

These vaccines show us what can happen through cooperation, ingenuity, and hard work. And I am grateful for all those who helped us get here. I got the vaccine and encourage everyone to talk to their doctor and consider doing the same. That is what we all should do: give Americans all the information and data so that they have everything they need to make a good decision for their family.

That is exactly what I did when I was Governor of Florida in the face of life-threatening hurricanes. I made sure Florida families were well informed. I went out and made sure everyone knew exactly what to expect and how dangerous the storm could be, but I didn't issue mandates because that is not what governments should do.

When I was Governor of Florida, we had the Zika healthcare crisis, which impacted newborns. Rather than placing mandates on pregnant women or restricting their travel to areas with local transmission of Zika, we simply informed Floridians, worked to be as transparent as possible, and offered free Zika testing to all pregnant women in Florida.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has gone in the complete opposite direction. The White House has tried to use the new OSHA guidance to create fear; push another round of trillions of dollars in reckless, wasteful spending; lock down our Nation; close our schools; and kill the economy that so many Americans have worked so hard to preserve and protect.

Americans are sick and tired of the government telling them what to do, and the American people are more than capable of making the right choices to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors.

As families and businesses in Florida and across the U.S. continue to work hard to recover from COVID–19's devastation, travel is critical to getting our economy fully reopened. America's truckers, shippers, pilots, and deliverymen and -women play an important role in delivering the goods needed to keep our economy going. Everything from gas and groceries to packages from small businesses and department stores, they help keep this country running. They also haven't had the luxury of working from home. For 18 months, they have shown up to work. They have figured out how to be safe without the feds telling them what to do.

But the job-killing Biden White House is now considering requiring those engaged in interstate commerce or interstate travel be vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination and a vaccine passport.

The Federal Government has no business imposing vaccine mandates on the American people and our hard-working businesses. This proposal reeks of a power grab and is another attempt by the Biden White House to control

Americans. The Biden administration wants to control Americans through fear and mandates so the Federal Government is touching every single part of your life.

I won't stand for it. Americans won't stand for it. They know that such an order is an overreach of power. Americans should be free to make choices they feel are in the best interests of their own health and the health of their loved ones, and the Federal Government has no business requiring travelers to turn over their personal medical information in order to make a delivery or to catch a flight.

I believe Floridians and Americans across this country know what decisions are best for them. They don't need the Biden administration controlling their lives.

The Supreme Court has already ruled that the Federal Government can't force people to purchase health insurance under the Commerce Clause. Why would President Biden think he could do so with a vaccine mandate?

In December, President Biden promised—promised—he would not require Americans to be vaccinated or require that they carry vaccine passports—promise by President Biden. The new OSHA order breaks that promise. It has been one lie after another with this President.

Today, I am introducing legislation which will prevent unconstitutional vaccine mandates for interstate commerce. I am thankful for Senators JOHNSON, LUMMIS, MARSHALL, and LEE cosponsoring this legislation and for Congressman DAN CRENSHAW, who is introducing the companion bill in the House of Representatives.

We are working to make sure that families across our country can travel freely and businesses can conduct interstate commerce without the ridiculous government bureaucracy created by vaccine passports.

This bill would prohibit the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, and other Federal Agencies from requiring proof of vaccination or the use of a vaccine passport to engage in interstate commerce or travel.

It protects people like my dad, who used to drive a truck and would carry goods across State lines. It protects the rights of American citizens, as laid out in our Constitution.

President Biden is trying to upend our way of life and impose his view of health on every American—and I am here to say that I won't stand for it.

Now, I would like to yield to my friends Senator JOHNSON and Senator LEE, as they will talk about this same bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senator SCOTT's bill. I want to make a few different points. First of all, I don't believe this administration or people who support the mandates are really thinking the process through as to how devastating these mandates are going to be on our economy.

Well before the President even announced his unlawful regulatory initiative, I was hearing from truckdrivers; I was hearing from nurses and doctors who have already had COVID, who had natural immunity, who are looking at, for example, the reports, are looking at some of the data and science saying that natural immunity is 13 to 27 times more effective than the vaccine, and they have chosen not to get it.

President Biden promised the American public he wouldn't mandate this. He said: ''I don't think it should be mandatory. I wouldn't demand it to be mandatory.''

His Press Secretary, Jen Psaki, said it is not the Federal Government's role.

I agree. The President also said: ''This is not about freedom or personal choice.''

No, this is exactly about freedom and personal choice.

I have written so many oversight letters to the healthcare Agencies. I completely agree with Senator SCOTT. I was a big supporter of Operation Warp Speed. I have gotten every vaccine until this one because I have had COVID, but the Federal Agencies have not been transparent. They have not given the American public information that we need to make that informed choice.

We need to recognize people's health autonomy. This is their body. They should be able to make these choices.

I want to talk a little bit about some of the information we are not getting from our healthcare Agencies that people who are choosing not to get vaccinated are looking at. And it is not disinformation. This is real information. It is just being withheld from the public by our healthcare Agencies, by the media, and the social media.

The first thing I want to show is a chart that I put together. Again, this is real data. This comes from the CDC in terms of the number of new cases per day, as well as the number of deaths per day. The deaths are down here in a very thin red line. But you can see by this chart that in terms of the surge of the initial Alpha variant of COVID, it pretty well peaked late December, early January.

The vaccines got the emergency use authorization about mid-December. The orange line shows the percent of Americans vaccinated, fully vaccinated. You can see the initial surge, the initial pandemic, was winding down before the vaccines even could take effect.

Now, again, we all hoped and prayed that the vaccine would be 100 percent effective and 100 percent safe. But when you look at this chart, as the pandemic is winding down, the percent of fully vaccinated individuals are going up, you would think—again, you would think what you would see is just a complete winding down of the pandemic. But that is not what we have seen.

We have seen this new surge, this new surge of a variant called Delta. So what are we to make of this? Again, I am not a doctor; I am not a medical researcher—but I look at this, and I am going, well, it certainly doesn't look like the vaccine has been particularly effective against the Delta variant.

But let's look at some data, the type of data that we are not getting from our healthcare Agencies. So we have to look, unfortunately, to England and to Israel that are more transparent. I don't expect anybody to be able to read the figures here. I will give you the highlights, but I am showing that this is from Public Health England. This is one of their Federal healthcare Agencies. This is from their technical briefing No. 23, dated September 17, 2021. It covers cases for about 7½ months, from the beginning of February to February 12. What the data shows is that during that 7½-month period in England, there are about 750,000 new COVID cases. A little under 600,000 of those were the Delta variant, about 80 percent. The number of deaths associated with those 600,000 Delta cases was 2,542, which gives us a case fatality ratio of about 0.4.

Now, again, case fatality is higher than infection fatality because these are actually registered cases, and there are all kinds of infections that never get registered. So to put this in context, an infection fatality rate for a bad flu season is slightly under 0.2, half of this. Again, put things in perspective.

Now, President Biden—and this has been parroted by media, news media—said that what we are currently experiencing is a pandemic of the unvaccinated. They don't give us, really, any data to back that up; they just proclaim, pronounce, that 99 percent of people with COVID now are unvaccinated, but they don't give us the data.

We have data from England. And here is the data. So of the 600,000 cases in England, 43 percent were with the unvaxxed; 27 percent were with the fully vaxxed; another 30 percent were partially vaxxed or just undetermined. But I think what is interesting—here is another quote from President Biden—President Biden said: If you are vaccinated, you are not going to be hospitalized; you are not going to an ICU unit; you are not going to die; you are not going to get COVID if you have these vaccinations.

Well, maybe that is true in the United States. I kind of doubt it because in England, of the 600,000 new cases of Delta, of the over 2,500 deaths—63 percent of those deaths—1,613 people were fully vaccinated. Twenty-eight percent were with the unvaxxed.

This is information the American people probably never heard. It is information, by conveying it, I will get attacked. I will be vilified. I will be

censored. I will be suppressed. It is one of the reasons I come to the floor of the Senate to reveal this information that the American people need to know.

Let me close with something else that certainly nurses know, nurses who were our heroes. They had the courage and compassion to treat COVID patients. Many got infected; some tragically died; most survived. Now, many of those nurses are treating the vaccine injured.

Let me just quick quote a couple of figures from the CDC's own safety early surveillance system—the VAERS report, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Worldwide, from a couple of weeks ago—these numbers are pretty fresh—there have been over 15,000 deaths reported on VAERS. Now, I realize VAERS does not prove causation. But of those 15,000 deaths, over 5,000 of those deaths have occurred on days 0, 1, or 2 following vaccination.

Now, again, it doesn't prove causation, but if I were working at the CDC, I would be looking at that very closely and analyzing those cases. The final number, total adverse events, on the VAERS system in 10 months, since the COVID vaccines have been under emergency use authorization, over 725,000 adverse events. So, again, I was hoping and praying this vaccine was 100 percent effective, 100 percent safe, but that does not appear to be the case.

And I believe this administration, I believe our healthcare Agencies need to be honest and transparent with the public. They have not been. The American people have the right to choose. It should not be mandated. We should respect their personal choice. We should respect their freedom.

And I will just close on—I will be bringing more information as we discuss other ways to push back on these mandates over the next few days, so stay tuned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, during this pandemic, the people of the United States have seen the Federal Government intrude into their lives more frequently and more completely than ever before. President Biden didn't make any pretense about this. He didn't mince any words. He didn't sugarcoat it. He didn't even try to hide behind any veneer when he spoke to the American people. He said: ''Our patience is wearing thin.''

This five-word expose of the President's thinking is deeply troubling. It is not the kind of sentiment you ever want expressed within a Free Republic, not from the Chief Executive.

To say ''our patience is wearing thin'' might be something that you say of a foreign adversary. It might be something you say of a subordinate within government, someone who reports up to the President. It is not something you say of the people—the people who, in our system, collectively, are the sovereign.

It is only by the consent of the governed that our government has its legitimacy, and to denigrate the American people that way is not consistent with who we are. It is not consistent with our form of government.

So I find that five-worded mission of how he views the American people worrying in its own right. But I find it nothing short of horrifying that he—as if acting as some sort of omnipresent nanny state disciplinarian executive is now set to plunge even more deeply into everyday lives of the American people.

We are here today to remove one of the options from the unconstitutional buffet of strong-armed Executive tactics used by President Biden in connection with COVID–19. Requiring proof of vaccination for interstate travel would create millions of second-class Americans. And it would make all Americans subject to a form of government and a type of power to which we are not accustomed. And that is really ill-suited for our Constitution structure.

The Constitution itself protects Americans from this type of action. The Privileges and Immunities Clause and the Fourteenth Amendment grants Americans the right to freely travel between the States. There is no precedent for the Federal Government requiring anything like vaccination before traveling domestically. There is no precedent because there is no legitimate Federal power in this area to begin with.

It is important to remember that the Federal Government doesn't have what we call general police powers. These are the basic powers of government that are there to protect life, liberty, and property and to focus on things like health, safety, and welfare.

You see, State governments retain this general police power. Remember that James Madison, in Federalist No. 45, described the powers given to Congress as few and defined and those reserved to the States as numerous and indefinite.

The Founding Fathers understood what general police powers were. They deliberately, consciously, intentionally, and with very good reason did not give those powers to the Federal Government.

So as a result, the Federal Government doesn't possess, under the Constitution, the ability to pass laws or regulations of this sort. No, in our system of government—our national government—this Federal Government has to pass only those laws that are within these powers that are few and defined, those enumerated in the Constitution.

The President of the United States, under our Constitution, does not, moreover, have any kind of unilateral lawmaking authority whatsoever. So the power is not Federal in the first place. And even if it were a proper Federal power, which it is not, it is a legislative power that he is trying to wield here. Only we can give him that. Only we can enact legislation.

Article I, section 7, makes it very clear that if you are going to change the legal status quo, if you are going to establish policy at the Federal level that will carry the force of generally applicable Federal law, you have to be acting within one of Congress's enumerated powers.

But more importantly here, under article I, section 7, you have to have passage in the House; you have to have passage in the Senate of the same legislative vehicle, followed by presentment to the President of the United States. That formula hasn't been followed here. We have no Federal law on this as a result of that. We, thankfully, got rid of a King back in 1776. We have never gone back—never looked back and longed for the Union Jack. We shouldn't be anxious to convert the Presidency into a type of monarchy, even if it is a mini monarchy.

Beyond the constitutional problems, requiring vaccine passports for domestic travel within the United States would place a huge burden on not only the American people, but also on airlines and on other businesses that are already hard hit by the pandemic. Multiple major airlines have already expressed their concerns with a vaccine passport mandate.

Look, the last thing the American people need is more mandates and restrictions preventing them from making their own reasonable decisions. Americans deserve to be able to make a living and to be able to engage in interstate commerce and to travel interstate without mandates making them choose between providing for their families and undergoing a medical procedure against their will.

That is why I am fighting President Biden's existing mandate and fighting against future intrusions by the executive branch into the lives of Americans.

The bill offered by my friend and colleague, the Senator from Florida, would ensure that Federal Agencies cannot attempt to impose vaccine requirements for interstate travel or commerce. I am proud to be here in support of this bill. I am proud to defend Americans and their constitutional rights. I hope we can protect millions of our fellow citizens and the American way of life by passing this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, under no circumstances should the Federal Government attempt to mandate these vaccines and require proof of vaccination in order to conduct business.

Small business owners who are trying to restart their businesses, families trying to take vacations, and truckers who are getting back to work shouldn't have to choose between living their

lives and meeting President Biden's demands.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE ASIA AND ITS MISSION TO PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT SOURCE OF NEWS TO CLOSED SOCIETIES IN ASIA

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 394

Whereas, after the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, a bipartisan group of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, led by then-Senators Joseph R. Biden and Jesse Helms, came together and sponsored legislation to create Radio Free Asia, a news outlet with a congressionally-mandated mission to provide unbiased, independent, and domestic journalism for audiences in China, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, Tibet, and Vietnam, whose people do not fully enjoy freedom of expression;

Whereas Radio Free Asia—

(1) was established by United States law as part of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

(2) was incorporated as a private, nonprofit corporation on March 11, 1996; and

(3) made its inaugural broadcast in Mandarin to the Chinese people on September 29, 1996;

Whereas Laos, Vietnam, China, and North Korea rank amongst the worst 9 countries in the world for media freedom in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, as based on an evaluation of pluralism, independence of the media, quality of legislative framework, and safety of journalists;

Whereas Radio Free Asia delivers programming and content using many media platforms, including radio, television, and the internet, in the languages of Mandarin, Korean, Burmese, Tibetan, Uyghur, Khmer (Cambodian), Cantonese, Lao, and Vietnamese, and through English translations and content on the website and social media of Radio Free Asia;

Whereas Radio Free Asia launched BenarNews in 2015, an online news affiliate that publishes news and content for audiences in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines that is focused on the consequences of extremism and contributes to coverage by Radio Free Asia of the influence of the People's Republic of China in Southeast Asia and the expanded military presence of the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea;

Whereas Radio Free Asia in 2020 launched online brand, WHYNOT/WAINAO, engaging younger Chinese Mandarin-speaking audiences around the world, who are often skeptical of pervasive Chinese government narratives, fostering an open dialogue on banned or under-covered topics through probing independent-thinking journalism, features, and content;

Whereas Radio Free Asia, consistent with its congressional mandate of editorial independence, works to ensure that its journalists and services adhere to the highest journalistic standards and ethics, without influence or interference by the United States Government or any Administration;

Whereas the Uyghur Service of Radio Free Asia has served a vital role by providing an independent source of information on the repression and mass detention of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the documentation of abuses in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region by Radio Free Asia has helped inform the policies of the Congress and the Executive Branch, including a determination by the State Department that the Chinese government, under the direction of the Chinese Communist Party, is engaged in genocide against Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups;

Whereas Radio Free Asia has documented the rapid deterioration of autonomy and democratic freedoms in Hong Kong by the Chinese central government, including restrictions on freedom of speech and the press and crackdowns on activists, journalists, and protesters;

Whereas Radio Free Asia has been a primary source of information on Tibetan regions in the People's Republic of China, including on the March 2008 Lhasa Uprising and ensuing security crackdown, the spate of Tibetan self-immolations, and restrictions on Tibetan language, education, religious practice, and the display of images of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, in March 2020, Radio Free Asia reported that the Chinese government was under-reporting the number of coronavirus fatalities in Wuhan province, which was later verified by leaked internal Chinese documents obtained by other news outlets;

Whereas Radio Free Asia has provided the Burmese people with continuous coverage of the 2021 military-led coup that deposed the elected government and ended 10 years of democratic reforms and growth of civil society;

Whereas, in 2017, Radio Free Asia documented the human rights abuses against and expulsion of Rohingya from Burma, whose plight Radio Free Asia affiliate BenarNews has continued to cover in refugee camps in Bangladesh;

Whereas Radio Free Asia has done in-depth reporting on the behavior of the North Korean government, including the use of forced labor, political prisoner camps, activities at nuclear testing sites, and internal acknowledgments of the presence of COVID–19 in the country;

Whereas high-level defectors and refugees from North Korea have credited reports by Radio Free Asia as a factor in their decision to leave the country and seek their future beyond the North Korean borders;

Whereas the Lao, Khmer (Cambodian), and Vietnamese services of Radio Free Asia have reported on high-level corruption of officials and leaders, silencing of independent voices and journalists, and the struggles of civil society, as well as activities by China that affect the flow of the Mekong River;

Whereas the journalism by Radio Free Asia has earned recognition among its peers, is cited by respected international and regional media outlets, and has won numerous awards for its investigative reporting and exclusive features from journalistic and human rights groups;

Whereas Radio Free Asia has been unjustly targeted by repressive regimes, with its websites blocked, its radio signals jammed, and its journalists put at risk;

Whereas Nguyen Tuong Thuy, Truong Duy Nhat, and Nguyen Van Hoa, contributors to the Vietnamese Service of Radio Free Asia, have been unjustly jailed and detained;

Whereas Uon Chhin and Yeang Sothearin, who have both worked as journalists for the Khmer (Cambodian) Service of Radio Free Asia, continue to face unsubstantiated charges; and

Whereas Chinese authorities have detained and harassed family members of the Uyghur Service of Radio Free Asia in a campaign of intimidation. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of Radio Free Asia on its 25th anniversary as an independent news organization chartered and funded by Congress with a mission to bring uncensored, accurate news to people living in closed societies in Asia;

(2) honors the dedication and courage of the former and current journalists of Radio Free Asia in the face of threats and adversity from foreign governments and rising risks for press freedom in Asia and across the globe; and

(3) commends the continued effectiveness and success of Radio Free Asia in its pursuit of independence and credible journalism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 395—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 28, 2021, AS ''NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY''

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 395

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 28, 2021, as ''National Voter Registration Day''; and

(2) encourages each voting-eligible citizen of the United States—

(A) to register to vote;

(B) to verify with the appropriate State or local election official that the name, address, and other personal information on record is current; and

(C) to go to the polls on election day and vote if the voting-eligible citizen would like to do so.

SENATE RESOLUTION 396—COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE DEDICATION OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. REED, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 396

Whereas Congress, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328), directed the Secretary of Defense to take appropriate action in observing the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as a historical event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the selection and burial of an unknown solider from the United States, who fell in France during World War I, and honoring the service and sacrifice of millions of veterans;

Whereas, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has been preparing for the commemoration of the centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for

several years working alongside Arlington National Cemetery, veteran service organizations, foreign allies, civic associations, Congressional partners, and private citizens to commemorate and educate the United States about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier;

Whereas the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was intended to represent more than just a single conflict, serving as a focal point for the United States regardless of race, creed, or politics where the people of the United States can come together as a single Nation to mourn and honor the fallen soldiers from the United States;

Whereas it is essential to remember and renew the legacy of Veterans Day, which was established to pay tribute to individuals who have served and sacrificed on behalf of the United States in times of war or armed conflict, and their families;

Whereas greater strides must be made to demonstrate appreciation of those loyal people of the United States whose values, represented by their sacrifices, are critical to the future of the United States;

Whereas each citizen of the United States has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for the national heritage of the United States and to encourage citizens to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which those heroes of the United States died;

Whereas, on October 24, 1921, in accordance with an act of Congress, the World War I Unknown Soldier was selected in Chalons-sur-Marne, France;

Whereas the World War I Unknown Soldier was protected, honored, and revered by the people of France who presented their nation's highest award for valor upon this unknown warrior from the United States;

Whereas, on October 25, 1921, the World War I Unknown Soldier began the final difficult journey home aboard the historic USS Olympia through the remnants of 2 hurricanes;

Whereas, on November 9, 1921, the World War I Unknown Soldier arrived at the historic Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. and lay in state at the United States Capitol;

Whereas, on November 11, 1921, the World War I Unknown Soldier was finally laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier after being conferred the Medal of Honor and other medals of valor from allies of the United States;

Whereas, on May 15, 1958, the Korean War Unknown Soldier was selected at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, to represent all of the fallen and missing from that war;

Whereas, on May 26, 1958, the World War II Unknown Soldier was selected at sea aboard the USS Canberra off of the coast of the State of Virginia, to represent all of the fallen and missing from that war;

Whereas, on May 30, 1958, the World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldiers were buried in individual crypts next to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier after having the Medal of Honor conferred upon them;

Whereas, on May 17, 1984, the Vietnam War Unknown Soldier was designated at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to represent all of the fallen and missing from that war;

Whereas, on May 28, 1984, the Vietnam War Unknown Soldier was buried in an individual crypt, between the World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldier, next to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier after being conferred the Medal of Honor;

Whereas, on May 14, 1998, the Vietnam War Unknown Soldier was disinterred and later identified as Captain Michael J. Blassie, and buried under his own name at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas on National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 17, 1999, the empty Vietnam War Unknown Soldier crypt was rededicated to ''Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen'' as a reminder of the commitment of the Armed Forces to fullest possible accounting of missing service members;

Whereas the United States Army has provided Sentinels at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier since March 25th, 1926, and maintained a constant 24-hour vigil since midnight July 2nd, 1937; and

Whereas the Guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of the military of the United States while keeping a constant vigil at this national shrine, and have a special duty to prevent any desecration or disrespect directed towards the Tomb of the Unknown Solder: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on leading the commemoration of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier;

(2) encourages all people of the United States to participate in fitting acts of remembrance such as designating special places in their gardens as ''Never Forget'' gardens which will serve as living tributes to all of the veterans of the United States and their families, observing a 2-minute period of silence in commemoration, the playing of taps, or attending commemoration events with allies of the United States on October 24 and 25, 2021 in France or in Washington, D.C. on November 9 and 11, 2021; and

(3) encourages the attendance of Veterans' Day ceremonies, visitation of veteran cemeteries and memorials, and the honoring of the American Flag.

SENATE RESOLUTION 397—RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 397

Whereas, in an effort to improve the imagery intelligence, mapping, and geodesy capabilities of the United States, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, the predecessor of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (in this preamble referred to as the ''NGA''), was founded on October 1, 1996, with the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997;

Whereas the NGA derives from legacy agencies, including the Defense Mapping Agency, the Central Imagery Office, the Defense Dissemination Program Office, the National Photographic Interpretation Center, and parts of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office, which played vital roles in the defense of the United States in conflicts dating back to World War II and modernized the discipline of geospatial intelligence (in this preamble referred to as ''GEOINT'') through imagery analysis and mapping production;

Whereas, with military and civilian employees serving at NGA headquarters in Springfield, Virginia, the NGA West Campus in St. Louis, Missouri, and additional locations throughout the United States, and personnel deployed worldwide, totaling more than 200 locations in more than 25 countries, NGA produces timely and relevant mapping, charting, geomatics, and intelligence products to warfighters, first responders, civil authorities, policymakers, and the maritime and aviation communities;

Whereas, throughout its 25-year history, the NGA has provided world-class GEOINT support to policymakers and military commanders of the United States, in times of peace and conflict, during significant national security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief efforts, including—

(1) the operation that resulted in the killing of former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden;

(2) operational GEOINT support in the space warfighting domain;

(3) safety of navigation support for mariners and pilots;

(4) support to search and rescue, response, and recovery efforts for hurricanes, cyclones, wildfires, and other humanitarian disasters domestically and internationally;

(5) countering drug trafficking and other illicit activities by transnational criminal organizations; and

(6) continued mission support to forward-deployed members of the Armed Forces across the globe;

Whereas, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the men and women of the NGA have worked diligently to deter, detect, and prevent acts of terror by providing GEOINT support to United States and coalition forces in support of global counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations;

Whereas the NGA continues to support national security requirements against the strategic competitors and potential adversaries of the United States, using new intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sensors;

Whereas the topographic mission of the NGA traces its lineage to the year 1777 with the Office of the Geography in the Continental Army;

Whereas NGA continues to provide integrated geographic data, products, and services in support of the national security objectives of the United States Government by—

(1) maintaining more than 51,000 topographic maps in support of global combat operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and military training;

(2) serving as the official geographic names steward for the United States Government, providing customers with more than 13,000,000 names;

(3) assisting in the understanding and resolution of sovereignty issues by providing international land and maritime boundaries in coordination with the Department of State;

(4) generating human geography data that informs a global understanding of the human environment; and

(5) producing unclassified geospatial information in support of national and partner efforts in the Arctic and to enable scientific research in the Arctic region;

Whereas the NGA is the primary organization responsible for developing, maintaining, and enhancing the World Geodetic System 84 (including the Terrestrial Reference Frame, Earth Gravity Model, and World Magnetic Model), the foundation of all positioning, navigation, and timing systems supporting the Department of Defense, including the Global Positioning System;

Whereas the NGA spearheaded an international project with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to acquire radar data to create the first near-global, homogeneous set of land elevation data;

Whereas, during an 11-day mission in February 2000, the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission flew aboard the space shuttle Endeavour and collected radar data on more

than 80 percent of the land surface of the Earth at 30-meter resolution;

Whereas the NGA carries on the proud legacy of this project with the evolution to full 3-dimensional-elevation modeling;

Whereas the Maritime Safety Office of the NGA, which traces its lineage to the year 1830, collects and analyzes data for and publishes the Notices to Mariners to provide government, civilian, and international mariners with vital, up-to-date maritime safety information that helps ensure safe navigation all over the world;

Whereas the NGA also supports military and commercial vessels worldwide with navigational products and warning messages;

Whereas, in addition to legacy paper charts, NGA provides worldwide digital nautical charts that ensure safety of navigation to a broad base of users;

Whereas the Aeronautical Navigation Office of the NGA, which traces its lineage to the year 1943, produces timely, relevant, and accurate aeronautical GEOINT to support more than 13,000 Department of Defense airplanes and their crew members, allowing them to safely navigate around the world every day;

Whereas the NGA has converted from paper maps to downloadable digital maps and content, reducing the gear that pilots need to carry while also ensuring that the Department of Defense meets global airspace mandates for performance-based navigation;

Whereas the NGA continues to innovate, pursuing new methods of intelligence collection and analysis to inform, complement, and add to the support of warfighter and policymaker requirements by—

(1) embracing innovative cost-sharing and risk-sharing constructs with the commercial electro-optical satellite industry;

(2) engaging commercial technology providers, including small satellite companies and geospatial data analytics companies, that hold the promise of rapid technological innovation and potential significant future cost savings to the taxpayers of the United States;

(3) leveraging emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, automation, and augmentation to enable advanced computational and intelligence capabilities;

(4) discovering, assessing, and integrating new commercial geospatial data types and services that bring value to solving the complex intelligence problems of the United States and supporting disadvantaged and underserved users operating in austere environments; and

(5) investing in breakthrough technologies and capabilities that will strengthen strategic warning, mission forecasting, and military intelligence and improve the means of navigation for NGA customers;

Whereas the NGA maintains United States GEOINT supremacy and hold the adversaries of the United States at bay by giving primacy to the core missions of the United States, serves as the world's premier GEOINT force, and pursues a whole-of-enterprise approach focused on—

(1) recruiting and training the world-class workforce of the NGA to lead the GEOINT community;

(2) collaborating with both foreign and domestic partners on co-production of GEOINT;

(3) leading the GEOINT community through the implementation of governance, standards, and enterprise services; and

(4) supporting the national security interests of the United States by delivering to NGA customers persistent, accurate, secure, and timely GEOINT data, products, and services; and

Whereas, throughout the years, the mission and commitment of the NGA has remained the same: to show the way by—

(1) delivering trusted GEOINT for decision advantage;

(2) protecting the United States by reducing strategic surprises; and

(3) elevating the understanding of the United States of the world and space to anticipate potential threats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the women and men of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Agency;

(2) honors the professional women and men, past and present, of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for their selfless service and dedication to the United States; and

(3) expresses gratitude to all the women and men of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for their past and continued efforts to provide timely and accurate geospatial-intelligence support to deliver overwhelming advantage to warfighters, defense planners, and defense and national security policymakers in the defense and security of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3830. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3831. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3832. Mr. BRAUN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3833. Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3830. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short Title
Sec. 2. Table of Contents.
Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

DIVISION B—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

DIVISION C—AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

DIVISION D—OTHER MATTERS

Title I—Extensions, Technical Corrections, and Other Matters

Title II—Budgetary Effects

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2022, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2021 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2021, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (division A of Public Law 116–260), except section 799D, and including title IV of division O of Public Law 116–260.

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–260), except the proviso in section 541 and sections 542 and 543.

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2021 (division C of Public Law 116–260).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (division D of Public Law 116–260), except the last proviso under the heading ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science'', the last two provisos under the heading ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program'', and the two provisos under the heading ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program''.

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Public Law 116–260), except the matter under the heading ''Presidential Transition Administrative Support'' in title II, the matter under the heading ''General Services Administration—Expenses, Presidential Transition'' in title V, the proviso and the amount specified in such proviso under the heading ''District of Columbia—Federal Funds—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia'' in title IV, and title IX.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2021 (division F of Public Law 116–260), except section 538, and including sections 101 through 103 and section 105 of title I of division O of Public Law 116–260.

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (division G of Public Law 116–260).

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (division H of Public Law 116–260), except sections 118 and 533.

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2021 (division I of Public Law 116–260), except sections 211 and 213, and including section 7 of Public Law 116–260.

(10) The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations

Act, 2021 (division J of Public Law 116–260), except sections 514, 515, and 517.

(11) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021 (division K of Public Law 116–260), except title IX other than sections 9001 and 9002 and the matter preceding the first proviso and the first proviso under the heading ''Consular and Border Security Programs''.

(12) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (division L of Public Law 116–260), except sections 420 and 421.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for:

(1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2021 or prior years;

(2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2021 funds; or

(3) The initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2021.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2021.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2022, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act.

(2) The enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2022 without any provision for such project or activity.

(3) December 3, 2021.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2022 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2021, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2021, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b)Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2021 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2021, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001 of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, or as being for disaster relief pursuant to sections 4004(b)(6) and 4005(f) of such concurrent resolution, respectively.

(b) All references to sections 251(b)(2)(B), 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III), 251(b)(2)(C), 251(b)(2)(C)(ii), 251(b)(2)(E)(ii), 251(b)(2)(E)(i)(II), 251(b)(2)(F), and 251(b)(2)(F)(ii)(I) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)) shall be treated for each amount incorporated by reference in this Act in the Senate as references to sections 4004(b)(1), 4004(b)(1)(B)(i), 4004(b)(3), 4004(b)(3)(B), 4004(b)(4), 4004(b)(4)(B), 4004(b)(5), 4004(b)(5)(B), respectively, of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and in the House of Representatives as references to sections 4005(a), 4005(a)(2)(A), 4005(c), 4005(c)(2), 4005(d), 4005(d)(2), 4005(e), 4005(e)(2)(A), respectively, of such concurrent resolution.

(c) This section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act, and shall remain in effect through the date in section 106(3).

SEC. 115. (a) Rescissions or cancellations of discretionary budget authority that continue pursuant to section 101 in Treasury Appropriations Fund Symbols (TAFS)—

(1) to which other appropriations are not provided by this Act, but for which there is a current applicable TAFS that does receive an appropriation in this Act; or

(2) which are no-year TAFS and receive other appropriations in this Act,

may be continued instead by reducing the rate for operations otherwise provided by section 101 for such current applicable TAFS, as long as doing so does not impinge on the final funding prerogatives of the Congress.

(b) Rescissions or cancellations described in subsection (a) shall continue in an amount equal to the lesser of—

(1) the amount specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act; or

(2) the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2021, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act.

(c) No later than November 22, 2021, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a comprehensive list of the rescissions or cancellations that will continue pursuant to section 101: *Provided*, That the information in such comprehensive list shall be periodically updated to reflect any subsequent changes in the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2021, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101, and such updates shall be transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate upon request.

SEC. 116. Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Farm Service Agency—Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate approved applications for direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are available to the Department of Agriculture for ''Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program'' for gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) not to exceed $25,000,000.

SEC. 118. (a) In carrying out the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for the first quarter of fiscal year 2022, the Secretary of Agriculture shall increase the amount of a cash-value voucher to an amount recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and adjusted for inflation for women and children participants.

(b) Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Agriculture for ''Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)'' shall be apportioned at the rate for operations necessary to accommodate the increase described in subsection (a).

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, in addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided to

the Department of Defense for ''Procurement—Other Procurement, Air Force'' at a rate for operations of $885,000,000, for the procurement of equipment for the Strategic Microelectronic Supply program, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out such procurements.

SEC. 120. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for ''Procurement—Procurement, Defense-Wide'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for the procurement of Military Global Positioning System User Equipment Increment 1 Application Specific Integrated Circuits.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force'' may be apportioned up to the rate of operations necessary for the acquisition of real property by the United States Government.

SEC. 122. During the period covered by this Act, the limitation at section 2208(l)(3) of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to advance billing for orders for relief efforts related to the COVID–19 pandemic.

SEC. 123. (a) Funding provided in prior Acts making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021 under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources'' for carrying out section 4007 of Public Law 114–322 shall be made available, in accordance with that section and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated July 23, 2021, for the construction, pre-construction, or study of the North-of-the-Delta Off Stream Storage (Sites Reservoir Project), the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Phase 2 Expansion Project, the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project, and the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir.

(b) Funding provided in the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources'' for carrying out section 4009(a) of Public Law 114–322 shall be made available, in accordance with that section and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated July 23, 2021, for the North Pleasant Valley Desalter Facility, the Mission Basin Groundwater Purification Facility Well Expansion and Brine Minimization Project, the Los Robles Desalter Project, and the Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program,

(c) Funding provided in the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources'' for carrying out section 4009(c) of Public Law 114–322 shall be made available, in accordance with that section and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated July 23, 2021, for the El Paso Aquifer Storage and Recovery Using Reclaimed Water Project, the Pure Water Soquel: Groundwater Replenishment and Seawater Intrusion Prevention Project, the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition Project, the Pure Water Oceanside Project, the City of Santa Fe Reuse Pipeline Project, the Replenish Big Bear Project, the Central Coast Blue: Recycled Water Project, the Harvest Water Program, the East County Advanced Water Purification Program: Phase Two, the Ventura Water Pure Program, and the San Juan Watershed Project.

SEC. 124. (a) During the period covered by this Act, title I of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681), as amended by section 4007(k) of Public Law 114–322, shall be applied by substituting ''2022'' for ''2021'' each place it appears.

(b) During the period covered by this Act, section 9106(g)(2) of Public Law 111–11 (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009) shall be applied by substituting ''2022'' for ''2021''.

(c) During the period covered by this Act, section 104(c) of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2214(c)) shall be applied by substituting ''2022'' for ''2021''.

(d) During the period covered by this Act, section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241) shall be applied by substituting ''2022'' for ''2021''.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, section 506 of division D of Public Law 116–260 shall be applied by substituting ''$841,000,000'' for ''$291,000,000''.

(b) Amounts provided by this Act for ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(c) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (b).

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President—The White House—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $60,000,000.

SEC. 127. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''General Services Administration—Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents'' at a rate for operations of $5,000,000.

SEC. 128. Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under paragraphs (1) through (35) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), for guarantees of trust certificates authorized by section 5(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(g)), for commitments to guarantee loans under section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697), and for commitments to guarantee loans for debentures under section 303(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)).

SEC. 129. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''District of Columbia—Federal Funds—Federal Payment to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia'' at a rate for operations of $249,754,000: *Provided*, That the second proviso under such heading in title IV of division E of Public Law 116–260 shall be applied by substituting ''$70,574 000'' for ''$66,743,000''.

SEC. 130. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds made available under the heading ''District of Columbia—District of Columbia Funds'' for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2021 (title IV of division E of Public Law 116–260) at the rate set forth in the Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021 (D.C. Act 24–173), as modified as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 131. Section 330(e)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''in that fiscal year'' at the end of the paragraph.

SEC. 132. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an amount is provided to the Department of Homeland Security for ''U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—Operations and Support'' for application processing, the reduction of backlogs within asylum, field, and service center offices, and support of the refugee program at a rate for operations of $250,000,000: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be in addition to any other funds made available for such purposes, and shall not be construed to require any reduction of any fee described in section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)): *Provided further*, That prior to the obligation of such resources, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives an expenditure plan that identifies backlog reduction metrics and quarterly reports on the execution of such plan.

SEC. 133. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out response and recovery activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 134. (a) Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2021''.

(b) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2021, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30 2021.

SEC. 135. Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Department of the Interior—National Park Service—National Recreation and Preservation'' for heritage partnership programs may be used to provide financial assistance to any national heritage area, national heritage corridor, cultural heritage corridor, national heritage partnership, national heritage route, national heritage canalway, and battlefields national historic district established as of September 1, 2021, notwithstanding any statutory sunset provision terminating the Secretary's authority to provide assistance to any such area and notwithstanding any limitation on amounts authorized to be appropriated with respect to any such area: *Provided*, That the Commission sunset provision in section 804(j) of division B of H.R. 5666 (Appendix D), as amended, as enacted into law by 13 section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106–554, shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2021'': *Provided further*, That the authority in section 295D of Public Law 109–338, as amended, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 136. Notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Codes, during the period covered by this Act amounts made available from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2022 pursuant to subsection (a) of such section of such title shall be allocated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, only for the following agencies and accounts, for the purposes specified, and in the amounts specified multiplied by the percentage of fiscal year 2022 covered by this Act:

(1) ''Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management—Land Acquisition'', $7,500,000, for Acquisition Management;

(2) ''Department of the Interior—United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Land Acquisition'', $17,000,000, for Land Acquisition Management,

(3) ''Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Land Acquisition and State

Assistance'', $14,500,000, for Acquisition Management;

(4) ''Department of the Interior—Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations'', $19,000,000, for Management Services, Appraisal and Valuation Service Offices—Federal Lands;

(5) ''Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—State and Private Forestry'', $6,400,000, for Administrative Funds; and

(6) ''Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Land Acquisition'', $12,000,000, for Acquisition Management.

SEC. 137. (a) In addition to amounts provided by section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services'' at a rate for operations of $22,080,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2021 and 2022, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

(b) In addition to amounts provided by section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Facilities'' at a rate for operations of $2,261,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2021 and 2022, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

SEC. 138. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, for ''Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Environmental Health'', there is appropriated $1,500,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for the Vessel Sanitation Program.

SEC. 139. (a) Funds made available in Public Law 114–113 to the accounts of the National Institutes of Health that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2016 and were obligated for multi-year research grants shall be available through fiscal year 2022 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal year 2016 if the Director of the National Institutes of Health determines the project suffered an interruption of activities attributable to COVID–19.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2021, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2021.

SEC. 140. In addition to amounts provided by section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Mental Health'' at a rate for operations of $77,621,000 for an additional amount for carrying out section 520E–3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–36c), and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to operate and maintain the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program.

SEC. 141. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by this Act, for ''Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Refugee and Entrant Assistance'', there is appropriated $2,500,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to carry out section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008: *Provided*, That not later than November 1, 2021, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report detailing steps taken and planned to be taken by the Department to phase out the use of emergency intake sites and a detailed plan for ending the use of emergency intake sites, including a timeline of major milestones and projections for delivered online bed capacity by facility type: *Provided further*, That such report shall include an aligned spend plan for estimated fiscal year 2022 obligations by major category: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall submit monthly reports during fiscal year 2022 to the Committees on Appropriations on all obligations and expenditures incurred by the Department for carrying out such sections 462 and 235: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 142. Amounts made available by section 101 for ''Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Refugee and Entrant Assistance'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, and up to the rate for operations necessary for activities authorized by section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980.

SEC. 143. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter through fiscal year 2022, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on (1) the total number of children that the Office of Refugee Resettlement has released to sponsors living in the United States, disaggregated by State, and (2) the number of children that the Office of Refugee Resettlement has released to sponsors living in the United States for whom the Office of Refugee Resettlement has successfully conducted safety and welfare checks, and provided post-release services as appropriate, for the most recent quarter such data are available.

SEC. 144. Not later than 10 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and disclose on a publicly available website, on all transfers made for carrying out section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 or section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 during fiscal year 2021. This report shall include: (1) a list of the source of funds transferred by public law; (2) the program, project, or activity funds were transferred from and the corresponding amount that was transferred; (3) date of transfer; (4) the number of children referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) by month for fiscal year 2021; and (5) the age distribution of the children referred to ORR by month for fiscal year 2021; *Provided*, That the report shall be updated every 30 days throughout fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 145. During the period covered by this Act, for services furnished under the Community Services Block Grant Act (''CSBG Act'') with funds made available by this Act, by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), or by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136), States may apply the last sentence of section 673(2) of the CSBG Act by substituting ''200 percent'' for ''125 percent''.

SEC. 146. For purposes of annual leave accumulated in fiscal year 2021, the authority provided in section 2106 of division C of Public Law 116–159 shall apply to such leave by substituting ''2021'' for ''2020'' in subsections (a) and (d).

SEC. 147. Activities authorized by part A of title IV (other than under section 403(c) or 418) and section 1108(b) of the Social Security Act shall continue through the date specified in section 106(3), in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2021, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

SEC. 148. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2021''.

SEC. 149. Section 458(a)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087h(a)(4)) shall be applied through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act by substituting ''2022'' for ''2021''.

SEC. 150. Notwithstanding section 101, section 116 of division J of Public Law 116–260 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act by substituting ''fifth fiscal year'' for ''fourth fiscal year''.

SEC. 151. During the period covered by this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer up to $193,500,000 of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for fiscal year 2021 under the heading ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'' in title II of division F of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94), or in section 8002 of title VIII of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2) to the following accounts of the Department in the amounts specified:

(1) ''Veterans Benefits Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', up to $178,000,000;

(2) ''Departmental Adininistration—Board of Veterans Appeals'', up to $5,800,000; and

(3) ''Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems'', up to $9,700,000: *Provided*, That the transferred amounts shall be used, in addition to any other amounts available for such purposes, for personnel costs and other expenses to implement the interim final rule entitled ''Presumptive Service Connection for Respiratory Conditions Due to Exposure to Particulate Matter'', published on August 5, 2021 (86 FR 42724), and any revisions to such rule.

SEC. 152. Amounts made available by section 101 to United States Government-funded entities for ''Related Agency—United States Agency for Global Media—International Broadcasting Operations'', ''Related Programs—The Asia Foundation'', ''Related Programs—United States Institute of Peace'', and ''Related Programs—National Endowment for Democracy'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to support the evacuation of Afghan journalists and other Afghan employees of such entities, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 153. Section 21009 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 154. Amounts made available by section 101 to the United States International Development Finance Corporation for ''Corporate Capital Account'' and paid to the ''Program Account'' shall be available for the costs of modifying loans and loan guarantees transferred to the Corporation pursuant to section 1463 of the BUILD Act of 2018 (division F of Public Law 115–254): *Provided*, That such costs shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SEC. 155. Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''October 1, 2021''.

SEC. 156. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—Payments to Air Carriers'' at a rate for operations of $247,700,000, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain Essential Air Service program operations.

SEC. 157. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the third paragraph under the heading ''Public and Indian Housing—Native American Programs'' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate demand for guaranteed notes and other obligations as authorized by title VI of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

This division may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022''.

DIVISION B—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PROCESSING, RESEARCH AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For an additional amount for the ''Office of the Secretary'', $10,000,000,000, which shall remain available until December 31, 2023, for necessary expenses related to losses of crops (including milk, on-farm stored commodities, crops prevented from planting in 2020 and 2021, and harvested adulterated wine grapes), trees, bushes, and vines, as a consequence of droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze, including a polar vortex, smoke exposure, quality losses of crops, and excessive moisture occurring in calendar years 2020 and 2021 under such terms and conditions as determined by the Secretary: *Provided*, That, with respect to smoke tainted wine grapes, the loss (including a quality loss) of such crop during the coverage period due to wildfire, as determined by the Secretary, is considered a qualified loss: *Provided further*, That losses due to drought shall only be eligible under this heading in this Act if any area within the county in which the loss occurs was rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (Severe Drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (Extreme Drought) or higher level of drought intensity during the applicable calendar years: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall use $750,000,000 to provide assistance to producers of livestock, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, for losses incurred during calendar year 2021 due to drought or wildfires: *Provided further*, That at the election of a processor eligible for a loan under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272) or a cooperative processor of dairy, the Secretary shall make payments for losses in 2021 to such processors (to be paid to producer members, as determined by such processors) in lieu of payments to producers and under the same terms and conditions as payments made to processors pursuant to title I of the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–20) under the heading ''Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research and Marketing—Office of the Secretary'', as last amended by section 791(c) of title VII of division B of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 760.1503(j) of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, in the event that a processor described in the preceding proviso does not elect to receive payments under such clause, the Secretary shall make direct payments to producers under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, not more than one percent of the funds provided herein may be used for administrative costs, including for streamlining the application process and easing the burden on county office employees, to carry out the matter under this heading in this Act: *Provided further* That, except as otherwise provided under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall impose payment limitations consistent with section 760.1507 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That, in the case of specialty crops or high value crops, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall impose payment limitations consistent with section 760.1507(a)(2) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2019) *Provided further*, That, with respect to the payment limitations described under this heading in this Act, the Secretary shall apply separate payment limits for each of 2020 and 2021: *Provided further*, That the total amount of payments received under this heading in this Act and applicable policies of crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) or the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) (minus any premiums or fees paid for such coverages) shall not exceed 90 percent of the loss as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the total amount of payments received under this heading in this Act for producers who did not obtain a policy or plan of insurance for an insurable commodity for the applicable crop year under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) for the crop incurring the losses or did not file the required paperwork and pay the service fee by the applicable State filing deadline for a noninsurable commodity for the applicable crop year under NAP for the crop incurring the losses shall not exceed 70 percent of the loss as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That producers receiving payments under this heading in this Act, as determined by the Secretary, shall be required to purchase crop insurance where crop insurance is available for the next two available crop years and producers receiving payments under this heading in this Act shall be required to purchase coverage under NAP where crop insurance is not available in the next available crop years, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That not later than 120 days after the end of fiscal year 2021, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress specifying the type, amount, and method of such assistance by state and territory.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations'' for necessary expenses for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, $275,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

For an additional amount for ''Scientific and Technical Research and Services'' for necessary expenses to carry out investigations of building failures pursuant to the National Construction Safety Team Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7301), $22,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for ''Operations, Research, and Facilities'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of hurricanes and of wildfires in calendar years 2020 and 2021, $92,834,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, as follows:

(1) $4,709,000 for repair and replacement of observing assets, real property, and equipment;

(2) $3,425,000 for marine debris assessment and removal;

(3) $4,700,000 for mapping, charting, and geodesy services;

(4) $35,000,000 to improve: (A) hurricane intensity and track forecasting, including through deployment of unmanned ocean observing platforms and enhanced data assimilation; and (B) precipitation and flood prediction, forecasting, and mitigation capabilities;

(5) $20,000,000 to improve wildfire research, prediction, detection, forecasting, monitoring, data management, and communication and engagement; and

(6) $25,000,000 for Title IX Fund grants as authorized under section 906(c) of division O of Public Law 114–113:

Provided, That the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Acquisition and Construction'' for necessary expenses related to the consequences of hurricanes and of wildfires in calendar years 2020 and 2021, $52,205,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, as follows:

(1) $2,205,000 for repair and replacement of observing assets, real property, and equipment; and

(2) $50,000,000 for improvements to operational and research weather and climate supercomputing and dissemination infrastructure, observing assets, and satellites, along with associated ground systems, used for hurricane intensity and track prediction; precipitation and flood prediction, forecasting, and mitigation; and wildfire research, prediction, detection, forecasting, and monitoring:

Provided, That the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Fisheries Disaster Assistance'' for necessary expenses associated with the mitigation of fishery disasters, $200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds shall be used for mitigating the effects of commercial

fishery failures and fishery resource disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce, including those declared by the Secretary to be a direct result of hurricanes in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

SCIENCE

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration'' for repair at National Aeronautics and Space Administration facilities damaged by Hurricanes Zeta and Ida, $321,400,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That up to 15 percent of such amount may be transferred to ''Exploration'' for necessary expenses related to flight hardware, tooling, production and schedule delays caused by Hurricane Ida: *Provided further,* That except as provided in the preceding proviso, the amounts appropriated under this heading in this Act shall not be available for transfer under any transfer authority provided for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in an appropriation Act for fiscal year 2022.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction'' for necessary expenses related to the National Science Foundation Regional Class Research Vessel construction impacted by Hurricane Ida, $25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RELATED AGENCIES

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For an additional amount for ''Payment to the Legal Services Corporation'' to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act by providing for necessary expenses related to the consequences of hurricanes, wildfires, other extreme weather, and earthquakes that occurred during calendar years 2020 and 2021, $40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105–119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2021 and 2022, respectively, and except that sections 501 and 503 of Public Law 104–134 (referenced by Public Law 105–119) shall not apply to the amount made available under this heading: *Provided further,* That, for the purposes of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—MILITARY

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Navy'', $565,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of severe storms, straight-line winds, flooding, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires, and hurricanes occurring in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'', $330,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Winter Storm Uri occurring in calendar year 2021.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1301. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds provided by this title shall only be for the purposes specified, and shall not be subject to any transfer authority provided by law.

TITLE IV

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

INVESTIGATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Investigations'' for necessary expenses related to the completion, or initiation and completion, of flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection, studies that are currently authorized or that are authorized after the date of enactment of this Act, to reduce risk from future floods and hurricanes, at full Federal expense, $100,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That funds made available under this heading in this Act shall be for high-priority studies of projects in States with a major disaster declared due to Hurricane Ida pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in fiscal year 2021: *Provided further,* That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, including new studies selected to be initiated using funds provided under this heading in this Act, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'' for necessary expenses, $3,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to construct flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection, projects that are currently authorized or that are authorized after the date of enactment of this Act, and flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection, projects that have signed Chief's Reports as of the date of enactment of this Act or that are studied using funds provided under the heading ''Investigations'' if the Secretary determines such projects to be technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable: *Provided,* That of such amount, $1,500,000,000 shall be available for such projects in States with a major disaster declared due to Hurricane Ida pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in fiscal year 2021: *Provided further,* That the provisions of section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 shall not apply to the construction of projects, including initial construction or periodic nourishment, completed using funding under this heading in this Act: *Provided further,* That the completion of ongoing construction projects receiving funding provided under this heading in this Act shall be at full Federal expense with respect to such funds: *Provided further,* That for any projects using funding provided under this heading in this Act, the non-Federal cash contribution for projects other than ongoing construction projects shall be financed in accordance with the provisions of section 103(k) of Public Law 99–662 over a period of 30 years from the date of completion of the project or separable element: *Provided further,* That up to $65,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall be used for continuing authorities projects to reduce the risk of flooding and storm damage: *Provided further,* That any projects using funding appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be initiated only after non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary requiring, where applicable, the non-Federal interests to pay 100 percent of the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation costs of the project and to hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction or operation and maintenance of the project, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors: *Provided further,* That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities Program shall be derived from the general fund of the Treasury: *Provided further,* That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For an additional amount for ''Mississippi River and Tributaries'' for necessary expenses to address emergency situations at Corps of Engineers projects, and to construct, and rehabilitate and repair damages to Corps of Engineers projects, caused by natural disasters, $868,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the general fund of the Treasury: *Provided further,* That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $500,000,000 shall be available to construct flood and storm damage reduction projects that are currently authorized or that are authorized after the date of enactment of this Act in States with a major disaster declared due to Hurricane Ida pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in fiscal year 2021: *Provided further,* That the provisions of section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 shall not apply to the construction of projects, including initial construction or periodic nourishment, completed using funding under this heading in this Act: *Provided further,* That to the extent that ongoing construction projects are constructed using funding provided under this heading in this Act, such construction shall be at full Federal expense: *Provided further,* That for any projects using funding provided under this heading in this Act, the non-Federal cash contribution for projects other than ongoing construction projects shall be financed in accordance with the provisions of section 103(k) of Public Law 99–662 over a period of 30 years from the date of completion of the project or separable element: *Provided further,* That any projects using funding appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be initiated only after non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary requiring, where applicable, the non-Federal interests to pay 100 percent of the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation costs of the project and to hold and save the United

States free from damages due to the construction or operation and maintenance of the project, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance'' for necessary expenses to dredge Federal navigation projects in response to, and repair damages to Corps of Engineers Federal projects caused by, natural disasters, $887,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the general fund of the Treasury: *Provided*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For an additional amount for ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'', as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), for necessary expenses to prepare for flood, hurricane and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters, as authorized by law, $826,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funding utilized for authorized shore protection projects shall restore such projects to the full project profile at full Federal expense: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Expenses'' for necessary expenses to administer and oversee the obligation and expenditure of amounts provided in this Act for the Corps of Engineers, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for ''Central Utah Project Completion Account'', $10,000,000 to be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, to remain available until expended, for expenses necessary in carrying out fire remediation activities for wildfires.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

For an additional amount for ''Water and Related Resources'', $210,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, $200,000,000 shall be available for activities to address drought, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading in this Act, $10,000,000 shall be for fire remediation and suppression emergency assistance related to wildfires: *Provided further*, That the Commissioner shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For an additional amount for ''Strategic Petroleum Reserve'', $43,300,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to damages caused by natural disasters.

TITLE V

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Disaster Loans Program Account'' for the cost of direct loans authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, $1,189,100,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That up to $620,000,000 may be transferred to and merged with ''Salaries and Expenses'' for administrative expenses to carry out the disaster loan program authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act.

TITLE VI

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Federal Assistance'', $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for emergency management performance grants under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121), the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701), section 762 of title 6, United States Code, and Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1601. (a) Repayments of the remaining balances of all loans, as of September 30, 2021, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under section 417 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5184) are hereby cancelled.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Homeland Security for ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund'', such sums as are necessary may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account for carrying out subsection (a).

(c) Each amount repurposed or transferred by this section that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement or as being for disaster relief pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b), or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 4004(b)(6) and section 4005(f), respectively, of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

TITLE VII

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For an additional amount for ''Management of Lands and Resources'', $1,192,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $58,227,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $229,472,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For an additional amount for ''Surveys, Investigations, and Research'', $26,284,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

OFFSHORE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

For an additional amount for ''Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement'', $223,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020 and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and natural disasters.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $452,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Wildland Fire Management'', $100,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to wildfires: *Provied*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $55,000,000 shall be for hazardous fuels management activities: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $45,000,000, shall be for burned area recovery.

RELATED AGENCIES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Forest Service Operations'', $105,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For an additional amount for ''Forest and Rangeland Research'', $25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters for the forest inventory and analysis program.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

For an additional amount for ''State and Private Forestry'', $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For an additional amount for ''National Forest System'', $710,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $535,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters, including no less than $175,000,000 for high priority post-wildfire restoration for watershed protection, critical habitat, and burned area recovery: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $175,000,000 shall be for hazardous fuels mitigation.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for ''Capital Improvement and Maintenance'', $470,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of calendar year 2019, 2020, and 2021 wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1701. (a)(1) If services performed by the designated employees under paragraph (2) of this subsection at the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture during 2021 are determined by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, to be primarily related to emergency wildland fire suppression activities, any premium pay for such services shall be disregarded in calculating the aggregate of such employee's basic pay and premium pay for purposes of a limitation under section 5547(a) of title 5, United States Code, or under any other provision of law, whether such employee's pay is paid on a biweekly or calendar year basis. Any services during 2021 that generate payments payable in 2022 shall be disregarded in applying this subsection.

(2) The premium pay waiver under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply to individuals serving as wildland firefighters and as fire management response officials, including regional fire directors, deputy regional fire directors, agency officials who directly oversee fire operations, and fire management officers, and individuals serving on incident management teams (IMTs), at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), at Geographic Area Coordinating Centers (GACCs), and at Operations centers.

(3) The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture shall provide a report to Congress detailing the number of positions, including by occupation, grade, and the aggregate pay by type of pay for each individual who receives pay authorized under subsection (a)(1).

(b) Any overtime pay for services described in subsection (a) that is payable under an authority outside of title 5, United States Code, shall be disregarded in calculating any annual limit on the amount of overtime pay payable in 2021.

(c) Any pay that is disregarded under either subsection (a) or (b) shall be disregarded in calculating such employee's aggregate pay for purposes of applying the limitation in section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, during 2021.

(d)(1) Pay that is disregarded under subsection (a) or (b) shall not cause the aggregate of the employee's basic pay and premium pay for the applicable calendar year to exceed the rate of basic pay payable for a position at level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, as in effect at the end of such calendar year.

(2) For purposes of applying this subsection to an employee who would otherwise be subject to the premium pay limits established under section 5547 of title 5, United States Code, ''premium pay'' means the premium pay paid under the provisions of law cited in section 5547(a).

(3) For purposes of applying this subsection to an employee under a premium pay limit established under an authority other than section 5547 of title 5, United States Code, the agency responsible for administering such limit shall determine what payments are considered premium pay.

(4) For the purpose of applying this subsection, ''basic pay'' includes any applicable locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, any applicable special rate supplement under section 5305 of such title, or any equivalent payment under a similar provision of law.

(e) This section shall take effect as if enacted on January 1, 2021.

(f) If application of this section results in the payment of additional premium pay to a covered employee of a type that is normally creditable as basic pay for retirement or any other purpose, that additional pay shall not—

(1) be considered to be basic pay of the covered employee for any purpose; or

(2) be used in computing a lump-sum payment to the covered employee for accumulated and accrued annual leave under section 5551 or section 5552 of title 5, United States Code, or other similar provision of law.

(g) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Senate Committee on Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry, the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform, a framework to modernize the wildland firefighting workforce beginning in fiscal year 2022.

TITLE VIII

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

For an additional amount for ''Facilities and Equipment'', $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Ida.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

For an additional amount for the ''Emergency Relief Program'' as authorized under section 125 of title 23, United States Code, $2,600,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Community Development Fund'', $5,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation, in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that occurred in 2020 or 2021 pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall be awarded directly to the State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) at the discretion of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate, using the best available data, an amount equal to the total estimate for unmet needs for qualifying disasters under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That any final allocation for the total estimate for unmet need made available under the preceding proviso shall include an additional amount of 15 percent of such estimate for additional mitigation: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, no less than $1,610,000,000 shall be allocated for major declared disasters that occurred in 2020 within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not prohibit the use of amounts made available under this heading in this Act for non-Federal share as authorized by section 105(a)(9) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(9)): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, grantees may establish grant programs to assist small businesses for working capital purposes to aid in recovery: *Provided further*, That as a condition of drawing funds for any activity other than general administration, the Secretary shall certify in advance that such grantee has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with amounts made available under this heading in this Act, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds: *Provided further*, That with respect to any such duplication of benefits, the Secretary shall act in accordance with section 1210 of Public Law 115–254 (132 Stat. 3442) and section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall require grantees to maintain on a public website information containing common reporting criteria established by the Department that permits individuals and entities awaiting assistance and the general public to see how all grant funds are used, including copies of all relevant procurement documents, including grantee administrative contracts and details of ongoing procurement processes, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That prior to the obligation of funds a grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for approval detailing the proposed use of all funds, including criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas: *Provided further*, That such funds may not be used for activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Army Corps of Engineers: *Provided further*, That funds allocated under this heading in this Act shall not be

considered relevant to the non-disaster formula allocations made pursuant to section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306): *Provided further*, That a State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe may use up to 5 percent of its allocation for administrative costs related to a major disaster under this heading in this Act and for the same purposes in prior and future Acts and such amounts shall be available for any eligible administrative costs without regard to a particular disaster: *Provided further*, That in administering the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the recipient of these funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), if the Secretary finds that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement and such waiver or alternative requirement would not be inconsistent with the overall purpose of title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, recipients of funds provided under this heading in this Act that use such funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408(c)(4), or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval or permit: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 104(g)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(g)(2)), the Secretary or a State may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project assisted under this heading in this Act if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval or permit under the preceding proviso or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish via notice in the Federal Register or on the website of the Department any waiver, or alternative requirement, to any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers pursuant to title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 no later than 5 days before the effective date of such waiver or alternative requirement: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to approve the use of amounts made available under this heading in this Act or a prior or future Act for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to unmet recovery needs in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster in this Act or in a prior or future Act to be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from other major disasters assisted under this Act or a prior or future Act when such areas overlap and when the use of the funds will address unmet recovery needs of both disasters: *Provided further*, That, until the Secretary publishes a Federal Register Notice establishing the requirements for the previous proviso, grantees that received grants under the same heading for 2017, 2018 or 2019 disasters may submit for approval revised plans for the use of funds related to those major disasters to expand the eligible beneficiaries of existing programs contained in such previously approved plans to include those impacted by disasters in 2020 or 2021: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, up to $7,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building and technical assistance, including assistance on contracting and procurement, to support States, units of general local government, or Indian tribes, and subrecipients that receive allocations for disaster recovery pursuant to the authority under this heading in this Act and allocations for disaster recovery in any prior or future Acts: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, up to $5,500,000 shall be transferred to ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Program Office Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development'' for necessary costs, including information technology costs, of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of amounts made available under the heading ''Community Development Fund'' in this Act or any prior or future Act that makes amounts available for purposes related to major disasters under such heading.

TITLE IX

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 1901. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 1902. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 1903. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 1904. Each amount provided by this division is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

This division may be cited as the ''Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022''.

DIVISION C—AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for investigative activities associated with Afghan resettlement operations.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, AND CIVIC AID

For an additional amount for ''Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid'', $2,200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for support of Operation Allies Welcome by the Department of Defense.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 2201. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2022, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a written report to the congressional defense committees describing the execution of funds provided in this title, including the amounts obligated and expended, in total and since the previous report; the nature of the costs incurred or services provided by such funds; and any reimbursements or funds transferred by another Federal agency to the Department of Defense which relates to the purpose of the funds provided by this title.

SEC. 2202. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds provided by this title shall only be for the purposes specified, and shall not be subject to any transfer authority provided by law.

SEC. 2203. The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall carry out reviews of the activities of the Department of Defense to transport and care for Afghans, including but not limited to, the humane treatment and living conditions of Afghans at any Department of Defense facility; the use of funds by the Department of Defense to support such persons, including the monitoring of potential waste, fraud, or abuse of such funds; and any related issues that the Inspector General may direct: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall provide to the congressional defense committees periodic updates on such oversight efforts and a written report to such committees not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2204. Title IX of division C of Public Law 116–260 is amended under the heading ''Afghanistan Security Forces Fund'' by inserting the following before the penultimate proviso: ''*Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may obligate and expend funds made available under this heading for costs associated with the termination of contracts previously funded with amounts provided under this heading in prior Acts, and to pay valid invoices in satisfaction of liabilities under such contracts for which the applicable prior appropriation cannot be identified:''.

SEC. 2205. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Service Secretaries and the Commander of United States Central Command, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the disposition of United States property, equipment, and supplies, including property, equipment, and supplies provided to the Afghanistan National Security Forces, which were destroyed, taken out of Afghanistan, or remain in Afghanistan in connection with the United States military withdrawal: *Provided*, That such report shall include information on the future plans of the Department of Defense regarding any such items.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for ''CDC—Wide Activities and Program Support'', $21,500,000, for support of Operation Allies Welcome, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for medical support, screening, and other related public health activities related to Afghan arrivals and refugees.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Refugee and Entrant Assistance'', $1,680,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for support of Operation Allies Welcome for carrying out refugee and entrant assistance activities in support of citizens or nationals of

Afghanistan paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and citizens or nationals of Afghanistan for whom such refugee and entrant assistance activities are authorized: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used for grants or contracts with qualified nonprofit organizations to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including wrap-around services during temporary housing and after resettlement, housing assistance, medical assistance, legal assistance, and case management assistance: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, in carrying out section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act with amounts made available under this heading in this Act, may allocate such amounts among the States in a manner that accounts for the most current data available.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''Children and Families Services Programs'', $7,773,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for support of Operation Allies Welcome for necessary administrative expenses to carry out refugee and entrant assistance activities in support of citizens or nationals of Afghanistan.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 2301. (a) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly submit a strategy on Afghan evacuee resettlement to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership describing agency roles and responsibilities, vetting, immigration status of each Afghan, and anticipated costs associated with implementing such strategy.

(b) DEFINITION OF AFGHAN EVACUEE.—In this section, the term ''Afghan evacuee'' means a person whose evacuation from Afghanistan to the United States, or a location overseas controlled by the United States, was facilitated by the United States as part of Operation Allies Refuge.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'', $276,900,000, to remain available until expended, for support for Operation Allies Welcome and related efforts by the Department of State, including additional relocations of individuals at risk as a result of the situation in Afghanistan and related expenses, and to reimburse the account under this heading in prior acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for obligations previously incurred.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''International Disaster Assistance'', $400,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and the region impacted by the situation in Afghanistan.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Migration and Refugee Assistance'', $415,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address humanitarian needs in, and to assist refugees from, Afghanistan.

UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND

For an additional amount for ''United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund'', $1,076,100,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding section 2(c)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(2)), of which $976,100,000 is for support for Operation Allies Welcome and related efforts by the Department of State, including additional relocations of individuals at risk as a result of the situation in Afghanistan and related expenses, and $100,000,000 is to respond to other unexpected and urgent humanitarian emergencies.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 2401. During fiscal years 2022 and 2023, notwithstanding any applicable restrictions on the ability of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to enter into personal services contracts, including section 704 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Public Law 116–260) as continued by section 101 of division A of this Act (and any successor provision in a subsequently enacted appropriations Act), the authorities of section 2(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2669(c)), section 636(a)(3) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2396(a)(3)), and section 5(a)(6) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2605(a)(6)) may be exercised, without regard to the geographic limitations referenced therein, particularly to enter into, extend, and maintain contracts with individuals who have served as locally employed staff of the United States mission in Afghanistan.

SEC. 2402. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a report on the proposed uses of funds appropriated by this title under the headings ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'' and ''United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund'', by program, project, and activity, for which the obligation of funds is anticipated: *Provided*, That such report shall be updated (including any changes in proposed uses from the initial plan) and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 45 days until September 30, 2023.

SEC. 2403. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report on the status of the Priority 2 (P–2) designation granting United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) access for certain at risk Afghan nationals and their eligible family members that was announced by the Department of State on August 2, 2021: *Provided*, That such report shall include the approximate number of Afghan nationals and their eligible family members who have been referred to the program, the number of Afghan nationals who have contacted a Resettlement Support Center to begin processing of their P–2 referral, the estimated time for processing such applications, an assessment of the obstacles facing P–2 eligible individuals seeking to leave Afghanistan, and a plan for augmenting personnel needed for refugee processing or humanitarian parole: *Provided further*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 2404. None of the funds appropriated in this title and made available for assistance for Afghanistan may be made available for direct assistance to the Taliban.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 2501. In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated for ''U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—Immigration Examinations Fee Account'', $193,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses in support of Operation Allies Welcome, to be deposited and used as provided in section 286(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(n)): *Provided*, That such amounts shall be in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes and shall not be construed to require any reduction of any fee described in section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)): *Provided further*, That amounts provided in this section shall only be for the purposes specified, and notwithstanding any other provision of law are not available for non-expenditure transfer or reprogramming: *Provided further*, That within 15 days of the date of enactment of this Act, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives an expenditure plan for the funds provided under this paragraph, and every 30 days thereafter shall provide updated execution data to such Committees for such funds: *Provided further*, That the reporting requirement in the previous proviso shall end on September 30, 2026.

SEC. 2502. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a citizen or national of Afghanistan (or a person with no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan) shall be eligible for the benefits described in subsections (b) and (c) if—

(1) such individual completed security and law enforcement background checks to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security and was subsequently—

(A) paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022; or

(B) paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022, and—

(i) is the spouse or child (as such term is defined under section 101(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)) of an individual described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) is the parent or legal guardian of an individual described in subparagraph

(A) who is determined to be an unaccompanied child under 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2); and

(2) such individual's parole has not been terminated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) BENEFITS.—An individual described in subsection (a) shall be eligible for—

(1) resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) until March 31, 2023, or the term of parole granted under subsection (a), whichever is later;

(2) services described under section 412(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)), subject to subparagraph (B) of such section, if such individual is an unaccompanied alien child as defined under 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2); and

(3) a driver's license or identification card under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (division B of Public Law 109–13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note), notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of such Act.

(c) EXPEDITIOUS ADJUDICATION OF ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.—With respect to an application for asylum under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) filed by an individual described in subsection

(a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) conduct the initial interview on the asylum application not later than 45 days after the date on which the application is filed; and

(2) in the absence of exceptional circumstances, issue a final administrative adjudication on the asylum application within 150 days after the date the application is filed.

(d) CLARIFICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in this act shall be interpreted to—

(1) preclude an individual described in subsection (a), from applying for or receiving any immigration benefits to which such individual is otherwise eligible; or

(2) entitle a person described in subsection (a) to lawful permanent resident status.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 months thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to Congress detailing the number of individuals described in subsection (a); the number of individuals receiving benefits in subsection (b), including their eligibility for benefits as refugees notwithstanding this Act; and any other information deemed relevant by the Secretary.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SEC. 2503. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter through September 30, 2023, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the head of any other applicable Federal agency, shall submit to Congress a report that includes the elements described in subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A summary of the status of Afghan evacuees, including—

(A) the number of the Afghan evacuees present in the United States, located at overseas bases of the United States Armed Forces, or located in third countries who are not located at such a base including—

(i) the number who are U.S. lawful permanent residents;

(ii) the number who are Special Immigrant Visa holders;

(iii) the number who are Special Immigrant Visa applicants;

(iv) the number who are in possession of a valid nonimmigrant visa to enter the United States;

(v) the number who are employees of a U.S. Government agency;

(vi) the number who are employees of a U.S. funded partner organization, media, or non-profit;

(vii) the number of Priority 1 refugee referrals;

(viii) the number of Priority 2 refugee referrals;

(ix) the number who have been relocated from the United States to a third country, and the country to which they were relocated; and

(x) the number who do not fall into any of the above categories;

(B) the number of Afghan evacuees at overseas bases or other official staging areas who have been flagged as potential security concerns or risks or included on the United States no-fly list and who were therefore denied clearance to enter the United States; and

(C) the number of the Afghan evacuees who have been paroled into the United States—

(i) the number whose parole was terminated; and

(ii) the number whose parole has been extended.

(2) The number of Afghan evacuees who have been interviewed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in connection with an application or petition for immigration benefits, including—

(A) the number of such interviews conducted since the United States withdrawal;

(B) the rate at which individuals were granted or refused the benefits that formed the basis for such interviews;

(C) the number of individuals who did not appear at a scheduled interview; and

(D) a description of the procedures for screening for and detecting child marriage, human trafficking, gender-based violence, and marriages entered into or relationships as fiancee or fiance claimed for the sole purpose of securing evacuation.

(3) For each Federal department and agency involved in Operation Allies Welcome—

(A) as of the date of the report, the costs incurred; and

(B) an identification of the source of appropriated or other funds used to fund the effort.

(c) DEFINITION OF AFGHAN EVACUEE.—In this section, the term ''Afghan evacuee'' means a person whose evacuation from Afghanistan to the United States, or a location overseas controlled by the United States, was facilitated by the United States as part of Operation Allies Refuge.

SEC. 2504. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 2505. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 2506. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 2507. Each amount provided by this division is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

This division may be cited as the ''Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022''.

DIVISION D—OTHER MATTERS

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS, TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 3101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS FOR NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.

Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2021'' and inserting ''December 3, 2021''.

SEC. 3102. EXTENDING CERTAIN WAIVER AUTHORITIES.

(a) NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM REQUIREMENT WAIVERS ADDRESSING COVID–19.—Section 2202(e) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127; 42 U.S.C. 1760 note) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2021'' and inserting ''June 30, 2022: *Provided*, That such waivers shall only apply to school year 2021–2022''.

(b) FUNDING.—There are hereby appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 3103. EXTENSION OF ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2021'' and inserting ''December 31, 2021''.

SEC. 3104. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act (Public Law 116–114), section 2 of such Act (as amended by Public Law 117–12) is amended by striking ''October 22, 2021'' and inserting ''January 28, 2022''.

SEC. 3105. EXTENDING THE INCREASED FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE FOR TERRITORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905(ff) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(ff)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''September 30, 2021'' and inserting ''December 3, 2021'' ; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''September 30, 2021'' and inserting ''December 3, 2021''.

(b) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than November 15, 2021, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review the determination of the allotment for Puerto Rico for fiscal year 2022 under section 1108(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308(g)), and include in the review the legal opinion of the Comptroller General on the most plausible plain reading of how such fiscal year 2022 allotment level should be calculated.

SEC. 3106. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''$165,000,000'' and inserting ''$69,000,000''.

TITLE II—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 3201. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SA 3831. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division D, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be obligated or expended to implement or enforce a COVID–19 vaccine mandate, including the promulgation of any rule

or regulation with respect to such a mandate or the enforcement of such a rule or regulation.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATE.—The term ''COVID–19 vaccine mandate'' means—

(A) any requirement that a person (other than a Federal employee or an individual performing work on or in connection with a contract with the Federal Government) receive a COVID–19 vaccine, including a requirement that such a person either receive such a vaccine or be subject to COVID–19 testing; or

(B) any requirement that an employer require an employee or independent contractor to receive a COVID–19 vaccine, including by requiring such employee or independent contractor to either receive such vaccine or be subject to COVID–19 testing.

(2) EMPLOYER.—The term ''employer'' means a person engaged in a business affecting commerce who has employees or independent contractors. Such term includes a State or political subdivision of a State but does not include the United States.

SA 3832. Mr. BRAUN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—NO BUDGET, NO PAY

SEC. 4101. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''No Budget, No Pay Act''.

SEC. 4102. DEFINITION.

In this division, the term ''Member of Congress''—

(1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) does not include the Vice President.

SEC. 4103. TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.

If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

SEC. 4104. NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the United States Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 4105.

(b) NO RETROACTIVE PAY.—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 4105, at any time after the end of that period.

SEC. 4105. DETERMINATIONS.

(a) SENATE.—

(1) REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).

(2) DETERMINATIONS.—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

(A) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with section 4103 and whether Senators may not be paid under that section;

(B) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under section 4103; and

(C) provide timely certification of the determinations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(b) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).

(2) DETERMINATIONS.—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(A) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with section 4103 and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that section;

(B) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under section 4103; and

(C) provide timely certification of the determinations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4106. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This division shall take effect on September 29, 2023.

SA 3833. Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5305, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 80, strike line 6 and all that follows through page 83, line 4, and insert the following:

SEC. 2502. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a citizen or national of Afghanistan (or a person with no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan) shall be eligible for the benefits described in subsections (b) and (c) if—

(1) such individual completed security and law enforcement background checks to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security and was subsequently—

(A) paroled into the United States between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022; or

(B) paroled into the United States after September 30, 2022, and—

(i) is the spouse or child (as defined in section 101(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b))) of an individual described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) is the parent or legal guardian of an individual described in subparagraph (A) who is determined to be an unaccompanied child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))); and

(2) such individual's parole has not been terminated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) BENEFITS.—An individual described in subsection (a) shall be eligible for—

(1) resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) until March 31, 2023; and

(2) services described in section 412(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)), subject to subparagraph (B) of such section, if such individual is an unaccompanied alien (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))).

(c) EXPEDITIOUS ADJUDICATION OF ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.—With respect to an application for asylum under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) filed by an individual described in subsection (a)—

(1) the initial interview on the asylum application shall occur not later than 15 days after the date on which such application is filed; and

(2) in the absence of exceptional circumstances, final administrative adjudication of the asylum application, not including administrative appeal, shall be completed not later than 150 days after the date on which such application is filed.

(d) CLARIFICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in this Act may be interpreted—

(1) to preclude an individual described in subsection (a) from applying for or receiving any immigration benefit to which such individual is otherwise entitled;

(2) to entitle a person described in subsection (a) to adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident; or

(3) preclude a person described in subsection (a) from applying for a driver's license or identification card for which such person is eligible under State law.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 months thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to Congress detailing—

(1) the number of individuals described in subsection (a);

(2) the number of individuals receiving benefits under subsection (b), including those who are eligible for benefits as refugees; and

(3) any other information that the Secretary considers relevant.

(f) EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—Each amount provided by this section is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to subsections (a)(1) and (b) of section 4001 of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 10 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, September 29, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a classified members briefing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed en bloc to the consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 395, S. Res. 396, and S. Res. 397.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 395) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The resolutions (S. Res. 396 and S. Res. 397) 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, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 30; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5305, as provided under the previous order; further, that upon disposition of H.R. 5305, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Chopra nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed on Thursday, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:12 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 29, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ROBERT T. ANDERSON, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JESSICA LEWIS, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL–MILITARY AFFAIRS).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF 1ST SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER COFFIN

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 1st Sergeant Christopher Coffin, who tragically lost his life serving his country during Operation Iraq Freedom.

1st Sergeant Chris Coffin was assigned to the 352nd Civil Affairs Battalion when the vehicle he was traveling in was forced off the road by insurgents on July 1, 2003. He died that day protecting a convoy that had travelled from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Sgt. Coffin was born in Branchburg, New Jersey in 1951 and spent most of his childhood there. In 1978, while attending Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, he met his wife, Betsy. The two of them shared a love for the outdoors, and would frequently travel together to ski the Rocky Mountains.

Chris was also a National Park Ranger, serving at Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania and at Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. At Mount Rainier, he was a climbing ranger and was responsible for saving the lives of many injured or trapped visitors. He took such pride in the daily raising and lowering of our nation's flag at the Paradise Ranger Station that his friends, even to this day, remember the huge smile beaming on Chris' face as he walked to the flagpole.

Chris was a loving husband, a proud serviceman who always took care of his soldiers, a National Park Ranger who led search and rescue missions to save the lives of park visitors, and a friend to everyone who was fortunate to have met him.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the life of 1st Sergeant Christopher Coffin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 281 On Agreeing to the Amendment, I am mistakenly recorded as a NAY.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 281. I oppose the transfer of military equipment to local law enforcement departments.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I'm grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge October 10th as Taiwan's 110th National Day, greatly appreciated as Double Ten Day. This year is special to me as the 40th birthday of my son, Julian Dusenbury Wilson.

Taiwan serves as a beacon of freedom and an indispensable strategic partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific, and the special people-to-people relationships further enrich our lives every day. A few examples of these rewarding ties include:

Trade in U.S. goods and services with Taiwan was nearly $104 billion in 2019.

Trade and investment with Taiwan support over 373,000 American jobs.

Taiwan is the seventh largest source of international students in the U.S., and

Taiwan is my state of South Carolina's tenth largest export market with billion-dollar investments in South Carolina industry creating jobs.

My lifelong appreciation of the people of Chinese heritage was inspired by my father, 1st Lt. Hugh deV. Wilson, U.S. Army Air Corps, 14th Air Force, with the Flying Tigers. He developed an affection for the people of China while serving to protect the citizens of Chengdu, Xi'an, and Kunming in 1944.

I am pleased that the United States and Taiwan remain close allies, and I would like to again wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMVETS POST 114

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize AMVETS Post 114 of Elk Rapids, Michigan, for its 75 years of service to Veterans, their families, and their local community. Through their tireless work, Post 114 has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

As soldiers returned home from the battlefields of World War II, many recognized the need for a nationwide group advocating on behalf of our Veterans—in response, American Veterans (AMVETS) of World War II was founded on December 10, 1944. Shortly after, President Harry Truman and Congress officially chartered AMVETS in 1947. Throughout its 75 years of service, AMVETS Post 114 have worked tirelessly to support and advocate for meaningful policies on behalf of local servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. From scholarships for local students to organizing Military Funeral Honors, the efforts of Post 114 have assisted thousands of Michigan Veterans and ensured the people of Elk Rapids and Northern Michigan honor the service and sacrifice of our Veterans.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize AMVETS Post 114 for decades of successful support for the Veterans of Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

THANKING MR. KEVIN HARRIS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on his retirement in September 2021, I rise today to thank Kevin Harris for over 37 years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives as a distinguished wood finisher.

Kevin Harris first came to the Capitol as a 15-year-old to work on the grounds crew with the Architect of the Capitol on the Senate side. He was lucky enough to have an aunt who worked for the then Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, who later hired him on the House side. He started working with the House restaurant system in 1984, which was eventually contracted out. He was able to secure a position with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Labor Room, now known as CAO, Office of Logistics & Support. Kevin worked for the logistics department for three years, where he remembers being mentored by Bobby Small, Lew Maiden and Steve Janifer, who showed him the ropes.

Later, it was determined that since he had gone to trade school, Kevin would be a good addition to the finishing shop and he made the move when a position opened. Back then, the finishing shop not only finished the furniture but also moved the furniture between offices. Some of his most memorable bosses were Mr. Kelleher, who hired him into the shop, Walter "Teenie" Woodburn and Robert Lee.

One his most memorable pieces was a special gold leafing project he completed with the staff on a bookcase for Representative William Clay. He had learned this technique through special training on this intricate skill. Kevin recalls a table he finished for Speaker Tip O'Neill, a very special stripping technique using the "old style" to strip down the finish. The Speaker was most appreciative. Kevin was also among the staff who refurbished the entire House floor, stripping the chairs and seats in the House Chamber, caked with shellac from years of usage.

In his long career in the halls of Congress, Kevin has personally met five Speakers of the House—Speaker Tom Foley, Speaker John Boehner, Speaker Tip O'Neill, Speaker Jim Wright, and Speaker Paul Ryan. Kevin has also reflected on the many lifelong friendships he has made in his office, including Timothy "Tim" Magruder and Vincent Plowden, who all motivated each other on the job. He has also made special mention of his favorite and current manager, John Garcia, who came into the shop and really heard their concerns, made the necessary changes and motivated the crew. He felt that Mr. Garcia really cared

about their conditions. Because of the encouragement of Mr. Garcia, he had a newfound desire to perform his job at a new level and credits Mr. Garcia for the changes in the finishing shop.

Kevin felt lucky to be able to attend the first Inauguration of President Barack Obama, an opportunity afforded him since the finishing shop worked behind the scenes on the stage preparation.

Another fond memory occurred in 2004 when an unexpected celebrity made an appearance on Capitol Hill—musical superstar Michael Jackson. He had been summoned to a hearing to call attention to the AIDS crisis. As he tells it, Kevin and some of his coworkers were standing outside near the Rayburn Building in anticipation of his arrival. They had almost given up when they saw his motorcade pull up right beside the wall near Rayburn. Michael Jackson got out of the car and walked directly toward Kevin, Tim Magruder and others, wearing his iconic glitter gloves and boots. Kevin was starstruck and barely able to speak, but Michael Jackson engaged them briefly, shook hands and then he was off. Coworkers later teased Kevin about being so moved in that moment.

Kevin has witnessed many different events in his 37-year career. With a heavy heart, he remembers being present on 9/11. He will never forget being outside and seeing the smoke from afar, which was the moment the Pentagon had been hit by a plane. But like others, he did not know the implication at the time of this terrorist attack and how it changed our lives forever. He was also present during the anthrax attack, when he and his crew were called in to clean all the furniture that was exposed to the anthrax.

Kevin was working when the earthquake hit Capitol Hill in 2011. He was in the office when the buildings, doors and floors started to sway. After the buildings were evacuated, he had to shelter on the comer for several hours until the building inspections were concluded. He was present when two Capitol Hill police officers were. And most recently, he was at work during the insurrection on January 6, 2021. So many memories, both good and bad, because of his long career with Congress.

In retirement, he plans to pursue some of his hobbies, like boxing on a punching bag, traveling abroad, catching up on movies, a particular interest, and volunteering with the homeless community. He will continue to attend the church in Baltimore where his cousin is the pastor, which he has attended since childhood. Kevin is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and daughter and including them in his retirement activities.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Kevin Harris for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PASSING OF MR. JOHN HENRY LYLES, III

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, in honoring the late John Henry Lyles, III, we recognize and celebrate his life well-lived yet cut far too short.

''Jay,'' as he was affectionately called by friends, was a Louisianan through and through. He was born and raised in the beautiful town of Minden in Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District. He later made his way down to Baton Rouge where he graduated from LSU and earned a Master's degree in Public Administration. Jay was passionate about his alma mater, LSU, and especially its football program.

Jay was known for always dedicating himself to those around him and accomplishing what he set his mind to. He loved his family, and all who knew him can testify to his exceptional character, drive, and kindness. He had many roles: friend, family man, entrepreneur, marketing guru, political consultant, and accomplished writer, to name a few.

Louisiana is home to some of the most talented, most charitable, and most outstanding people in the nation. Jay's deep love for the state and his willingness to serve those around him are what he will be remembered most for. He was a good friend of mine—and of countless many others.

Jay will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

GLEN KELLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glen Keller for his decades of service to the Colorado Westernaires organization.

For almost forty years, Glen has served as President of the Colorado Westernaires, a local non-profit which provides training in western riding, precision drills and horse care for local youth ranging from 9 to 19 years old. A lifelong resident of Colorado, Glen moved to Jefferson County in 1964. He started a law practice and in 1983 joined the Westernaires organization. During his decades of service, he has inspired and mentored thousands of young adults as they learn the values of the organization including leadership, self-respect and personal responsibility through horsemanship, western heritage and community belonging.

Previously, Glen served on the board of the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo which the Westernaires competes in every year.

In addition to his service to the Westernaires community, Glen is a loving husband and loving father. He has been married to his wife Liz for over 55 years, the proud father of two daughters, and a devoted grandfather to five grandchildren.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Glen and participate in Westernaires events on several occasions and I have been inspired by his contribution to the organization. I wish Glen all the best and send gratitude for his service to our community and to the State of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HARPER

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Thomas Harper, a Title 10 AGR Functional Area–59 qualified Major assigned to the Army National Guard G–5 as a Strategic Planner.

Mr. Harper began his service to our country at the age of 17 as an Infantryman in the Florida Army National Guard. He served 19 years in the Army at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels as a paratrooper, combat veteran, and qualified strategist. Mr. Harper served in units including infantry regiments, airborne special forces, the National Guard Bureau, the Department of the Army, the United States Special Operations Command, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He completed five operational tours in Afghanistan, Africa, and Central America.

Before returning to the Army National Guard G–5, Thomas Harper demonstrated his commitment to building and maintaining strong relationships between the Army and the legislative branch. Mr. Harper held the MILCON portfolio in the Readiness branch of the Programs Division at the Department of the Army's Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison from 2018 to 2020. In his work, Mr. Harper worked closely with Members of Congress and interagency partners. He assisted Army Senior Leaders with preparation for Congressional hearings and traveled with Members and their staff, as well as Armed Services Committee professional staff members. Mr. Harper was also selected twice as the detail to the Department of Defense COVID–19 task force.

Mr. Harper's achievements in his service to the United States have been recognized with countless awards. He is a two-time recipient of the Purple Heart Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for Valor. He received the French Cross of Military Valor at Division level (equivalent to the U.S. Silver Star) from the Ambassador of France for his combat actions in Afghanistan during December 2009. Mr. Harper is one of only seven Americans to receive this award since World War II. He has also been honored with the National Guard Association of the United States Patrick Henry Award, the National Guard Bureau's Outstanding Performance Award, the Georgia Military College Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and the Georgia Military College George C. Marshall Award.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Harper is an outstanding Army officer and model citizen who has served with honor for nearly two decades. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

IN MEMORY OF ANN HANEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of my friend, Ann Haney, a longtime community leader in Pulaski County, Kentucky

and co-owner of Haney's Appledale Farm in Nancy, Kentucky.

Just a few weeks ago, we were celebrating the annual Kentucky Farm Bureau picnic on their popular family farm, and as always, Ann was busy entertaining guests and packing up homemade apple and peach pies for folks to take home. She was always a gracious host with shining southern hospitality and the stellar organizational skills to keep everything moving seamlessly behind the scenes. Ann helped carry on the legacy of Haney's Appledale Farm for many years, alongside her husband Don. Together, they celebrated 50 years of marriage with three children and three grandchildren.

Aside from her time on the family farm, Ann could often be found at the Pulaski County Public Library, placing books into the hands of our local children, and inspiring them with her love of reading. She retired in 2015 after dedicating 29 years as a community relations specialist at the library, where she also avidly raised funding to provide free books to local children through her role as past president of the Pulaski County Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Ann was a passionate advocate for education, preserving our history and giving back to the community. As a board member of the Mill Springs National Battlefield Association, she helped preserve the historic Civil War land in Pulaski and Wayne counties that is now designated as a National Monument in the National Parks System. Thanks to her tireless efforts, countless people from around the country will learn about this key battle in southern Kentucky that impacted the foundation of our country.

Finally, Ann was also known for her love of family and the University of Kentucky Wildcats. She was past president of the UK National Alumni Association and served a six-year term on the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees. As we say in the Big Blue Nation, her blood ran true blue.

The sudden and unexpected loss of Ann Haney has been a shock to our entire community, and my wife, Cynthia, and I extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies to Don and the entire Haney family. We were blessed to know Ann and we are forever grateful for the difference she made in so many lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, on roll call No. 297, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

HONORING THE ''WOMEN WHO SOAR'' IN THE DENVER METRO COMMUNITY

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Maria Bales, Heidi Ganahl, and Dr. Shauna Gulley who will be honored by the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation as ''Women Who Soar.''

Each year, the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation recognizes three women in the Denver Metro Community who inspire our community and are blazing the path for future generations.

Maria Bales has been recognized as a ''Woman Who Soars'' because of her strength in turning heartbreak into inspiration. In 2016, while a sophomore at Arapahoe High School, her son Nick Bales started Brought to Reality (BTR) to bring awareness to teen mental health and end the stigma surrounding mental illness. Tragically, on September 29, 2018, Nick took his own life. After her son's passing, Maria made it her mission to continue Nick's work and fight each day to spare other parents, siblings, and friends from feeling how her family did. As a survivor of incredible adversity in the face of the unthinkable, she used that same adversity to inspire and help others. That strength makes her truly deserving of such an honor.

Heidi Ganahl has been recognized as a ''Woman Who Soars'' because of her entrepreneurial success. She is the founder of the recently launched women's lifestyle brand SheFactor but is best known as the founder of Camp Bow Wow, where she turned a lifelong passion for dogs into the largest pet care franchise in the world. She's passionate about giving back and in 2013 founded the Fight Back Foundation, a charity to positively tackle the most pressing issues facing our kids today.

Dr. Shauna Gulley has been recognized as a ''Woman Who Soars'' because of her exemplary leadership and exceptional background, knowledge, expertise, and record of success in bettering our community. Dr. Gulley provides strategic direction to Centura Health in its mission to build whole person care and flourishing communities. Her work focuses on optimizing clinical quality and patient safety, building world-class clinical service lines, and promoting an agile, team-based culture at the forefront of all they do.

From overcoming incredible adversity to showcasing exemplary leadership in medicine and business, this year's recipients have made a lasting impact on those around them and in our community. It is leaders like these three women who will allow us to achieve a more prosperous and inclusive future and I congratulate them all on being recognized as ''Women Who Soar.''

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY ANN MORAN-SAVAKINUS FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus for her 30 years of service to the Lackawanna County Historical Society. Mary Ann will be recognized on September 30, 2021.

Mary Ann, daughter of the late Francis Moran and Joann Schemel Moran, is an Archbald, Pennsylvania native. She pursued her interest in history at Kutztown University, and as an undergraduate, she worked as a curatorial intern at the Anthracite Heritage Museum. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in anthropology, she was recruited by the Museum to catalogue their Hennemuth photo collection. Mary Ann also spent time in Iowa as an archaeological technician for American Resource Group as a member of the field crew.

In 1991, she returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania where she began working at the Lackawanna County Historical Society as the administrative assistant. Six years later, she was appointed the Executive Director of the Society. Under her thoughtful direction, the Society expanded its programming, education opportunities, and community partnerships.

One of the hallmarks of Mary Ann's tenure as Executive Director is her effort to connect the Society with the surrounding community and promote interest in local history. She has invited local artists to participate in Society events to create compelling programming such as the musical/historical production ''Under the Lackawanna Moon''. She also helped start the Museum as a Classroom program which allows local teachers to receive Act 48 credits for familiarizing themselves with local resources that are available to their students.

Mary Ann's most popular programs are tours of the City of Scranton, which bring hundreds of visitors into the heart of the city to learn about its history. The Historic Hill House Tour, the Places of Worship Tour, and the Scranton After Dark paranormal walking tour teach visitors about the diverse architecture of Scranton and the residents who called the city home.

Mary Ann's direction has also supported the financial growth of the Society, increasing fundraising efforts with the annual Taste of History event and the successful Capital Campaign to fund the restoration of the exterior of the Society headquarters at the Catlin House.

I am honored to join the Lackawanna Historical Society in recognizing Mary Ann's 30 years of dedicated and selfless service. Her vision, commitment, and passion have helped foster a love of and appreciation for local history in our communities, and she has created a legacy of innovative programming that will be enjoyed by generations to come. I thank her for her service to our community and wish her all the best.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish the people of Taiwan and Americans celebrating the upcoming Taiwan National Day on October 10th a Happy Double Ten Day.

In the decades preceding and following the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States and Taiwan built a strong relationship that cannot be broken—a bond born out of our shared values and cooperation with one another in times of crisis, and in times of advancement.

Taiwan has transformed itself into a model of democracy with a respect for human rights,

freedom of speech, rule of law, and a market economy. Americans share these core values with Taiwan—the foundation of our strong relationship. Taiwan is a multidimensional success story and has shown that democracy can work in China.

The United States and Taiwan have a longstanding and vibrant trade relationship. Taiwan is the United States' 9th largest goods trading partner. In 2020, two-way goods trade between the United States and Taiwan totaled $90.9 billion while goods and services trade between the countries totaled $106 billion the same year. Taiwan is one of the largest Asian markets for Nebraska's agricultural exports. Nebraskan companies have an abundant opportunity to expand their business and cooperation with Taiwan. I will continue to work with our friends in Taiwan to find areas where we can partner to our mutual benefit.

This is a day to celebrate, and to be optimistic. I ask my colleagues to join me in recommitting to a robust U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

COLLEYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I'm here today to recognize North Texas' own Colleyville Police Department, which won two prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police awards this year.

Colleyville is an amazing city in TX–24, and the brave men and women of their department brought down a worldwide sex trafficking website, saving a 13-year old girl in the process. This mission earned them the IACP's Sex Trafficking Case Award.

In the same year they went on to solve an international fraud ring stemming from Nigeria. These actions gave them the Elder Fraud Case Award.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police, which has over 31,000 members across 165 countries, hands out 15 awards each year to officers and agencies who exhibit leadership, excellence, and professionalism.

I am immensely proud to represent these officers in Texas' 24th District—they have not only made our community a safer place to Jive, but the entire world.

THANKING MR. BOBBY SMALL FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, for his retirement in September 2021, I rise today to thank Bobby Small for over 47 years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives.

Bobby grew up in the District of Columbia, where he was enrolled in an experimental program at School Without Walls. Following graduation, he worked in construction for J. W. Bates & Son. It was through family members that he heard of an opportunity to work in Congress. He was hired by Ed Kelleher, and began work with the Labor Force, which eventually became the Logistics Group. Initially, the Clerk of the House oversaw this work, but when the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) was established, he began working for the CAO. Bobby's hands-on approach and rapport with the staff led to an Assistant Supervisor position. He would eventually become the Supervisor and will retire in a Manager's position with Logistics & Support, supervising up to 20 employees.

Some of his former bosses include Cosmo Quattrone, Jerry Bennett and Walt Edwards, to mention a few. Bobby remarked that these were some of his favorite bosses and credited Cosmo and Jerry for grooming him and helping him to navigate the Logistics world. He remarked that they always gave good advice, treated him fairly and mentored him.

Given his long House career, Mr. Small has witnessed and been involved in many events, notably his contribution during the October 17, 2001 "Response Project" related to the anthrax attack. All Members, committees and staff were able to be relocated to an alternate location, and Mr. Small and his team were among those responsible for all logistical aspects of this project. He and his team were commended for making it possible to ensure that everyone remained safe and that the legislative business of the House of Representatives continued uninterrupted.

Another big project that Bobby was involved with is the ongoing Cannon Renewal Project, which began in 2013. It is a 12-year project that he and the Logistics staff work on daily. While the oversight for this project remains with the Architect of the Capitol and the CAO Office Design and Move Services department, the Logistics group has an integral part to play in this multi-year renovation, moving and relocating furniture between offices.

After such a long career, Bobby has collected many fond memories of his time in Congress. Chief among them is meeting the Tuskegee Airmen when they were honored in the Rayburn Committee Room. He has said that the meeting with the late Representative John Lewis was one of the highlights of his career, noting what an impressive man he was and how moving it was seeing the Memory Wall in John Lewis's office showing the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

Years ago, Bobby met with a congressman from Cleveland, Ohio to discuss discrimination in Congress, making a case about diversity and highlighting a lack of opportunity in Congress. Bobby believes that following his meeting with the congressman, measures were taken to improve the House environment for diversity and inclusivity.

The list of people he has worked with is long and distinguished—too many to mention. He has known some of his coworkers for many years, including, Lewis Maiden for over 40 years, Kevin Allison for 35-plus years and Steven Janifer, recently retired, who he supervised and knew over his entire work career.

I have met Bobby on several occasions.

Bobby has lots of hobbies, including fishing, hunting and watching sports. He is known to have a bit of a green thumb, raising fruits and vegetables, an activity he shared with his dad on an acre of land. In retirement, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and children and continuing to take occasional trips to the Caribbean, Hawaii and Hilton Head, South Carolina. When not traveling, he hopes to get involved in more volunteer work.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bobby Small for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

CELEBRATING TWILIA MACKEY'S 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish Twilia Mackey a happy 105th birthday.

Twilia lives in Monticello, Illinois, and was born on October 2, 1916 to parents who spent their lives farming in the White Heath area of Piatt County.

Twilia's education began in a one room rural schoolhouse and she graduated from Monticello High School in 1936. She met Stanley Mackey while they both attended Centerville Methodist Church. They married in December 1936 and farmed together in the Cisco area until they retired in 1993. They were blessed with four children, John, Jean, Joyce, and Joe, and many grandchildren.

Twilia has been involved in many activities and organizations throughout the years including 4–H, PTA, and the United Methodist Women & Home Extension, now known as Home & Community Education. Locally, she is known for her award-winning quilting and homemade pies. When asked her secret to a long life, she simply says, "Just be happy every day."

Happy 105th birthday to Twilia, and may she enjoy her special day.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDS ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the FRIENDS Association for Children on their 150th anniversary of service to Central Virginia.

The FRIENDS Association for Children first began in 1871 as an orphanage in the historic Jackson Ward neighborhood of Richmond, Virginia. Today, it operates two multi-service licensed child development centers in the Richmond area, which offer exceptional care and education to children ages six weeks to 12 years of age in a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment. A broad array of services allows children to gain critical literacy and developmental skills needed to succeed in school and in life—including family support services, developmental childcare, youth development, music and performing arts, and health education. Through these programs, FRIENDS responds wholistically to the needs of families,

prepares children to succeed in their academic and life goals, and helps children to achieve a greater understanding and appreciation of their community and the world around them.

For a century and a half, the FRIENDS Association for Children has touched countless lives through their mission to serve Virginia's children and families. I am grateful for the tireless and selfless work of the many volunteers and staff at FRIENDS who have provided vital, compassionate care to our children and families over the years. Their commitment is inspiring and deserving of commendation and celebration.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the 150th anniversary of the FRIENDS Association for Children.

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, September 30, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gabriel Camarillo, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Army, Rachel Jacobson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Alex Wagner, of the District of Columbia, and Andrew Philip Hunter, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

SD–G50

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, and Elizabeth Rosenberg, of Vermont, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, both of the Department of the Treasury, and Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, David Uejio, of California, and Solomon Jeffrey Greene, of the District of Columbia, each to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine Afghanistan's future, focusing on assessing the national security, humanitarian, and economic implications of the Taliban takeover.

SD–538

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security

To hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on testimony from a Facebook whistleblower.

SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine and consider updates to the Mining Law of 1872.

SD–366

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine renewing and strengthening the Violence Against Women Act.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey M. Hovenier, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Michael J. Murphy, of New York, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Andorra, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

VTC

OCTOBER 6

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine enhancing data security.

SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 336, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway, S. 378, to reauthorize the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area, and the Oil Region National Heritage Area, S. 511, to establish the Bronzeville-Black Metropolis National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, S. 635, to reauthorize The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, S. 654, to reauthorize the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, S. 787, to amend the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the local coordinating entity for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area under that Act, S. 825, to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, S. 972, to reauthorize the Essex National Heritage Area, S. 990, to reauthorize the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, S. 1004, to extend the authorization of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, to designate the Great Basin National Heritage Route in the State of Nevada as the ''Great Basin National Heritage Area'', to designate the Great Basin Heritage Route Partnership as the ''Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership'', to extend the authorization of the Great Basin National Heritage Area, S. 1112, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail, S. 1224, to reauthorize, and increase the total funding cap for, the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership, to redesignate the America's Agricultural Heritage Partnership as the ''Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area'', S. 1258, to extend the authorization of each of the National Coal Heritage Area and the Wheeling National Heritage Area in the State of West Virginia, S. 1284 and H.R. 2497, bills to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a Unit of the National Park System, S. 1318, to reauthorize the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, S. 1329, to amend the National Aviation Heritage Area Act to reauthorize the National Aviation Heritage Area, S. 1620, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the city of Eunice, Louisiana, certain Federal land in the State of Louisiana, S. 1643, to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, S. 1942, to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas, S. 1954, to reauthorize the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, S. 2158, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission, S. 2296, establish the Northern Neck National Heritage Area, S. 2438, to modify the boundary of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana, S. 2441, to establish in the States of North Carolina and South Carolina the Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor, S. 2482, to amend the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Act of 2006 to reauthorize the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, S. 2580, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces, S. 2648, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area in the State of Alaska, and S. 2763, to extend the authorization for the MotorCities National Heritage Area in the State of Michigan.

SD–366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers emergency response to Hurricane Ida.

SD–406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lucy Haeran Koh, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Jane M. Beckering, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, Shalina D. Kumar, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Armando O. Bonilla, of Virginia, and Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Jonathan Kanter,

of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD–226

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 587, to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide that the President or certain agency heads may remove the Inspector General, or place an Inspector General on non-duty status, only if certain conditions are satisfied, S. 1794, to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide testimonial subpoena authority, H.R. 2662, to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978, S. 2875, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Cyber Incident Review Office in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, an original bill entitled, ''Federal Information Security Modernization Act'', and the nominations of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member, and to be Chairman, and Tristan Lynn Leavitt, of Idaho, and Raymond A. Limon, of Nevada, both to be a Member, all of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Tovah R. Calderon, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Kenia Seoane Lopez, Rupa Ranga Puttagunta, and Sean C. Staples, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD–342

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

SD–G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine the status and management of drought in the western United States.

SD–366

3 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Library of Congress modernization efforts.

SR–301

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SR–418

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6749–S6800

Measures Introduced: Twenty-one bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2882–2902, and S. Res. 394–397. **Page S6779**

Measures Passed:

National Voter Registration Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 395, recognizing September 28, 2021, as ''National Voter Registration Day''. **Page S6779**

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 396, commemorating the centennial of the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. **Page S6779**

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency 25th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 397, recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. **Page S6779**

Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that as if in legislative session, and notwithstanding Rule XXII, that upon conclusion of morning business, on Thursday, September 30, 2021, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 5305, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance; that Senator Leahy, or his designee, be recognized to offer substitute amendment No. 3830, and that the amendments be reported by number, that the only first-degree amendments in order be the following: Cotton Amendment No. 3833 (Afghanistan refugees), Marshall Amendment No. 3831 (Vaccine mandate), and Braun Amendment No. 3832 (No Budget No Pay); that at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, September 30, 2021, Senate vote on or in relation to the first-degree amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order; that upon disposition of the amendments, Senate vote on the substitute amendment, as amended, if amended; that Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with Braun Amendment No. 3832, and Marshall Amendment No. 3831, and passage of the bill requiring 60-affirmative votes for adoption; and that there be two minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote, all without intervening action or debate. **Page S6773**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that upon disposition of the bill, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Rohit Chopra, of the District of Columbia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. **Page S6800**

Meyer Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security. **Pages S6764–65**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 392), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6764–65**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, all post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired; and that the vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Republican Leader, on Thursday, September 30, 2021. **Page S6765**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 70 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 390), Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs). **Page S6751**

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 393), Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior. **Pages S6770–73**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 391), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6764**

Messages from the House: **Page S6776**

Measures Referred: **Page S6776**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S6750, S6776**

Executive Communications: **Pages S6776–78**

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6779–81

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Page S6781

Additional Statements: Pages S6775–76

Amendments Submitted: Pages S6788–99

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S6799–S6800

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—393) Pages S6751, S6764–65, S6770

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:12 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 30, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6800.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, Committee ordered favorably reported 2,993 nomination in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

PROTECTING CONSUMER PRIVACY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine protecting consumer privacy, after receiving testimony from Maureen K. Ohlhausen, former Acting Chair, and Ashkan Soltani, former Chief Technologist, both of the Federal Trade Commission; and David C. Vladeck, Georgetown University Law Center, and Morgan Reed, ACT The App Association, both of Washington, D.C.

ENERGY SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on Administration efforts regarding energy security, including Nord Stream 2 from Amos Hochstein, Senior Advisor for Energy Security, Department of State.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, who was introduced by Senator Barrasso, and C.B. Sullenberger III, of Texas, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, who was introduced by Senator Baldwin, Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Ireland, who was introduced by Senator Markey, Kent Doyle Logsdon, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Sharon L. Cromer, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana, and Howard A. Van Vranken, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

WORSENING NATURAL DISASTERS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the threat of worsening natural disasters, after receiving testimony from Sima Merick, National Emergency Managers Association and Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Columbus; Jerry Hancock, Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association, Ann Arbor; Jennifer Pipa, American Red Cross, Washington, D.C.; and John S. Butler, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Chantilly, Virginia.

TEXAS ABORTION LAW

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Texas's abortion law, after receiving testimony from Texas Representative Donna Howard, and Stephen I. Vladeck, University of Texas School of Law, both of Austin; Fatima Goss Graves, National Women's Law Center, Washington, D.C.; Jennifer L. Mascott, George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, Arlington, Virginia; and Alabama Solicitor General Edmund G. LaCour Jr., Montgomery.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 5409–5429; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 689–693, were introduced. **Pages H5551–52**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5553–54**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 688, providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1301) to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans (H. Rept. 117–133). **Page H5551**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Wild to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5509**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5515**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, July 26th.

Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2021: H.R. 3599, amended, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 15 nays, Roll No. 307. **Pages H5525–26**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, July 26th.

District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Salary Home Rule Act: H.R. 1204, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the rate of pay of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 259 yeas to 170, Roll No. 308. **Page H5547**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

K–12 Cybersecurity Act of 2021: S. 1917, to establish a K–12 education cybersecurity initiative; **Pages H5538–39**

Homeland Security for Children Act: H.R. 4426, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning; **Pages H5539–41**

One-Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021: H.R. 4094, amended, to conduct a pilot program at foreign last point of departure airports to permit passengers and their accessible property to continue on additional flights or flight segments originating in the United States without additional security re-screening; **Pages H5541–44**

Unmanned Aerial Security Act: H.R. 4682, amended, to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring certain foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems; and **Pages H5544–45**

DHS Contract Reporting Act of 2021: H.R. 4363, amended, to establish a daily public reporting requirement for covered contract awards of the Department of Homeland Security. **Pages H5545–47**

Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act: The House passed S. 1301, to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 310. **Pages H5547–49**

Rejected the Brady motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means, by a yea-and-nay vote of 211 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 309. **Pages H5534, H5547–48**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–16 shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H5526–34**

H. Res. 688, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1301) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 306, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 206 nays with two answering "present", Roll No. 305. **Pages H5518–25**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

DHS Software Supply Chain Risk Management Act of 2021: H.R. 4611, amended, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue guidance with respect to certain information and communications technology or services contracts; and **Pages H5535–36**

Darren Drake Act: H.R. 4089, amended, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and disseminate best practices for rental companies and dealers to report suspicious behavior to law enforcement agencies at the point of sale of a covered rental vehicle to prevent and mitigate acts of terrorism using motor vehicles. **Pages H5536–37**

Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act of 2021: Agreed by unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 978, to require

the head of each agency to establish a safety plan relating to COVID–19 for any worksite at which employees or contractors are required to be physically present during the COVID–19 pandemic, be vacated, to the end that the motion be considered as withdrawn. **Page H5549**

Order of Business—Consideration of H.R. 5305: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to take from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 5305, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment; that the Senate amendment and the motion be considered as read; that the motion be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion. **Page H5549**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5524, H5524–25, H5525–26, H5547, H5548, and H5548–49.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE 2021 WILDLAND FIRE YEAR: RESPONDING TO AND MITIGATING THREATS TO COMMUNITIES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing entitled ''The 2021 Wildland Fire Year: Responding to and Mitigating Threats to Communities''. Testimony was heard from Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Forest Service.

ENDING THE U.S. MILITARY MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Ending the U.S. Military Mission in Afghanistan''. Testimony was heard from Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; General Mark A. Milley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and General Kenneth McKenzie, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, Commander, U.S. Central Command.

BACK TO SCHOOL: HIGHLIGHTING BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFELY REOPENING SCHOOL

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled ''Back to School: Highlighting Best Practices for Safely Reopening School''. Testimony was heard from Jesus F. Jara, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada; and public witnesses.

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS: REVITALIZING THE CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Protecting Communities from Industrial Accidents: Revitalizing the Chemical Safety Board''. Testimony was heard from Katherine A. Lemos, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

THE FUTURE OF BANKING: HOW CONSOLIDATION, NONBANK COMPETITION, AND TECHNOLOGY ARE RESHAPING THE BANKING SYSTEM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled ''The Future of Banking: How Consolidation, Nonbank Competition, and Technology are Reshaping the Banking System''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

20 YEARS AFTER 9/11: THE STATE OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''20 Years After 9/11: The State of the Transportation Security Administration''. Testimony was heard from David Pekoske, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 5374, the ''SHOP SAFE Act''; H.R. 2883, the ''Stop Stalling Access to Affordable Medications''; H.R. 2891, the ''Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act''; H.R. 2873, the ''Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Promoting Competition Act of 2021''; H.R. 2884, the ''Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Improvements to Patent Litigation Act''; H.R. 3617, the ''MORE Act of 2021''; H.R. 2116, the ''CROWN Act of 2021''; H.R. 187, for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez; H.R. 680, for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar; H.R. 681, for the relief of Rebecca Trimble; H.R. 739, for the relief of Median El-Moustrah; and H.R. 785, for the relief of Maria

Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso.

CONFRONTING VIOLENT WHITE SUPREMACY (PART VI): EXAMINING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled ''Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part VI): Examining the Biden Administration's Counterterrorism Strategy''. Testimony was heard from John Cohen, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of Homeland Security; Brad Wiegmann, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, Department of Justice; and Timothy Langan, Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

UPGRADING PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE: THE NEED TO PROTECT, REBUILD, AND STRENGTHEN STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis held a hearing entitled ''Upgrading Public Health Infrastructure: The Need to Protect, Rebuild, and Strengthen State and Local Public Health Departments''. Testimony was heard from Joseph Kanter, M.D., State Health Officer and Medical Director, Louisiana Department of Health; Jennifer Bacani McKenney, M.D., Health Officer, Wilson County Health Department, Kansas; Mysheika Roberts, M.D., Health Commissioner, Columbus Public Health, Ohio; and a public witness.

PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR AMERICANS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 1301, the ''Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act'' [Temporary Extension of Public Debt Limit]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–3, a closed rule providing for consideration of S. 1301, the ''Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act'' [Temporary Extension of Public Debt Limit]. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–16 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to commit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Beyer and Rice of South Carolina.

MEMBERS' DAY HEARING: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Members' Day Hearing: House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Stansbury and Case.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY'S ROLE IN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Development held a hearing entitled ''Sustainable Forestry's Role in Climate Solutions''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine Afghanistan, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President, and Owen Edward Herrnstadt, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors, both of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on Facebook, Instagram, and mental health harms, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Laura S. H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, Caryn R. McClelland, of California, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, David John Young, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi, and Claire A. Pierangelo, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine school reopening during COVID–19, focusing on supporting students, educators, and families, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jennifer Sung, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Rahul Gupta, of West Virginia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, and Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States, Jessica D. Aber, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Carla B. Freedman, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, William J. Ihlenfeld II, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, Christopher R. Kavanaugh, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, Darcie N. McElwee, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine, Breon S. Peace, of New Jersey, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Rachael S. Rollins, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, William S. Thompson, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia, and Damian Williams, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, all of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SR–301.

House

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled ''Protecting Students and Taxpayers: Improving the Closed School Discharge Process'', 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled ''A Level Playing Field: College Athletes' Rights to Their Name, Image, and Likeness'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Treasury Department's and Federal Reserve's Pandemic Response'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1456, the ''Peace Corps Reauthorization Act of 2021''; H.R. 4133, the ''Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act''; H.R. 1311, the ''Energy Diplomacy Act''; H.R. 3485, the ''Global Respect Act''; H.R. 3344, the ''Transatlantic Telecommunications Security Act''; H. Con. Res. 5, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the execution-style murders of United States citizens Ylli Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi in the Republic of Serbia in July 1999; H.R. 2748, the ''Israel Relations Normalization Act of 2021''; H.R. 4785, the ''Uyghur Policy Act of 2021''; and H. Res. 336, calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability, hearing entitled ''20 Years After 9/11: Transforming DHS to Meet the Homeland Security Mission'', 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 5374, the ''SHOP SAFE Act''; H.R. 2883, the ''Stop Stalling Access to Affordable Medications''; H.R. 2891, the ''Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act''; H.R. 2873, the ''Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Promoting Competition Act of 2021''; H.R. 2884, the ''Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Through Improvements to Patent Litigation Act''; H.R. 3617, the ''MORE Act of 2021''; H.R. 2116, the ''CROWN Act of 2021''; H.R. 187, for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez; H.R. 680, for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar; H.R. 681, for the relief of Rebecca Trimble; and H.R. 739, for the relief of Median El-Moustrah; H.R. 785, for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A State of Crisis: Examining the Urgent Need to Protect and Expand Abortion Rights and Access'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, September 30, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Empowering Employee Owned Businesses and Cooperatives Through Access to Capital'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Assessing the Federal Government's COVID–19 Relief and Response Efforts and Its Impact—Part II'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled ''Modernizing and Securing VA's IT Infrastructure'', 2 p.m., Zoom.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, markup on the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022; and Authorizing all Members of the House of Representatives to review, at a time to be determined by the Committee, the Classified Annex to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, 10 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing is closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 5303, Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, with votes on or in relation to Cotton Amendment No. 3833, Marshall Amendment No. 3831, Braun Amendment No. 3832, and final passage of the bill, as amended, at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Following which, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Rohit Chopra, of the District of Columbia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination. If cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon. Upon disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to be followed by a vote on confirmation thereon. At a time to be determined, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, September 30

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete Consideration of Senate Amendment to H.R. 3684—Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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