United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 No. 184

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 20, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG STANTON 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.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF THE BEIRUT BARRACKS ATTACK

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues, and all Americans, to never forget the tragedy of the Beirut barracks attack.

On Sunday, October 23, 1983, 241 brave American heroes lost their lives in defense of our freedom. That fateful date, cowardly Iranian-backed terrorists, Hezbollah, drove truck bombs into the U.S. Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. It was the deadliest single-day attack against U.S. Marines since the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

As a marine and veteran of that conflict, I made a promise to always remember and honor those fallen. I will always remain faithful to that promise.

God bless America and semper fi.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize just how awful the crisis at our southern border is.

In the Biden administration's latest show of contempt for this mess, vaccine mandates for CBP agents and ICE agents will further throw the situation in flux.

Who is the Federal Government to force vaccines upon our Border Patrol agents, and all of us, when they are not holding illegal immigrants entering our country to the same standard?

Sadly, this is another way for Democrats to defund the police, when too many CBP agents will be fired or forced to quit because getting vaccinated is not the right choice for them.

I will continue to denounce these lawless and disastrous policies that are perpetuating this border crisis.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOOSIER GYM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hoosier Gym.

Before the Knightstown Gym became the Hoosier Gym, home of the Hickory Huskers, it served the community for 64 years, opening its doors back in 1921.

Many know this iconic locale when it became famous with the release of the classic movie ''Hoosiers'' in 1986.

Congratulations to the Hoosier Gym, its staff, and patrons. We are looking forward to the next 100 years.

TURNING THE IRS INTO A POLITICAL WEAPON

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the disturbing trend we have seen of turning the IRS into a political weapon.

Democrats have included provisions in their reckless tax-and-spending bill that will give the IRS rogue authority to monitor individuals' financial bank accounts and transactions.

Whether you are a Democrat or Republican, no one should ever support this communistic invasion of privacy by our Federal Government.

BIDEN'S ENERGY CRISIS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the energy crisis we are facing. The Biden administration's poorly crafted, radical climate agenda has led us here.

This crisis is already hitting home for Hoosiers. An Indiana-based energy company just announced that my constituents are going to pay more for their energy this winter. What was an $88 a month energy bill will now be $133 a month, a 40 percent increase.

To those over at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue who have deemed this a high-class problem, wake up. You are taxing the middle class through inflation.

RECOGNIZING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY OF INDIANA'S SIXTH DISTRICT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work our men and women of the law enforcement community do for Indiana's Sixth District.

From Muncie to Madison, and everywhere in between, these hardworking Hoosiers are on the front lines of keeping our cities safe.

Sadly, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to demonize these heroes.

To put it simply, thank you to those who risk their lives every day so we can live ours.

RECOGNIZING HARDWORKING HOOSIER FARMERS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our hardworking Hoosier farmers as they wrap up their efforts for this year's harvest.

These fine men and women are the backbone of the State and Nation. Because of their dedication, dinner will be on the table today and tomorrow.

Printed on recycled paper.

To those who have been working sunup to sundown to make that a reality, I say thank you.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE IN DANGER IN COLOMBIA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from leading a fact-finding delegation to Colombia from October 3 to 8.

I have traveled to Colombia a dozen times since 2001. This time, I traveled to Cali, a city still reeling from intense protests this past spring and the security forces' excessive response.

It was my second visit to Cali and my third to this specific region. I met with the mayor of Cali, the Catholic archbishop, youth who had protested, families whose children were killed during the protests, local journalists, and human rights defenders.

I then traveled an hour south to the town of Santander de Quilichao in northern Cauca. The Department of Cauca leads Colombia in killings of social leaders and former combatants.

There, I met with the U.N. Verification Mission team monitoring implementation of the peace accord and had a lengthy talk with the town's mayor. I spent the most time with Afro-Colombian, indigenous, campesino, women's, and LGBTQ organizations.

The next day, I visited the San Juan community in Sumapaz, a formerly guerrila-controlled region in the Andes paramo, 3 hours south of Bogota.

I traveled with representatives of Bogota's mayor, whose jurisdiction includes Sumapaz. I saw water projects being carried out by campesinos, indigenous, and former combatants. I attended a town meeting where everyone was free to have their say.

In Bogota, I met with our embassy and President Duque, leaders of the Colombian police, the U.N. and the OAS, the International Committee of the Red Cross, U.S. and Colombian security analysts, Colombian members of Congress, human rights defenders, and journalists.

I returned disturbed and worried, Mr. Speaker. I am deeply concerned about the state of human rights, peace, and democracy in Colombia.

I will be listening closely to what U.S. officials say on these matters at the high-level bilateral dialogue this week in Bogota.

The U.S. has spent over $8.2 billion in taxpayer money on military and security support for Colombia since 2000. Yet, large parts of Colombia aren't under government control or have been abandoned by the state.

Human rights defenders and local leaders are targeted and killed. Journalists are threatened and subject to illegal surveillance. The drug trade is flourishing, and illegal armed groups grow in power.

I am especially concerned by the frustration and fears I heard from organizations that have been fighting for peace for decades but today feel that things are going in a wrong and very dangerous direction.

It is painful to remember the hope they felt during my last visit in 2017, as they made plans inspired by the peace accord and its promise of progress.

For them, Colombia has taken a giant step backward, much greater than understood from Washington before my trip.

Then there were protests this spring where we saw the Colombian police react violently to legitimate demands for education, health, food, and jobs. Demonstrators were shot with live ammunition by a police force that receives U.S. aid.

ESMAD, the riot police, not a recipient of direct U.S. grant assistance, because of its terrible human rights record, used crowd-control equipment to wound, maim, and kill demonstrators. Some of this equipment was made in the U.S.A. and likely provided through commercial sales, which I believe should immediately stop.

Mr. Speaker, what do you say to a woman who asks whether she is still a mother because her only child was killed in the protests? How do you comfort a father whose son served honorably with the Colombian military only to die at the hands of the Colombian police?

I am also deeply concerned about the implementation of the 2016 peace accord. The agreement provides a roadmap to address longstanding problems in Colombia, including those that provoked the protests.

But it is a comprehensive agreement that must be carried out holistically, not a few parts here and there, while ignoring, undermining, or slow-walking the rest.

But there is reason for hope. In Sumapaz, I saw firsthand what a committed local government and an organized community can accomplish to establish peace, security, and development that benefits everyone, not just a privileged few.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of so many of our programs and projects in Colombia. I treasure the friendship between the United States and Colombia. As a friend and ally, it is critical that the U.S. speak frankly and forcefully about setbacks to peace, the need for serious police reform, and the dangerous human rights situation.

If we care about the people of Colombia and their human rights, Congress has a responsibility to take a deep look at the situation inside Colombia and reevaluate the priorities of our aid.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from numerous nongovernmental organizations to Secretary of State Antony Blinken concerning the upcoming high-level bilateral dialogue.

OCTOBER 18, 2021.

Secretary of State ANTONY BLINKEN,
The State Department,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY BLINKEN: As you travel to Colombia for the high-level bilateral dialogue, we urge you to use this opportunity to press the Colombian government for progress on flagging peace accord implementation and for actions on critical human rights issues, including improving the dire situation of human rights defenders, advancing the rights of Afro-Colombian and indigenous people, addressing the needs of poor and landless farmers, and confronting the serious problems of police brutality and racial injustice.

As organizations that have followed events in Colombia for many years, many of us with programs and close partners in the country, we are gravely disappointed that to date the Biden Administration has not placed sufficient emphasis on these issues and hope that your visit will mark a change. We urge you to avoid public statements that praise the U.S.-Colombian partnership while skirting over the deeply disturbing patterns of human rights violations that should be a major focus of U.S. concern and diplomacy.

Police brutality. In response to massive, largely peaceful demonstrations against a regressive tax initiative, unemployment, and social exclusion, Colombian security forces, particularly the national police and the ESMAD riot squad, killed and injured protesters, mainly teenagers and young adults. Eighty-seven civilians were killed in the course of the protests according to the Defender la Libertad human rights campaign. Police shot live ammunition and projectiles into crowds, including in one case into a group of families and neighbors assembled for a candlelight vigil for a young man killed the day before, causing major injuries, loss of eyesight, and death. Police and ESMAD targeted, along with protesters, human rights defenders, journalists, and medical brigade members who provided first aid to protesters and police. Police sexually abused young women protesters and threatened women first aid responders with rape. Family members of victims of police brutality and human rights defenders seeking justice for police abuses are stigmatized and their lives threatened. Following these tragic events, rather than taking significant action to advance dialogue, police reform, and prosecutions of abusive security forces, the Colombian government has presented only superficial police reforms and appears focused on investigating and prosecuting protesters and those who helped them. Few cases of security force abuses during the 2021 protests are moving forward in civilian courts; 13 homicide cases involving security forces have been reported as inappropriately in the military justice system, which rarely results in justice.

Peace accord implementation and situation of human rights defenders. The historic 2016 peace accords, a major legacy of the Obama-Biden Administration due to its support for negotiations, are at risk due to weak implementation. As of September 2021, 292 FARC ex-combatants have been killed since laying down their arms. Moreover Colombia remains one of the most dangerous countries on earth to be a human rights defender; 158 human rights defenders were killed so far this year in 2021, according to the United Nations. For the second year in a row, Colombia leads the world in murders of environmental and land rights defenders, according to Global Witness. Colombia's community leaders are in danger precisely because they are building peace on the ground, while the government has failed to implement its peace accord commitments, including dismantling paramilitary networks, protecting

communities, and bringing effective and rights-respecting state presence into conflict zones. Peace accord consolidation is especially weak in terms of implementing the Ethnic Chapter and gender provisions; protection of human rights defenders, social leaders, and communities; dismantling paramilitary networks; protection of ex- combatants; provision of adequate programs for farmers committed to coca eradication, and implementation of the comprehensive rural reform, including provision of land to displaced persons, poor farmers, and indigenous and Afro-Colombian people. While U.S. aid to advance peace accord implementation is important and well-targeted, the failure to advance peace accord implementation is not primarily a question of resources, but of political will.

As you dialogue with the Colombian government, we ask you to publicly as well as privately:

Insist, as a condition of any future U.S. security assistance, that the Colombian government implement serious police reform, including transferring the police from the Defense Ministry to a civilian agency, ensuring all human rights abuses by police are tried in civilian courts, dismantling the ESMAD, revising use-of-force-protocols, and establishing external oversight and controls over the police. Limiting reforms to increasing human rights courses and revising internal disciplinary procedures is not an adequate response. The U.S. government should also encourage progress on prosecuting cases in civilian courts against security force members involved in abuses in the context of the protests, raise concerns regarding specious or excessive prosecutions of protesters, and urge the Colombian government to respect the right to protest.

Urge the Colombian government to recommit to fully implementing the peace accords. It is essential to maintain U.S. diplomatic and financial support for implementing the accords as the central framework for U.S. policy towards Colombia. Please also express publicly support for the work of the tripartite transitional justice system, namely the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the Truth Commission, and the Search Unit for the Disappeared.

Express publicly your concerns about the grave dangers faced by Colombian human rights defenders and social leaders and emphasize the importance of their role in building peace and defending the rule of law. U.S.-Colombia actions to address climate change should also include protection of the rights and lives of endangered environmental activists, who are on the frontlines of efforts to protect the planet.

Urge the Colombian government to promptly and regularly convene the National Commission on Security Guarantees established by the peace accords, which should include participation by civil society, government, and ex-combatants, to develop and implement a plan for dismantling paramilitary and other illegal armed networks and for providing security to human rights defenders, communities, and ex-combatants. This long-delayed commitment, central to bring rights-respecting security to conflict zones and protecting human rights defenders, must advance.

Urge the Colombian government to uphold the rights of Afro-Colombian, indigenous, and Palenquero people. Ask the Colombian government to prioritize implementing the peace agreement's Ethnic Chapter. The government should convene the Special High-Level Mechanism with Ethnic Peoples (IANPE), mandated by the peace accords, to discuss the best methods to implement the Ethnic Chapter and should work with Afro-Colombian and indigenous authorities and civil rights groups to guarantee its consolidation at the local and regional level. In addition, urge the Colombian government to implement the humanitarian accords with communities that serve to protect such communities, ensure assistance and protection to internally displaced persons, and address racial discrimination including the Humanitarian Accord Now in Chocó. We would greatly welcome the revitalization of the U.S.-Colombian Racial Action Plan (CAPREE) and the development of a joint U.S.-Colombian strategy with specific steps to address structural racism.

Urge the Colombian government to prioritize full and effective implementation of provisions to achieve ''a genuine structural transformation of the countryside'' as agreed under the Comprehensive Rural Reform chapter of the peace accords. This is critical to address the exclusion and inequality in rural areas, particularly in access to land, which is a root cause as well as a consequence of conflict in Colombia. Only limited progress has been made in implementing provisions to improve access to land, due in part to administrative delays and inadequate allocation of resources, and to a focus on formalizing tenure rather than redistributing land. Peace is unlikely to be sustainable as long as many poor, landless, marginalized, and displaced rural families see no improvement in their lives and livelihoods, which depend on access to land.

Urge the Colombian government to address the failure to uphold its commitments outlined in the Labor Action Plan (LAP) and ensure that labor rights are fully applied and protected in Colombia. As detailed in the U.S. Department of Labor's recently released Second Periodic Review of Progress of the Colombia Labor Rights Complaint Submission dated October 7, 2021, a number of issues and benchmarks of the 2017 Submission Report recommendations have not been satisfactorily addressed and improved upon by the Colombian government. As the lack of labor rights enforcement and protection are an underlying factor in economic inequality and civic unrest, advancement on labor rights issues is critical and should be strongly emphasized by the U.S. government with Colombia.

Insist on progress on reforms of Colombian military and intelligence services, including to end persistent patterns of surveillance over human rights defenders and other civil society leaders, journalists, and judicial personnel. While members of the military who committed gross human rights violations can receive transitional justice benefits by collaborating with the JEP and providing the truth about their crimes, the Colombian government must still be urged to provide accountability for the more than 6,000 extrajudicial executions by members of the Colombian armed forces, largely of poor young men executed and dressed up in guerrilla uniforms to be claimed as enemy dead.

The United States should also uphold the peace accords directly through its own policy choices. First, the United States should support counternarcotics policy that abides by the peace accords' drug policy chapter. Such support must focus on working with small farmer communities to eradicate and replace coca, providing sufficient support for such farmers and communities to thrive, and must refrain from employing harsh and ineffective tactics such as aerial spraying. Restarting spraying will be seen as undermining the accords and will drive away farmers from cooperating. The peace accords emphasize dismantling drug trafficking and money laundering networks, which are U.S. priorities. Second, the United States should remove the Comunes Party from the terrorist list. It is counterproductive to maintain on this list ex-combatants who have shown their commitment to peace for the last five years. It demonstrates an ambivalence towards accords the United States helped to forge and hampers the ability of the United States and partners to provide support for reintegration and even for broader community development programs in areas with ex-combatants' presence.

It is in the interests of both Colombia and the United States that peace be consolidated, police and military become more rights respecting, discrimination and violence against Afro-Colombian and indigenous peoples end, and human rights defenders be able to operate without fear for their lives. Only by challenging the Colombian government to address these serious underlying problems in Colombia can the United States contribute to this more hopeful future.

Sincerely,

Amazon Watch; American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO); Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America; Colombia Human Rights Committee; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces; Global Exchange; Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ; Healing Bridges.

Institute for Policy Studies, Drug Policy Project; International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights; Latin America Working Group; Missionary Oblates; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; Oxfam; United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries; Washington Office on Latin America; Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective.

THE MITFORD MUSEUM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, Jan Karon, an author from North Carolina, released a novel titled ''At Home in Mitford.'' That novel was the first of 14 she wrote in a series that depicted a small town located in western North Carolina.

To be clear, the town of Mitford is purely fictional, but, in fact, it was based off a town in North Carolina's Fifth District where Jan Karon grew up and drew inspiration from, the town of Hudson.

In early October, it was my privilege and honor, along with hundreds of people from 31 different States, to be in Hudson for the dedication ceremony of the new Mitford Museum.

The mission of this museum is to share the small-town values, through artifacts and archives, that relate to western North Carolina and Jan Karon's novels with those who visit.

One of the museum's objectives is to also to enrich both reading and writing appreciation and enhancing the literary skills in youth and adults. Those important endeavors are worthy of praise.

Jan Karon, along with many of us, grew up learning and appreciating the small-town values which have helped make our country great. By sharing them with her readers, she helps preserve the continuity of those values so

that generations both present and future will carry them forward.

We all long for America to return to those simple values and not stray off course. Think about what some of those values are. They are comradery, service, sense of community, putting in a hard day's work, and family.

If you were to take the time and travel across North Carolina's Fifth District, you would find salt-of-the-earth people who live and breathe those values. Those values are alive and well in every small business, supermarket, church, community, and neighborhood in the Fifth District and across the entire country.

You see, small-town values are not a euphemism for exclusivity or division. They are values that transcend boundaries such as socioeconomic status, political affiliation, and geography.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself blessed to have been raised in a small town and to have learned those values at a young age. Throughout my life, I have carried them with me.

It is even more of a blessing that I have been entrusted to serve small towns like Hudson and so many others that are the lifeblood of western North Carolina.

I encourage everyone to visit the town of Hudson and see exactly what I mean. Take some time to learn about the values that small towns across this country are built on and how, over time, they have made such an impact upon everyday people.

The undeniable truth is that small-town values will forever be America's values.

SEPTEMBER JOBS REPORT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as a former educator, it is clear to me that the Biden administration needs some serious math tutoring. The September jobs report resembles an incomplete assignment that a student turned in at the very last minute.

Out of 500,000 projected jobs, only 194,000 were added. Five million jobs are still unrecovered in America, and labor participation has slumped to 61.6 percent. It is the worst jobs report of the year, and there are roughly 3 months left to go.

That report rightfully deserves an F, and it tacks on another chapter of this administration making promises it cannot meet. Yet again, the so-called Build Back Better agenda falls flat on its face and the numbers do not lie.

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CHILD CARE CRISIS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to spend a few minutes to talk about an October 15 visit to Connecticut by President Biden where he actually put the eyes of the country for a couple of hours on a critical issue that his Build Back Better agenda is focused on fixing, which is, namely, the crisis in child daycare all across the country.

On Friday, my colleagues and I, as well as President Biden, visited the Capitol Child Development Center, where the executive director, Barbara Jo Warner, laid out very clearly the dilemma that she and her colleagues who are in this very struggling sector are faced with today.

Before COVID, her center had 70 slots for children completely full, with a waiting list. Today, they have 20 children in the same daycare center.

Is it because there is no demand? No, that is not the case. There still is a waiting list of families who are trying to get their kids into daycare.

Her problem is that the staffing that she had prior to COVID has severely diminished, and her ability to attract people back into her program is limited by the fact that she is only able to offer $13 an hour as a starting wage for people in a very important job for our country as well as families of the children that they take care of.

So we are in a situation where they are in a place where McDonald's pays more, at $15 an hour, than a daycare center, at $13 an hour.

It is a problem which is, I think, one of the reasons why the jobs recovery has stalled, particularly for families and women heads-of-household who, again, don't have centers with slots available because of the staffing problem that Ms. Warner described to the President and to the world on Friday.

The Build Back Better legislation, he discussed it, finally, in a different kind of context, in terms of the horse race down here and who is up, who is down, which faction is negotiating what. He focused on the content of the Build Back Better legislation, which is addressed to provide a huge infusion of support for our daycare sector.

What that provision will do is cap the amount of out-of-pocket for families who are using child daycare at 7 percent of income. Today, low- and middle-income families spend between 14 and 35 percent of their income on daycare. If we get this through, we are immediately going to provide savings for families with their kids in daycare.

In Connecticut, looking at a family making $87,000 a year, that basically would result in weekly savings of $175 a week, which is definitely a huge boost in terms of working families and middle-class families, which this bill would provide.

Again, I want to emphasize, this is not a Connecticut problem. This is happening all across the country, and the median or the average salary for daycare centers across the country is actually $12 an hour, a little lower than what the President heard about on Friday.

If we are serious about a real job recovery and giving families the opportunity to really go back to work, why don't we listen to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the country, which recognized during COVID that support for child daycare is essential, in terms of trying to get working-age families back into the workforce.

Again, the openings are there. I could walk through employers in the State of Connecticut. Electric Boat in my district has about 500 job openings right now. They want to get those Gen Z'ers and millennials trained up and ready to go. But if they don't have a place for their children to be cared for safely and adequately, then we are just basically in a cul-de-sac where this economy is going to be held back.

The Build Back Better agenda is not soft infrastructure. It is right at the heart of whether or not we are going to, as a country, fully recover and grow in the wake of this pandemic.

It is something that hopefully every Member, when the time comes for this package, when that daycare provision is included in there, will think about long and hard because this is not a Connecticut-only issue. This affects every State, red and blue; every district, red and blue; every employer, in red and blue areas of the country. If anyone can't support that, then they are not serious about really helping this country recover from the pandemic.

Again, I thank the President for coming out and really focusing like a laser on this issue. I thank Executive Director Barbara Jo Warner for her clear message to the country.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this week as National Forest Products Week.

In Pennsylvania, forest products have long been an essential industry by producing logs, lumber, furniture, paper, and more. These are products and materials that Americans nationwide use each and every day.

The forest products industry employs roughly 64,000 Pennsylvanians and generates $36 billion in total economic impact statewide.

I am proud to represent Pennsylvania's only national forest, the Allegheny National Forest. This incredible forest, established in 1923, spans more than half a million acres in the northern portion of my district, across Forest, Elk, McKean, and Warren Counties.

Whether it is forestry, energy production, timber harvesting, or an abundance of outdoor activities, Allegheny National Forest has it all.

For generations, the ANF has brought economic prosperity to our region, and it is essential that we are able to contribute to the longevity and

sustainability of the Allegheny National Forest.

In my role as Republican leader on the House Agriculture Committee, I am dedicated to putting forth policies that promote natural solutions to keep our forests healthy for generations to come.

These policies include working closely with the Forest Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to manage our forests, foster healthier lands, and allow this economic engine to thrive.

By supporting the Forest Service and encouraging active stewardship, we can support healthy forests and rural communities for generations to come.

Currently, we have two bills focused on improving our forest management: the RESTORE Act from DOUG LAMALFA from California and the FIRE Act from DUSTY JOHNSON from South Dakota. These bills aim to improve and expedite forest management and restoration projects for healthier and more resilient forests.

Of course, we cannot talk about forest products without discussing the environmental benefits of a well-managed forest and forest productivity. We know the best solutions are natural solutions, not burdensome regulations or carbon taxes, but active innovation.

Landowners and foresters are among the strongest environmental advocates in our country. I recognize their efforts and continue to promote forest health by empowering the original stewards of our land.

According to the Forest Service, forests are sequestering 14 percent of all U.S. carbon emissions. That number could nearly double with policies that increase forest management, forest health, and forest production.

Active management, including timbering, holds the greatest potential for sequestering carbon and storing it indefinitely in forest products.

To help encourage new markets for forest products and forest health, I was proud to help lead the Timber Innovation Act. This bipartisan legislation, which was included in the 2018 farm bill, directly supports the development of cross-laminated timber and tall wood building construction.

Mr. Speaker, Forest Products Week is more than forestry or timber harvesting. It is a time to focus on the great resources our forests provide. From a natural habitat for wildlife, to an abundance of outdoor recreational activities, to carbon sequestration, to a strong rural economy, our forests, big and small, must continue to be utilized for our needs today and for our future generations.

TAKING A HARD LOOK AT THE NATIONAL STOCKPILE

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass my bill, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act, so that we never again are dependent on foreign manufacturers for the supplies we need to keep Americans safe.

This bipartisan bill, brought to this Chamber by eight Democrats and eight Republicans, would make sure our country never again endures what we went through in those early days of the COVID–19 pandemic when we all received those urgent calls, only to learn that our stockpile, the national stockpile, would only provide a fraction of what we needed, many pieces inside expired, some of them molding.

This bill would ensure that we have a properly maintained national stockpile of medical supplies so that our doctors, nurses, and frontline workers have the personal protective equipment they need to protect themselves while helping others.

Put yourself back into the mindset of April 2020: frantic calls and e-mails from essential workers begging for help. As cases of COVID surged, both in our hospitals and in our nursing homes, our frontline workers made it clear that they simply didn't have enough protective equipment to keep themselves safe.

In fact, the National Institutes of Health conducted a study on why we have a shortage of protective equipment. Through that study, they found that the U.S. anticipated—we knew—that our national supply would come up short, and they estimated that we would need 3.5 billion N95 masks to protect Americans from a pandemic that affected only a third of our country. This is why we cannot move on without cleaning up our system.

In 2020, every Member of this body was hearing from doctors, nurses, and first responders who were bravely battling this disease and improvised face shields and homemade solutions to protect themselves.

I still think about the physician in Brighton, Michigan, who compared his job to being a soldier on the front lines, wearing only a T-shirt and a baseball cap instead of body armor and a helmet; or the nurses in Mason, Michigan, who had to share one gown, not per person, but for the entire staff on a COVID ward.

In response, I found myself doing anything and everything I could to secure protective equipment for Michigan: calling mask manufacturers, negotiating with companies in China, and fighting for each and every shipment. I was sending Ziplocs of 10 masks to our nursing homes individually. If a Congresswoman is negotiating in the dead of night with a Chinese middleman for masks, our supply chains have officially failed us.

This searing experience shook me to my core. We can and must do better to protect Americans and to learn from our mistakes.

This bill, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act, would ensure that if States ever need to turn to it, our stockpile will be fully supplied, maintained, and ready to go.

It requires constant maintenance and inventory checks to make sure items aren't expired. We need to make the distribution process transparent. It helps States to create their own local stockpiles, and it prevents waste of taxpayer dollars by allowing the stockpile to sell excess supplies to other agencies before they expire.

Perhaps most importantly, this bill incentivizes production of critical medical supplies right here at home, in the United States. Through a $500 million program, the stockpile will partner directly with American manufacturers to expand capacity and strengthen our domestic supply chains.

Now, in Michigan, we get it. Before the pandemic, the mere mention of supply chains was enough to put some to sleep. But the last year and a half has changed that. The issue is now on the front page of every paper and at the heart of every key business and policy decision.

From masks to microchips, the disruptions we have experienced have forced us to pull back the curtain and take a hard look at the systems we rely on in our daily lives. Michiganders have been saying this for 30 years. If you outsource our supply chains too far to China, it becomes a national security issue, and it has.

Here in Congress, we have a responsibility to respond to the way this crisis has shook our communities for our first responders and our businesses. I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to vote ''yes'' on this critical piece of legislation. Help clean up the mess that was on display last year. That is our job and our responsibility to the next crisis.

HIGHLIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

There is a lot going on in the world right now, and it is very easy to forget that we have millions of Americans who are living in a very abusive environment.

Many people walk around with scars that everyone can see. But also, many of us walk around with scars that nobody can see. In particular, I would like to highlight the women who are in this very difficult situation.

When I was 5 years old, I recall when my mother woke me up in the middle of the night to sneak us out of our very abusive home, and I remember spending time in a battered women's shelter. That moment will never leave me.

Looking back at it now, my mother was the bravest woman that I knew then and the bravest woman that I know now.

And it doesn't have to be this way. People don't have to be in an environment that is constantly under abuse. You can leave, whether that is today, whether that is tomorrow, whether that is decades from now.

Today, I am very proud. Years ago, my mother left that abusive environment. Just last year, she was able to get her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, UTEP. It was amazing for her to go back and get her education.

Today, she lives with me. She, along with my wife, Angel, helps raise our children. And today, she is in an environment where she is loved.

This month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we can't lose sight of that. If you are in a violent situation, you, too, can get out. You, too, can change the direction of your life, and your children can go off and be very successful because we live in the greatest country on Earth. Whether it is today, tomorrow, or a decade from now, please leave your abusive environment and get back to a place of happiness and love.

□ 1030

STRIKETOBER

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, from this podium, and on the streets of Chicago, I have spoken out quite a bit about essential workers.

They work every day to keep our country going, often risking their lives, their families, and they deserve respect and dignity on the job.

But today, I want to talk about the courage that it takes not to go to work and to go out on strike for better working conditions.

As we speak, thousands of workers are on strike; from the nurses and healthcare workers to the people who make cereal, tractors, and whiskey. And tens of thousands more have taken strike votes and are ready to join them if they can't reach agreements with their employers.

It is a strike wave, and we are calling it ''Striketober.''

And I stand today in solidarity with these workers who are fighting for safer working conditions, a decent living wage, and the ability to retire with dignity.

Just in the past few weeks in my city of Chicago, I stood with Nabisco workers from the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union, auto mechanics from the International Association of Machinists, and employees at the Art Institute of Chicago who are fighting to join a union, AFSCME.

Only days later, the workers at a local tortilla plant in my own neighborhood, El Milagro, walked out protesting an unsafe workplace, unfair wages, and sexual harassment at the company's plants.

In recent years, teachers, nurses, county employees, nursing home workers, and even the symphony orchestra performers in our city went on strike.

They aren't just striking for themselves, they fought to provide community resources in our schools, improve patient care for our seniors, and create art for the public.

These workers and their struggles are the newest chapters of Chicago's historic role as the center of our country's labor movement.

International Workers' Day—celebrated around the world on May 1—commemorates the Haymarket protests in Chicago in 1886, which led to the 8-hour workday and ended child labor.

The Pullman strike, brutally suppressed by our own government, is commemorated every year on Labor Day.

This is my own history, too.

I came to Chicago as an immigrant from Mexico, and my parents' jobs and benefits as Teamsters—and my own work as a member of the Retail Workers Union, as a member of the Teamsters, the United Legal Workers affiliated with the UAW—helped make me who I am today.

So when these workers walk out on strike, they walk out for all of us.

Safety at work, dignity in retirement, a living wage, these are important issues for everyone.

There is a picket line chant that says, ''If we can't get it, shut it down.'' And it is time that working-class people did just that.

Striketober was a long time coming. The Federal minimum wage has been at $7.25 for over a decade, but millionaires got 62 percent richer during the pandemic.

A vial of insulin costs $6 to make, but pharmaceutical companies sell it for as much as $275.

Rent, childcare, and medical bills go up and up, and pundits won't stop complaining about wage inflation.

So workers across the country are standing up to say: Enough is enough. And they are standing up for us.

So we have got to support these workers on the picket lines any way we can.

In Congress, this means supporting proworker legislation, like the Protecting the Right to Organize Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, which guarantees workplace rights.

It means protecting frontline workers, from nurses to CTA bus drivers, to Instacart shoppers.

It means supporting workers at the bargaining table and on the picket line because when workers fight, we all win.

Si, se puede. Yes, we can.

RECOGNIZING RAYMOND ANDREW SMITH

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

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary sacrifice by a resident of Brooklyn, New York.

Private First Class Raymond Andrew Smith was 18 years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, in the Korean war.

Growing up, Raymond and his sister Helen experienced a difficult childhood in foster care, forcing them to take on responsibilities far beyond their years. And despite the challenges he faced, at the age of 14 Raymond joined the Navy.

Once Raymond's age was discovered by his superiors, the Navy granted him an honorable discharge, but that wouldn't stop Raymond's drive for service. Four years later, Raymond enlisted in the United States Army, and after 6 months, he was shipped off to fight in the Korean war.

The Korean war began in June of 1950 when General Douglas MacArthur, alongside South Korean and U.N. forces made significant progress into the north with hopes of uniting the two countries again.

However, Communist China under Mao Zedong had other plans, and sent roughly 100,000 troops to the Chosin Reservoir to counter progress made by America and our allies, leading to the Battle of Chosin Reservoir.

With the 7th Infantry Division, Raymond fought in this battle, a battle many military experts and scholars consider to be one of the most brutal conflicts in modern history due to the sheer fierceness of our opponents and severe weather elements.

For 17 days, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir raged on. In that timeframe, it is estimated that the United States suffered 18,000 casualties, while the Chinese suffered upward of 50,000 casualties, 30,000 just from the freezing cold alone. During the battle, temperatures were said to have dropped to a chilling negative 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Medical supplies froze solid, rendering them useless, weapons seized and failed to function, and digging foxholes was nearly impossible without the use of machinery. At negative 35 degrees Fahrenheit, the human body sets into hypothermic shock in only 5 to 7 minutes.

Private First Class Raymond Smith was one of the first to make contact with the enemy. Raymond and his peers were vastly outnumbered, and while they fought valiantly, he was sadly reported missing on December 2, 1950, presumed to be dead.

On July 27, 2018, following a summit between then-President Donald Trump and North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-un, North Korea returned 55 boxes that contained the remains of American servicemembers killed during the Korean war.

And on March 25, 2021, Raymond's family received closure when his remains were finally identified and accounted for after 71 unbearable years for his family. Raymond's remains

were returned to New York City, where his sister Helen, her children, a full U.S. military honor guard, and the Port Authority Police were there to welcome him home.

I am taking this time today to ensure Raymond's memory lives on and his sacrifices will not be forgotten. Currently, there are more than 81,600 Americans that remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, the Gulf wars, and other conflicts. Let this give us hope that we can return them all home.

I urge the administration and my colleagues to work toward the return of all prisoners of war and a full accounting and the repatriation of our fallen servicemembers' remains.

ALL AMERICANS DESERVE SAFE, CLEAN, STABLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, all Americans, regardless of age, ZIP Code, or income, deserve to live in a safe, clean, and stable home they can afford. This is exactly what a healthy, just, and secure community relies on. It ensures that people are able to meet their basic needs. When over 145,000 Social Security beneficiaries in my district, the 10th Congressional District of Washington State—representing nearly 21 percent of the population—only have 100 to $200 to spare for groceries, utilities, and other basic expenses after paying their rent or mortgage, we know that prosperity is not being shared equally, nor equitably.

When our servicemembers at Joint Base Lewis-McChord simply cannot find homes off post or on post for their families, due to lack of supply or the cost of housing, we must clearly improve our mission to support our Nation's heroes.

These are just a few of the stories that thousands of Washington State residents and families are experiencing, just like millions of Americans across the country. And we know the driving factor behind this housing crisis is lack of supply. We don't have enough housing, and we aren't building it fast enough to meet the demand. And some of the housing that we do have is not fit for human habitation.

According to Up for Growth, an organization that advocates for more housing, their report on housing underproduction from 2010 to 2017 in Washington State identifies some startling data points: For every one household that moved into my district, there were .64 housing units produced in Pierce County, .76 in Thurston County, and .62 housing units in Mason County.

So this means that for every family that moved into our district, that we were producing two-thirds to three-quarters of the housing that we needed to accommodate them. This also means that for over 7 years the population increased and demand far outpaced supply, resulting in this crunch or lack of inventory that so many families are feeling right now.

What's more, there remains a shortage of nearly 160,000 homes for extremely low-income renters, and nearly half a million renters in Washington State are rent-burdened, which means that they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing alone.

Now housing experts have told us that we need a once-in-a-generation solution to our housing supply shortage. That time is now. Now is our opportunity to build smarter, build better, and to do it inclusively.

We have solutions on the table, and it is well past time to use them. We can build to higher-density inside transit corridors, leveraging existing infrastructure. That is why I was so proud to help introduce the bipartisan Build More Housing Near Transit Act with Representative SCOTT PETERS to make sure that when we are investing $2.3 billion each year for large-scale transit projects, we are ensuring that local land use policies, which are often the biggest barrier to increasing housing supply, will encourage sensible development around these major infrastructure investments. For so long we have built housing infrastructure around automobiles and that is a relic of the past; now we must invest in transit to utilize good and smart land use policies.

For our military servicemembers and their families, we can find solutions in our National Defense Authorization Act provisions, which passed out of the House in a bipartisan manner just weeks ago. I offered one provision, which will direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to answer one question: How long are wait times for housing located on military installations in competitive housing markets? And we want them to produce a strategy to address this demand for housing.

It is simply unacceptable that servicemembers and their families must wait more than 6 months to be assigned housing on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. I urge all of my colleagues to support this inclusion of several reports that will address the issue, including a report on how and the extent to which commanders of military installations are connecting military families with local nonprofit organizations and government entities that provide services to the military, including assistance with finding housing.

And importantly, we must pass both our bipartisan infrastructure proposal and the Build Back Better Act and specifically deploy the Unlocking Possibilities Program.

This competitive grant program through HUD will be used to support cities and towns to design and implement policies that eliminate exclusionary zoning and artificial barriers to adding more housing. I urge all of my colleagues to work to retain this important program in our build back better proposal.

Being securely housed is a fundamental human right regardless of your political affiliation. The cost of continuing to ignore our lack of supply is far too great, especially when the tools we need are at our disposal. Let's use them, and let's show our constituents that we can and will build back better. To do otherwise is irresponsible.

□ 1045

THE BABY FOLD—2021 ANGELS IN ADOPTION HONOREE

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Baby Fold in Normal, Illinois, for being chosen as a 2021 Angels in Adoption honoree. I nominated The Baby Fold this year because of their passion for adoption support and services throughout my Congressional district.

Since 1902, The Baby Fold has been transforming the lives of children and families by focusing on the Christian values of love, hope, and healing. They currently serve over 1,200 individuals each year across 28 different counties in Central Illinois.

The Baby Fold focuses on improving the lives of children and families by building safe environments through adoption services, foster care to adoption, community services, and more. The Baby Fold puts children first so that they can be blessed with the stability and love that they deserve.

Every day, I am grateful for adoption organizations that bring families together, like The Baby Fold. I applaud The Baby Fold and their volunteers for their strong dedication to children and families throughout Illinois.

TAYLORVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taylorville Junior High School regarding their selection for the National Blue Ribbon from the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon is awarded to schools for their academic achievement or their progress in closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Mrs. Jessica Miller, the principal at the time of the nomination, and assistant principal, Mrs. Jennifer Wise, led several building initiatives that improved academic performance and emotional growth by investing in professional development, creating a community of learners, and meeting the emotional needs of students.

The national recognition is also the result of the collective efforts of the building administration, teachers, support staff, and the entire Taylorville

community. I would like to personally congratulate both the Taylorville Junior High School and its administrators and teachers for their commitment and dedication to the improvement of public education for the students in my hometown of Taylorville.

CONGRATULATING KEN LEONARD ON HIS 400TH VICTORY

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my friend, Ken Leonard, on reinforcing his Illinois high school football legacy by becoming the only coach in Illinois history to record 400 wins as a high school football coach.

Ken is currently the head coach at the dominant powerhouse Sacred Heart-Griffin in Springfield, Illinois. This achievement actually adds to Coach Leonard's impressive list of accomplishments.

Ken has held the record for career wins in Illinois since 2018 and has led the SHG Cyclones to five State championships and three State runner-up trophies. Coach Leonard holds an overall record of 400 wins and 80 losses throughout his 42 seasons as a head coach.

Ken began coaching at Sacred Heart-Griffin in 1984, and throughout his tenure at SHG, Coach Leonard is credited with creating a winning culture and inspiring countless young lives. Ken's place in Illinois high school football has already been cemented but will forever be cemented more with this victory.

Ken, and your entire coaching staff, and the SHG community, congratulations on this historic win, and we are looking forward to many more.

CRISIS AT LAKE MEAD

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the water in Lake Mead has fallen to record-breaking lows not seen since the Hoover Dam was constructed.

Already, Lake Mead has fallen to just 35 percent of its capacity. And as you can see behind me, a bathtub ring taller than the Statue of Liberty surrounds the lake as a reminder of the water that was once there.

This is a crisis that we can fix only with new investment and innovative solutions, and that is why I am supporting the bipartisan infrastructure package and the climate and water investment provisions of the Build Back Better Act. It could not be more clear. Nevada is ground zero for the effects of climate change, but we also are ground zero for the benefits of this historic legislation.

The bipartisan infrastructure package includes more than $8 billion for water infrastructure. This also includes my water recycling legislation that will invest in large-scale water recycling projects to help keep more water in Lake Mead for Nevadans.

There is not a moment to lose.

The opportunity is here and the time to act on climate and act for Nevada's water and future is now.

PROTECT PARENTS' RIGHT TO SPEAK

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with students, parents, and teachers seeking a brighter academic future. From a student's earliest days of learning the ABC's, recognizing shapes and colors, to the moment they walk across the gymnasium floor to receive a high school diploma, their school days have been filled with learning and exploring, reading, writing, and math. Or they should be.

This, however, is not the experience of many of our K–12 students, especially not today. For the last 2 years, students, parents, teachers, and school administrators have been struggling with the global pandemic. COVID–19 has upended routines, hindered learning, shuttered schools, and angered families. These are real challenges requiring active listening and creative solutions. We need parental involvement. We need tutorial advice. We need school board engagement.

Parents are concerned with their children's education, health, safety, and well-being. Parents are concerned with what their children are learning, with what is being taught in the school system. Parents want to know that when they send their daughter or son to school, their children will be safe from bullies and predators. Recently, unfiltered frustrations have boiled over at local school board meetings.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not and will not condone violence, I was stunned to hear that part of the Federal response to rising parental concern with educational practices and pending school policies was to unleash Federal enforcement on vocal moms and dads. This is deeply disturbing.

One particular incident was cited as a catalyst for government's heavy-handedness. At the beginning of the summer, pictures of a dad tackled to the ground and arrested during a Loudoun County school board meeting surfaced. But what is the story behind the headline?

This dad was protesting a school policy that would allow biological males access to girls' private facilities. Why? Because his 15-year-old daughter was raped in the girls' bathroom at her school. The situation was expertly covered up and ignored by the very people responsible for protecting his daughter: the school.

School officials eventually called the police, not to report a serious crime against a young girl, but to restrain a distraught father when he discovered the school was attempting to sweep the assault under the rug.

One such horrific rape should be sufficient for every school district to review who has access to girls' safe spaces. Instead, this half-told story was crafted into a political narrative alleging examples akin to domestic terrorism.

Just a few months after this incident, a national school association letter demanded that the Federal Government respond to unrest, name-calling, and protests at school board meetings across the U.S. The arrest of this distressed father whose daughter had been raped was one of the examples cited in the correspondence to the President as a need for Federal intervention.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Justice validated the concerns raised, not by the father or parent seeking input into their child's education, but to the dubious claims raised by the national association.

Instead of adhering to the constitutional charge to oversee Federal issues, it disturbs me that the power of the Federal Government is being wielded to bludgeon everyday parents into silence. This must end.

Whether parents voice concerns about a lack of safe spaces for their girls, the type of curriculum that is taught at every grade level, or mask mandates, parents deserve to be heard, and every American has a constitutional right to voice these concerns to the government without being treated like a criminal.

It is time we start listening to parents. They are the best arbiters of their child's education, and they deserve respect, not contempt.

FREEDOM TO VOTE

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the urgency of passing the Freedom to Vote Act, which the Senate is considering today.

The events of the past year have exposed the fragility of our democracy, and Congress must act now to protect that most fundamental of American freedoms: the freedom to vote.

In 2020, we lived through the most challenged and scrutinized election in American history. But now, even after the result is beyond all reasonable debate, radical right-wing extremists and would-be dictators are still trying to overturn the 2020 election; stoking the flames of conspiracy, hate, and chaos in order to create a dark and twisted vision of America that these agents of chaos have embraced.

Unless Congress acts now, the radical right will keep using the big lie told by the former President and endorsed by his supporters to enact damaging voting restrictions and prevent Americans who have rejected their dark vision for our country from participating in our representative democracy.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where I live, the majority in our

State legislature has embraced these lies and conspiracy theories about election fraud to propose a raft of new laws that would make it more difficult for eligible voters to actually vote. We have an opportunity to put an end to these anti-democratic tactics and Congress must seize it.

Today, the Senate will take a crucial vote on the Freedom to Vote Act, important legislation that is necessary to ensure that our government remains by the people and for the people, not politicians.

Similar to the For the People Act, which the House has passed both this term and last, the Freedom to Vote Act sets basic nationwide standards for how elections are conducted and ensures that the voices of everyday American voters are heard in Washington. It will work in tandem with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore critical protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and combat racial discrimination in voting. Together, these two bills will safeguard our democracy from both current and future threats.

Ultimately, the Freedom to Vote Act is about ensuring that people, not politicians, hold the power in our government.

Let's talk for a moment about what this bill is and what it isn't. The Freedom to Vote Act would set national standards to protect the freedom to vote, end partisan redistricting, ensure sound election administration, and fix our broken campaign finance system.

These key provisions are widely supported by the American people, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. People are tired of cycles of chaos, followed by inaction, when it comes to our elections. The most basic foundational element of our democracy deserves to be treated with seriousness, urgency, and care. We cannot stand by as discriminatory voter laws, partisan gerrymandering, and dark money drowns out the voices of American voters.

As for what this bill does not do, contrary to what some of our colleagues across the aisle—and particularly MITCH MCCONNELL—have claimed, the Freedom to Vote Act is not an unconstitutional power grab.

Our Founding Fathers may not have anticipated all the ways our country would change over the centuries and the ways in which we would need to adapt, but they were really, really good in anticipating the evil that men might do in pursuit of power, including anticipating efforts to undermine the most precious value enshrined in the Constitution, the right to a government chosen by, for, and of the people.

One of the ways the Framers did this was in Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution, which allowed States, in general, to regulate the time, place, and manner of elections to Federal offices, like Congress, but with a really important exception. The second half of that section says, ''Congress may at any time make or alter such State regulations.''

Why did the Framers do this? Because they already knew of instances in which State legislators might try to corrupt the election process in order to impact the Federal Government, even as they were drafting the Constitution. And isn't that where we are today?

We have States that are trying to make it harder for people who live in cities and people of color to vote. We have State legislatures proposing to overturn the results of the last election and future elections if the party in power in that State doesn't like the candidate that the people voted for.

We have State legislatures proposing to politicize professional election staff and procedures with bills that would allow partisan legislatures to overthrow the Presidential electors chosen by the people and substitute electors who will vote for another candidate.

That is why it is so important that Congress act to fulfill what may be its most sacred obligation under the Constitution to protect the right of the American people to chose their own representatives rather than letting elected officials manipulate that process to stay in power.

If the Senate again fails to fulfill its responsibility with the filibuster intact, then it is time for the filibuster to go.

□ 1100

INFLATION AND THE SUPPLY CHAIN

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind Congress that small businesses and consumers all over the country are feeling the repercussions of President Biden's spending spree.

It is very simple: President Biden's so-called rescue plan has directly caused a crisis we are seeing on the farm and on Main Street. Injecting $1.9 trillion of government spending into the economy without a clear plan for execution has increased costs and disrupted the supply chain.

All government spending must be paid for somehow, and Americans are paying for it with inflation. Since February 2020, the amount of money in the economy has grown by over 26 percent, so it should come as no surprise that Americans are experiencing the highest price increases since the Great Recession. Consumer prices for used cars and trucks have risen by more than 24 percent, and costs have increased 11.2 percent for furniture, 9.6 percent for household appliances, 6 percent for utilities, and 5.6 percent for clothing.

President Biden promised to raise taxes only on wealthy Americans, but these price increases happening under his direction are a tax on every American. Inflation-adjusted wages are down nearly 2 percent since President Biden took office, and with the Democrats planning to continue their reckless tax-and-spend habits, American families can expect the cost of living to keep going up.

As if rising costs weren't enough, this administration's so-called rescue plan has created a labor shortage that is weakening our supply chain and leaving manufacturers and business owners high and dry.

Earlier this month, I hosted a manufacturing tour across my district in Kansas, where I visited small businesses that produce and sell products like highway signs, car accessories, and industrial valves. These businesses are the driving forces in their communities, but the leaders who run them all painted the same bleak picture: Vendor costs are rising; labor is hard to come by; and a weakened supply chain is slowing everything down.

The Grasshopper Company in Moundridge, Kansas, builds and sells mowers and landscaping tools, the same ones used by the White House groundskeepers. Grasshopper is facing longer lead times on vendor items than they have ever seen, and the prices on raw materials like steel seem to be rising daily. To meet their customer demand on time, Grasshopper had to pay an extra $28,000 air freight fee. Back in July, Grasshopper's disrupted supply chain and increased cost of doing business forced them to raise the price of their goods midseason, something they have not had to do since the Carter administration.

Another manufacturing company in my district told me that the supply chain backlog has made it impossible to plan for their future. Their suppliers are telling them that essential inputs like electronic components will now take at least 5 to 6 months before they even ship. Before this year, they never had to wait longer than 4 weeks.

Sadly, these are just two examples from Kansas' Big First District. Small businesses all over the country are being forced to raise their costs due to supply chain issues, inflation impacting their own inputs, labor shortages, or all the above.

To get inflation under control, strengthen the supply chain, and stop consumer costs from rising even further, we need to get Americans back to work, stop the vaccine mandate, quit recklessly printing money, and end the spending addiction here in Washington.

SECURING RELEASE AND RETURN OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN HAITI

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the urgent need for the Biden administration to secure the release and return of the 17 American missionaries taken captive in Haiti by a street gang known for mass kidnapping of religious groups.

I cannot imagine the terror they are experiencing in this very moment as we speak. We cannot sit idly by while they fear for their lives.

For decades, the United States has invested in developing Haiti through

government aid and nongovernment organizations like Christian Aid Ministries. I urge President Biden and this administration to leverage our relationship with the Haitian Government to secure the safe return of every member of this group.

The captivity of Americans, whether in Port-au-Prince, Kabul, or anywhere else, is an international crisis. President Biden's actions in this moment are assuredly being watched by those who would not hesitate to do our country harm and could have longstanding repercussions for Americans practicing their faith across the globe.

The United States must be clear: If you capture our citizens, our government will respond swiftly and decisively.

EXTENDING CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. School supplies, gas for the car, swimming lessons, payment for rent, these are just a few of the ways my constituents in southeast Louisiana are spending their child tax credit payments. Especially as my community recovers from Hurricane Ida and has unexpected costs, the dependability of monthly child tax credits—an average of $410 for my constituents—has meant a lot.

While this program expires at the end of December, the problems facing American children and families will not. The Build Back Better Act includes provisions to continue this program.

Studies show that extending the child tax credit permanently is sound economic policy and that it can be done better to have better healthcare, better health outcomes, and more economic opportunities for families.

We need to put our money where our mouth is and invest in our children, invest in our families, and pass the Build Back Better Act.

REMEMBERING MUSICIAN BENNIE PETE

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, COVID–19 has taken over 725,000 lives. One person gone too soon that I want to highlight is Bennie Pete, a New Orleans jazz musician. He passed away at the age of 45 from complications of COVID–19, shortly after deciding to get his first vaccine shot.

Bennie played the tuba and cofounded the celebrated Hot 8 Brass Band. Born in the Upper Ninth Ward, he helped found the band by the age of 18. They played on street corners, parades, and funerals, and then at bars and bigger venues, and as second lines.

When Hurricane Katrina hit, Hot 8 brought music to the city in a way that only New Orleans can in the challenging days after the storm, playing at evacuation shelters and medical centers. The band became local heroes, a sense of hope, a sense of energy in the days immediately following great despair.

The Hot 8 grew in popularity, touring in Europe and playing at Tipitina's and the Jazz and Heritage Festival.

New Orleans will never be the same. We have lost a little bit of our soul with the passing of Bennie Pete. May he rest in peace.

IMPROVING LOUISIANA'S ENVIRONMENT AND INDUSTRY

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Louisiana's Second Congressional District includes an industrial corridor of nearly 150 oil refineries, plastic plants, and chemical facilities. Many sites provide high-paying jobs that lift families out of poverty or build a better life. But it is, foremost, a place that my constituents call home.

As their Congressman, it is my job to make sure that it is a safe and prosperous place to live. Sadly, there have been longstanding concerns over elevated and disproportionate rates of cancer and respiratory conditions in this region. It shouldn't be this way. Industry and community can coexist, with proper monitoring and regulation.

That is why I am calling on EPA Administrator Regan for Federal assistance to study, monitor, and improve the impacts of emissions and polluting substances in the river parishes. No one should have to die for their job.

I stand ready to bring both environmental stewardship and a robust economy to Louisiana. We can do this. We must do this.

RECOGNIZING BRAS FOR A CAUSE

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

As a physician, and also as a member of our society and country and the female gender, we are all familiar with the amazing work the Komen Foundation and Komen Race for the Cure have done to raise awareness, education, and research in breast cancer.

I would like to take the time to recognize an extraordinary group in my district that has found a creative way to help underserved women in the Ottumwa community receive annual mammogram screenings and breast ultrasounds.

Founded in 2011 by two-time breast cancer survivor and River Hills Community Health Center nurse Laurie Hornback, Bras for a Cause is an annual fundraising event held in Hedrick, Iowa, where donated and decorated bras are modeled by local firefighters and auctioned off. Over the past 10 years, the event has raised a total of $174,000 to help women receive breast cancer screenings or treatment.

This year, Bras for a Cause raised a total of $27,000, and they will be donating $15,000 to help Ottumwa women receive breast cancer screenings at River Hills Community Health Center in Ottumwa. Additionally, a portion of the remaining funds was donated to the Mahaska Health Partnership, while the rest is being saved to help women currently diagnosed with breast cancer undergo treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Laurie and Bras for a Cause for coming together to put on this fantastic event and for their service to our community.

RECOGNIZING SARA RUSSELL, IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a teacher from my district who recently received a prestigious Iowa award for her work to inspire the next generation.

Last week, Sara Russell, who has been teaching social studies for nearly 20 years at Pleasant Valley High School in Bettendorf, was awarded the Department of Education's 2022 Teacher of the Year Award by Governor Kim Reynolds.

The Iowa Teacher of the Year Award was established in 1958 to recognize educators who go above and beyond to motivate and inspire students to achieve at their highest levels.

Sara was selected for this award for her leadership in helping students build life skills while also being a mentor for new teachers in the Pleasant Valley School District.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sara and all educators who work to inspire the next generation of American leaders and make Iowa the best place to learn, live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING ERIC VANDER VELDEN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share a story about educators in my district literally going the extra mile to ensure their students' success.

For the last few months, the Newton School District in Jasper County has reported a shortage of bus drivers, leaving many parents and students uncertain about how they would be able to make it to school each morning. In a rural area, our bus transportation to school is extremely important.

With the importance of education and safety in mind, Eric Vander Velden, a physical education teacher in the Newton School District, answered the call for help by driving a school bus when needed. This is part of a larger effort by the Newton staff, in concert with parents, to do whatever they can to help their students succeed.

It is stories like these that remind us that our teachers are the backbone of this country, and I couldn't be more confident in our future, knowing that the next generation is in their capable hands.

HONORING THOMAS STRAYER NELSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas

Strayer Nelson of Ilion, New York, who turns 100 years old today.

Mr. Nelson is one of the last living survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He joined the Navy right out of high school and was assigned to the USS *Wasmuth*, a Clemson-class destroyer that was docked in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He left the Navy as a first class electrician's mate.

On that fateful day 80 years ago, 19-year-old Thomas Strayer Nelson was lying in his bunk aboard the ship docked in Pearl Harbor when the alarms sounded. Sensing trouble, Tom made it topside where he saw several Japanese planes bombing American ships. He quickly assessed that this was not a drill.

Tom quickly jumped on his .50 caliber machine gun and successfully helped defend the *Wasmuth* and its crew on that fateful day.

The wreckage was devastating. Nearly 20 U.S. ships were damaged or sank at sea, and more than 2,400 Americans, including civilians, were killed.

Tom remembers crying that day during the aftermath, but Tom's heroism did not stop there. Nearly 1 year later, in December 1942, the *Wasmuth* was escorting a convoy when it was knocked off its tracks and two mines exploded below the ship. The *Wasmuth* sank, but 134 crew, including Tom, were rescued due in large part to Tom's efforts.

Tom came back home and was an electrical inspector for over 27 years in his hometown of Ilion, New York, where he has resided for nearly his entire life. I had the great honor of meeting Tom this past weekend. At the age of 99, now 100 today, he was full of life and very engaging, and he also had a wonderful sense of humor. I also had the pleasure of meeting his daughter, Janice, with whom he has been living the past 2 years and who provides great care for him, and his son, John, who is also providing loving care to Tom. John is a former State trooper who has now taken on the mantle of also being an electrician in his father's legacy.

□ 1115

I just want to say also about the wonderful family from this small community, Tom's late wife, Gladys Cooley, passed away in 2015. He also had a daughter who passed away and a son, Tom, who died very young from rheumatoid arthritis.

I just wanted to take this special time to recognize and thank someone who is part of our Greatest Generation from my community, one of the last survivors of Pearl Harbor who actually was there when this occurred. I want to thank his family and everyone for hosting me, greeting me, and giving me the real unique opportunity to meet with this great hero of our country.

I want to say thank you again to Tom for his heroism, his service, and his bravery. I wish him another 100 years of good health and good cheer. I look forward to seeing him again when I return to my hometown.

Here's to many years ahead.

ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is facing avoidable crises on many fronts. Because of President Biden's and the Democrats' failed leadership, Americans are dealing with a border crisis, an inflation crisis, a spreading crime crisis, and a crisis in Afghanistan. And now, with the national average for a gallon of gas hitting $3.30 last week—a 7-year high—we are also facing an energy crisis.

Let me be clear: the responsibility for this crisis belongs at the feet of none other than President Joe Biden. His anti-energy agenda has destroyed American jobs and ended America's energy independence. On his first day in office, the President killed 11,000 jobs by canceling the Keystone pipeline, and one of his first executive orders paused new oil and gas leasing on U.S. lands and waters. That executive order alone will cost approximately 1 million American jobs in the near term and will decrease U.S. gross domestic product by $700 billion.

That same order also puts America's energy security at risk. To make up for slowed production in the United States, U.S. imports from foreign sources will increase by 2 million barrels a day, and through 2030 we would spend $500 billion more on energy from foreign suppliers. Instead of making it easier for American companies to increase American oil and gas production and hire more U.S. workers, President Biden begged OPEC and Russia to increase global output to ease rising prices.

It is a shame. The President has made us more reliant on dangerous adversaries overseas rather than maintaining policies that had us on the verge of energy independence.

It would be great if Joe Biden would reverse course and turn, once again, to an all-of-the-above American energy solution that ensures we are reliant on no one but ourselves; but, instead, I guess we are just going to have to lower our expectations.

A CRUEL CHOICE

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, forcing the Federal Government into Americans' private lives is Joe Biden's twisted idea of unity. It is sickening to me that this President is creating a situation where some Americans need to pick between keeping their jobs or taking the coronavirus vaccine.

This is a cruel way to treat Americans trying to earn a living. Even worse, Biden's vaccine mandate applies to brave military soldiers willing to die for us, Federal contractors, and the intelligence community. If too many are forced out of their positions, it will jeopardize America's ability to assess and address threats.

Mr. Speaker, you do not need to look very hard for possible consequences.

Over the weekend, our government's top intelligence personnel were caught off guard by the People's Liberation Army's test of a hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 25,000 miles per hour. Imagine that missile flying toward the homeland and important government or military roles were vacant because folks were fired over the vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, the result would be catastrophic.

Biden needs to back off his tyrannical impulses and allow Americans to decide for themselves on the coronavirus vaccine. If he doesn't, talented folks are going to exit critical national security jobs, and this clueless President will blunder his way into yet another crisis.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 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:

Holy God, Heaven and Earth are held in Your hand. You who have determined the number of stars and given each their name, You who have set the Pleiades and Orion in the sky, You are our North Star, the constant in this changing universe, and we look to You for direction.

Cast our eyes upon Your brightness, that we would discover the immutability of Your character and revive our strength. In a world full of variables, may Your unchanging nature ever be our guard and stay.

When there is no one on whom we can rely, may we rely on You.

When there is nothing we can trust, may we trust You.

When we are lost, adrift in the sea of confusion, may we anchor ourselves in You.

And when we are fearful for our lives or livelihood, may You be our source of courage and purpose.

These are not lofty desires, O God, but pure, unvarnished, and honest needs that we lay before You.

You, O Lord, do not change. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Your word is alive and enduring. In this may we find hope.

In Your strong and eternal 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 Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma 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.

IT IS TIME TO ACT FOR ALS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in unity with Americans suffering from ALS and their families, who are desperate for effective treatments and, one day, a cure.

I made it my mission to pass the ACT for ALS Act because people with ALS deserve a chance to fight the disease. They deserve a research and development infrastructure that is compassionate today while looking to the future.

My friend, Brian Wallach, who was diagnosed with ALS 4 years ago, told Congress that this fight is the closing argument for his life. I can't look him in the eye and tell him we have to wait. None of us should.

I am profoundly grateful to each and every one of the 325 cosponsors of this bill, as are families impacted by ALS all around the country. This is the most cosponsors of any bill that has not yet gotten a vote in this Congress.

It is time for us to act. It is time to act for ALS.

AMERICA HAS SERIOUS FISCAL PROBLEMS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the September 21 Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, editorialized an analysis of the irresponsible Biden tax-and-borrow schemes destroying jobs.

What would you call a neighbor who spent lavishly to redecorate his house but ignored the badly leaking roof? Perhaps foolish, irrational, or just plain dumb.

Now, what would you call a Congress seemingly bent on enacting costly new middle-class entitlements while existing programs are headed for devastating benefit cuts? Some of those same words come to mind.

At the end of August, the Treasury Department issued the annual reports of the trustees for Social Security and Medicare that showed these trust fund programs are on schedule to run out of money.

There are very serious fiscal problems, but Congress instead is focusing on legislation to expand entitlements, hurting their children in the long run while millions of our elderly could be thrown into poverty.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from Afghanistan to America. Our sympathy to the family of General Colin Powell.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KEVIN HAYS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Kevin Hays.

Kevin was diagnosed with colorectal cancer at the age of 28. He fought a 7-year battle against it that was courageous and inspiring. He made it his mission to raise awareness about the second leading cause of cancer deaths in America.

Kevin founded the Colon Corps, led the Blue Hope Hard Hat Initiative, and got involved with the American Cancer Society and the National Colorectal Cancer Alliance to promote early detection and screening.

Kevin was a gifted, nationally recognized messenger, charismatic and kind, with a mischievous smile and a great sense of humor.

To his beloved wife, Hilary, and his beautiful family and loved ones, cherish your memories of Kevin and know that there will always be light to guide you from the love he gave you.

I stand here today to recognize the many lives saved thanks to the advocacy of Kevin Hays and to carry his message of love and encouraging colon cancer screening forward.

DEMOCRATS' RADICAL AND COSTLY POLICIES

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, President Biden and Democrats are pushing to pass a multitrillion-dollar socialist spending agenda that would be the largest tax-and-spending increase in our Nation's history. It is, frankly, money we don't have.

At a time when families and businesses are struggling to deal with President Biden's reckless economic policies, the Democrats are pushing to spend trillions more dollars to fund their radical, socialistic, and costly policies.

Just a few of the Democrats' far-left socialist policies will hit small business with a larger tax bill, impose costly Green New Deal mandates that simply won't work, increase our energy dependency on Russia and China, weaponize the IRS to target American families and monitor $600 per week bank transactions.

I will continue to stand against the Democrats' socialistic tax-and-spend spree that will limit our freedoms, make our country less competitive, and destroy Main Street America. Their agenda is anti-American.

In God we trust.

FUNDING ELECTRIC VEHICLES

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we have a choice. We can work to save our planet and become a global leader in green technology, or we can allow our planet to become uninhabitable. We must choose to protect our planet, the only home we have.

Transitioning to electric vehicles will dramatically reduce carbon emissions and will create a cleaner world for our children. That is why my committee approved billions of dollars to transition the Postal Service and GSA fleets to electric vehicles and provide the necessary charging infrastructure across the country in the postal offices.

This will fund more than 300,000 electric vehicles. That is more electric vehicles than were sold across the entire country last year.

I urge my colleagues to support the Build Back Better plan, which includes funding for electric vehicles that will greatly help our environment.

MY CONSTITUENTS MISS PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Americans miss President Donald Trump.

Under the Biden administration, we have a supply chain crisis, an energy crisis, a border crisis, an Afghanistan crisis, and an economic crisis that threatens every bank account and paycheck that we earn.

Americans are scared and losing hope after 9 months of the Biden-Harris administration.

Under President Trump, we had a roaring economy; we had energy independence; our border was secure; and our enemies feared our resolve.

The radical left is attempting to destroy our economy and the American way of life, but every crisis created by the Biden administration is only a reminder of how great it was to have an American President who put America first.

Today marks 9 months of the Biden administration, and my constituents miss President Trump now more than ever.

TURBOCHARGE THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Build Back Better agenda. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address climate change, and we must pass the clean electricity performance program, which uses a novel carrot-and-stick approach to reduce emissions by State utilities.

I further support instituting a carbon tax, which would make corporations pay for their harmful pollution and ensure our planet remains habitable for our children.

Furthermore, as we invest in clean energy infrastructure to replace harmful fossil fuels, we must end the Trump tariffs on $360 billion worth of Chinese goods. These tariffs artificially increase the cost of materials in solar panels, wind turbines, and other products we need to power our economy with clean energy.

Together, we can enact President Biden's agenda to turbocharge the clean energy economy and create good jobs.

ONGOING CRISIS AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing crisis at the southern border. The Biden administration has actively opened the border, and it is directly harming our country by dwindling resources, endangering communities, and emboldening terror threats.

I recently visited the Del Rio, Texas, sector to hear straight from our Customs and Border Patrol agents, Texas National Guard, and Texas State troopers. In just one station within the sector, apprehensions have multiplied at an alarming rate, going from 7,400 last year to more than 94,000 in 2021, and agents have detained people from more than 90 countries.

While the humanitarian aspect of this crisis is disturbing, I am more concerned with the growing national security threats to our country. Nearly 10,000 individuals with criminal convictions have been arrested in fiscal year 2021 attempting to illegally cross into the U.S., compared to just 2,400 last year.

Mr. Speaker, securing and regulating our border is crucial in keeping our country secure, functioning, and, most importantly, safe from external threats. I urge my colleagues to work toward creating meaningful legislation to provide Customs and Border Patrol agents with much-needed resources to firmly protect our border.

CONGRATULATING TRIG AND TULA SOLBERG

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trig Solberg and his wife, Tula, on the 50th anniversary of their business, T.A. Solberg Company, which operates several supermarkets and fuel and convenience stores throughout northern and central Wisconsin.

Trig and Tula started their first business together in 1971, with a single small store in Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin. Today, they operate several stores in the communities of Rhinelander, Minocqua, Eagle River, and Tomahawk, employing more than 1,200 people. The Northwoods of Wisconsin is dear to the Solbergs, so they make sure each of their stores keeps the personality of the region intact.

I can attest that Trig is admired by staff, colleagues, and industry peers for his dedication to his community and commitment to excellence.

Congratulations again to Trig and Tula Solberg for 50 years in business and their service to Wisconsin.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THE GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER OF THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the Greenville, South Carolina Foothills Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association for their exemplary work to ensure that all of South Carolina's fallen Korean war veterans are never forgotten.

In 2016, Congress enacted legislation that authorized the Wall of Remembrance as an addition to the Korean War Memorial, but they didn't fund the project. In response, the Foothills Chapter made it their mission to raise nearly $20,000 to cover the inscription costs of the 55 soldiers from Greenville County who died in combat during America's ''forgotten war.''

After 4 tireless years, the Foothills Chapter recently announced they raised $207,000, which is enough to provide inscriptions, not only for the 55 soldiers from Greenville County, but for all 483 servicemembers from South Carolina who were killed while serving their country in Korea, as well as 93 servicemembers who were captured and held as prisoners of war.

Once again, I recognize the Greenville Foothills Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association and, in particular, my friend, former State senator Lewis Vaughn for carrying on the legacy of South Carolinians who made the ultimate sacrifice in Korea.

REPORT ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we had another week go by, and I didn't see the Vice President in charge of the Mexican border policy for this administration down there, so I felt I should go down and look around in the Yuma sector and report back to her or anybody in the majority party who wants to hear.

These are the things that I don't think we have seen in the papers. I could talk for hours.

One thing, a large number of the people crossing the border in the Yuma sector are throwing away their IDs on the ground. And if you want, you can just stand there along the paths and see all the IDs that are just lying there.

You have to ask yourself, why, if I am an immigrant, am I throwing away my ID before I check in with Border Patrol? I must be hiding something. It means that they can't do a background check if I was in the United States in the past, or, for that matter, there is going to be no record of when such and such a person left Colombia and comes into the United States. We should require an ID to come here. We should no longer let people throw them out.

Secondly, I, in the past, am under the impression that people can test positive for COVID, check into a hotel and just leave and come into the country. I now know they do not require tests.

These are two more things I learned at the border. I invite the Vice President to go down there.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LIEU). 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.

GUIDANCE CLARITY ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1508) to require a guidance clarity statement

on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1508

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 ''Guidance Clarity Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT REQUIRED.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each agency, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, shall include a guidance clarity statement as described in subsection (b) on any guidance issued by that agency under section 553(b)(3)(A) of title 5, United States Code, on and after the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget issues the guidance required under subsection (c).

(b) GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT.—A guidance clarity statement required under subsection (b) shall—

(1) be displayed prominently on the first page of the document; and

(2) include the following: ''The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and do not, of themselves, bind the public or the agency. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.''.

(c) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to implement this Act.

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 gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. 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 gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1508 would require Federal agencies to include a guidance clarity statement on the first page of guidance documents.

I thank Representative LUETKEMEYER and Ranking Member COMER for working with us to perfect this bill.

Federal rules, regulations, and guidance are complex, even at the best of times.

For most Americans who do not spend hours per day reading through the Federal Register, guidance documents can be very confusing.

This simple, good government bill will help clarify for the public that agency guidance is intended to help guide the implementation of Federal regulations, not to act as additional legally binding rules.

This is a bipartisan bill in both the House and the Senate, which passed a Senate companion 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. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, agency guidance serves an important function in the Federal regulatory system.

Agency guidance helps regulated parties and the public understand how agencies will interpret the laws and administer their programs.

However, agency guidance can be—and has been—abused.

For example, agencies can use guidance documents to intimidate small businesses and individuals into compliance with agency views, sometimes under the threat of enforcement action.

Small businesses and ordinary individuals often do not have the legal resources or necessary background to understand when an agency statement is binding law.

It can be difficult for them to determine what agency statements must be complied with versus what is merely a nonbinding description of an agency's views on which they can push back.

Agencies have been known to try to start enforcement actions based on mere guidance.

Agencies also have been known to attempt to issue binding rules by quietly slipping what they intend to be rules in guidance documents.

This clearly bypasses the Administrative Procedure Act's requirements that were put in place to protect regulated individuals and small businesses.

The courts coined the term ''nonrule rule'' to describe this Big Government sleight of hand.

And the courts have rightly struck down such rules that only appeared in agency guidance.

The Guidance Clarity Act offers a simple solution to these problems.

It requires agency guidance documents to include the following explicit statement: ''The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and do not, of themselves, bind the public or the agency.

''This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.''

With that stroke of the pen, gone will be the days in which agencies can use guidance documents to force small businesses and individuals to comply with nonbinding agency views.

Gone, too, will be the days of agencies trying to issue nonrule rules that bypass the Administrative Procedure Act's requirement for legislative rules.

I thank the sponsor of the bill, the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, who has worked tirelessly on this bill since it was first introduced.

I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her speedy efforts to help make passage of this bill a bipartisan success.

And I also thank Senator JAMES LANKFORD and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman GARY PETERS for their critical efforts to achieve a bipartisan compromise on this legislation.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Guidance Clarity Act.

The Federal Government produces hundreds of rules, regulations, and laws every year. Without the help of legal teams and consultants, individuals and small businesses cannot possibly keep up with everything that is coming out of Washington.

The purpose of guidance is to assist those Americans in understanding rules and regulations and give them suggestions on how to adhere to them.

Guidance is not approved by Congress, nor does it go through the Federal rulemaking process which allows for public input and legal scrutiny of agency actions. Guidance is not backed up by law, nor is it enforceable by law enforcement. It is, quite simply, a suggestion.

Unfortunately, in past years, many regulators have threatened punitive action against businesses for not following guidance. That is unacceptable, and quite frankly, it is illegal.

To be clear, I am not talking about businesses breaking the law or ignoring Federal regulations. Guidance documents are meant to clarify or to inform the public about policy topics and are not legally binding. Small businesses deserve clarity on what documents are legally binding and should not be punished for deviating from guidance documents.

Regulators have no legal authority to enforce guidance, and any attempt to do so is an egregious abuse of power.

On top of that, with thousands of guidance documents being produced, instead of achieving their intended goal—which is to provide clarity—they are causing even more confusion.

With some regulators enforcing guidance while others do not, small businesses and entrepreneurs are driven deeper into the regulatory maze of the Federal Government.

My bill is a very simple fix to that confusion. The Guidance Clarity Act

ensures the first page of guidance documents includes the plain language statement declaring that guidance is not law, nor can it legally be enforced as law.

This small but critical statement clarifies for citizens and regulators on the ground that guidance is meant to be helpful; a suggestion that can be put in place or completely ignored. It will help regulators do their jobs more efficiently and small businesses, who lack the resources to employ teams of lawyers, continue to create jobs and grow the economy.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will agree that American small businesses have enough to worry about. They are working hard to keep their employees paid and their customers happy. They don't have time to worry about keeping track of and abiding by agency suggestions that were never meant to be anything more than just that.

I thank Chairwoman MALONEY, Ranking Member COMER, and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) for their leadership in supporting the bill and bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the Guidance Clarity Act.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Guidance Clarity Act, small business owners and individuals across the country will soon have confidence that agency guidance, however helpful and clarifying it may be, is not legally binding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this necessary bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1508.

I thank BLAINE LUETKEMEYER for his leadership on this bill and the cooperation of Ranking Member COMER and all the teams on both sides working in support of it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1508, 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.

□ 1230

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. FRIEND MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1170) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1170

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

SECTION 1. TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. FRIEND MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. 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 gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 1170 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building''.

Before passing away in June of 2019, Lieutenant Colonel Friend was one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen who took to the skies during World War II as the first African American military aviators.

The roughly 1,000 Tuskegee Airmen flew 15,000 combat sorties, destroyed 260 enemy aircrafts, and received 150 decorations of the Flying Cross and Legion of Merit, fighting the Nazi Luftwaffe while simultaneously striking a blow against racism back home.

Lieutenant Colonel Friend flew fighter aircrafts for nearly 2 years during the war. During Lieutenant Colonel Friend's 142 combat missions, he destroyed critical Nazi and Axis power military assets, helping move the U.S. and ally forces towards victory during the war.

In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Friend served in strategic roles as an operations officer for the 301st Squadron and was the final operations officer of the 332nd Fighter Group. Lieutenant Colonel Friend also served honorably in Korea and Vietnam.

Lieutenant Colonel Friend was the recipient of multiple military awards for service, including the: Distinguished Flying Cross, Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Star with Flying Cross, three Distinguished Service Medals, and an Air Medal. In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Friend and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.

Following the war, Lieutenant Colonel Friend studied astrophysics at the Air Force Institute of Technology and business at the University of California in Los Angeles. After retiring from the Air Force in 1971, he worked as a consultant on the development of missile systems and space-station components near his home in Irvine, California.

Naming a post office for Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Friend is entirely appropriate given his distinguished, extraordinary contributions to his State and country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1170, which would name a post office after Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend, one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen.

Lieutenant Colonel Friend was a fighter pilot for 2 years during World War II, and destroyed critical Nazi military assets, bolstering the United States. He also served in Korea and Vietnam.

After retiring from the military, he studied astrophysics and business at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1170, which will designate the post office located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building.

I introduced this bill to honor the legacy of a true Orange County hero, Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend.

Before passing away in June of 2019, Lieutenant Colonel Friend was one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen who took to the skies during World War II as the first African American military aviators. The roughly 1,000 Tuskegee Airmen flew 15,000 combat sorties, destroyed 260 enemy aircraft,

and received 150 decorations of the Flying Cross and Legion of Merit, fighting the Nazi Luftwaffe while simultaneously striking a blow against racism back home.

Lieutenant Colonel Friend flew fighter aircraft for nearly 2 years during the war. During his 142 combat missions, he destroyed critical Nazi and Axis power military assets, helping move the U.S. and Allied forces toward victory during the war.

Lieutenant Colonel Friend was the recipient of multiple military awards for valorous service, including the: Distinguished Flying Cross, Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Star with Flying Cross, three Distinguished Service Medals, and Air Medal. In addition, Lieutenant Colonel Friend and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.

Following the war, Lieutenant Colonel Friend studied astrophysics at the Air Force Institute of Technology and business at the University of California, Los Angeles. After retiring from the Air Force in 1971, he worked as a consultant on the development of missile systems and space-station components near our community and his home in Irvine, California.

Lieutenant Colonel Friend is survived by his children: Thelma, Robert, Jr., Michael, Debra, Dana, Karen, and Clara Ann Browning; 18 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren. His son, Darryl, died in 2002 while on active duty in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the other Members of the California delegation for signing on in support of this bill and ensuring that Lieutenant Colonel Friend's name is memorialized and his legacy lives on for future generations.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1170. I thank Representative PORTER for her strong support in helping to pass this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1170.

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.

OFFICER ERIC H. TALLEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3210) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3210

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

SECTION 1. OFFICER ERIC H. TALLEY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3210 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building''.

Officer Talley joined the Boulder Police Department in 2010 and served the community for 11 years before being tragically shot and killed at a Boulder King Soopers grocery store on March 22, 2021, at the age of 51.

Officer Talley was the first officer to arrive at the scene and was one of ten individuals who were killed that day. He gave his life protecting others and his sacrifice and intervention undoubtedly saved lives during that horrible tragedy.

Officer Talley was recently posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by the Boulder Police Department, the department's highest honor, for his heroic actions and sacrifice.

He was born in Houston, Texas, graduated high school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and earned a master's degree in computer science from Ball State University in Indiana.

Before joining the Boulder Police Department, Officer Talley worked in information technology, but at the age of 40 he felt a higher calling to switch career paths and join law enforcement after the tragic death of a friend.

In 2013, while serving as a police officer, he made local news when he waded into a drainage ditch to rescue a mother duck and her ducklings that were trapped in the ditch. Officer Talley was one of the first officers to join the Boulder Police Department's drone team in 2017 where he worked with new technologies to find ways to improve public safety and keep police officers safe.

His colleagues, friends, and family describe Officer Talley as a man who worked as hard as he could to make a difference in the lives of others every single day. He exemplified selflessness in life and in his final act.

A beloved husband and father of seven, Officer Talley was known for his kindness, compassion, and love for his family. He enjoyed board games, fly fishing, golfing, and had a black belt in karate.

Naming a post office for Officer Eric Talley is an appropriate way to honor his distinguished career and contributions to his State and country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to name a post office in Boulder, Colorado after Officer Eric Talley. Officer Talley served as a police officer in Boulder for 11 years before being killed during a mass shooting at a local grocery store, King Soopers, in Boulder, Colorado, on March 25, 2021.

Officer Talley was the first police officer to arrive at the scene, and one of ten individuals who would be killed that day. He left behind a wife and seven children, who our hearts go out to.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill in honor of an American hero, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, because of time constraints and scheduling problems, the gentleman from New York has a bill coming up but he must get to a vote and other things, so he has asked to speak now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY), distinguished chair of the Congressional LGBTQ plus Equality Caucus.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from New York for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on my bill, H.R. 767. It honors the life of the late Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman. It enshrines his storied career in public service at the Fulton Street Post Office in Middletown, New York. Ben Gilman was a true statesman and a tireless representative to the people of the Hudson Valley.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected, I was told I should try to be like Ben, to try to fill the shoes of this giant and

carry on his great tradition of public service and delivering results.

Ben was nothing less than an American patriot. He was born in Poughkeepsie in 1922. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II. He flew 35 combat missions over Japan and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the war, he graduated from the Wharton School and from New York Law School. He went on to be an assistant New York attorney general in the 1950s, a lawyer in private practice, and then found a calling in public service as a New York assemblyman from 1966 to 1972, and, of course, became my community's representative in Congress for the next 30 years after that.

He was often called ''Gentle Ben'' because of his remarkable humility. And because he elevated constituent service to an art form, Ben was beloved throughout my district, never missing a pancake breakfast with farmers or firefighters. But as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, he was known on the world stage and deeply respected by allies and adversaries alike.

He was called a moderate then, but that just meant he rose above the fray and political parties and did the right thing, always putting his people first. Above all, of course, he was a father and a husband, and he loved his family. We pray for his widow, Georgia, even as we honor his public career in this House.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a distinguished veteran, a congressional ambassador, larger-than-life figure, and fellow New Yorker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 767 to immortalize Ben Gilman's legacy at the Fulton Street Post Office in his home of Middletown, New York.

□ 1245

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill in honor of an American hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3210, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3210.

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.

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 767) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 767

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

SECTION 1. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building.

Benjamin Arthur Gilman was a distinguished public servant with decades of service to both the State of New York and the United States at large. He was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, on December 6, 2022. He graduated from Middletown High School in Middletown, New York, in 1941. He received a B.S. from the Wharton School of Business and Finance at the University of Pennsylvania in 1946.

From 1942 to 1945, he served in the United States Army Air Corps. After his time in military service, he received a law degree from New York Law School in 1950. From 1953 to 1955, he served as an assistant attorney general to the New York State attorney general. He then served as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1966 to 1972.

In 1972, he was elected to serve as a Member of Congress, serving for three decades before retiring in 2003. During his time in this House, he was chair of the Committee on International Relations. Congressman Gilman died on December 17, 2016, in New York State.

Given his decades of service to our Nation, it is only fitting that he be remembered by renaming this post office in his honor.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to name a post office after the late Representative Benjamin Arthur Gilman.

Congressman Gilman was a Republican Member who represented New York between 1973 and 2003. During his time in Congress, he served as the chairman of the Committee on International Relations. He was also part of the congressional delegation to the United Nations and a member of the Ukraine Famine Commission.

In 2000, he helped establish the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program at the State Department. The scholarship provides financial support to undergraduate students with limited financial means so they can study or intern abroad.

Congressman Gilman was an important and impactful Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 767, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 767.

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.

JOSEPH R. LENTOL POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3419) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Joseph R. Lentol Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3419

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH R. LENTOL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''Joseph R. Lentol Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Joseph R. Lentol Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3419, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, as the Joseph R. Lentol Post Office.

Assembly Member Joseph R. Lentol represented the 50th Assembly District, comprised of the neighborhoods of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Fort Greene, and parts of Clinton Hill, for 48 years.

After graduating from law school and passing the New York State bar, Joe began his government career as an assistant district attorney in the Kings County district attorney's homicide division. In 1973, he was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing north Brooklyn.

Joe was the third member of his family to serve in the New York State Assembly, as his father and grandfather had also been elected to the assembly. During decades in public service, Joe was a recognized champion of fair labor practices, criminal justice reform, and environmental protection.

Because of his knowledge, experience, and negotiation skills, Joe was appointed to serve on various commissions, committees, and panels. He chaired the Committee on Criminal and Civil Codes, the New York City Community Action Board, the assembly Public Protection Budget Committee, the assembly Committee on Public Employees, the assembly Administrative Regulations Commission to create the State's open meetings laws, and the Committee on Governmental Employees, which oversees the State's pension and employee benefits, presiding over the State's divestiture of its pension fund's investments in South Africa as well as a multitude of bills strengthening organized labor. Additionally, he chaired the assembly's Committee on Governmental Operations, monitoring and overseeing the operations of State agencies and departments.

For more than 20 years, as chair of the influential Codes Committee, which has jurisdiction over criminal justice, Joe was an advocate for and led efforts to modernize the State's criminal justice system.

Recognized for his leadership in correcting a system that unfairly penalized youth, people of color, and the economically disadvantaged, Joe was largely responsible for getting important legislation enacted into law by working with six Governors, his Democratic colleagues, and, often, members of the Republican majority in the State senate.

Joe championed the reform of the Rockefeller drug laws, which mandated harsh sentences for possession and sale of drugs and disproportionately targeted people of color.

In addition, Joe fought to raise the age in criminal law when a child must be treated as an adult in the criminal justice system and for other major criminal justice reforms that overhauled the State's criminal discovery and bail laws and that guaranteed speedy trials.

Joe was also a member of the Governor's Commission on Sentencing Reform, the New York State Temporary Commission on Voting Machine Equipment, and the New York State Court of Appeals Justice Task Force, and the New York State Comptrollers Investment Advisory Board.

Currently, Joe serves on the board of the New York State Public Defender Association. Naming a post office for Representative Joseph R. Lentol is entirely appropriate given his distinguished political career and contributions to New York State and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to name a Brooklyn, New York, post office in honor of lifelong resident Joseph Lentol.

Joseph Lentol is a former New York Assembly member who followed in the steps of his father and grandfather. He has been a strong advocate for criminal justice reform, serving on the Governor's Commission on Sentencing Reform, and is on the board of the New York State Public Defenders Association.

Joseph serves as a role model to those in Brooklyn and beyond by interacting with and supporting his local community.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3419, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3419.

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.

PATSY CLINE POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1444) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1444

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

SECTION 1. PATSY CLINE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Patsy Cline Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1444, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1, in Winchester, Virginia, as the Patsy Cline Post Office.

Patsy Cline was born in Winchester, Virginia, in 1932 during the Great Depression. She began singing and performing at events and local venues in the Winchester area at a young age and landed her first recording contract in 1954. Her first hit, ''Walkin' After Midnight,'' debuted in 1957 and rose to number two on the country music charts.

In 1958, Cline moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and was the first solo female singer to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry. Over the next few years, Cline recorded several more hit songs, including ''I Fall to Pieces'' and ''Crazy,'' and appeared on American Bandstand and The Johnny Cash Show.

She was acclaimed for her bold, emotional, and haunting singing voice, which drove many of her songs to the top of the country and pop charts and influenced generations of future artists, from Reba McEntire to Cyndi Lauper.

Tragically, Cline was killed in a plane crash in Tennessee in 1963 at the age of 30. She was buried in Shenandoah Memorial Park outside of Winchester, where a bell tower was built in her memory.

In 1973, she became the first female solo artist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Cline's childhood home in Winchester was designated as a historic place in 2011 and has drawn visitors from around the world.

Naming a post office for Patsy Cline is a way we can honor her substantial artistic and cultural contributions to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to name a post office in Winchester, Virginia, after Patsy Cline.

Patsy began singing and performing at events in the Winchester area from a young age. Her childhood home in Winchester was designated as a historic place in 2011 and draws visitors from around the world.

This post office would further honor the memory of her. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON), who is the cochair of the Congressional Agritourism Caucus.

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 1444, to rename the Winchester, Virginia, post office in honor of country music legend and proud daughter of Virginia, Patsy Cline.

In January 1957, Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts introduced their live television audience to Patsy Cline, from Winchester, Virginia, and launched her to stardom after her winning performance of ''Walkin' After Midnight.''

Virginia Patterson Hensley was born in Winchester in my home district in 1932. She spent her childhood years there growing up in the beautiful northern Shenandoah Valley. It was also where she discovered her dream of becoming a singer.

The only thing that matched Patsy Cline's talent was her determination. From the local Winchester radio station to the Grand Ole Opry, she sought out opportunities to showcase her abilities in bold ways—writing letters, approaching other singers backstage, and even showing up at a studio waiting room to request an audition.

That talent and determination took Patsy Cline to places no woman country music singer had gone before. Patsy Cline was the first female solo artist to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1960 and the first female solo artist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1973.

CMT has ranked Patsy Cline as the number one greatest woman in country music history. She continues to inspire generations of future artists.

Her tragic and untimely death in 1963 took Patsy Cline away from us too soon. But her trailblazing legacy and her music live on.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to me that among the many great and well-deserved honors this American icon has received, she should be forever remembered in her hometown of Winchester, Virginia.

I am proud to sponsor this legislation to rename the post office along Winchester's pedestrian walking mall after Patsy Cline.

Her legacy is still very much felt in her hometown. The Patsy Cline Historic House, where she lived from 1948 to 1953, is in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register and remains a popular tourist attraction in the Winchester area. Patsy Cline's final resting place is just a few miles south of the house, in Shenandoah Memorial Park, where a bell tower was built in her memory in the 1980s.

Renaming this post office will serve as further acknowledgement of Patsy Cline's legacy in the Winchester community and of Winchester's influence on Patsy Cline.

The support this bill has received from across our great Commonwealth shows the enduring legacy of Patsy Cline and the popularity she still holds. Nearly 60 years after her death, people still ''fall to pieces'' over her music, and this bill proves that we are still ''crazy'' about her.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. I also heard a rumor that the chairwoman of the committee will be singing a Patsy Cline song in her closing.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1444. I will not be singing, but I love her music, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1444.

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.

ROBERT S. MCKEITHEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3175) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the ''Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3175

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

SECTION 1. ROBERT S. MCKEITHEN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the ''Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3175 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building.

Robert McKeithen was born on March 22, 1961, and graduated college from the University of Mississippi. After college he served in the U.S. Air Force with distinction, earning the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

After his service in the Air Force, he joined the Biloxi, Mississippi Police Department where he served 24 years. He was one of 13 officers to earn the Medal of Valor for rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Unfortunately, his life was cut short when he was shot and killed on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Officer McKeithen was a dedicated servant of his country and community and a dedicated husband and father to four children.

Mr. Speaker, naming this post office in his honor is a fitting way to remember this dedicated officer. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would name a post office in Biloxi, Mississippi for Robert Stanton McKeithen.

After graduating from the University of Mississippi, McKeithen enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Following his military service, he became a police officer in Biloxi. He was one of 13 Biloxi police officers to earn the Medal of Valor for his rescue efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

Sadly, after 24 years of service as a police officer, he was shot and killed in the line of duty on May 5, 2019. He was only months away from retirement. He left behind his wife, a daughter, two stepsons, and one stepdaughter.

As a law enforcement officer, Robert McKeithen served his community with honor, and I support naming a post office in his memory.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO).

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3175 which will designate the post office located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi as the Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building.

Robert McKeithen began his career in service to this great Nation and ended it in service to south Mississippi.

Officer McKeithen graduated from the University of Mississippi and went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force where he earned the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. He retired from the Air Force as a tech sergeant.

After his service in the Air Force, McKeithen became an officer and worked at the Biloxi Police Department for 24 years. A testament to his selfless nature, Robert was one of 13 officers in the department honored with the Medal of Valor for his rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

I am inspired by his spirit of service and strength of character. A great man and officer was taken too soon, but he will never be forgotten.

Officer Robert McKeithen's end of watch was in Biloxi on May 5, 2019, but this post office renaming will provide for a daily reminder of his dedication and love for his community and our love and respect for law enforcement.

I thank the McKeithen family—to include his wife, Pamela McKeithen; his children, Amy, Levi, Natalie, Logan, Lillian, and Lauren; his grandchildren, Delmas and Kaiden; his sisters, Melissa and Kathryn; and his brother, William—for allowing me the honor and privilege to introduce this piece of legislation in Robert's memory.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3175.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Kansas has no further speakers I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3175, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3175.

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.

CAPTAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2044) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2044

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

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, shall be known and designated as the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. 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 materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2044 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building.

Captain Kapaun was born in the rural farming community of Pilsen, Kansas, on April 20, 1915.

He first studied classics and philosophy at Conception College in Missouri, and then attended Kenrick Theological Seminary in St. Louis. In 1940 he was ordained a Catholic priest and appointed an auxiliary chaplain in the U.S. Army in 1943.

During his time in the Army Chaplain Corps, he served American troops in the Burma and India theaters until the end of World War II. In 1948 he reenlisted in the Army Chaplain Corps and was mobilized in support of the Korean conflict in 1950. He was taken captive by Chinese forces on November 2, 1950, during the Battle of Unsan, after repeatedly coming under fire to rescue wounded soldiers.

During his captivity, he rejected multiple opportunities for escape, instead remaining a POW providing physical and spiritual support to other POWs. On May 23, 1951, Chaplain Kapaun died of illness and maltreatment.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II declared Chaplain Kapaun to be a Servant of God, the first step on the path towards canonization in the Catholic Church.

In 2013, President Obama posthumously awarded Chaplain Kapaun the Medal of Honor for his service to our Nation.

Naming a post office for Chaplain Kapaun is one more way we can ensure that his deeds are not forgotten. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would name a Kansas post office after Captain Emil Kapaun, an Army chaplain during World War II.

Captain Kapaun was an ordained Catholic priest and later served as an auxiliary chaplain in the U.S. Army where he ministered to American troops in the Burma and India theaters during World War II.

In 1950 he was mobilized to support the Korean conflict and was captured by Chinese forces during the Battle of Unsan. As a POW he helped find food, cared for the sick, and led prayers and spiritual services for the other POWs. He died of illness and maltreatment on May 23, 1951.

In 1993 Pope John Paul II declared Captain Kapaun to be a Servant of God, and he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama in 2013.

I want to thank my colleague and fellow Kansan, Congressman TRACEY MANN, for all his work on this project. Naming a post office after Captain Kapaun is a small way we can honor this patriot and son of Kansas for his service to our Nation. I might add that, as a Kansan, I am very proud of this, but as a Catholic, as well. We hope that it is soon Saint Kapaun.

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

□ 1315

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Kansas, for this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Father Emil Kapaun, a man of God who served the Lord and his country in both World War II and the Korean war.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2044 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building.

In March of this year, Father Kapaun's remains were finally identified in Hawaii, and just last month, they were brought back to his hometown of Pilsen, Kansas, which lies in my district, the Big First District of Kansas.

Father Kapaun grew up on a farm, became a priest in 1940 at 24 years old, and became a U.S. military chaplain 4 years later. Father Kapaun received a Bronze Star for valor during the Korean war in 1950 when, in the heat of battle, he rushed to the front lines to retrieve a wounded soldier under heavy machine-gun fire, saving that soldier's life with complete disregard for his own safety.

He also received the Distinguished Service Cross, which was upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2013 for another heroic effort in battle that same year. Father Kapaun rescued nearly 40 wounded comrades from no-man's-land; disregarded an order to evacuate, choosing to stay with the wounded even though it meant his own capture; and pushed aside an enemy soldier who was about to execute a member of his own battalion.

He was put in a POW camp, where he gave away his own food and dug latrines before dying a year later. He was a great man, a servant of all who followed Jesus who said: ''Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.''

Father Kapaun is on his way to sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. I have introduced a resolution in his honor and today urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on my bill, which would rename the postal facility in Herington, Kansas, after him.

My prayers are with his family members as they celebrate his life of service, and it is an honor to praise his faithfulness and bravery in this Chamber today.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Kansas has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill naming a post office after Captain Emil Kapaun in Herington, Kansas—although he was from Pilsen, a community of less than 100 people which has a beautiful Catholic church but no post office—so a post office in Herington after Captain Emil Kapaun.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2044, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2044.

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.

JOHN H. LEAHR AND HERBERT M. HEILBRUN POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 960) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the ''John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 960

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

SECTION 1. JOHN H. LEAHR AND HERBERT M. HEILBRUN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the ''John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. LATURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 960, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office.

World War II veterans John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun served as pilots in the Army Air Corps. Mr. Leahr served as a Mustang pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen, and Mr. Heilbrun served as a B–17 bomber pilot.

Throughout World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were tasked with escorting American bomber groups flying over enemy territory. Mr. Heilbrun's group was one of the few who sustained no losses, due to the heroic efforts of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Fifty years after the war, Herb Heilbrun met John Leahr when he attended an annual meeting of the Tuskegee Airmen to express his gratitude for their protection and service to his group during the war. At that meeting, they learned that they had flown some of the same missions in Europe and that they shared numerous other traits as well.

Mr. Leahr and Mr. Heilbrun dedicated their later years to promoting interracial understanding and unity. They were honored for their book, ''Black and White Airmen: Their True History,'' by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. Their work chronicles their history, friendship, and efforts to bring others together to overcome racial differences.

Mr. Leahr passed away on March 27, 2015, at the age of 94. And Mr. Heilbrun passed away at age 100 on December 18, 2020.

Renaming a post office for both of these men jointly is a fitting remembrance of their work to create unity and understanding. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would name an Ohio post office for World War II veterans John Leahr and Herbert Heilbrun.

The Tuskegee Airmen in World War II were tasked with escorting American bomber groups flying over enemy territory. I strongly support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 960, to rename the North Avondale Post Office in Ohio after Herbert Heilbrun and Johnny Leahr, two American heroes whose legacies we should pass down

from generation to generation and whose examples we should all follow.

At a time when our military was segregated, Herb and Johnny independently joined our armed services as specialty pilots flying dangerous missions. Herb flew B–17 bombers in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and Johnny flew P–51 Mustangs with the Tuskegee Airmen.

At that time, they did not know each other. Both men returned from the war and lived honorable and successful lives independent of each other.

Some 50 years after the war, Herb attended a Tuskegee reunion because he wanted to go and thank the brave men who flew cover missions for him and quite literally had his back. It was there that he met Johnny, and the two started to realize just how much they had in common and how much racial segregation kept them from realizing it.

Astonishingly, they discovered they had flown some of the same missions during the war. Johnny had flown cover on two of Herb's missions in France and Poland, yet they had never met. As they spoke, they realized that they were both from Cincinnati, Ohio, and even more amazingly, they had even been classmates at the same elementary school in North Avondale, Ohio. The reunion was the beginning of a beautiful friendship that would make our world a better place.

As best friends, Herb and Johnny decided that younger generations should learn from their experiences and from their friendship. The two traveled the country, giving talks about racial tolerance, respect, and friendship. Over the years, they spoke to countless audiences and were honored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations for their efforts.

Their work led to a book that they wrote together called ''Black and White Airmen: Their True History.'' It was written about them, and it chronicles their history, friendship, and efforts to bring others together to overcome their divides. Their book also contains a grade school class photo with Johnny standing right beside Herb. Even then, he had his back.

To honor their legacy and to continue their mission, I have introduced this bill with Congressman STEVE CHABOT to rename the post office at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati the John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office. The building is located in the neighborhood in which the two men went to school together.

Johnny and Herb share an incredible history and should serve as models to all of us. They were dedicated to their country and fellow servicemen, no matter their race or background. Renaming this post office after them will honor their legacy and ensure that more Americans will learn of their story, learn of their sacrifice, and learn from their example.

Herb passed away in December at the age of 100, joining Johnny, who passed in 2015 at the age of 94. They are now together in eternal glory.

Herb's beloved wife, Carol, said it best when describing Herb and Johnny as ''incredible men who lived incredible lives not only in service to their country, but also in the lessons they taught us later in life about friendship, respect, and tolerance.''

Johnny's son, John W. Leahr, poignantly noted that his father ''decided early on that he wasn't going to live a life full of hate or bitterness, despite the many injustices he had to endure throughout his life'' and that his father's friendship and efforts with Herb should ''serve as the gold standard of honor, respect, and kindness for us all.''

I am so honored to have spent time and developed friendships with both of these great American heroes and their families. I am incredibly grateful for their service and will never forget their dedication to our country and to the American people. We are made better by the example they set for us, a legacy to be very proud of.

God bless Herbert Heilbrun and Johnny Leahr, and may they rest in peace. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill to honor two great human beings and true American heroes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Kansas has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 960, and I want to compliment my colleague and friend, Mr. WENSTRUP, on his bill. It is a very inspiring story. I intend to read their book, and I urge a ''yes'' vote. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 960.

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.

□ 1330

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 20, 2021, at 11:50 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3011.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

DHS SOFTWARE SUPPLY CHAIN RISK MANAGEMENT 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. 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, 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 gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 2, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 319]

YEAS—412

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
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
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
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
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
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
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
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
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—2

Massie
Roy

NOT VOTING—17

Arrington
Bass
Cárdenas
Cartwright
Cleaver
Griffith
Hudson
Katko
Lawrence
Loudermilk
Maloney, Sean
McBath
Meuser
Moore (WI)
Murphy (FL)
Slotkin
Velázquez

□ 1359

Mrs. BOEBERT changed her 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.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
Crenshaw (Ellzey)
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILD). 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. 2379) to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to reauthorize and expand a grant program for State response to the opioid use disorders crisis, 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 46, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 320]

YEAS—380

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
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
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
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
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
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
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
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
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Zeldin

NAYS—46

Allen
Arrington
Babin
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brooks
Buck
Burchett
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Davidson
Fallon
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Jackson
Loudermilk
Massie
Mast
McClain
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Nehls
Norman
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Sessions
Steube
Taylor
Van Duyne
Weber (TX)
Young

NOT VOTING—5

Cárdenas
Cartwright
Hartzler
Hollingsworth
Williams (TX)

□ 1419

Mr. CAWTHORN changed his 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:

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 320. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "yea" on rollcall No. 320.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
Crenshaw (Ellzey)
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES PANDEMIC RELIEF 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. 654) to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 30, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 321]

YEAS—395

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)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
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
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
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
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
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
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
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
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
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
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—30

Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brooks
Burchett
Bush
Cloud
Clyde
Donalds
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Harris
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Massie
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Nehls
Norman
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Taylor
Weber (TX)

NOT VOTING—6

Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Cawthorn
Gonzalez (OH)
Kinzinger
Moore (AL)

□ 1437

Mses. HERRELL and BUSH changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I missed a vote on H.R. 654, The Drug Free Communities Pandemic Relief Act, due to a timing conflict, as I was questioning witnesses at a Select Committee on the Climate Crisis hearing during the time of the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 321.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
Crenshaw (Ellzey)
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE 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. 3635) to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Strategic National Stockpile, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 22, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 322]

YEAS—397

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
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
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
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
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
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
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—22

Biggs
Boebert
Buck
Clyde
Davidson
Fallon
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Loudermilk
Massie
Miller (IL)
Norman
Perry
Posey
Rosendale
Roy
Taylor
Weber (TX)

NOT VOTING—12

Cartwright
Davis, Danny K.
Donalds
Fortenberry
Graves (LA)
Johnson (GA)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keating
Leger Fernandez
Rodgers (WA)
Ryan

□ 1453

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 322.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was the only member on the climate committee available to preside over a hearing during this vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 322.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

SECURE EQUIPMENT 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. 3919) to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission does not approve radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk, 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 4, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 323]

YEAS—420

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)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
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)
Case
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
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
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)

Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
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
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
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
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
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
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—4

Casten
Escobar
Garcia (TX)
Massie

NOT VOTING—7

Cartwright
DesJarlais
Griffith
Himes
Manning
Thompson (PA)
Torres (NY)

□ 1510

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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission prohibits authorization of radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, on October 20, 2021, I was unable to be present for the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3919. Had I been present for rollcall No. 323, I would have voted "yea."

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Green (TX) (Cleaver)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

OPEN RAN OUTREACH 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. 4032) to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding the benefits of Open RAN networks, 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) 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 17, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 324]

YEAS—410

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
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)
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
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
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)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
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
Pence
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
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
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
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
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—17

Babin
Biggs
Davidson
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Harris
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Massie
Mast
Miller (IL)
Norman
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Weber (TX)

NOT VOTING—4

Cartwright
Costa
Hill
Katko

□ 1527

Mr. GROTHMAN changed his 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Green (TX) (Cleaver)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL 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. 4067) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 29, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 325]

YEAS—397

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
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.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
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
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
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
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
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—29

Babin
Biggs
Boebert
Buck
Burchett
Cloud
Clyde
Gaetz
Gohmert
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Harris
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Loudermilk
Massie
Mast
Miller (IL)
Norman
Perry
Posey
Rosendale
Roy
Sessions
Steube
Weber (TX)

NOT VOTING—5

Brady
Cartwright
Franklin, C. Scott
Nehls
Swalwell

□ 1544

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.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Green (TX) (Cleaver)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY 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. 4028) to require the Secretary of Commerce to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with

respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 14, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 326]

YEAS—413

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
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
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
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)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
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 (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
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
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
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
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
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
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
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
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
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
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—14

Biggs
Buck
Casten
Escobar
Garcia (TX)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Massie
Miller (IL)
Norman
Rosendale
Roy
Waters

NOT VOTING—4

Brady
Cartwright
McCaul
Simpson

□ 1601

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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 326.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Cooper (Clark (MA))
DeFazio (Brown)
Garcia (TX) (Escobar)
Green (TX) (Cleaver)
Hice (GA) (Greene (GA))
Huffman (Stanton)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
McHenry (Budd)
Meng (Jeffries)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Norcross)
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Sires (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1297

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove myself as a cosponsor from H.R. 1297.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MANNING). The gentleman's request is accepted.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1297

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove myself as a cosponsor from H.R. 1297.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1297

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove myself as a cosponsor from H.R. 1297.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Appropriations:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2021.

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

SPEAKER PELOSI: For nine terms in Congress, I have conducted my work on behalf of Nebraskans with honor and integrity.

I am grateful for the outpouring of support from my friends and colleagues as we work against the injustice confronting me. As the rules of the House Republican Conference require, I hereby temporarily step aside from my committee assignments.

Even as I do, I will continue to focus on the most important issues facing Nebraska and America. I look forward to taking up these committee assignments again once this matter is resolved.

Sincerely,

JEFF FORTENBERRY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOHN CEBALLOS

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of John Ceballos, who passed away after a lifetime of public service to our country and to El Paso.

I had the special privilege of knowing John as one of the most dedicated leaders in our veteran community. He was the chairman of the Benavidez-Patterson 82nd Airborne Division Association, where he continuously created a space of support for veterans. He was a mentor for the El Paso Veterans Courts program and would always celebrate the accomplishments of the 82nd Airborne Division.

To know John was to know a person of strength and resilience. He served in the U.S. Army for 8 years during the Vietnam war. After his time in service, he went back to school where he graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, was bestowed a Master of Science degree, and became an instructor for the Department of Kinesiology.

Madam Speaker, we have lost a giant in our community, and I ask you to join me in paying tribute to the life of John Ceballos. May his legacy of precious memories and unwavering commitment to service continue to inspire us all.

NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY

(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, last week, we celebrated National Farmer's Day. On October 12, we recognized farmers past and present for their hard work in providing our Nation and the world with food, fiber, and energy.

It is a day to thank those who work by acres not by hours. Did you know that only 2 percent of the population feed and sustain the other 98 percent?

On National Farmer's Day, we can pay tribute to the men, women, and families who put food in the grocery stores and on our kitchen tables.

In 2020, agriculture and related industries provided more than 10 percent of U.S. employment. While National Farmer's Day has already passed, it is never too late to show your support or to thank a farmer. Consider visiting a local farmers market where you can buy directly from local farmers or spend a fall afternoon with the family at a pick-your-own farm where you can get the freshest fall apples and pumpkins.

Madam Speaker, it is important for us to thank our farmers and recognize their hard work not just on National Farmer's Day, but all year round.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOSE CONTRERAS RODRIGUEZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend and constituent, a veteran, a public health servant, Dr. Jose Contreras Rodriguez, on his retirement after dedicating over 65 years of his life to protect our Nation and the community's health.

Dr. Contreras hails from Santiago, the Dominican Republic, and he did his residency at the University Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Before completing his residency, he was drafted by the United States Army to serve during the Vietnam war, where he joined many honorable men and women who risked their lives to defend our freedom and our way of life.

After his military service, Dr. Contreras returned to Puerto Rico to complete his residency by 1971. He was also a community doctor. He helped lead efforts to combat the great inequities in the healthcare system and prostate cancer in the male population.

Dr. Contreras is a true hero in our community. He is a veteran, a doctor that practiced. He was chief of the department at New York Presbyterian Hospital. For many years he worked for the families in the community of Washington Heights, right there on Fort Washington Avenue, where he still has his office, his practice.

Madam Speaker, we congratulate him and we will miss him. We ask that this House would always remember Dr. Jose Contreras.

VACCINATION BY CHOICE NOT MANDATE

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

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I want to read a letter that I got just 2 days ago. It is like a lot of letters I am getting today.

> Billy, I am appealing to you as one of your trusted constituents and fearful mother of two Active Duty Marines. Is our government trying to force our courageous military into submissive robots? The disgusting abuse of power is now out of control when the government begins taking away our God-given rights from loyal citizens and is seeking to take away the very dignity of those who served beyond measure. My son and daughter-in-law have served diligently and effectively with pride and honor for 14 years. What can I do to help this administration from taking our very hearts and stomping on them? I believe with every ounce of me God is in control here and we all know who will ultimately win this battle. What can I do to help win this sooner than later. Debi.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear. I have been vaccinated. I have had three shots. I encourage everyone to talk to their doctor. And if it is right for them, to take the vaccine. But ultimately, the vaccination should be a choice that shouldn't be mandated by anyone.

I had a mother show me a picture of her daughter in her fatigues looking at her newborn baby and telling me that a nursing mother is not exempt from this.

BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS MURDERED

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

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise because in 2020, four Black women and girls were murdered per day in our country, and that kind of violence has continued in St. Louis with many Black women and girls being shot, some murdered over recent months.

This is personal. I have had bullets fly past my head. I have been left for dead by a partner. I worry about whether my own daughter will get home safely.

We rise united under our message: We will break the cycles of violence that are killing Black women and mothers, our sons and our daughters, our trans and nonbinary neighbors, and our sex workers.

We urgently need the $5 billion for community-based violence prevention services in the Build Back Better Act, and we won't stop until we have all that we need to keep each other safe.

AMERICANS ARE PAYING MORE

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

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in defense of American families who are worse off in every way since President Joe Biden took office exactly 10 months ago.

Today, the average U.S. household now spends $175 more per month on groceries, gas, and their homes. In New Mexico, gas is a full dollar per gallon more than it was just 1 year ago. That may not mean much to Washington politicians, but it means a lot to people in rural New Mexico who have to drive long distances. It is the kind of cost that can hurt a family.

Food is more expensive, jobs are not coming back fast enough, and the Biden administration tells Americans that they will have to be happy with no Christmas presents this year. In the middle of all this, Democrats think that a BERNIE SANDERS' budget bill makes sense.

Here we sit, not even discussing the supplies and cargo sitting off the California coast. If this is the Build Back Better plan, then count me out because it looks like we need to start making America great again.

□ 1615

HONORING BOBBY ZAREM

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Bobby Zarem of Savannah, Georgia, who, sadly, passed away on September 26 at the age of 84.

A world-renowned publicist and the creator of many internationally recognized media campaigns, Bobby's life's work put a smile on many people's faces. He began his career in New York City, where he actively promoted some of America's most talented individuals. Notably recognized for his ''I Love New York'' campaign, Bobby's work touched countless lives.

While his work took him around the world, Bobby's deep love for Savannah was undeniable. From contributions to the Savannah Film Festival to cofounding the Free Southern Theater, Bobby was a passionate advocate for the arts in the Savannah community.

I am thankful for Bobby's service to Georgia's First Congressional District, and I know his legacy will remain. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

CHILDCARE IS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THE BUILD BACK BETTER PLAN

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the President's Build Back Better plan has become the most important legislation in our history because it is essential to overcome the effects of the first pandemic in more than 100 years. So essential are the bill's ingredients that Congress faces a daunting task in trimming the bill.

One ingredient that is particularly essential is childcare because it relates to so much else: the ability of both women and men to work, the ability of children to go to school. The United States is the only democratic country that does not afford quality childcare to all of its families. The reason so many more women than men are still out of work is the disproportionate responsibility women absorb for childcare. This makes childcare an essential ingredient in the President's Build Back Better plan.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR KEVIN COTTON

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Kevin Cotton from Madisonville, Kentucky, for being named a 2021 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

The Angels in Adoption program seeks to honor individuals and organizations that focus on adoption, permanency, and child welfare issues.

Mayor Cotton and his wife, Donna Cotton, consistently give back to the community by fostering children in their home. Throughout the years, they have provided love and care to 46 children, three of which they adopted.

Those who know Mayor Cotton know him best for his love of children, passion for foster care, and desire to make a lasting impact in the community through his business and public service.

I appreciate the profound contributions the Cottons have made and am grateful for their dedication to the gift and treasure of adoption. The nomination is symbolic of their devotion to children as well as an ambitious, caring vision for the lives of others.

I am proud to recognize Mayor Kevin Cotton and his wife, Donna, for their incredible work in the child welfare arena. On behalf of all my constituents, I congratulate them on their efforts to make the dream of a family a reality for children in need.

COME TOGETHER ON INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I just had to come back. I was leaving and saw the lady's speech on the TV, and I had to come back.

If prices have gone up in New Mexico and the country, a large part of the reason why prices have gone up is because of the pandemic, because people have been sick and out of work. That has caused the supply chains to back up and other things.

She didn't count in that, because of Joe Biden, people have gotten $300 a child per month to help pay for those goods, and because of actions by mostly the Democratic Caucus, sometimes bipartisan, but mostly the Democratic Caucus, they got stimulus checks and other benefits. So they have come out on top.

What people should not forget is that we need to vote for the bipartisan infrastructure bill that has 17 Republicans on it from the Senate.

I have broken with my Progressive Caucus to vote for it because it creates jobs, and it is the right thing for America. My Republican colleagues should break from their caucus and commit to vote for the bipartisan infrastructure bill, too.

If you are not for Build Back Better, that is your business. It is your business on infrastructure, but infrastructure is bipartisan. The Senate made it bipartisan. And I broke with my Caucus and my sub-caucus, and other people will, too, to vote for it.

Build Back Better is fine, but you should break and vote for the infrastructure bill. That is something we should get together on.

RECOGNIZING RETIREMENT OF TOMMY WHITAKER

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize my friend and constituent Tommy Whitaker.

On November 14, one day before his 70th birthday, Tommy is retiring after 45 years as an employee and 16 years as president and CEO of The Farmers Bank headquartered in Portland, Tennessee. During his tenure, the bank has grown in assets from $25 million to now $850 million, with 10 branches and 150 employees.

Tommy graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1974 with a degree in business where he met his wife, Shirley. He later went on to attend the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Tommy and Shirley have raised two wonderful children, Susan and Joseph, and are the proud grandparents of their grandson, Grayson.

Tommy is one of Tennessee's most influential bankers, and his strong character and devotion to service before self has gained him the respect of everyone in his community and beyond.

It is truly an end of an era for The Farmers Bank. I am so grateful for Tommy Whitaker's friendship and service, and I wish him a happy retirement.

PLANS TO WEAPONIZE IRS

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

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Democrats' radical reconciliation package and, specifically, their plans to weaponize the IRS and dramatically expand the agency's reach into the lives of everyday Americans.

Originally, Democrats' plan was to hire thousands of new IRS agents to surveil the bank accounts of Americans who have $600 or more in their accounts. While they have upped that amount in the legislation to $10,000 in deposits and withdrawals, this would still subject every American working at least a minimum wage job, who has a bank account, to government intrusion.

I can tell you, and I think most of my colleagues would agree, that I have not had a constituent call and beg me for more IRS agents or for the agency to have increased ability to monitor their accounts. Rather, my constituents are concerned this proposal represents an attempt by the administration to weaponize and politicize the IRS and fund their partisan agenda.

I believe Americans are entitled to privacy and constitutional rights. This proposal is a dramatic overreach and emblematic of this administration's

priorities: expand the government's control over everyday Americans.

OSHA CHANGES TO VACCINE REACTION REPORTING

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, historically, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, covered employers were required to maintain an annual log of all work-related illnesses and injuries.

An illness or injury is recordable if it is work-related, a new case, and the incident involves days away from work or medical treatment beyond first aid, among other things.

On May 21, OSHA changed these requirements. This new OSHA policy effectively removes legal liability from employers that require a vaccine at least through May 2022. Now, if a worker decides to get a vaccine to keep their job and experiences an adverse reaction, the employer is not responsible for this injury.

OSHA stated it changed this requirement only because they do not want to give any suggestion of discouraging workers from receiving the COVID–19 vaccinations or to disincentivize employers' vaccination efforts.

Why are they trying to hide statistics related to the vaccine? While this policy change appears to be a mere sidenote for OSHA's lengthy guidelines, we have to ask President Biden and OSHA: Why is the ethical burden on the workers and not on the government?

RESIST VACCINE MANDATES

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, millions of freedom-loving Americans with legitimate concerns with the vaccine—some are vaccinated, by the way—have had their jobs, livelihoods, and military service held hostage by this new vaccine mandate. They are being told to shut up and take it. That is un-American.

With both Army Fort Rucker and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in my district, I am especially disturbed by the new vaccine mandates our military and civilian contractors are having to endure.

Last week, I spoke at a meeting of concerned Fort Rucker employees. We expected about 20 to 30 attendees, but hundreds showed up. Clearly, Americans are mobilizing to resist against these mandates.

I met with Lieutenant Colonel Theresa Long, a military physician stationed at Fort Rucker. We have seen firsthand the health risks associated with the vaccine that can impact our military readiness. Why are voices like hers being ignored? She has the rank of lieutenant colonel; she has a medical degree; and she is an expert. And if she is not, who is?

These mandates are about control and not safety. Every American must have the freedom to make their own health decisions, and our concerns will not be silenced. The American people will continue to resist the vaccine mandates, and I am proud to stand with them.

HONORING GENERAL COLIN POWELL

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to Secretary Colin Powell, America's general.

Secretary Powell was more than an astute general and outstanding civic leader who served our Nation's President. He was kind-hearted, a genuine American hero. He was a man of conscience and integrity who bravely stood against divisiveness and lived life bringing people together.

As the son of two hardworking Jamaican immigrants, he knew the importance of education and hard work. General Powell, as he prefers to be called, was the first African-American National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State, and he had 35 years of service in the military for this Nation.

He described himself in a New York Times article, and he talked about himself in the third person: ''Powell is a problem-solver. He was taught as a soldier to solve problems. So he has views, but he is not an ideologue. He has passion, but he is not a fanatic. He is, first and foremost, a problem-solver.'' And that he did.

In Vietnam, he was a hero when the helicopter that he was in crashed, and he pulled out his commander, Major General Charles M. Gettys.

Also, he was a passionate servant of the people. When he retired, he organized America's Promise. America's Promise helped at-risk children. I remember seeing his program, hearing about his program, and supporting his program.

To his wonderful wife, Alma, and his children, he remains to us an extremely beloved individual. I am reminding all Americans, let us remember that a general can be soft and strong and remain a hero to all of us in nature, spirit, sacrifice, and deeds.

The Nation has lost a great leader, but more importantly, the Nation has lost a symbol of what is best and great about America.

AMERICA IN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, during my time this afternoon, my colleagues and I will address the burning issues that are on the hearts and minds of all our constituents back home—really, all Americans—and that is the numerous self-inflicted crises of the Biden administration and the House Democrats' increasingly radical leftwing legislative agenda.

Madam Speaker, Democrats may narrowly control the House, the Senate, and the White House, but over the past several weeks, it has become abundantly clear that they just cannot govern.

America is in crisis. Everybody knows that, and everybody can feel it in so many areas.

□ 1630

Today, the White House spends its days doing damage control on all these multiple crises of their own making.

Just think of what we are facing right now. We have an economic crisis where jobs remain unfilled, prices for basic goods continue to rise, and the shelves sit empty.

We have got an energy crisis that has led to the highest gasoline crisis since 2007, and we know the projections for warming our homes in the winter are off the charts.

We have multiple foreign policy crises, and we have on the southern border humanitarian, national security, and public health crises like we have never seen before.

These really are existential kinds of threats to the country. I know our colleagues like to throw that word around, but it really does apply here. And while all Presidents confront crises beyond their control, that is not what is happening here. These crises—the things we are talking about today—are the direct result of this administration's own actions.

We know that inflation is rising because Democrats are flooding the economy with money and supply is down because of labor shortages caused by the Democrats' so-called pandemic policies. Gas prices are up thanks to a steady assault on our energy producers by the Biden administration. Our foreign policy is in crisis because of the Biden debacle in Afghanistan and all the other fumbles that they have made.

The border problem is simple. They opened the border. They put a welcome mat there and told everybody around the world to come on in. The Democrats opened it, and so we should not be surprised or shocked at the result of that invitation.

Here in Congress the picture is no better. If you think about this, the Democrats have a mere three-seat majority in this House. We have a fifty-fifty deadlock in the Senate. There is no objective person in this country who could look at those numbers and say that the Democrats have any mandate to ram through the most partisan and most expensive legislative package in the history of this Nation using the slimmest majority possible.

If you ask the Democrats what is in the bill, Madam Speaker, they can't tell you because they don't know.

Is amnesty in it?

Well, the House certainly worked to add it.

Taxpayer funded abortion? A carbon tax? A tax on prescription drugs?

They have been working very hard to include all those things. The one thing they do know for sure is that they are deadlocked. They are insistent that they want to spend $5.5 trillion of hard-working Americans' tax money while inflation goes through the roof and while we are trying to recover from a pandemic. This is the worst possible time to be doing what they are doing.

The American people expected competence in the White House. They wanted bipartisanship in Congress. They have received instead the most incompetent White House of our lifetimes and a Democrat-led Congress trying to push the most extreme agenda in our history.

This is not hyperbole; these are facts. And my colleagues are going to lay out many of the reasons, many of the facts, and much of the evidence that proves what every American now knows intuitively. If House Democrats drop their radical, dangerous agenda right now, I promise you, Madam Speaker, they would find so many Members of this party on our side of the aisle who would be ready to work with them in a bipartisan fashion tomorrow. We have so many challenges facing the country. But they won't do that. They are dug in. And their votes prove over and over now that they are determined to be Big Government socialists and not the Democratic Party of our parents' generation.

This afternoon we will highlight what this agenda is doing to our country.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank my good friend and colleague for organizing and leading this leadership hour.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the Biden administration's energy crisis. This is a crisis that was created by the Biden administration.

Last week, the price of gas reached a 7-year high. In fact, in my home district, Pennsylvania-15, we are now paying anywhere from $3.49 to $3.67 a gallon—well over the price any American should have to pay.

In 2019 and 2020, the United States was a net total energy exporter. This means for the first time since the 1950s we were exporting more energy than importing. We were energy independent, and we saw the many benefits across all sectors of United States manufacturing, production, and consumption. For example, in 2020, the average gasoline price in the United States was $2.17 per gallon.

I am proud to represent a district and come from a State that plays such a large role in domestic energy production. In fact, Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of natural gas and the third largest net supplier of energy to other States. Without the energy production of my district and others in rural America, our cities would wake up cold, in the dark, and hungry. But President Biden chose to stifle American energy production, issuing executive order after executive order reducing and even pausing our own access to oil and natural gas.

In addition, the Biden administration has reached out to OPEC-Plus begging them to produce more oil which—let's not forget—is less environmentally friendly, less humane, and less regulated than United States sources.

Last week, I joined my colleagues in a letter to this administration opposing the pleas, the begging to OPEC-Plus, and encouraging the use of American produced energy to meet our current needs. We asked the administration to reverse the crushing executive orders impeding our own energy production and to work with Congress on issues affecting American energy security and supply. We know the answer to this self-imposed crisis: we must lift the limitations on our own energy supply.

By repealing these executive orders and encouraging American producers to harness our abundance of natural resources, we can meet our energy needs and we can ensure Americans and our allies have access to affordable, reliable, and exportable energy produced in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman, once again, for his leadership.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, this is such an important issue in Louisiana, my home State. We are a big energy State. We were so excited to have achieved not just energy independence under the Trump administration but energy dominance. We were a net exporter, and, of course, all that has been reversed, as my friend just explained.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, the fight to restore law and order and secure our southern border continues. Border apprehensions remain at a 2-decade high as the Department of Homeland Security warns officials to prepare for roughly 400,000 illegal migrants crossing the border just this month.

President Biden is more committed to ending President Trump's policies that had successfully slowed the surge of illegal crossings than he is to securing our border. The cartels and human smugglers have taken notice of our weakened position and are more than willing to exploit these changes for their financial benefit. Meanwhile, those who are understandably seeking opportunity and a better future are being coached to gain entrance to the U.S. by claiming asylum.

As a result of our open southern border and the refusal by the Biden administration to detain the majority of those we encounter, more than 2 million illegal immigrants are expected to pass through our southern border this year. Already, 1.2 million have entered the country illegally and have been apprehended since President Biden took office, and millions of these are expected to be brought into the interior of our country—all at taxpayers' expense.

The desperate situation at the southern border calls for urgent action. Instead, House Democrats are determined to use the budget reconciliation process to pass amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants. This type of thinking, if turned into law, will have staggering consequences for our Nation for years to come. Widespread illegal immigration is detrimental not only to Americans and our families but to our Nation and even the migrants themselves.

As one of the Representatives in Congress for middle Tennessee, I have the responsibility to safeguard our sacred freedoms. But if we cannot control our borders, how can we defend our sovereignty as a nation?

That is why I am fighting to restore law and order at the southern border.

President Biden and House Democrats can no longer run from this crisis.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's effort, and I thank him for sharing his insights this afternoon.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the great gentleman from the big State of Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana not only for his leadership to our conference but also speaking up and taking time out of his schedule to speak directly to America and Americans about important issues that face our country today.

Madam Speaker, we hear time after time our colleagues from the Democratic Party talk about all the violence that is taking place in large cities. Murders are up 30 percent last year according to the FBI who talked about this rise. And then we turn around and see where they are the activists who are leading the defunding of police, the destabilization of our cities. The bringing together of illegals into this country with record drug deals and amounts of drugs on our streets, record numbers of death from fentanyl, opioids—misery.

But what does our President do?

He goes off on an aggressive agenda, one which is fueled by the radicals in

his party, one which he fully believes in, one that he is proud of, and one that they sustain and are still pushing. It is not enough just to push and push big spending and Big Government. It is actually an agenda that is in chaos. A chaotic agenda is apparent to the American people.

For a second I would like to have us think back about what we have had previously with Republicans not only in charge in the House and the Senate but in the Presidency leading this great Nation. Our goal as Republicans is to have America to be a land of hope, to have America to be a land of opportunity, to have America to be a land of freedom, for America to be a land of achievement, and for America to be a land of heroes.

For this to happen, Madam Speaker, it means that America needs its ability to go back to work and to have the dignity of work. Madam Speaker, it means that we need to have Americans who go to work not because a government or a political party wants to keep people away from work and is using trillions of dollars of government funds to keep them there.

Madam Speaker, we have an administration and a President who wants to take people's freedom away by requiring them to wear not just masks but to have vaccinations or lose their job.

But, Madam Speaker, the thing that is harming America that is apparent to everyone right now is the cost of items just to live. Inflation and monetary policy are what the Fed is responsible for, the Fed bank. And they are prepared to give hundreds of billions of dollars and trillions of dollars, some $5,000 trillion is what they will be asked to go take loans out on again. That devalues not just the American dollar, but it actually causes a price increase directly at the grocery store where people buy their food and basic elements.

Inflation is at a 40-year high, but we keep hearing about how much money the government is going to put in people's pockets. But it is robbed when they net it out, Madam Speaker.

It is robbed when they net it out because inflation robs not just people who have families, but it robs those who live on a fixed income. It robs the vitality and the ability that we have to be ingenious and to move our country forward.

So, Madam Speaker, please know this, that the Republican Party and our Members who are here tonight are not just speaking about things because we disagree, it is because we love our country. We believe that what was built and available for America and Americans is the greatest country in the history of this world. We believe in Americanism. We believe in American exceptionalism. We believe in the Constitution. We believe in freedom and a right to make our own decisions in our own homes and in our own communities.

□ 1645

Increasingly, we are finding that this new administration, the House and the Senate under Democratic control, are taking away the basic rights and freedoms that would have been enjoyed by free people, but they are not because this administration intends to extend the long arm of the Federal Government into all transportation, to all members of the military, and to free people who want to live their own life.

Madam Speaker, Republicans are on the floor today to offer better ideas, to offer hope and solutions, but perhaps more importantly to say this, that we believe that it is time that this administration get off its radical agenda, radical agenda that is leading America into chaos.

If the President would listen, if the Speaker of the House would listen, and if the Senate majority leader would listen, they would hear even members in their own party saying that a radical agenda will greatly change America to where we would become a socialist Nation.

Madam Speaker, we are here offering the example that we have known that made America great, and it is called capitalism and freedom.

I want to thank Mr. JOHNSON for taking the time to gather Republicans together on the floor to offer not just our vision but also to highlight to the American people that elections have consequences, and we look forward to next year. I want to thank the gentleman for allowing me this time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments, and that clarity and conviction is so necessary right now. I love how the gentleman is articulating the stark differences between the two competing visions for this country right now. The chasm is so wide between the Republican and Democratic Parties, and we say that without any pleasure at all.

It is a sad development in our politics that this is not—listen to us at home—this is not your parents' and your grandparents' Democratic Party.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to move from Texas and move over to Alabama.

I yield to the gentleman from a Alabama (Mr. CARL), a good friend of mine.

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for organizing this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address President Biden's failure to secure our borders and enforce our national immigration laws. The Biden administration's disregard for the national security threat and humanitarian crisis they have created is extremely troubling. The American people deserve better than this. My constituents in south Alabama, as well as millions of folks across America, share my concern. That is why today I sent a letter to President Biden asking him a few simple questions. They are as follows:

Why did you stop construction on the border wall even though we had supplies on the ground and contractors ready to finish it? Why?

What is the plan to secure our border and enforce our immigration laws today? Do we have a plan?

What is the plan to prevent additional surges of illegal immigrants who are crossing our border? As we know, there are 30- to 50,000 on the way that are going to get here, and I want to know what the plan is before they get here; not a week after they get here.

What is the plan to handle thousands of individuals living in makeshift camps along the border? Can the White House assure us that these criminals who are sneaking across the border will not be released in our community?

I challenge my friends from across the aisle to stand up and start speaking out. This is not a Republican issue. It is an American issue. We have got to stand up for our constituents because when we are getting these people coming across the border with diseases, undocumented, the drugs, it becomes an American problem, and we as Americans have got to stand together and fight this.

If we can't get the Democratic Party, the Democrats across the aisle, to listen to what we are saying, there will be a tsunami in 2022 that will change this House for a long time. And that is not what we need. We need to be working together.

Although I doubt my letter will get a response from President Biden, I will continue to fight to secure our border so we can protect the health and the safety of American citizens.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and appreciate him being here tonight and articulating that so well.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman JOHNSON, my good friend from Louisiana, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, no matter how hard the White House attempts to spin this economic crisis as a high-class problem, our Nation's financial future is in shambles because of the Biden administration's policies and it affects all of us.

Inflation continues to climb ahead of the holiday season hitting a 13-year high just last week. From the gas pump to the grocery store, Americans are paying more for just about everything while they are working less. Despite having over 10 million job openings across the country, only 194,000 jobs were added last month, making September President Biden's worst jobs report since taking office.

Instead of putting the brakes on spending, Biden and his allies in Congress are carelessly adding fuel to the inflationary fire by advancing their $1.2 trillion—only 9 percent—infrastructure bill, and $4.3 trillion Big Government socialist spending package. So

in the face of an economic catastrophe, Democrats are gearing up to spend a whopping $5.5 trillion on their liberal wish list. That is wrong for small businesses. That is wrong for hardworking people across the country, and that is just wrong for America.

Squandering trillions of dollars for unpopular, radical, and dangerous policies, while imposing a $2.1 trillion tax hike to pay for it, will only inflame the current economic crisis and burden Americans with more financial instability.

How many more empty shelves will it take and record-high gas prices—yes, look, $3.30 per gallon is where we are right now. That is a 50 percent increase from where we were for the last 4 years under the Trump administration. How many more struggling Americans will it take for the Biden administration to get serious about this economic crisis and call it a crisis, and act like it is a crisis?

For the sake of our country, I call on President Biden to join us. Reverse course and work with Republican lawmakers to get our economy back on track.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for those insights.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my sometimes friend from Louisiana for that kind introduction and thank him so much for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the current state of our economy is like a car about to blow through a railroad crossing. As the car approaches the tracks, indicator lights flash red warning of danger ahead. Despite warnings, the car tries to beat the oncoming train across the tracks. We have all seen this scenario. The train T-bones the car at full speed leaving it in pieces.

Think of this preventable crash in economic terms. We are ignoring flashing red fiscal indicators like rising inflation, as illustrated in some of the issues right here; weak labor force participation; and $28 trillion of national debt. We need to heed these warnings. If we don't, we face the complete destruction of our entire economy.

Joe Biden and the Democrats are crashing our economy. They control the spending in Congress and the Federal agencies overseeing various sectors of the economy. Since these folks don't seem to care or want to work with us Republicans, they are the only ones who can stop this out-of-control economy from colliding with disaster.

Instead of steering the economy away from danger, Joe Biden and the Democrats are going to put the pedal to the metal in pursuit of their multitrillion dollar, far-left political agenda. Their expensive socialist plan recklessly overstimulates the economy, pays folks not to work, and bloats our national debt.

Pumping trillions into our economy will devalue the American dollar. Combine this with rising prices, everyday folks won't be able to afford a whole lot. Democrats risk crashing the economy if they choose to move forward with their political agenda, Madam Speaker.

Let's not lie about who is going to be hurt the most if this happens. It will be our poor and working-class folks, our fellow Americans—both the Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals. Paychecks just won't go as far as they did before, as we are seeing already. Vulnerable folks will struggle to afford basic goods and services for their families.

Picture that car colliding with the train, Madam Speaker. Think of that total devastation. It can be prevented if the flashing red warning signs are taken seriously and heeded. Joe Biden and the Democrats need to get control of our economy or let the Republicans take the wheel.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my always friend. The gentleman's metaphor paints a real picture. We are headed for a crash if we don't change course.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), my good friend and Super Bowl champion.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Louisiana for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, as crisis after crisis emerges from this administration, I would like to take a moment to discuss an issue that has been on my mind and in the hearts of millions of Americans: the crisis at our southern border.

It is a humanitarian, national security, and public health crisis that must be addressed immediately. I have seen these horrific scenes for myself down in McAllen, Texas, and further south through the Darien Gap where families, women, and children endure a dangerous trek to America.

For the past 9 months, the border has served as a hotbed for drug smugglers, human traffickers, child trafficking, and illegal immigration, and is a direct result of the disastrous and harmful open border policy of President Biden and Vice President HARRIS.

These policies are enriching the cartels, smugglers, and human traffickers who prey on and abuse women and children crossing the border. Some report earnings as much as $14 million a day.

These are horrendous crimes and they have no place in our country. Here is what we know: During the month of August, almost 19,000 of the 208,000 illegal immigrants to cross the border were unaccompanied minors. With a record number of minors crossing the border alone, we need to be actively taking steps to prevent predators from exploiting these innocent children.

Another fact: The number of illegal immigrants taken into custody along the southern border topped 1.2 million since February. This does not count the hundreds of thousands of gotaways. This crisis is not seasonal, is not inherited. It appears like a purposeful chaos by our Democratic Party. We must restore security at the southern border, end illegal immigration, and take immediate steps to prioritize the health and safety of all Americans.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. The gentleman is right. It does appear to be purposeful. The chaos, there is just too much of it, and that is what people back home say. This has to be intentional.

There is no way that we could have these many dilemmas piled upon each other this quickly unless there were some ulterior motive. It is a rhetorical question, I suppose, for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman JOHNSON, my always friend, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, our country is experiencing an unbelievable crisis at our southern border. In August alone, the United States Customs and Border Protection encountered over 200,000 migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border which was a 317 percent increase from August of last year. Let me repeat that one more time: a 317 percent increase from just one single year ago.

President Biden has prioritized reversing effective Trump-era border policies such as the Remain in Mexico Policy and most notably, the border wall. They were working. We literally have tons of building materials, all of which have been bought and paid for by the hardworking men and women American taxpayers, sitting in the desert collecting dust because President Biden cares more about trying to be politically stylish than he does implementing policies to protect and strengthen our America which we love so much.

Is President Biden requiring these migrants to show proof of vaccination? The answer is no. Are they being tested for COVID–19? The answer is no. Are they being tested for other deadly viruses? The answer is no.

Americans are still unable to return to their normal ways of life but hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are allowed to breach and break through the border and infect our Nation. How does that make sense? How can any one individual American make any sense or understand that?

□ 1700

Drug cartels are recruiting and using children as drug mules, they are sexually abusing women, and they are responsible for bringing enough fentanyl into America to kill every man, woman, and child, at least 10 times over, and we read it in the headlines. This is unlike anything we have ever seen before in our America, yet this administration continues to leave this

border wide open. Again, how does it make sense? How can we understand it? How can we believe it?

The Border Patrol is on track to encounter more migrants this year than it has in any year prior. In fiscal year 2021, roughly 10,000 migrants with criminal records were detained at the southern border. This is no joke. This is a real tragedy for America. The former Border Patrol chief has also stated that our Border Patrol is encountering known and suspected terrorists at ''a level that we have never seen before.'' This is no joke. This is the real world which we live in now in America.

There are serious shortages among Border Patrol agents, and somehow congressional Democrats and the administration are making zero efforts to address them. They fail to recognize the severity of the issue or even admit that there is an issue to begin with.

Again, it is no joke. These men and women are putting their lives in danger. Half the time they don't even have the backup that they should. I remember when I went to the border and saw them encountering all types of dangerous situations. Not a single backup sometimes. How can we do that to our American men and women in law enforcement?

Make no mistake about it. I don't want anyone to think otherwise. Make no mistake—this is the worst border crisis that we have ever experienced in America. President Biden is actively destroying our country and our way of life by not taking this crisis seriously at all. But he should. I will say it again. This is no joke. It is the real thing.

Madam Speaker, God help us all. We must save our country.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for doing all he does to save this country, and we have a lot of work still to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), who is my good friend.

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. JOHNSON very much, our conference vice chair, for putting this together today.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, we have the latest crisis under the Biden administration, known as the supply chain bottlenecks, particularly at our U.S. ports. We have thousands of ships waiting to be unloaded with goods that the consumers of the U.S. have purchased.

Now, some of this could be said to have been COVID related due to the manufacturing delays and disruptions in the U.S. and worldwide. But that was the reason for shortfalls last year. This situation has been very much exacerbated by the policies of the Biden administration.

You see, in Q4 of 2020, we had a 4 percent GDP growth, which is pretty good, and it was followed by 6 percent in Q1 of 2021, which is very good. Then came along the so-called rescue plan, which every economist worth anything said was three times too high in taxpayer dollars. They continued enhanced unemployment supplement under this plan; spent trillions of taxpayer dollars; extended 100 percent health insurance through COBRA, a further disincentive to work; and sent stimulus checks of $5,600 to families of four.

There is something in all of the sciences, Madam Speaker, known as the law of cause and effect, and the effects of these actions have included disincentives to work, rampant inflation, heavy consumer spending, but nobody to make the goods and provide the services.

So since the production in the U.S. is down, all of these products are now coming from Asia as the thousands of containers waiting off our coast prove. So the blunders and mistakes being made have caused overdemand, weak production, and less trucks on the road.

Some in this House call this the economy of the future, the modern monetary theory. My constituents call it Big Government socialism versus free market capitalism or just simply economic madness.

But wait. We are not finished. Or they are not finished. Progressives in this House that, let's be honest, run this House and the White House, are holding a transportation and infrastructure bill hostage while doubling down—no, tripling down—no, 3.5 trillion down on all of the effects of this liberal economic policy. So we will continue with the disincentives to work; we will continue spending us into oblivion; and we will add to it taxes on small businesses and families and all who purchase goods while inflation increases, making American business less competitive worldwide.

This is why $3.5 trillion in a reconciliation plan must be stopped, and the American people need to contact their Members because they are not giving us a seat at the table to negotiate or discuss this disastrous plan.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for that really good explanation of what we are facing right now. People back home are scratching their heads, how can it come to this? Well, you see, it is the result of policies that are being implemented by this administration.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), also my good friend.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Louisiana for holding this Special Order and his leadership in our conference.

It started off with the war on fossil fuel and then the border crisis. Now, this new deal is about a war on small business. And the Biden administration and BERNIE SANDERS' trillion-dollar tax-and-spend bill, it is not about addressing our Nation's urgent needs, which I have just described, like: rising inflation; supply chain crisis; illegal immigration—we should not say illegal immigration; it should be human trafficking and drug trafficking—or the crime rate in the country. It is a blueprint to bankrupt and fundamentally turn America into a Big-Government, socialist Nation.

So what is included in their House Democrat bill? It includes a radical expansion of the IRS, granting them unprecedented access to the bank transactions of a vast majority of Americans. Again, a war on small business. It allows on-demand, taxpayer-funded abortions by excluding the Hyde amendment protections. Folks, we are just one of three countries that allow elective, full-time abortion. The other two are not good company: China and North Korea.

It provides college financial aid for illegal immigrants. It advances Green New Deal priorities to the tune of $630 billion at the expense, again, of small businesses.

It forces taxpayers to spend nearly $14,200 per person per year for government-controlled healthcare plans, doubling the cost of the average employer-sponsored healthcare plan.

It continues welfare benefits without work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents, at a time when there are 10.1 million jobs openings. Folks, I am talking 25 million people, work-capable people.

That is not all. The Democrats are desperately trying to sell this bad bill, with both Biden and NANCY PELOSI falsely claiming it will cost zero dollars. You have got to be kidding.

But the American people can see that this costly bill will wreck our economy, all to advance the Democrats' socialist agenda.

We must fight for the future of this Nation by stopping their tax-and-spending spree. My friends, why in the world would you follow the Biden administration and BERNIE SANDERS over the cliff after every legislative initiative that has been created by this administration has resulted in a crisis and caused the American people tremendous suffering? Stop this nonsense.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, it is nonsense indeed.

Madam Speaker, as they say, everything in Texas is bigger, including the representatives.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), also my good friend.

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, thank you to my good friend from Louisiana.

Crisis after crisis after crisis.

Madam Speaker, I rise against the extreme anti-American policies that we see right now that are being discussed in this forum, in this House.

I ask two simple questions of the President: Are you making us more secure? Are you making us more prosperous?

And the answer to that is no. Unequivocally, no.

We have got an anti-American energy movement in this country that is going to devastate every American. It is

going to leave us cold, dark, and hungry; it is going to embolden our adversaries; and it is going to harm our environment.

This administration is taking a hard line against American energy by canceling thousands of pipeline jobs, by canceling drilling permits, by kneecapping our energy producers with targeted tax increases and harmful regulations.

Americans are already feeling the pain of the Biden energy crisis at the gas pump, at the grocery store, where we see exorbitant prices that are continuing to skyrocket.

Just today, I had a Democrat colleague who said: In my district, small businesses are feeling the pain everywhere. I said: Well, push back. Stop this madness. Any vote for reconciliation is a vote against the American worker; it is a vote against American energy.

To make matters worse, heating bills are forecasted to be 54 percent higher in 2021. Under this administration, make no mistake about it, middle-class families will pay the price, and they will be forced to think twice before turning the heat on this winter.

We are nearing an all-out energy emergency that is eerily close to where our neighbors in Europe are feeling, at $25 for gas—$25 in Europe. It is only going to get worse.

Instead of unleashing the producers in the Permian Basin, where I represent, people who have done more to innovate and bring emissions down to levels that the Paris climate accords could never have dreamed of, we are cutting them off at the knees. The American family, our mothers and fathers, the working-class American, is who is paying for this.

Adversaries whose energy is nowhere near as clean as ours are going to benefit from this.

You see that today, on average, $3.30 per gallon, over a dollar more at the pump than what we saw last year. It is only going to get worse.

I am urging my colleagues to oppose this radical agenda, to stand up for American energy producers, and to provide every American household with affordable, reliable energy that has come from this country that has allowed us to lift a billion people out of poverty in this world.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Mr. PFLUGER said it so well. We feel this acutely in energy States like Texas and my home State of Louisiana, the Permian Basin and Haynesville Shale, but all across this Nation. We benefit from domestic energy production. It is not only the cleanest and the most efficient, it benefits us here at home. It is that America first idea that this administration is abandoning too quickly.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening deeply concerned about the pressures that have been brought to bear on America's supply chains and the effects that those pressures are having on inflation and on the constituencies that we represent.

Every day, I talk to members of the community from my district who are struggling in paying their bills. They are struggling because, just in the last year, they are being asked to pay over $20 more in my county to fill their gas tanks to get to work. They are being asked to pay substantially more for commodities like milk and eggs and bacon.

Madam Speaker, economists say that this inflationary pressure is greatly exacerbated by the irresponsible spending decisions that have been made right here in this Chamber in the last 18 months. That is important to talk about tonight, because we are considering the largest spending bill in the history of our country.

In fact, if you take the version of that bill that is in print and the spending it represents, combined with the extra Federal spending that has been approved over the last 18 months, added together, that exceeds the combined annual wages of every single American. I find that a stunning statistic. I am also very concerned about the possible impact that this spending will have on our national debt.

Now, the administration just this week has said that this spending package will be fully paid for and will not add a single dollar to our deficit. My response to that is: prove it.

□ 1715

Speaking charitably here, it strains credibility to believe that that would be the case. It is certainly not the case that the current version of the spending bill that is in print is fully paid for. But if the new version will be paid for, prove it. Wait to vote on the bill until the Congressional Budget Office has had a chance to score it and verify that that claim is accurate.

Madam Speaker, even if that is the goal, I would submit that America does not have a revenue problem. In fact, last year we collected more in tax revenue than in any year in our entire country's history. We do not have a revenue problem, Madam Speaker. We have a spending problem.

Even if you believe, as some of my colleagues do, that the problem is that we don't tax people enough and that we need to enact the largest tax increase in the history of our country, which is what this bill would do, then my question would be, why would we not use that extra revenue to shore up the social safety programs that are already in danger of failing, programs that people depend on, like Medicare and Social Security?

Why would you not use that extra revenue to pay down the $2 trillion of deficit that we currently have every year and the almost $29 trillion of national debt that we will be passing on to our children and their children?

Madam Speaker, I pray that we will get our fiscal house in order and stop this reckless Federal spending.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those insights. It is so important that people recognize what is happening here.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I urge the American people not to take their eyes off the ball. I honestly sometimes believe the reason the majority party is putting people like Steve Bannon in the headlines, or mandatory vaccines, as horrible as they are, or driving up the cost of gas to over $3 per gallon, it is to cause the American public to avert their eyes from the most long-term dangerous policy that the Biden administration is implementing, and that is what is going on, on the border.

I was down on the border last Thursday in the Yuma sector. So the American public understands, there are nine sectors along the border, and every time I go down there, I find more things that should scare the American people to death.

First of all, we have just the sheer number of people who are crossing the border. A year ago in July, for all nine sectors, an estimated 8,000 people were crossing the border. We are now up to over 100,000 people a month crossing the border.

As far as the type of people coming across the border, I saw something in the Yuma sector I hadn't seen before, and that is dozens of identifications scattered along the ground where people crossed from Mexico into Arizona. Why are people throwing away their identification prior to checking in at the Border Patrol? There is only one obvious reason. They don't want the United States to know who they are.

These people are paying the drug cartels to come here. If you are from Mexico, you are paying $3,000 or $4,000 a person. If you are from Central America, you are paying $6,000 to $8,000 a person. If you are from Brazil, you are paying over $10,000 a person.

The drug cartels are recruiting people by putting on Central American TV or Brazilian TV ads urging people to come here. There are some Americans who are taking out ads telling people it is not all it is cracked up to be to turn yourself over to the drug cartels.

But right now, clearly, many people are crossing the border. These are not people, by the way, coming across in desperation. They are people with very top-of-the-line shoes or top-of-the-line purses, well-done hair, well-done nails. People have to realize that people are not always coming here out of even a little bit of desperation. They are coming here because it has been advertised

they will make more money coming here.

As far as families, in July, in all nine sectors, there were about 15,000 unaccompanied children coming here. You go down there and see children in what can only be described as pens, being held on mats as they wait for the United States to transport them wherever they want. They write on their clothes which address they should be delivered to, and we turn the children over to nonprofit organizations that will transfer these children to New York, to Denver, wherever they want to go.

It drives the Border Patrol up the wall because, of course, if any American took a 5-year-old child and dropped them off at the airport and said, ''Please deliver this child to Oregon,'' or Maryland or wherever, social services would be after them.

But the United States, due to neglect, has pushed a policy in which people south of the border are encouraged to turn their children over to the Border Patrol and transfer them wherever they want.

Of course, as we have more and more children come here, the Border Patrol cannot patrol the border because they have to spend all their time processing the little children. The more Border Patrol is not patrolling the border, the more people are just walking in here, without any vetting at all.

Last year in the Yuma sector, they would be processing maybe 25 people a day. This year it can be up to 700 people a day. And it is not a difficult thing.

The way they treat each other is kind of a sign that maybe they might not make the greatest people to have around America. They needed help recently because of fights between the Haitians and the Colombians. Is that a sign of the type of people that we are letting into our country?

Other things that you learn down there: In the past, when I would go down to the border, I was under the impression that if people had any symptoms, they were tested for COVID. Now, we don't want another 100,000 people a month here under any circumstances. But right now, I was told that we like to test them, but of course, you can't require people to be tested, which means we are letting people in this country who may well have COVID.

Now, I don't know what to make of that. I guess what I make of it is when the Biden administration requires mandatory vaccines for people, it is really not that important. They are just doing it to avert people's eyes because if it were that important, they would be requiring at least tests for people coming over the border. But they don't even require tests. We will just let them come here.

Other activities of the Biden administration clearly are acting as magnets to bring more people here. One of the reasons why the people on the Mexican side of the border, the Mexican military, does not seem to care as much now as they did a year ago is because why should they risk their lives taking on the drug cartels when the American Government, by all of their actions, indicate that they don't care whether we enforce the border?

Two examples. We have, of course, as well advertised free medical care for people coming here, and there are Border Patrol agents who believe people just come to the United States for the free, superior medical care.

In the reconciliation bill that is being passed here, people who come here illegally are getting free college. Talk about a magnet to come to the United States. Of course, it shows contempt for the American middle class that we are seeing more and more.

If you are a member of the American middle class and want to go to college, you take out those student loans, go $30,000 in debt, go $40,000 in debt, go $50,000 in debt. But if you are somebody showing up here illegally, you get free college. Talk about advertising that our administration does not even remotely care whether our immigration laws are being obeyed or not.

The other thing that we have moving through here, again, on the reconciliation package is we believe about 10 million more people coming here, who we did not appropriately, vet are going to be eligible for amnesty and allowed to become American citizens, which is a further magnet, bringing more people here.

While there are a lot of things filling up the newspapers today—well, people don't read newspapers, but a lot of things filling up the TV screen or the computer screen—I want the American people to contact their legislators and pay attention to what is going on at the border.

There are people right now who permanently want to change America, and they are going to get away with it unless there is more of an uproar here saying: ''Get that immigration stuff out of the reconciliation package. Finally hire some more Border Patrol agents to see what is going on down there. And please, please, please go back, Biden administration, to the Mexican Government and renegotiate deals where we keep people south of the border.''

By the way, while I am talking about things that indicate there is a complete lack of caring on the southern border on the part of the Biden administration, when was the last time we saw Vice President KAMALA HARRIS at the border? I tell you, if you go down to the border there are all sorts of Congressmen poking around, seeing what is going on with the most important issue facing America today. Where exactly is KAMALA HARRIS, as she just brazenly ignores this crisis?

Please, America, wake up, and defend our southern border.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. He is right. We better wake up.

Just by way of a quick reminder, over 1.2 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the border since February alone. We know that number is grossly undercounted because of all the got-aways and people who came totally undetected across the totally open border.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, today marks exactly 9 months in of the Biden administration. The motto was Build Back Better. So, where do we stand? What have we built back better on behalf of the real American people out there?

He talked about unity in his inauguration speech. It only seems to be that he has unified the American people in anger at the cost of doing business. Everything has gone up for American families, as you see from this chart here.

In my home State of California, everything is going up. We see fuel. We heard the national average is $3.30. In my home State, it is anywhere from $4.20 to $5. Now, it is not the rest of the country's problem how the State runs itself, but it kind of underlines that we have big problems.

What is the focus going to be? The Biden administration is going to make it where farming in California is even more difficult. We are going to have fewer of the crops California grows, therefore driving inflation even more on everything when these crops have to be replaced with foreign imports.

I mean, come on. The inflation is being caused by this government, when you pull just $4 trillion or $5 trillion of spending out of midair. Now they are threatening to have tax increases on certain people, whether it is corporations or the rich or whoever. But then they back off on that, and they say no tax increases on those under $400,000.

It is going to be impossible to pay for this without doing that. Show us how you are going to do it. The inflation is going to kill the American worker, especially middle- and lower-income folks.

It is irresponsible what is going on. Just throwing these terms, trillions of spending—stimulus spending is basically what it is because it isn't infrastructure. Trying to sneak it through in budget reconciliation by getting a mere 50 votes over in the Senate is really a sleight of hand that is going to hurt this country.

This country is already hurting compared to a year, year and a half ago, the way our economy is right now, our energy reliability, our food reliability. You want to talk supply chain? All the ships are sitting off California, waiting to be unloaded.

There is one thing about it: If we were building it here, if we were producing it here, manufacturing it here, we wouldn't have to be worried about unloading ships. But when you chase the jobs out of the country with horrendous regulations and the taxation

that is going to be upon business, farmers, timber fallers, you don't get a good result.

The Biden administration needs to take a real good hard look at how economics actually work and quit doing this to the American people because, I will tell you what, we are not going to have much left after 4 years of all this.

I appreciate my friend here from Louisiana trying to bring this to the American people with the time here tonight on seeing how this 9 months in of the Biden administration is costing and hurting regular Americans.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Mr. LAMALFA is exactly right. It has been only 9 months. It is only going to get worse.

Madam Speaker, what you have heard tonight is a quick summary from a number of our friends. We could go on for hours if we had the time, but I know we are almost out of time.

We talked about the economic crisis, energy crisis, foreign policy crisis, border crisis. It goes on and on and on. I will summarize and close with this: We have two competing visions for America. It is now very clear: It is free-market capitalism v. Big Government socialism.

I think the American people see the results of the latter. I hope we have an opportunity very soon in the next election cycle to get back to the former.

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

□ 1730

THE CARE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I am astonished by the last hour. It is like they are living in a different universe. If you look at the economic growth in the United States under this administration, it is actually growing at such a rate that by the end of the year it will have reached 6 percent in growth. So all of that blather that went on on the other side of the aisle should be registered as what it is: False.

But we are here to talk about something much more important than a bunch of lies. We are here to talk about what 90 Members of the Democratic Women's Caucus are concerned about, and that is the care economy. The question that we want to ask is: Why does America not value our families or our children?

Why is it that France has provided 8 weeks of maternity leave to working women since 1913—yes, since 1913—yet we struggle to provide paid family leave?

Why is it that Germany 30 years ago was able to decide children have the right to quality childcare, yet some of my colleagues call universal childcare and pre-K a handout?

Surely if our European counterparts can understand that childcare and pre-K is not babysitting, it is education that fuels the brain and emotional development in the most formative years of a child's life so that children can grow and thrive, we certainly can grasp that.

Surely my colleagues who stand here and preach about the sanctity of life can understand the hypocrisy of advocacy for birth but not advocacy for life. After they come out of the womb is when we should be investing in them.

And surely, they can understand that the she-cession that happens to both Republican women and Democratic women is real in this country and has resulted from a pandemic that isn't just a burden on working women and families, it is a burden on all of us. It is an issue that touches every corner of our society and government from national security to economic growth, and most importantly, the health and well-being of our children and the progress of our country as we work to build back better.

Now, I am just getting started here, but I have got many colleagues who are here and want to speak to this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman SPEIER for yielding. I appreciate it.

I rise today to talk about the childcare crisis facing our Nation, and by extension, our national economy.

I rise today to share the stories from working mothers in my district, to outline the disastrous impact maintaining the status quo will have for families and communities and businesses, and to instill a sense of urgency for addressing this childcare crisis, because prior to COVID, women represented over half the working people in this Nation. Over half.

So let's be clear, when working moms are losing ground, that is the American middle class losing ground. And the current reality of the American childcare system is endless waitlists for spots that may never open up.

The current reality is unreasonable costs that eat away at 20, 30, 40 percent of a working parent's paycheck.

In fact, I have a constituent who has two children in childcare and pays over the amount of their paycheck in childcare. And in over half of the States in this Nation, center-based infant care costs more than in-State college tuition. That is what is facing families today.

And the current reality is to make it work, often for families—including my own family—the only way you make it work is with the help of grandparents or friends. So God help you, if you don't have that safety net in place.

The current reality is that too many moms are being forced to leave their jobs because they simply can't make it work. And if we don't act, too many of those moms will not be able to re-enter our workforce.

Two weeks ago, I convened a round table to have an in-depth conversation with working women in NJ–11. The stories I heard on that call mirror the experiences of women across my district, of the women serving alongside me in this legislative body, and they mirror my own experiences over the past 16 years as a working mom raising my four children.

Anyone who has had a child in the last few decades knows that the barriers to entry for childcare in America begin before your first child is even born. You are only pregnant for 9 months, but mothers have told me about 2-year waiting lists and a dearth of available options.

That situation got worse during the pandemic, with many centers closing down or going out of business.

And that is the current reality when things go according to plan.

During that round table, we heard from too many people who had changes in their lives which upended their whole childcare plan. During that round table, I heard from a professor who told me about how her search for childcare became twice as hard when she and her wife found out they were expecting twins. It got even harder than that when they were born premature and had health concerns that required in-home care.

She and her spouse were forced to make the impossible choice to cut their income in half so one of them could stay at home or to incur the astronomically high cost of in-home care. That is the catch-22 our families are facing too many times today.

I have a working mom and a councilwoman in my district who faced a similar dilemma. When she had her son, she was lucky enough to find a great childcare center with space for him, but the price of quality care was steep. She was in the position where her salary was just above the cost of care. Like far too many women, she considered leaving the workforce simply because the costs were unjustifiable. But in her case, she couldn't afford not to work. And she is lucky she didn't stop because we know that for women who quit the workforce for even 1 year, that is a 40 percent pay cut over the next 15 years.

This issue is about the family budget, the bottom line, the ability to make ends meet. And for too many families, the exorbitant costs of childcare place them just steps away from financial ruin.

My councilwoman was lucky to find good childcare near where she lived, but what happens when you move?

Well, we heard from another working mom about that. She and her husband had great daycare for their 1-year-old that they really loved. They were one of the lucky ones. Unfortunately, when they decided it was time to move, they couldn't find anywhere with space near their new home. So for months before they got off the wait list at a new center, they left their house every day at 6:30 a.m. to drop their child off at the old daycare center before starting their own long commute to work.

But even with that daycare system, she still needed help from a family member to pick up her son when the daycare center closed hours before she and her spouse finished work. And this dilemma has only gotten worse during COVID with childcare centers scaling back their hours due to workforce shortage issues.

All of these barriers come with a direct economic cost. This isn't just a woman's issue. This isn't just a children's issue. This is a critical economic issue facing our Nation.

In September alone, 26,000 women lost jobs while more than 200,000 men gained jobs. And that is not to mention the more than 300,000 women who left the workforce entirely that month.

We are leaving hundreds of billions of dollars of potential economic growth and improved GDP on the table by failing to fix this crisis and continuing to force women out of the workforce.

And we are certainly not solving the workforce crisis facing communities all across this country.

Tonight, you will hear from many of us outlining the stories that we ourselves and our constituents face, the concerns that the very real obstacles and challenges with childcare across this country are hampering too many women in the workforce. We are jumping through hoops and making tough financial decisions, calling on friends and family members just to find and maintain affordable and quality childcare. And as a result, our families are suffering.

The progress women have made in the workforce and in our society is suffering.

Our economic recovery post pandemic is suffering.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

We have the opportunity to make crucial investments in our childcare system to ensure that no family in this Nation pays more than 7 percent of their income on childcare. This budget plan represents an important start to helping working women stay in the workforce after having a child, help those who left re-enter, and keep more money in the pockets of hardworking families across this country.

And we can do all this as we ignite our economic recovery and build back better.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would ask the Congresswoman, before she leaves, she has also served in the military, and as she called upon this being an economic issue, is it not also a national security issue?

Ms. SHERRILL. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SPEIER. I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, it truly is. And as you know, as you chair your subcommittee and hear, I'm sure, from far too many families about as the difficulties of childcare grow, the difficulties of being a fully deployable force like our United States Navy grow.

So certainly, it is a national security issue, as well.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for participating today.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), my friend and colleague, and co-chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SPEIER for her leadership today.

Madam Speaker, I have this speech and all that, but I don't want to make a speech. I told my friend I was just going to rant. She said: ''Go to it.''

I am listening to the cable news and all that, and they say the Democrats are fighting and they are talking about the moderates and the progressives, and I just want everyone to know this: We are fighting. We are fighting for you. We are fighting for the American people. And especially we are fighting to make sure that women and children are on this train when it pulls out on build back better.

First of all, I am a very proud member of the Florida delegation, but I am not really here as a Representative. I am here as someone who was a working mother and now I say I am a working grandmother. And I remember those days of having to juggle and make sure my son was in good, nurturing care as he was growing up and I was working full time. And now I have grandchildren whose parents both have to work full time, and I think about them all the time. Who are they going to be left with? What about when they have their colds?

I had forgotten, Representative SPEIER, that your first year of pre-K you are constantly sick. So not only do they go to school, then they have to have someone to take care of them when they have that cold. And I think my colleague from New Jersey gave a really good summary of what it is like for the parents struggling to make ends meet.

We know that parents are really making the least amount of money usually when their kids are the youngest. And it is really a stretch for so many parents to even afford childcare, and then for the sandwich generation to have to take care of the elderly or the disabled loved one who needs home care.

But I want to talk about also, Representative SPEIER and Madam Speaker, about the worker, the people in whose care we are leaving the people we love the most.

Representative SPEIER, did you realize that the average salary for a childcare worker or a home care worker is about $27,000 a year?

Ms. SPEIER. It is about $11 an hour, isn't it?

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SPEIER. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. So you think about it. After you pay your rent, your car payment, your insurance, your food, you buy your clothes, it doesn't leave much, if anything.

And think about the responsibility of these workers, as I said, taking care of our precious children.

And I want to give you an example, because the average income of all workers in the United States is $68,000. I would like that to be higher, too, and I am not saying that other people don't deserve good salaries, but just to give by comparison, a truck driver, $46,000; a schoolteacher, $64,000; an accountant, $79,000; a plumber, $60,000. I can go on and on. A salesperson, $64,000.

I am not saying they don't deserve that money, but don't the people who take care of our loved ones also deserve to make money so they can have a decent life?

Ms. SPEIER. Isn't it stunning that we will pay those who watch our money six times as much money as we will pay those who take care of our children?

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Well, how about parking your car in a parking lot? We pay more to have someone watch our car than we do to watch our children.

And it is not only not fair and not right, but it also mostly affects women of color because that is who predominantly are our caretakers, and as a result, Madam Speaker, of this paying so little, there is a tremendous shortage.

Would you tell us, Representative SPEIER, what this means today in terms of the childcare and the home care industry in terms of getting people to even work the job?

Ms. SPEIER. Well, that is why we have lost so many slots in childcare centers around the country. That is why 60 percent of our families live in childcare deserts now. Think about that.

□ 1745

There is no childcare available, even if they have the resources to pay for it because the infrastructure doesn't exist anymore because we paid them so little. And the Build Back Better plan, as you know—and you can articulate—is going to change all of that.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Right. Because we are going to build back better for our children, and especially our working parents, for the elderly, who we love, and the disabled, by not only making it more affordable,

but also raising the wages of our care workers. We are talking about a transformational bill with Build Back Better.

Madam Speaker, I know you appreciate this, and those here today, is that we are fighting in this bill to have universal pre-K for all 3- and 4-year-olds in this country, getting our children off to a good start.

Representative Speaker, I know you can tell us, what does it mean when a 3- and a 4-year-old gets off to a good start, and how does that equate to how they are going to do later in life?

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, we all know that from 1 to 3 is when the brain is developing. That is when the resources need to be made available to these young infants and toddlers so that they will be prepared to then go into pre-K and then into school. If you don't have that experience, you are not going to have the children being able to do well in school and then to be able to be persons in our communities who are working very important jobs. So if it is truly about the children, let's make it about the children and build back better.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, this is a declaration in the United States of America: That getting children off to an early start at ages 3 and 4 is as important as getting them into kindergarten or 6th grade, or whatever.

Madam Speaker, I know I said one last thing, but I do have one last thing, because we are talking about taking care of our families. If anything we learned from the pandemic, is the importance of being able to take care of a loved one when they are sick or disabled, or whatever. That is why the paid family leave provision of Build Back Better is so important.

In fact, is it true that we are the only industrialized nation in the country that does not have a paid leave policy?

Ms. SPEIER. That is correct. In fact, as I pointed out earlier, France had it back in 1913. Think about that. We are a century later and we are still struggling with parental and medical leave.

It is important to point out, the vast majority of this money, in terms of who takes advantage of parental and medical leave, it is for the individual. Fifty percent of the paid leave goes for an individual who is sick and who needs that particular benefit to be able to have the surgery or be provided the healthcare during a time of sickness.

So when we say paid parental and medical leave, the big beneficiary of that benefit is probably an older American who is in the workforce who, without this, would have to use their sick leave up and then probably go on unpaid leave.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am glad I got to do my little ranting and raving. I know I have colleagues who are going to add a lot to this.

The American people should know that the Democratic Women's Caucus right here, and we represent people all over the country—

Ms. SPEIER. Ninety of us.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. There are 90 of us. We are fighting for you. We are going to build back better for our women, our children, our parents, our grandparents. We love them all. I have two grandsons; I want them to have the same rights as every little girl.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and dear friend, Ms. FRANKEL.

Madam Speaker, I would also point out that as we look at the infrastructure bill that everyone is supporting, that trillion-dollar package is going to create 2 million jobs over the next 10 years. That is great, but 90 percent of those jobs are going to men.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has created an environment where 1.6 million women have left the workforce. That is the lowest participation of women in the workforce since 1988. We are going back. We are not going forward, unless we have the Build Back Better plan, which is going to provide the infrastructure for childcare and pre-K and the opportunity for women to get back to work.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), my dearest friend.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

The Democratic Caucus—and I see that now we have all three of the leaders of that caucus that I am so proud to be a member of.

Madam Speaker, my daughter is a childcare worker. She works in a childcare center, and I am so proud of her and just the effort and the creativity and just the energy that she puts into this very low-paid job. If it weren't for someone else earning money in the household, she could not really afford to live on that pay.

I quote from a scholar who said, ''most developed countries in this world have some kind of a robust social safety net. The United States has women.'' And when it comes to taking care of those in need, either as workers or as family members, it is mostly women.

I want to tell you that in the eighties, I was director—and proudly so—of the Illinois State Council of Senior Citizens. And as part of that, I was a cochair of the Long-Term Care Coalition that we had in Illinois.

At that time, there was no long-term healthcare policy in the United States of America. And guess what? There is no long-term care policy in the United States of America right now. Families are left to figure it out.

What are we going to do? I am getting older. I don't have family.

What am I going to do to take care of myself? I am getting older and my family is the only one available to take care of me.

I have to move in with my children, or they have to move in with me to take care of me because there is no other choice.

Or you end up—I don't know—in some kind of an institution where people, again, are poorly paid—often women of color, often low-income women. In fact, for home care, the average worker does make about $12 an hour, with no benefits. And if you have to travel from one place to another, there is no payment for that kind of transportation or getting there. It is not really doable. And so we have made pretty much no progress until now. And then the President of the United States, Joe Biden, said we are going to have Medicare, home- and community-based services in this country.

Now, he announced a very big amount of money to go for that. I don't know if that is going to be able to be paid for fully right now in the Build Back Better plan, but we are going to make a start. We are going to say yes. It is not just that we are going to leave families, women at home, not being able to go back to the workplace themselves. We are going to have a home care policy. And that is where people want to be, in their homes, in the United States of America.

I believe that we will see billions and billions of dollars that are going to be able to go to long-term care. And we are going to pay attention to these workers. It is not right. It is not possible to depend on workers who, themselves, live in poverty; don't have someone to care for them when they get older; often can't even afford to get—we talk about paid sick leave—have no health insurance, have no backup, if they get sick.

This is absolutely not working in this country. If we are going to build back better, we have to build back better for women. We have to build back better for women toward the end of life, as we age. We have to take care of women and children in this country.

It is really embarrassing, in a way, when we look at the rest of the world, how far behind the richest country in the world is in taking care of our families, the most in need in our country. But we are finally at a tipping and turning point right now. We have an administration, we have leaders in the House and the Senate who are now saying those days are gone.

We are now going to be a country that, as the President says, is built from the bottom up and the middle out. We are going to take care of workers. We are going to take care of families, and we are going to take care of women and children. I am just so proud to be part of a caucus that is determined to make this a reality, to transform the United States of America into a place that is safe and healthy and has opportunity for all of us.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her rousing speech and making the case, once again, that women are the backbone of this country. If we build back better in the Build Back Better plan, what we

will have is a situation where 2 million more jobs will be created. There will be $24 billion more in take-home pay for women, which will then move through the economy and benefit all of us, as well.

It is my great pleasure to introduce one of our newer Members, but one of our feisty new Members.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. It is an honor to be part of the Special Order hour, it is an honor to be called feisty, and it is an honor to follow my good friends and colleagues, Representative FRANKEL and Representative SCHAKOWSKY as they talked about different aspects of the care economy. Representative FRANKEL was focused on childcare. She, of course, has grandchildren and is very focused on the care that they are receiving.

Madam Speaker, I want to tell a personal story, because it is something that I, frankly, having had this experience, this issue of the care economy might not resonate as much with me as it does.

In 2014, my mother was diagnosed with brain cancer. She was an incredibly independent woman, had always had a career until she retired, lived alone, gardened, took care of her home, and was, in all respects, somebody that, quite frankly, my sister and I thought was going to live to be 100. She was 82 at the time. Everything changed on a dime.

She was diagnosed with brain cancer in the summer of 2014. We, her daughters, were told that she had a pretty short time left to live. And it was a shock, nothing that we could in any way have planned for or anticipated or made prior arrangements. But we knew that it was incredibly important that we bring her to one of our homes for the remaining weeks or months that she had to live. So she was transported to my home where we had home hospice care for her.

I worked full-time as a lawyer at the time. My sister worked full-time. Obviously, our first concern was our mother, but both of us also had careers and bills that had to be paid, that we had worked for for so many years. And so what ended up happening was that we engaged home healthcare workers to help us take care of our mother. It was only because of those tireless home care workers that were with her at her bedside during the night so that I could sleep, providing essential care, and it was only because of them that my family and I could rest somewhat easier knowing that mom had the help and the resources that she needed around her.

I can tell you, quite honestly, that we would not have made it through those months had we not had the benefit of home healthcare workers. And I have to tell you, again firsthand, watching a parent or a loved one suffer is hard enough, but those workers—and they were all women, I might add—who came into our home, made it just a little bit easier for me and for my sister and the rest of our family, knowing that she had a team of hardworking caregivers by her side through her sickness.

We know that home care workers have been on the front lines this past year. We have heard a lot about it. Quite honestly, until the pandemic, I don't know that we ever really heard much about home care workers, but they cared for our most vulnerable population. They put themselves and their families at risk. They did this while earning near poverty wages.

□ 1800

We know that home care workers are three times as likely to be living at or near the poverty line, with many of them struggling to afford their own healthcare while they provide essential services to the elderly and disabled Americans.

One home healthcare worker in my district who cares for a young man who is disabled told me that she has not taken a single day of vacation time in more than 10 years. She is a young woman, but she has been working for a long time. She hasn't taken a single day off. This kind of thing is completely unacceptable.

I stand with them in their call for a long-overdue raise, improved worker benefits, and the opportunity to organize and collectively bargain.

None of us are able to anticipate when we are going to need this kind of care for somebody in our family. It happens, as it always does, when you least expect it.

This is the smart thing to do. We have the opportunity now at a pivotal time. By the way, as our Nation grows older, the need for this critical workforce is only going to grow.

The commonsense investments that we are talking about as being part of the Build Back Better Act are absolutely commonsense investments that will create jobs but will also provide the necessary support both in terms of healthcare support and emotional support for families that our aging population is going to require.

For too long, this population of workers has been underpaid and undervalued, and that has to end with the Build Back Better Act.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments. I think it is important to point out, as she did, that when we are in a situation where we want to bring our family members who are dying home and keep them at home, and bring in home healthcare, we are actually saving money for the Medicare system because if they were hospitalized, the cost per day would be prohibitive.

I had my mother-in-law, my father, and my mother all living with us at the end of their lives, and it was a great source of solace to know that they could stay home and bring in a home healthcare worker.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, that is what we experienced. She was hospitalized for a full month before we brought her home for hospice care, during which she underwent all kinds of, frankly, unnecessary interventions that the facility was required to do. She was in daily physical therapy, which was almost ludicrous for a woman who had just weeks left to live. Yes, the cost factor to Medicare is significant as well.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), a co-chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus, an outspoken advocate for so many of these issues.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the strong leadership of our co-chair, not only just now in her leadership role in the Democratic Women's Caucus, but throughout her tenure in Congress, JACKIE SPEIER. I thank her for this Special Order hour.

Since the start of this pandemic, women have lost more than 2 million jobs, and our labor force is down, for women, to 57 percent. Why does that matter? It is because women's labor force participation—please hear this number—contributes more than $7 trillion to the U.S. GDP every year. So when you talk about building back with women, there is an economic incentive for us to do that in America.

The reality is there are far too many women in the United States who care for their children and the elders in their families. They are looking at situations where it is far too expensive.

We heard the description of my two colleagues caring for their elder parents. Do you know what that would mean if they didn't have a childcare or elder care system to take care of them?

In reality, in America, there are women who call in sick and who take off from work because they have a child that is suffering from cancer or a parent who is dying, and they are the only ones to do this. And they cannot afford to pay for it. We know that caring for our loved ones should not force women to make a choice between the two.

In Michigan, 44 percent of the Michiganders live in a childcare desert. As we talk about this, some people go like, you know, let them figure it out. In some scenarios, there isn't even a childcare facility for the parent to even consider or try to figure out how to pay for it. The reality is that there is such a large number of women who work two jobs, one to pay for childcare and one to put food, shelter, and clothing on their children, because there are not other options. They can't afford the childcare. So, do I lose my home and have childcare?

They work two jobs, and being away from home for an extended period of time has its own built-in problems.

I want you to know that the Build Back Better agenda increases access to

affordable childcare. How amazing is it to say that every family in America would not have to pay more than 7 percent of their income for childcare? We talk about childcare workers—and I just want to go back to the page that my colleague was just talking about.

Disproportionately, when we are at that point where we have needs, it is a woman who knocks on our door to provide the childcare, and it is a woman who knocks on the door to take care of our elderly. And, disproportionately, they are women of color, Black women, Hispanic women, Asian women who are the majority of caregivers in this country.

What do we do? We say our children and our elders are our most precious in our family. I will walk through fire for my child. There is nothing I won't do for my parents. But we disrespect these workers every day with these pathetic salaries that we have in America. In the Build Back Better agenda, we will be boosting the compensation for our care workers so that they can feel the respect and the honor and go home and take care of their own families.

Madam Speaker, I was a dear friend of Aretha Franklin, and every time I talk about this, I think about that song: All I am asking for is just a little respect.

In America, how can we say something is so precious to us but we disrespect those who show up, hold the hands, wipe the noses of our children, who tuck in our elders, and sometimes they are there when they take their last breath. America, we can do better.

I want you to know that building back better—and we have coined the term, and we will not walk away from that—and our colleagues are working because we can build back better in this country with human infrastructure. You can't do it unless you build back better with women, and that means paying attention to the service, to the need for care, for the need to invest in our human infrastructure.

If you want to improve poverty in America, invest in jobs and invest in women. The majority of those in poverty in the United States of America are women heads of households who have children. We make an effort to ensure no one goes hungry in America, but we disrespect those who care for our loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I want you to know that I am standing here today locking arms with my colleagues. I want to, and I will, demand that America build back better. I know that my colleagues in the Democratic Women's Caucus are fired up and ready to go because we know this opportunity to put our thumbprint on the values of America, of what we are going to do, is laid out in Build Back Better.

We know that we are negotiating and fighting, and we will not step down, just like the suffrage women who fought and knew it was time to stand up, march, chain ourselves to the fence, whatever we have to do to continue to build back better, and we are making this investment.

We have a President who has joined in. We have a Speaker of the House who has joined and locked arms with us and the Democratic Caucus. We are saying that Build Back Better will build back families, and it will transform the lives of women in America.

We can't wait any longer. On infrastructure, a pothole is an inconvenience, and we need to fix our potholes. We need to make sure that our children are not drinking lead-poisoned water. We need to make sure that our bridges and all those are fixed. But we also need to know that the human beings in this country deserve our passion, our work in the build back better agenda.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank my co-chair for that passionate speech. I think you pointed out, as heads of households, that the feminization of poverty that was dubbed some 30 years ago is still, in fact, what we are dealing with today.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Yes.

Ms. SPEIER. That is part of what we are trying to do with Build Back Better.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), my colleague on the Armed Services Committee and the Military Personnel Subcommittee, and someone who has served our country in the military.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SPEIER for yielding. It is a pleasure to be standing by her side and on the shoulders of so many powerful women who have gone before me and who have had this important conversation over and over and over again.

It is time that I have the opportunity to rise next to them in this Chamber for a couple of reasons. One, we do have the opportunity to celebrate some strides that we have recently made in securing the historic paid family and medical leave for some people. My part of this conversation will talk about that.

We also need to recognize where our Nation falls woefully short on delivering that promise to support all workers and families in Pennsylvania and beyond in this matter.

Like many of you all, I have pictures of my family in my office. For me, seeing the faces of my husband of almost 32 years and our beautiful daughters always buoys my spirit and is a constant reminder of the story I bring to Congress.

As a parent, my own story begins with the birth of my first child while on Active Duty serving in the Air Force. This chapter of my story is important, and it drives my commitment to this critical issue of work and paid family leave. In part because of the lack of affordable childcare and limited time for my own maternity leave, I separated from the service 30 or so years ago.

Sadly, my story is not unique. In fact, still to this day, we know that there are problems, particularly with childcare issues on bases that have wait lists as much as 6 months to a year. It is that story that continues to play out in households, not just military households, but all households across our country.

Too many people are faced with the impossible choice of caring for their family or caring about their employment. The people in my district and all of our districts deserve better.

As an empathetic, compassionate country, we need to be able to understand and act on the repeated calls from the American people to help one another. In this great Nation, people should not be forced to choose between their kids and work or their aging parents and work.

It may be that you have not heard from any of those most affected, so I will share a couple of stories from my own community.

Susan, in Pennsylvania, told us that not having access to paid leave forced her to liquidate her retirement assets so she could care for her newborn.

Lynn, also from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is a home care health worker, and she shared with us that without a single day's sick leave, that meant that she is stuck with the choice between protecting her own clients and having a short paycheck and unpaid bills as a result.

When I think about the hardships of people like Susan and Lynn, I know that is not who we are as a Nation. We can't allow mothers and fathers to go into debt to raise their newborn babies and children. We cannot accept a system that forces those who are sick to choose between paying their rent or exposing their coworkers and clients to illness, especially as COVID continues to wreak havoc on our country.

We cannot ignore the crystal-clear research that confirms what we already know to be true, that paid leave is an overwhelmingly bipartisan and popular idea. Democrats, independents, and Republicans agree that family-centered policy strengthens our economy and small businesses; it does not weaken them. We can, in fact, be both pro-business and pro-family.

□ 1815

So while my story is deeply personal, I am also an engineer, so I would like very quickly to share some data and facts with you, Madam Speaker, in addition to these stories. And here they are: Policies like paid family leave will lift up the middle class. Sixty-two percent of workers earning less than $30,000 a year received no pay during leave for family caregiving or personal health issues compared to only 26 percent of those earning more than $75,000 a year. These policies will bring more equity to our workforce. Over a 2-year period, 26 percent of Black workers reported needing to take time for family or personal health, but not being able to take that time, and 13 percent of White workers reported the same.

These policies like paid family leave and paid medical leave will strengthen our economy. Research shows that women have a greater attachment to the labor force if they are allowed paid leave, and with an economy that needs every single worker, we cannot neglect 51 percent of our workforce.

These policies will also help small businesses. Over 60 percent of the executives in a recent Bipartisan Policy Center survey believe that paid family leave has a positive impact on employee morale, employee retention, and their company's ability to attract new employees.

Lastly, these policies will modernize our U.S. economy. As many of my colleagues have mentioned, we rank dead last—number 35 out of 35—amongst advanced economies offering competitive paid leave for mothers and others.

We simply cannot delay any longer, and the time is now to invest in paid family and medical leave.

I would like to say that we are making progress. In 2019 I worked with Chairs Maloney and Smith to successfully pass into law 12 weeks of paid family leave for 2.1 million Federal workers, and I led legislation through the Foreign Affairs Committee to harmonize parental leave policies for State Department employees around our country and around the world. This year, I helped to write a bill through the Armed Services Committee that codifies 12 weeks of parental leave for all of our uniformed servicemembers regardless of their branch of service.

This summer I championed an effort with over 100 of my colleagues urging House leadership to include paid family leave in Build Back Better, and, just yesterday, I co-authored this letter to President Biden, again, with more than 100 of our colleagues asking him to do everything in his power to protect these critical investments in our Build Back Better Act.

This comes at a time when we are making progress for the people. As House Democrats we are centering on you, the hardworking, sensible families of Pennsylvania, as we deliberately invest in our shared future.

As a member of the Democratic Women's Caucus, whom I am very grateful to stand here with today, I stand united with my colleagues tonight, and I assure you that we are ensuring that our economy is robust.

So when I see that picture of my family in my office and I remember what is at stake for my family and for yours, I will continue to work hard, along with all of my colleagues, to make sure that we are protecting these interests and these dreams for our American future and our people.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for her comments.

I do believe that today a woman serving in the Air Force would have the benefits of 12 weeks of paid parental leave and, hopefully, in the very near future a childcare system that will not speak of some 9,000 who are waiting for childcare slots that don't exist in childcare centers in the military.

It is shameful that we have to legislate that, but we are in the process of doing it.

I now will join my colleagues in welcoming our colleague from the great State of Illinois, one of our new but very effective members, Congresswoman MARIE NEWMAN.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. NEWMAN).

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to be here with all my colleagues from the Democratic Women's Caucus. I thank Representative SPEIER for hosting this Special Order hour tonight.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of parents struggling to pay for childcare each and every day. It has become abundantly clear: our current childcare system is absolutely untenable.

Just this past September more than 300,000 women left the workforce. As we all know, women are more likely to be the primary caregiver in a household. With a growing lack of affordable childcare options, we are seeing more women forced to quit their job in order to stay home and watch their kids.

Let's be clear: no parent should be forced to quit their job because they cannot find childcare they can afford. But the reality for too many families is that this is definitely the case. They cannot afford childcare in their area, period.

Just this week, NPR reported that one in three American families are struggling to find childcare they desperately need. I repeat: one-third of America's families cannot find affordable childcare.

In Illinois, 58 percent of residents live in a childcare desert—58 percent. That is more than half. In fact, infant care in Illinois costs just $168 less than in-State tuition for a 4-year public college. So think about that, Madam Speaker. If you are a mom and a dad and you have kids of various ages, or you are getting prepared to have kids of various ages, you are thinking about childcare now, Madam Speaker, and you are paying effectively what you know you may have to pay for college in later years for your children. It is astonishing. We can and must fix this.

Under President Biden's Build Back Better Act, we can finally ensure every American has access to quality, affordable childcare. This will provide mothers with the support they desperately need to return to the workforce.

This is not only the morally right thing to do, but it is actually one of the strongest ways we can further boost our economy. I am tired of hearing some colleagues complain about a labor shortage while at the same exact time they are trying to block families from receiving the affordable childcare they need to return to work. I think that you don't have to go too far, Madam Speaker, to understand wherever you go on any block in America, women are saying: I can't afford childcare which is why I am going back.

We have to stop blaming it on these fictitious things. Women need to have childcare so they can go back to work.

Enough is enough. For far too long our country has worked for the largest corporations and the ultra-wealthy while working families have been left behind. Let's change that by passing the Build Back Better Act for working families, and let's deliver universal, affordable childcare. Let's get this done.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments and for her great leadership.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of California (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I am here to talk about the Build Back Better agenda and two specific aspects that I want to highlight, some of which have been covered today, and to share some of my personal story.

The investments in home care and paid family and medical leave are personal to me, to my constituents, and to the American people.

Not just American workers get paid family medical leave benefits from their jobs. My sister, a Federal worker, is a nurse. She helps deliver babies at a military hospital in Colorado. Last November she was diagnosed with cancer. We are about the same age. She is a couple years older than I am. All of a sudden, we learned there is no paid family medical leave.

So what do people have to do?

They either have to leave their job, or go without pay, or in this case ask co-workers to donate their leave and their time so that somebody who is fighting cancer can actually focus on fighting cancer and getting better. And that is just wrong.

In America we need to take care of our workers. That is why I think it is so critically important that we include in reconciliation the paid family and medical leave. Unfortunately, most workers are forced to give up their wages and leave work to deal with health crises for themselves or loved ones. And this is true especially for women and women of color.

My sister's story is not unique. It is happening to workers across the country. So I am committed to making sure that we fight to keep these provisions in the Build Back Better agenda.

Secondly, caregivers, the home- and community-based care system is so critically important, especially for those on Medicaid and the disabled. This very year my own mother was able to qualify and get it after being on a waiting list for 8 months. It's not easy though, when you need that in-home care. This is a program that helps patients stay in their homes, as many older Americans wish to do and can't, so this program will be expanded.

But we also need to increase wages for those who are providing the care, because the wages just don't cut it. We know there is a shortage of healthcare workers now and providers. I have been dealing with this every day. Just last night I had to get on a red-eye.

Why?

To help provide some of that care.

So we need this human investment in people and to provide that care in home.

We saw what happened with COVID and what it did to those in institutions and nursing homes. If we can avoid that and have people in their homes, then we should expand this program and support it.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the American economy has lost more than 500,000 jobs in the caregiving industry, and we are seeing firsthand how hard it is to hire. So investing in this is going to expand that. It is going to make this available to more Americans and those in need, whether you are an older American, Madam Speaker, or you are disabled.

In conclusion, by investing in families and our care economy, we will show compassion to those in need, improve care, and help women get back into the workforce. The investments in the Build Back Better package will be meaningful for our families and transformational for our economy.

Let's keep them—not cut them—for people like my mother who has severe Alzheimer's and for the rest of Americans who need that care.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I am very impressed that my colleague took the red-eye because she was caring for her family and she is here tonight caring for her constituents. I hope the gentlewoman can go home and get some rest.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE). My colleague is a great advocate for all those in her State and throughout the country.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I am delighted to be with the gentlewoman and as well to be fighting for what is right, and that is what we are doing here today. We are fighting for what is right.

I am amazed when I hear people want to try to understand whether or not we are on the floor of the House talking about a safety net or whether we are on the floor of the House trying to create a care economy.

Well, let me be very clear. The clearness of my point is that the care economy is alive and well. It may be called by many names, but it is millions of women who have in the decades—some without names, some without categories—have been working to take care of people. They have been layered from those, as we have heard my sisters and my colleagues indicate, that they have been parents who were in the last stages of life, they are working mothers who need childcare, and they are particularly care workers themselves who don't have childcare.

So the Build Back Better Act is what you want, America.

Many people say: What is in the bill?

This is what you want. You already have gotten portions of the child tax cut. It is a credit, but I like to call it a child tax cut. That is in there to be continued.

And I have heard the stories from my constituents, making ends meet, getting diapers and formula, and paying rent to be able to keep a roof over the head of toddlers and babies of single parents, mostly women. So we know how important the child tax credit is.

But then we talk about childcare and when we talk about kindergarten that will be universal. These are in the early stages of life. So I am excited.

Let me just mention one deviation, Madam Speaker. Let me just mention one deviation, and that is that in Texas we have got a compounded problem, people without childcare and people without healthcare because we never opted in—I say we—the State Government never opted into the expanded Medicaid. So we have working parents with 766,000 who are uninsured in the State of Texas.

Can you imagine, Madam Speaker, working parents with children who have no childcare; and they are not insured, and they have no healthcare?

So can we ease their burden?

Can we ease their burden?

Quickly let me ease their burden and ensure that—very quickly let me pay tribute to a school in Humble, Texas, where I met a young woman by the name of Aquila Gillespie who runs a subsidized childcare facility who desperately needs this childcare program which is going to allow her working parents—they are working parents in the care industry—who come to her with children at night, who have children who are, in fact, in early education, meaning that they are first and second grade. She works hard to open this school because most of the parents who enroll them in the school cannot afford childcare. These men and women are working people, and they work at night.

□ 1830

I stand here to join with my colleagues to say, what does America want? They want to know that this bill is going to help them. You can see how colorful it is, Creative Kids.

And that is Aquila. I want her to be known on television because she did this as a young woman, a young woman who was a single parent at the time. She hires and employs mothers and others who are in the working class.

Let me say childcare, America, is what you will get with the Build Back Better Act.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her comments, and I thank Madam Speaker for allowing us to have this Special Order hour to talk about families in America and what the Build Back Better plan will do to make sure that families have childcare, have pre-K, have the opportunity to go back to work.

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

REALITY OF THE TAX AND SPENDING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

THREAT OF ASSASSINATION

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding because I think someone maybe trying to kill me, and if they are successful, I would like my constituents and my family to know who stopped their arrest.

Madam Speaker, on October 8, 2021, a Twitter handle styled @CIABobisatyourdoor tweeted to @repmattgaetz: ''Looky here, pal, I lived in Portland. Portland has ordered a hit on you. I accepted the contract. Have a good day.''

Following this tweet, this individual traveled to Washington, D.C., and the Capitol Police recommended his arrest. That is information that was just shared with me by the Investigations and Threat Assessment section of the Protective Services Bureau and, specifically, George DiSesso. George shared with me that the Capitol Police recommended the arrest of this individual and that the Department of Justice refused to do so, declined to do so.

On the eve of the Attorney General testifying before the Judiciary Committee tomorrow, it is just yet another example of the Department of Justice having a double standard. If my name weren't Gaetz, if it were Omar or Tlaib, you bet this person would have been arrested because that is what the Capitol Police recommended. But the Department of Justice doesn't seem to care so much when it is Republicans. I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, Utah is, in the Fourth District, now paying more for everything thanks to the Biden administration's disastrous economic policies. It is throwing our country back to a 1970s economy, and there is no end in sight.

The Democrats' solution? Pack far-left policies into their $5.5 trillion spending package and tell the American people that it cost them nothing. It is a bogus talking point that couldn't be further from the truth.

In reality, this tax and spending bill would perpetuate labor shortages in Utah and across the country, which will harm economic recovery and hurt families in my district; violate Americans' financial privacy by increasing IRS access to our personal bank data;

and it will also mandate financial services providers to report financial transactions of $200 per week or greater. The IRS has no business tracking the checking accounts of Americans.

They will also reduce our country's energy independence, causing gas prices to skyrocket nationwide, now, by the way, hitting record numbers in Utah.

It will impose devastating taxes on small businesses as they attempt to get back on their feet.

President Biden and Democrats in Congress want to use this trillion-dollar spending bill to fundamentally reimagine our country's economy, and they are going to raise taxes on the middle class to make it happen. That means higher prices for families at the gas pump, in the grocery store, and everywhere in-between and the highest inflation levels we have seen in over 30 years.

This fiscally irresponsible spending spree places a staggering debt on the next generation of Americans and leaves our country's economy worse off.

HONORING TAYLOR HOOVER

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, 31-year-old United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Taylor Hoover from Utah was killed in the line of duty on August 26 by a suicide bomber in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was taken too soon, heroically assisting the evacuation efforts of U.S. citizens and Afghan allies.

In his faithful service to others, Sergeant Hoover and the 12 other servicemembers who were lost on that tragic day embodied the military's core values: honor, courage, and commitment.

I pray that they find solace in his memory and healing in the love of their family and friends. From Hillcrest High School and all the way to Arlington National Cemetery, I know this tragic loss will be felt by many.

We will never forget the sacrifice and service of Sergeant Taylor Hoover. God bless the Hoover family and all of our Nation's Gold Star families.

Honoring Todd Grossgebauer

Mr. OWENS. I would like to honor a true public servant and a Utah hero, Commander Todd Grossgebauer, who lost a hard-fought battle against cancer over this last summer.

Todd was the second employee hired by the Riverton, Utah, police department. He also served the Provo Police Department for 26 years. He studied at the FBI National Academy. He was a patrol division watch commander and instructor at UVU's Law Enforcement Academy.

Todd and all of our brave men and women in law enforcement put their lives on the line every single day to protect our communities. They truly are hometown heroes.

As we reflect on and honor the sacrifices of our law enforcement officers, I pledge to always back the blue. I am thinking of Todd today and praying for his wife, Brenda, and their entire family.

HONORING BRENT JEX

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Brent Jex is a retired police detective of 20 years in the West Jordan Police Department and served as president of the Utah Fraternal Order of Police since 2012.

As a member of Utah's Joint Criminal Apprehension Team, Brent has participated in the arrest of the most dangerous and notorious criminals in the Intermountain West. But even more impressive is his dedication to advocating for our men and women in uniforms' mental health.

Right now, even more than ever, our officers are under scrutiny and stress that none of us can imagine. They have a voice with Brent as the president of FOP.

Referring to mental health treatment, Brent has said, ''Before I thought it was a sign of weakness to have to go seek treatment. Afterward, I realized that it is a sign of weakness not to.''

Brent represents the best of us. He is an invaluable member of the law enforcement community and the State of Utah as a whole.

Brent, thank you for all you have done and all you do to keep our community safe.

HONORING UTAH'S SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, like many industries across the country, the COVID–19 pandemic took an unyielding toll on small businesses. Over the past several months, I have had the pleasure of visiting hundreds of small businesses across my district to hear firsthand how they are coping through economic recovery. One thing is for certain: Utahns are innovative.

Owlet, located in Lehi, is saving countless lives across the country with its in-home monitoring system for prenatal and newborn babies.

Greek House is a family-owned and -operated restaurant in Taylorsville, currently celebrating its first birthday in Utah's Fourth District.

Local advanced manufacturing companies like Hexcel Company, Rock West Composites, Inc., and Advanced Composites Inc., are leading in the defense, commercial, and aerospace industries.

Neuroxorx in Sandy is providing innovative long-term physical, occupational, and speech therapy for adults and children affected by paralysis.

Grifols in Salt Lake City is a small plasma donation center that helps save and improve lives across the country.

These companies and everything in-between perfectly showcase the innovative and service-oriented spirit of Utah's Fourth District. They think big and bold in their pursuit of excellence.

To every small business in every corner of Utah's Fourth District, thank you for all you do to save our State.

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

REALITY OF THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I promise I am not trying to go for the record of the most boring for half an hour, but if I make it, bless us all.

Madam Speaker, over the next half hour, I am going to try to walk through—and a lot of this is just sort of the boiling frustration that we all go through around here. We are frustrated because I believe a lot of our brothers and sisters on the left mean well. They say warm, fuzzy things. They say things that actually should make you feel good. And then you actually deal with the reality of what is happening in our economy and around us.

We are going to blast through a bunch of these and see if I can sort of explain our frustration as conservatives but also as Americans. So just one quick point. Do you remember all of the rhetoric from the last election from our Democrat colleagues about how they are going to actually do all of these things in regard to greenhouse gases, but we will still have a healthy economy? Well, this is the chart before President Biden took office, and you see GDP was truly growing and greenhouse gases had actually made quite a bend and change.

But now, we actually also have some other little facts we are going to have to deal with. Think about this: The attacks that happened on President Trump, but in those 4 years, my understanding is use of coal actually fell 30 percent.

Well, I have to congratulate the Democrats. It looks like this year's coal usage will go up 23 percent. One more time: Coal usage will now go up almost 23 percent this year because they have so screwed up the energy economy.

When you block pipelines, when you block the movement of natural gas, when you block the much cleaner fuel and you need to produce ions, called electricity, where do you go? So, congratulations to the Democrats. They actually took a trend—where they said they wanted this—and have absolutely reversed it.

It is sort of an amazing thought, isn't it, that the Biden administration and Democrats did more in the last 9 months for coal production than the previous President did in 4 years? It is a fascinating but good example when you don't own a calculator and don't do economics.

Let's actually walk through a couple of other things. You have also seen the reports and the analysis of how many poor people are going to absolutely suffer this winter. Have you seen what energy prices look like? If your household that uses heating oil—I am sorry, for those of us in the desert, we don't know what heating oil is, but we are told it is getting really expensive. Have you seen the numbers of what is predicted to be paid in cold parts of this country?

If you are angry about it, go talk to your Democrat Representative because

they are the ones that basically, through their arrogance and not owning a calculator, not understanding basic economics, have just, in many areas of the country, will have doubled, doubled your heating bill this winter.

But this is what crappy economics looks like. And you start to walk through it. How about if you are in one of those neighborhoods where crime is an issue? Well, you have to thank the Democrats once again. You can see that homicides are up 16 percent in the first 6 months of this year.

We chose not to use it, but if you actually look at the concentration of where these homicides are, people of color are the victims here.

You know, once again, we hear these beautiful speeches behind these microphones of how they are going to help and protect and do this, except they are killing them. At some point, the math is the math. This is sort of the Democrat destruction in just the first 9 months, 10 months of this year. And the math is the math. The facts are the facts.

The air is getting dirtier; the power bills have gone up; you are less safe. But let's keep walking through more of the damage that is being done to our country, the society.

□ 1845

In my State, we have a little problem. We are a border State. The number of adult males that are crossing our border has skyrocketed. If you actually start to walk through what that actually means—let's actually take a look.

Oh, but what about the fentanyl and who is that killing? When you take a look at the pounds—tonnage, actually—of dangerous narcotics, particularly fentanyl, that is crossing my border in Arizona, thank you for the absurd policies that have been adopted by the Democrats and this President.

Is it that you want to kill people? I can't believe that is in your hearts, but that is what you have allowed to happen.

Let's actually talk about the other side, the economic side, of what the Democrats have done in regards to the border. Why some of this is important is I need you to double it up. We are going to come back to the inflation here in a second.

What are the two things you do in a society if you want to destroy the working poor? You make the value of their labor less. And unlike 2018 and 2019, which we had records in this country, where if you are part of the working poor, you are someone that didn't finish high school and what you sell is your labor, you were getting dramatically less poor. We know income and equality, wages, were all going the right direction.

Now, the Democrats take over, and you flood the society with—what was today's final number, 1.7 million, heading towards 2 million—people of moderate to low skill, and do you understand the economic effects of what you just did to the working poor in this country?

We have some data that we did a couple weeks ago on the floor that showed that by the end of the decade, you will have made the working poor poorer in this country, substantially, because of opening the border. Now, add in inflation.

If you actually take a look at the real earnings, the real earnings, they are negative. People in this country, the working poor, the middle class, they are getting poorer. Do we care? Because it is the math.

It is nice to give these beautiful speeches about how we care, but then when you so screw up the basic economics of society, when you have now devalued their labor by flooding the market with similar skill sets, and now you have so monetized the society that you have cash chasing products and goods, and then you screw up the incentives to work, what did you think was going to happen?

You wonder where is the compassion around here? The working class, that middle class, and the working poor are getting poorer every day in this country because of Democrat policies.

It is a level of cruelty. Can we stop the hemorrhaging? Can we stop the cruelty to these populations? It is not enough to give pretty speeches that you care.

When you start to look at this, when you realize the skyrocketing inflation—yeah, it is the highest in 13 years. But if you do some of the core goods, that if you are on that—I hate the term—lower quartile, where substantial portions of your income go to transportation, food, and rent, it is even higher than this.

Now, we understand from the economists, it is no longer considered transitory. This is Democrat policies at work.

A couple weeks ago we tried to do a simple explanation of supply side, where you use resources, whether they be tax cuts or incentives or getting regulations right to encourage production, and by encouraging production, you make people's labor more valuable and they get paid more. But the society has more goods and products and services to buy, so you don't set off inflation.

You are now living the Democrat stimulus Keynesian model of throw lots and lots and lots of cash at it, but you did nothing to stimulate production. We have lots of cash chasing goods now, but at the same time, all of that cash also encourages people, saying: Hey, maybe I don't really have to work right now.

So you have a fall in labor force participation, you have lots of cash to go buy things, and then you wonder how the supply chains get screwed up. You wonder how you have inflation set off.

We are reliving the 1970s. Did anyone actually buy a textbook? Seriously. If you actually loved and cared for the working class, for the working poor, you would have been embracing 2018 and 2019, which were miracles of no inflation and dramatic wage growth.

Yes, the pandemic has been miserable, but much of this did not have to happen. But it is that arrogance, once again, of Democrat policies. And is it the darkness of, hey, if we send out lots and lots of money in checks, if we are—as the Democrats so-called Build Back Better plan, which is to take the majority of our society and put them on transfer payments—maybe it is great politics. Maybe that is how you become the majority party forever. It is really crappy economics.

So if you start to take a look at just the last 6 months—you remember a couple months ago: This is transitory; it is going to stop? Not stopping, not stopping. Even the Federal Reserve now has updated their numbers. So the talking heads were saying, oh, it is transitory, give the administration a pass. Turns out, we have so structurally screwed up the labor markets, we have so structurally failed to provide the incentives to produce things in our own country and massive amounts of this liquidity are functionally now financing the rest of the world and particularly China. So congratulations once again.

If you actually start to look—and we are going to put up all of these slides on our website so folks can actually have a chance to sort of dive into them—but how prices have changed in a year. When you start to understand—that is gasoline. This is your fuel oil, as we were just talking about; cars. But you start to go over the things that are sort of the bare necessities for so much of our community. We are just kicking them in the head.

Then the arrogance coming out of the White House saying, well, these are sort of, what was it, high-class problems? Come on. Is that really where the heads of the left are? Their excuse is, well—because the basic economics are, if you are a person with assets, you have a house, you have retirement accounts, you own gold, you own other things, you are getting richer. Now, your purchasing power is eroding. But if you don't hold assets or you are a saver, someone trying to save for retirement, these policies are just destroying your economic future.

So let's continue down the line of misery that the Democrats have brought us. If you actually take a look at where we were going after the Tax Cut and Jobs Act and you started to realize what had happened in wages, particularly for female participation, we had the highest female labor force participation in U.S. history. It was off the charts, and their wages had begun to skyrocket.

Do we see anything in the Democrat proposals that will ever bring us back to that? Actually, no. It is actually just the opposite. The University of Chicago study now makes it look like they will incentivize those numbers to continue to go the other direction.

Let's actually take a look—and we started to touch on this. If you are part of that working poor, and you start to understand that what happens on—if you start to break out the world by education level—and I know sometimes this is uncomfortable, because you sort of segment your society. But the reality of it is we actually saw amazing wage growth, just amazing wage growth in 2018, 2019—21-plus percent. And that is the very population that the pandemic smashed into a wall. Now the Democrat policies of inflation, opening up the borders, incentivizing people functionally not to participate in the labor market, they are going to destroy—as a matter of fact, they have already begun to destroy.

Let's look also at the brilliance of the left's proposals of functionally: Let's throw lots and lots and lots of cash at the problem and then try to figure out why that cash functionally is on its way to China to buy things. It was not designed to create a robust manufacturing backbone in this country. You actually incentivize people, saying, well, go out and buy lots of things, engage in consumer—oh, by the way, we did nothing in those policies to have that become the new backbone of productivity and opportunity and jobs in our own country.

The simple proof of this is—have you seen the pictures of the container ships lined up at the port of Long Beach? What do you think is in those? I mean, we are living it; we are looking at it. Yet the talking heads are incapable of trying something new around here, and that would be tell the truth.

So let's do something that is even a little more uncomfortable to talk about. Remember when Vice President Biden was running for President, and repeatedly we were told how if we just had a Democrat Presidency and Democrat unified government, we would see the deaths—and the deaths are miserable and horrible. I have had a couple friends die of COVID—but they would come to an end and the world would be better.

So we have a new President. He is handed multiple vaccines. But how is it possible? How is it possible to have vaccines available to this administration, functionally financed and brought in policy-wise by the previous administration, and then there are more deaths this year than there were last year? Are the Democrats ready to stand up and say: We lied. We made crap up. And the results of not telling the truth and the way they have approached the American people about the vaccines? Are they going to take responsibility for the deaths? Because they sure beat the crap out of Republicans and the last President over this. Should they live by their own words?

Let's talk about the Democrats' tax policy now. We need to tax the rich, right? We have done multiple presentations here on the floor saying maybe we should stop subsidizing the rich. We showed a couple months ago $1.4 trillion over the next 10 years of subsidies that go to the rich. In this case, Democrats actually have something brilliant, saying—this is a great scam—we are going to tax the wealthy, but wink, wink, nod, nod, we are going to actually hand it back to the wealthy in tax credits and subsidies.

Here is a simple example of a family that makes $800,000 a year. The Democrats' tax bill, tax proposal, will hand them $118,000 in tax credits, if you just buy the right electric vehicle and the right solar panels and these things.

This is absurd. You are taking the wealthy in society, you are actually blaming them for not paying their fair share, even though you already saw—I am sure if anyone is literate around here, you saw today's Wall Street Journal talk about you are not actually even getting to the super rich; you are actually attacking the high-income earning rich, because we tax income; we don't tax wealth. But in this case, we are going to build a tax bill saying we are going to raise your taxes, but wink, wink, nod, nod, we are going to hand it back to you in tax credits, as long as you buy what the Democrats tell you to buy.

Yet, if you actually look at what the design of the Democrats' tax plan is, you must understand by the end of the decade, we are all poorer. The society is poorer. The working poor are poorer. The middle class is poorer.

We now have multiple studies—and we are going to talk about these on a number of the slides—where the size of the economy actually shrinks. The number of people working actually shrinks. If you understand our debt problem, if we do not have an incredibly robust economic expansion, we are in real trouble. Yet, this is sort of the dystopian future the Democrats are planning for my 6-year-old daughter and for every American.

You understand, when you add in the spending proposals, in less than 10 years, we are going to be running $2.6 trillion of borrowing every single year. So think of that. Nine years from now when we are working on the budget, just the borrowing package—so in 9 years, the borrowing package, just to finance the spending of baseline government, the entitlements, and the expansion of entitlements, we will be borrowing $2.6-plus trillion every single year. This is the healthy economy we were promised?

□ 1900

So, understand what that means is, in less than 9 years, if the Democrats get their way, we are at 129 percent of debt to GDP, and that is publicly held debt.

Now, you all understand why that number is so incredibly important. When you strip capital out of society, how does the small business get a loan? How does the entrepreneur here get a loan? How about the person who just has a dream and wants to start a business in their garage? They have to compete with government.

Is there this bizarre fantasy that somehow we are going to monetize it? Maybe the fantasy of modern monetary theory, which, as you understand, has been tried many, many, many, many times over history, and it has always ended up very badly.

Do you remember the inflation numbers a few boards ago? Welcome to the dystopian future that the left is bringing us. Look, the baseline number was already crappy. It was over 106 percent of GDP. With the Democrats' additional proposal, it goes from about 106 to 129 percent. This is a miserable future for this country, and this is being brought to you by Joe Biden and our beloved Democrat friends.

I know they mean well; at least, I like to believe they do. But they have to see these same numbers. Most of these are based on CBO projections. You start to see other things happening in society because of Democrat policies that really, really are starting to take effect right now. We are seeing some numbers that we need to understand between now and the end of the year. There are some economic numbers from us on the Joint Economic Committee that are becoming incredibly uncomfortable.

This is sort of an odd one that popped up the other day. It turns out, we are having this sudden huge spike of individuals dropping out of the labor force. But what happens when you have a substantial spike of folks who are just saying, ''I am going to retire''?

One of the miracles of 2018, 2019 is we saw our brothers and sisters coming back into the labor force because wages were going up, and there were so many opportunities. How can there be a world right now where we say we have over 10 million open jobs, yet we are seeing huge dropouts of the labor market?

This is a chart that basically says we had, what is it, 1½ million-plus older Americans decide, ''I am going to take early retirement.'' What is so dark about this number is a huge, huge, huge portion of those have almost no savings.

They are taking early retirement, going to live on Social Security instead of what we were seeing in 2018, 2019 as the economy grew. We were actually seeing poverty of seniors falling because many of them had taken part-time or had taken some work. Now the reverse trend has happened.

What has happened in the psyche of Americans, of our brothers and sisters out there? We are already seeing millions of Americans of traditional working age disappearing from the labor pool, so they are not counted in unemployment because they are not looking. But they are in that baseline number we call labor force participation. I know this is geeky, but it is really important.

You cannot have a growing, healthy, prosperous society if you build so many disincentives in your public policy that not working or dropping out or retiring early is where your head is at.

According to the University of Chicago, the Democrats' plan to expand the child tax credit would cause a million and a half workers to exit the labor force. On the conservative side, we have actually made multiple proposals of how to do some creative things with the earned income tax credit so you actually help the working poor and you make working more valuable, more attractive.

But the Democrats' proposal is now to delink a monthly check from participating in society, participating in the economy, building skill sets, building an economic future for yourself, your retirement, for your children.

And now we actually start to see the academic studies coming in that we are going to lose a million and a half workers just on this one line item.

It truly is almost dystopian that the left can get behind the microphones, say these warm, fuzzy things, but the economists are sitting there shaking in their boots, saying we tried versions of this in the 1970s, and it did not work well. And now we are doing it in a time where our demographics are a real headwind and our debt load is crushing.

We actually have some proof that also demonstrates that the President and the Democrats said a lot of things that just weren't true because the data now is in on the States that ended the early, we will call it the SPIF on unemployment. It turns out they represent a small portion of this country's population because I think there was only, what, 13 States that did it, and there are like 20, 23, whatever they are, a small percentage of the Nation's population, but they are over half the job growth.

The data is absolutely clear. The States that actually ended the unemployment SPIF, the enhanced unemployment, had dramatically better economic growth, job growth.

Once again, is having a job, is economic prosperity, is economic growth moral? Because if it is, then what the Democrats are doing is absolutely immoral.

You start to see the Byzantine structure of all the tax hikes that the left is proposing, and we may do some of this next week. What is so crushing about this is to even get close to their spending requirements, it doesn't produce enough revenues.

I keep getting asked over and over, and saying okay, the Democrats aren't dumb. There are probably a few of them that actually do own calculators. They have to understand that their spending proposal in this environment will be incredibly destructive to opportunity in society.

We have lots of charts. You need to go through these other studies that basically show the transfer payment model the Democrats are pushing ends social mobility in this country. If you are poor, you are going to stay poor. If you are middle class, you stay middle class.

In this country, do you really think our societal social fabric is going to hold when you have no opportunity to move upward and sometimes even downward, that we are going to basically become a European transfer payment, socialist society; that the class you are born into is where you stay, no matter how hard you work, the schooling you go to, because that stagnation is what every study says?

The other part that is also perverse is the Democrats have to also understand the receipts, revenues, that would be produced by all these taxes don't come close to covering all their spending.

It is obvious. They are setting up our country to actually have to do other layers of taxes. Are they going to sweep retirement accounts? Well, that is where a bunch of the cash is. Are we basically going to move to a VAT, a value-added tax, so each step of production we tax? Are you going to have to add some sort of tariff or border tax? Because right now, none of this works. None of the math works.

The final slide here is a congratulations to President Biden and the Democrats' policies because they did something none of us thought was possible. Remember when we started this year in January, this was going to be one of the most robust economic growth years in history? There were discussions that we were going to be 6-plus percent GDP growth.

As of yesterday, GDP growth from the Atlanta Fed calculator is 0.5. One-half of one percent is our economic GDP projection for this quarter, proving at some point policies really do matter, the people you elect really do matter, and the amount of pain this is going to cause to so many people because the opportunity, the growth in their wages has now been crushed by these policies.

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

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on October 14, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 4981. To amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, to modify certain deadlines relating to the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking.

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 7 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1508, the Guidance Clarity Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–2473. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Office of General Councel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedule for Rating Disabilities; The Genitourinary Diseases and Conditions (RIN: 2900-AQ71) received October 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2474. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Elimination of the Voluntary Trichinae Certification Program [Docket No.: APHIS-2020-0065] (RIN: 0579-AE59) received October 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–2475. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's statement of final policy — Statement of Policy Regarding Minority Depository Institutions (RIN: 3064-ZA19) received October 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2476. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act; Validity of Visa [Public Notice: 11458] (RIN: 1400-AE82) received September 30, 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–2477. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–2478. A letter from the Supervisor, Executive Services Operations Staff, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting two notifications of a change in previously submitted reported information and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2479. A letter from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's annual submission regarding agency compliance with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and revised

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2480. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — ONRR 2020 Valuation Reform and Civil Penalty Rule: Delay of Effective Date; Request for Public Comment [Docket No.: ONRR-2020-0001; DS63644000 DRT000000.CH7000 212D1113RT] (RIN: 1012-AA27) received October 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2481. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — ONRR 2020 Valuation Reform and Civil Penalty Rule: Final Withdrawal Rule [Docket No.: ONRR-2020-0001; DS63644000 DRT000000.CH7000 212D1113RT] (RIN: 1012-AA27) received October 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2482. A letter from the Agency Representative, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Trademark Classification Changes [Docket No.: PTO-T-2021-0041] (RIN: 0651-AD57) received October 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 727. Resolution relating to the consideration of House Report 117–152 and an accompanying resolution (Rept. 117–153). 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 Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 5635. A bill to provide for the establishment of an interagency working group to combat the theft of United States intellectual property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 5636. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for naturalization processes for the immediate relatives of public safety officers who die as a result of their employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. AXNE (for herself, Mr. RYAN, and Mrs. DEMINGS):

H.R. 5637. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to ensure that each office of the Social Security Administration and each State agency that makes disability determinations are fully staffed with employees to answer calls during business hours, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5638. A bill to require the Congressional Budget Office to make publicly available the fiscal and mathematical models, data, and other details of computations used in cost analysis and scoring; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. STANTON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 5639. A bill to require disclosure of foreign government subsidies in the premerger notification process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:

H.R. 5640. A bill to ban the Federal procurement of certain drones and other unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5641. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to increase the threshold for eligibility for assistance under sections 403, 406, 407, and 502 of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 5642. A bill to make any individual who is demonstrated to have antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19 exempt from any Federal mandate for vaccination against COVID-19; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 5643. A bill to require additional disclosures with respect to nominees to serve as chiefs of missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. VAN DUYNE):

H.R. 5644. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow refunds of Federal motor fuel excise taxes on fuels used in mobile mammography vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 5645. A bill to require the evaluation and standardization of suicide prevention efforts by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5646. A bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to provide technical assistance and training to State and local courts to improve the constitutional and equitable enforcement of fines and fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 5647. A bill to terminate certain lifetime benefits provided to former Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, 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. POCAN (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 5648. A bill to subject certain private funds to joint and several liability with respect to the liabilities of firms acquired and controlled by those funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 5649. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for relocating manufacturing to the United States, permanent full expensing for qualified property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 5650. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16605 East Avenue of the Fountains in Fountain Hills, Arizona, as the ''Dr. C.T. Wright Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. DEAN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEIJER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. MFUME, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BASS, and Mr. KELLER):

H.R. 5651. A bill to establish a grant program for States for purposes of modernizing criminal justice data infrastructure to facilitate automated record sealing and expungement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 5652. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Acquisition Review Board in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MAST, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 5653. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify certain allotments under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JACKSON:

H. Res. 728. A resolution commemorating the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Sheppard Air Force Base and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HILL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. KILMER):

H. Res. 729. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of October 2021 as ''National Dyslexia Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:
H.R. 5635.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 9, clause 7

By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 5636.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I
Section 8
Clause 4

By Mrs. AXNE:
H.R. 5637.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DAVIDSON:
H.R. 5638.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for 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. FITZGERALD:
H.R. 5639.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:
H.R. 5640.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5641.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. ISSA:
H.R. 5642.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:
H.R. 5643.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5644.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:
H.R. 5645.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S.C.

By Mr. NADLER:
H.R. 5646.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. NORMAN:
H.R. 5647.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:
H.R. 5648.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ROY:
H.R. 5649.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:
H.R. 5650.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws 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. TRONE:
H.R. 5651.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. VAN DREW:
H.R. 5652.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. WALTZ:
H.R. 5653.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I, Clause 3, and Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 310: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 366: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 432: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 475: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 541: Mr. COMER.
H.R. 764: Mr. POCAN and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 841: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 869: Mr. MOONEY and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 971: Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 1193: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1259: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 1316: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 1416: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 1476: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1577: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 1753: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 1884: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1918: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1946: Mr. POSEY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 1948: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BUSH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1977: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 1990: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 2020: Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 2089: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2144: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 2152: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 2230: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2240: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2249: Mr. COSTA, Mr. BERA, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2255: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2269: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 2307: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 2377: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 2396: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2447: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2510: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 2515: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 2517: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2654: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2728: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2794: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2840: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2954: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 2963: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2972: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3042: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 3079: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3089: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3203: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3265: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 3281: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3297: Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3305: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 3337: Ms. STANSBURY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SIRES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 3352: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 3440: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3446: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 3455: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 3517: Mr. BABIN and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3525: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 3529: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3541: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 3549: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3577: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 3587: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 3635: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 3657: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 3749: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3759: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILD, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3800: Mrs. TORRES of California.
H.R. 3816: Mr. BABIN and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 3820: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 3829: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 3843: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3860: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 3884: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BASS, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3897: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 3944: Mr. ARMSTRONG and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 3962: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 3994: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 4007: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4038: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 4073: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 4141: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 4146: Ms. CRAIG and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4150: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4268: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CROW, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 4319: Mr. COOPER and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 4323: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4331: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 4385: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 4387: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4402: Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 4449: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 4479: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4552: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4565: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 4624: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. KELLER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. KILMER, and Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 4642: Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 4651: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 4677: Ms. MENG, Mr. BOWMAN, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 4698: Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 4751: Ms. MENG, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MANNING, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4764: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 4833: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4893: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 4942: Mr. BROWN.
H.R. 5038: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 5047: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 5048: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5141: Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5167: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 5206: Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 5221: Mr. CASE and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 5235: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5255: Mr. CASE and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 5274: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 5307: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 5333: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 5338: Ms. PORTER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CROW, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 5342: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 5360: Mr. CLINE and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5363: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 5421: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 5423: Mr. BEYER, Ms. CHU, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 5450: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 5451: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 5464: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5482: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5487: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 5494: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 5498: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 5514: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 5531: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5543: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 5545: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 5549: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 5552: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 5553: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 5572: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 5577: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5581: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5586: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. BARR, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 5602: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5605: Mr. CARSON and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5606: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 5608: Mr. MEIJER.
H.R. 5609: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5612: Mr. RUSH.
H.J. Res. 58: Mr. WALTZ.
H.J. Res. 60: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H. Res. 47: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 69: Mr. COOPER and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H. Res. 382: Mr. WENSTRUP and Ms. CHU.
H. Res. 445: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WELCH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MEIJER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. RUSH, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H. Res. 565: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. NEWMAN.
H. Res. 566: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H. Res. 569: Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. LIEU, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCCAUL, and Ms. TENNEY.
H. Res. 575: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H. Res. 587: Mr. VAN DREW.
H. Res. 641: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 670: Ms. TITUS and Mr. YARMUTH.
H. Res. 694: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. FEENSTRA.
H. Res. 724: Mrs. TORRES of California and Ms. STRICKLAND.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1297: Mr. STEWART, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 No. 184

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, Jr., a Senator from the State of Maine.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of all nations, Lord of all people, thank You for this land that has received Your blessings.

Lord, throughout our Nation's history, You have saved us from calamities. You have blessed us, even when we have failed to live up to our great heritage of freedom.

Today, empower our Senators to protect and guard the foundations of our liberty. Remind them that eternal vigilance continues to be the price we must pay for freedom. When our lawmakers are weary, replenish them with the inspiration of Your presence, as they remember Your promise never to forsake them. Bellow the flickering embers of their hearts until their lives are aglow with the fires of patriotism, vision, and hope.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, Jr., a Senator from the State of Maine, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KING 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 Democratic leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there are six bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3005) establishing appropriate thresholds for certain budget points of order in the Senate, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3006) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to extend the discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2022 through 2031.

A bill (S. 3007) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to extend the discretionary spending limits.

A bill (S. 3008) to establish the Federal Rainy Day Fund to control emergency spending.

A bill (S. 3009) to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to remove the prohibition on States and territories against lowering their taxes.

A bill (S. 3010) to cap noninterest Federal spending as a percentage of potential GDP to right-size the Government, grow the economy, and balance the budget.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

FREEDOM TO VOTE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for over 240 years, the story of American democracy has been an inexorable march toward universal suffrage—toward the realization of that sacred principle that all citizens should have a voice in selecting their leaders.

The grand ideal had humble beginnings. At the time of the Constitution's ratification, hardly 1 in 10 Americans would have been even eligible to vote.

If you were not White, not a landowner, not a male, and not a Protestant, chances were that the democracy did not apply to you; chances were that you were cut out of the political process.

It took over two centuries of Americans marching, fighting, and dying for the promise of freedom to expand to our citizens, regardless of race or gender or creed, the right to vote.

But for every two steps forward, sometimes there are those who try to pull us one step back. Unfortunately, we find ourselves today in the midst of such a struggle.

Across the country, the Big Lie—the Big Lie—has spread like a cancer, as many States across the Nation have passed the most draconian restrictions against voting that we have seen in decades. If nothing is done, these laws will make it harder for millions of Americans to participate in their government.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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If there is anything worthy of the Senate's attention, if there is any issue that merits debate on this floor, it is protecting our democracy from the forces that are trying to unravel it from the inside out.

That is why this afternoon, the U.S. Senate will vote to begin debate on the Freedom to Vote Act.

The Freedom to Vote Act is a balanced, effective, and commonsense proposal that will fortify our democracy and protect Americans' right to vote. It sets basic standards for all Americans to vote safely and securely, no matter what ZIP Code they live in. It adopts proven reforms that will protect voters from both parties, whether they live in blue States or red States or purple States. It fights back against the power of dark money in politics and ends the toxic practice of partisan gerrymandering. And, all the while, it respects the rightful authority of States to carry out their elections.

At its core, the Freedom to Vote Act rests on a simple principle: Americans must be able to freely choose their leaders, and those leaders must be accountable to the people, not to well-heeled donors.

These are policies all Americans can get behind. When was the last time we heard Americans cheer about dark money in our elections or the pervasiveness of partisan gerrymandering? What sort of voter would willingly choose to make voting harder—arbitrarily harder—when it should be easy, safe, and secure? The Freedom to Vote Act would provide long-overdue remedies for all these concerns.

Now, crafting this bill, as you know, Mr. President, was no easy feat. It took months of hard work, compromise, and gathering feedback from experts on sensible policies that have been proven to work. I want to thank all of my colleagues who dedicated their energies to making this moment possible, and I want to especially thank Senator MANCHIN for his hard work over the past few weeks. He has reached across the aisle to try and find a way for the Senate to do its work in a bipartisan fashion. I thank him for his commitment to finding bipartisanship on a subject that, by all accounts, should be bipartisan to its core and has been for much of our history.

Now, today's vote is a cloture vote simply on a motion to proceed. It presents Senators with a simple question: Should the Senate even debate—debate—voting rights? That is what this is about, simply a debate and an important one to be sure.

No Republican is being asked to sign their name to this or that policy today, but they are being asked to come to the table and have a discussion and allow amendments. I want to be clear. If Republicans join us in proceeding to this bill, I am prepared to hold a full-fledged debate worthy of the U.S. Senate. The minority will have the chance to have their voices heard.

The Senate has already voted on more amendments than in any year under former-President Trump, and on this legislation, again Republican Senators would be able to offer amendments. But for that to happen, we have to get on the bill today.

What we can't accept is a situation where one side is calling for bipartisan debate and bipartisan cooperation while the other refuses to even engage in a dialogue. If our Republican colleagues don't like our ideas, they have a responsibility to present their own. It is ludicrous for any Republican to assert that the Federal Government has no role to play in safeguarding elections when State laws disenfranchise American citizens.

I invite them to read the Constitution of the United States of America, which precisely empowers Congress to regulate the ''times, places, and manners'' of holding elections. I invite them to look at modern American history, when the Senate stepped into the breach numerous times when Jim Crow States sought to restrict the right to vote.

There is a long and hallowed tradition of the Senate, often in a bipartisan coalition, working to protect access to the franchise, and today our colleagues should vote to begin debate for how we can add to that legacy. But what Republicans should not do—they must not do—is squelch any chance—any chance—for the Senate to debate something as critical, as sacrosanct, as American as the right to vote. The clock is ticking on our chance to take meaningful action.

Our experiment in democracy has been the greatest feat of self-rule in all of modern history. We cannot allow it to backslide here in the 21st century. Today, we have a chance to begin debate on how we can prevent that from happening, but Republicans must join us in the debate and vote to allow debate to proceed. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

BUILD BACK BETTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on another matter, BBB, Build Back Better, even as we work to push legislation in defense of our democracy, Senate Democrats are also making good progress on reaching an agreement on President Biden's Build Back Better plan.

Yesterday, Senate Democrats had a very spirited and very positive caucus lunch to go over the latest outstanding items before we can all reach a deal. We walked out of that lunch united in our desire to reach an agreement this week. I believe we can get it done, and I want to thank all my colleagues for their leadership, diligence, and focus on reaching an end result. We are going to keep talking to each other all week long until we get the job done.

Later this morning, I will speak again with the Speaker and with the White House to go over the latest details of the President's proposal. I have spoken to the President just about every day and Speaker PELOSI several times a day about these issues. I will continue meeting with my caucus to try and keep us all on the same page because be on the same page we must. Everyone is going to have to compromise if we are going to find that legislative sweet spot we can all get behind.

Nobody will get everything they want, but no matter what, our final proposal will deliver the core promise we made to the American people: We will take bold action against the climate crisis while creating millions of new, good-paying jobs; we will expand economic opportunity and lower costs for working Americans; and we will cut taxes for working and middle-class Americans while asking the wealthy to pay their fair share. In short, we will deliver on a bill that dramatically improves the lives of millions and millions and millions of American families.

We are getting closer to an agreement. We want to finalize a deal by the end of this week, but we all must keep moving together.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, and finally on nominations, yesterday, I was proud to announce my recommendation of a great New Yorker and a great friend to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica, Nick Perry, of my hometown of Brooklyn. I cannot think of a better person to represent our country in Jamaica than Assemblyman Perry. If confirmed, he would be the first-ever Jamaican-born American to hold that post.

I always ask folks when I am in Brooklyn, ''What is the biggest island in the Caribbean?'' I tell them it is a trick question. They guess, ''Well, maybe it is Haiti; maybe it is Barbados; maybe it is Cuba.'' I say, ''No, it is Brooklyn,'' which has more Caribbean immigrants than anywhere else.

So Nick Perry's nomination is great news for our community and our country. For decades, Assemblyman Perry has served Brooklyn by doing things the old-fashioned way: working hard, never resting on his laurels, and earning the trust of the people he represents. He is a true American success story: an immigrant, a veteran of the Army, and a graduate of Brooklyn College. I know he will do excellent work as our next Ambassador.

From Patrick Ewing to KRS-One, from Vice President KAMALA HARRIS to Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, to the late General Powell, Jamaican Americans hold a key place in our Nation's rich legacy. Nick Perry will continue adding to this legacy, as he has for decades, and I am proud to support him as a nominee for Ambassador.

And, finally, today, the Senate will also move forward on Catherine Lhamon to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. All her career, Ms. Lhamon has

been an unshakeable champion for civil rights and for all students who want a fair shake in their education. This would be the second time she serves as Assistant Secretary, so she has the experience, the leadership, and the dedication to stand up for students from all walks of life—something sorely lacking under the previous administration.

I look forward to confirming her nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Federal Government's own analysts of the energy sector are predicting that this winter American families could face home heating bills that are 54 percent higher than last year—54 percent higher than just last year. On average, the price for our households running on natural gas is expected to jump 30 percent. For homes that use propane, a different assessment says the forecast looks like ''propane-market Armageddon.''

As the head of one aid organization put it, ''After the beating that people have taken in the pandemic, it's like: What's next?'' What is next? Well, astonishingly, what is next is yet another reckless taxing-and-spending spree from Washington Democrats, including more inflationary spending to push costs even higher and more anti-domestic-energy taxes and regulations that would only compound these problems.

That includes new, crushing taxes aimed at domestic natural gas production. They want to reprise the Obama administration's War on Coal. But this time the target is also—in addition to coal, the target is also the natural gas that provides electricity for our communities and heats families' homes. And then there are the new mandates and new penalties that are essentially designed to make 49 States' electrical grids move more in the direction of California's—paying higher costs for less reliable power.

Now, unfortunately, this has been the Biden administration's playbook going back to the very beginning. Remember, killing the Keystone XL Pipeline and thousands of American jobs was a day one—a day one—priority. Then it was the ban on new development of domestic energy reserves and the hasty mission to rejoin the toothless Paris climate accords, where virtually nobody—nobody—but America seems to be remotely interested in achieving their nonbinding ''commitments.''

So for all the leftwing's apparent urgency to pass radical climate policy, they seem not to care much about tackling the biggest sources of the world's carbon emissions. The so-called international community that had scraped together the failed Paris deal could only get the world's most prolific polluter, that is, China, to agree—now, listen to this—to curb its increase in emissions 9 years from now. That is all they got out of China: an agreement to curb their emissions 9 years from now.

That is what this administration calls a good deal? America signs up for self-inflicted pain today, and China maybe—maybe—thinks about beginning to follow suit in another decade.

So, listen, China continues to produce more than one-fourth—one-fourth—of the world's carbon output, roughly 2½ times as much as the United States.

Instead of fighting back against our adversaries, Democrats' reckless taxing-and-spending spree would just hand-deliver them one big gift right after another, like the big new tax hikes on American businesses that would leave our industries paying higher tax rates than businesses in communist China; like doubling down on the anti-energy policies that already have the Biden administration going hat in hand to Russia and OPEC and begging them to up their own production for us.

As our colleague Senator BARRASSO pointed out yesterday, before the Biden administration took over, America was enjoying energy independence for the first time in seven decades. Before the Biden administration took over, America was enjoying energy independence for the first time in seven decades, but now, we are heading the other way. America has doubled our oil purchases from Russia on President Biden's watch. We are twice as dependent on Russian oil today as we were before this administration took power. And President Biden green-lighted Putin's new gas pipeline that will give Moscow even more leverage over the European continent.

So Democrats want our Nation on a path toward less energy independence and higher costs for working families. Their reckless taxing-and-spending spree would make it all dramatically worse.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, our country would be much better off if our Democratic colleagues shelved their radical wish list and focused on their fundamental responsibilities as a one-party government. But while they continue to spin their wheels negotiating this reckless taxing-and-spending spree, their most basic jobs are being neglected.

This week, already months behind the usual pace, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee released partisan drafts of spending bills that are dead on arrival. They spend too much. They cut our longstanding taxpayer protections like the Hyde amendment. They shortchange our national defense even as we face serious and growing threats from terrorism and from major competitors like China and Russia. Most of these bills can't earn 50 votes, much less 60.

When Republicans ran the Senate, by this time of year, we had had bipartisan frameworks in hand for months, and we were hammering out the fine details across the aisle. Our Democratic colleagues are way, way behind schedule, with no solution in sight.

It is also looking increasingly likely that we will reach Veterans Day before the Senate takes up the National Defense Authorization Act—now, never mind that this year's bill earned overwhelming, bipartisan support in committee; never mind that it represents this body's single most important opportunity to influence national security. Our troops are being put in the back seat so the socialists can drive the car.

At the end of the month, because House liberals still cannot get their act together and pass the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which the Senate passed months ago, major highway projects and American workers are scheduled to be thrown into limbo.

Our Democratic colleagues have unified control of the government—unified control of the government. The country needs them to stop arguing among themselves over how to waste trillions of dollars and get about executing their most basic jobs.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on one final matter, later today, the Democratic leader will have the Senate vote on the latest iteration of his party's election takeover scheme.

Frankly, I have just about lost count of how many times our Democratic colleagues have tried to truss up the same takeover with new trappings. For multiple years running, Washington Democrats have offered a rotating merry-go-round of rationale to explain why they need to federalize voting laws and take over all of America's elections themselves, but every time they try this shtick in the Senate, it falls flat. Today will be no exception.

This latest umpteenth iteration is only a compromise in the sense that the left and the far left argued among themselves about exactly how much power to grab and in which areas. This latest bill still subjects popular, commonsense election integrity protections like voter ID to the whims of

Federal bureaucrats. It still sends government money to political campaigns—government money, taxpayers' money, to political campaigns, for goodness' sake. It still puts Washington in the middle of the States' redistricting decisions and on and on. The same rotten core is all still there.

The Senate knows how to make a law in a productive, bipartisan way. We have done it this year on multiple subjects. We have done it on election issues themselves in recent memory—the Help America Vote Act 20 years ago that Chris Dodd and I put together. We did that when there was an actual problem that needed solving and an actual bipartisan process. But as long as Senate Democrats remain fixated on their radical agenda, this body will continue to do the job the Framers assigned it and stop terrible ideas in their tracks.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). 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 Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know we are going to be voting soon, but I wanted to comment. I hope that Democrats and Republicans can rise above party to come together to protect our precious right to vote. I know, in Vermont, we do that. We make it very clear that voting is a right. Everybody can vote. We try to make it as clear and open as possible. People can be in jail for a crime; they still have a right to vote. We do not take it from anybody. You can vote right until the last minute. You can get absentee ballots. As a result, we have an overwhelming vote in Vermont—one of the highest percentages in the country.

Some suggest, well, you do it to favor one party or the other. I just point to the last election. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor are elected separately in our State. We elected a Republican as Governor and a Democrat as Lieutenant Governor. It went back and forth like that all the way across the ballot.

It is just an example that we just want people to vote. And the timing right now couldn't be more urgent. In the wake of the Supreme Court's Shelby and Brnovich decisions, dozens of States are trying to restrict access to the ballot for tens of thousands of Americans, even millions of Americans—minority voters, the elderly, rural voters, student voters, the disabled, and others. These are the people we protect in my State.

The threats to the voting rights of any American are threats to all Americans. Indeed, they are threats to America, itself.

I am glad the Senate has taken much-needed action this week on the Freedom to Vote Act. It is a vital piece of legislation. It establishes commonsense rules of the road for voting procedures and ensures equal access to the ballot box for all Americans.

This bill is a compromise version of the original S. 1, and I note it reflects good faith efforts to broaden support for the legislation here in the Senate. I look forward to supporting this legislation on the floor. I can only hope it doesn't fall prey to the knee-jerk partisanship we have seen all too often lately in the Senate.

I am also proud to have recently introduced the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. That is a bill I have long championed and sponsored. This legislation would restore the core pillars of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that have been gutted by the Supreme Court's damaging and strange Shelby and Brnovich decisions.

But it also would provide critical protections to Native American communities across the country, including Alaska Native communities. This bill would fundamentally restore the Justice Department's powers to oversee and prevent harmful discriminatory changes to voting laws and procedures.

How can anybody stand up and say, ''I am a proud American, but I am going to let some of these legislative bodies do things that will stop other Americans from voting''?

If you are a proud American and really mean it, then you want every single American—I don't care what their political party is, they should be able to vote.

I am working extremely hard to build bipartisan support for this bill, which—especially the past few Congresses—has been overwhelmingly bipartisan. I am optimistic we can arrive at a good bipartisan compromise that can serve as a starting point for continued bipartisan discussions here in the Senate.

You wouldn't know it if you listened to the partisan sound bites and Twitter wars in the modern media era, but this goal—protecting our right to vote—was never a partisan issue.

Our hero, a man I loved and was proud to serve with, John Lewis, once said:

> We all know this is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is an American one.

Well, truer words haven't been spoken. John Lewis was absolutely right. This is an American issue. If you believe in democracy, you believe in the right for everybody to vote. For those of us who run for elected office, I have always fought in Vermont to make sure everybody could vote, knowing that there were some sections of the State where there may be a majority voting against me. I have always insisted everybody be able to vote. That is democracy.

The core provisions of the act have been reauthorized five times—five times. Every single time it was with overwhelmingly bipartisan support in Congress. Republicans and Democrats alike voted for it. President Nixon, President Reagan, President George W. Bush proudly signed Voting Rights Act reauthorizations into law. Those Presidents—Presidents Nixon, Reagan, George W. Bush—spoke of the profound importance of the landmark law for our democracy.

In fact, just to show how it goes, the most recent Voting Rights Act reauthorization in 2006—you know what the vote was in the U.S. Senate: 98 to 0.

Some people feel we couldn't get a vote like that to say the sun rises in the East. But the fact is, every Republican, every Democrat said we need this to make sure Americans vote. It is not a case of saying Democrats vote or Republicans vote or Independents vote; it is Americans vote and we want all Americans to.

You know, the toxic partisanship of American politics today has sadly obscured what has united us across party lines for so long. The belief that protecting our right to vote—the very right that gives democracy its name—that is bigger than party or politics. It is the belief that a system of self-government—a government of, by, and for the people—is one that is worth preserving not only today, but for generations to come. It is the belief the government exists to serve the will of the people, not the other way around.

If I can just wear my hat as dean of the Senate—one who has been privileged to serve here all these years—I ask Senators, let's get back to doing things the way we have always done them: reaching across the aisle in good faith, meeting each other in the middle, legislate to protect the rights of the American people.

Even after all these years, I still have faith the Senate can serve as the conscience of the Nation. I believe it can shine a light on the path forward even on the most difficult, seemingly insurmountable issues. I believe we can do that again now on the fundamental issue of voting rights. So let's get to work. Our democracy—indeed our country as we know it—may very well depend upon it.

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. 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.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week, President Biden's Chief of Staff retweeted a tweet from Harvard economist Jason Furman describing our current economic challenges—notably, the growing inflation crisis and supply chain issues—as ''high class problems.''

''High class problems.''

Well, I guess working Americans struggling to stretch their paychecks to cover increases in the price of everything from groceries to gas can comfort themselves with the knowledge that they are experiencing ''high class problems.''

The White House Chief of Staff's tone-deaf tweet was, unfortunately, pretty typical of a White House that seems eager to minimize or disclaim responsibility for most of the problems occurring on its watch, whether it is the flood of illegal immigration across our southern border or the high prices Americans are currently facing.

But as the White House Chief of Staff and the President should know, inflation has become a serious problem for working Americans. Inflation, of course, hits middle- and low-income families hard.

If you are wealthy, price increases may be an annoyance, but they are not likely to break the budget. If you are living paycheck to paycheck, on the other hand, price increases may mean the difference between making it to the next paycheck or running out of money mid-month.

Currently, inflation is costing a typical household $175 a month, and that is according to Moody's Analytics. That may not sound like much to a wealthy Democratic politician, but for an ordinary American family, it is a lot of money.

That $175 a month may be the difference between whether or not parents can afford to get braces for their daughter. It may be the difference between going to visit family for Christmas or staying home and not seeing them. It may be the difference between having money for the extras, like family dinners at a restaurant or little league fees or ballet lessons or just being able to cover the bare necessities.

For families making less than the median U.S. income, $100 or more a month can be the difference between making it to the next paycheck or running out of money. It can mean the difference between paying the heating bill or going cold during the winter.

Americans have seen increases in food prices and the price of bacon or beef or poultry, pork, peanut butter, fruits and vegetables, eggs, and the list goes on. The price of children's shoes is up. So is the price of furniture and gas and electricity and rent.

A recent AP article entitled ''Winter heating bills set to jump as inflation hits home'' noted ''the U.S. Government said . . . it expects households to see their heating bills jump as much as 54 percent compared to last winter.''

Fifty-four percent.

Show me the working family that can easily absorb that increase. Inflation happens when you have too much money, too many dollars chasing too few of goods.

Democrats helped trigger our inflation situation earlier this year when they decided to pour a lot of unnecessary government money into the economy, despite being warned their partisan $1.9 trillion spending bill could stoke inflation.

Now, with inflation clearly becoming a long-term problem, Democrats are preparing to double down on the government spending with a massive $3.5 trillion tax-and-spending bill filled with priorities like $200 million for a park in Speaker PELOSI's district—a park that features luxury housing and a golf course—and billions of dollars for a Civilian Climate Corps to provide government jobs for climate activists.

The massive government spending this bill—the biggest expansion of government, for sure, in decades, maybe in history—would authorize would pretty much guarantee that our country would be left with an even more persistent and widespread inflation problem.

Flooding the economy with government dollars isn't even the only way that the bill will contribute to inflation. The bill also contains big tax hikes on businesses, which are already raising prices thanks to the higher cost of shipping and materials and the challenges of hiring an adequate workforce. Raising taxes on those businesses could result in even higher consumer prices and/or reductions in the quality of services provided to consumers.

Government revenue for fiscal year 2021 saw a huge increase, driven in large part by tax receipts from corporations and well-off Americans. Those are the same companies and individuals the Democrats like to accuse of not paying their fair share.

But since Democrats' appetite for government spending is apparently insatiable, record-high government revenues don't look likely to stop them from passing their huge tax increases and driving up prices for consumers further.

Along with the flood of government spending Democrats passed in the spring, another major contributor to our inflation crisis has been supply chain bottlenecks. The White House has largely failed to do anything to address the problem.

The President finally took one step forward when he announced the other day that the Port of Los Angeles will join the Port of Long Beach in operating 24/7.

Well, it is about time. Major ports around the globe already operate around the clock, but here in the United States, unions have largely stood in the way of round-the-clock operations. And even now, the Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach will not be fully 24/7 for a while. Only one of the container terminals is currently open around the clock, and then only for part of the week. The others are only slowly moving toward 24-hour operations with no deadline in sight.

Other than moving toward 24/7 operations in Los Angeles, however, the President is doing almost nothing to address the supply chain bottleneck. Infrastructure upgrades for ports, trucking, and rail are stuck in limbo while Democrats debate their $3.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree.

And, while the President's Transportation Secretary has talked about loosening trucking regulations, his Department is actually pursuing an aggressive regulatory agenda that is likely to make transporting goods around this country more, not less, difficult.

And I don't even want to think about the transportation challenges that are likely to result from the government mandates and regulations that will emerge from the Democrats' $3.5 trillion tax-and-spending spree.

It is unfortunate that Democrat elites cannot seem to grasp that inflation is a serious problem for working families and that the solution to our inflation problem is not to flood our economy with even more government money. If Democrats succeed in passing their reckless tax-and-spending spree, high inflation may be the order of the day for many, many days to come.

Let's hope that Democrats think better of their spending plans before American families end up paying the price.

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. 414, Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tina

Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

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 Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 418 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being evenly divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The motion is agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Madam President. It is good to see you here today.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Good to see you.

NOMINATION OF CATHERINE ELIZABETH LHAMON

Mrs. MURRAY. I come to the floor today to support strongly the confirmation of Catherine Lhamon to serve as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education.

She is extremely qualified for this role. In fact, she has served in it before. In 2013, Ms. Lhamon was confirmed to the same role by voice vote. During her past tenure, she demonstrated her commitment to students across the country as she worked to combat sexual assault on college campuses, protect transgender students, reduce the use of seclusion and restraint, reduce disparities in school discipline based on a student's race or disability, and enforce civil rights laws to protect students.

Unfortunately, the previous administration took major steps backwards when it came to supporting and protecting students—for example, by significantly reducing efforts to enforce civil rights protections and rescinding important policies to address campus sexual assault.

Now, as we know, the pandemic has also done serious damage and worsened deep-seated inequities for students whose families earn low incomes, students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities.

We have a lot of work ahead to fix this and help our schools rebuild stronger and fairer, which is why I am especially glad to see Secretary Cardona and President Biden working so hard to right the wrongs of the last administration and support our schools through this pandemic.

I know Ms. Lhamon will be a critical, capable partner in those efforts because not only did she tackle many of these challenges in her past service as Assistant Secretary, but even after her service in the Obama administration, Ms. Lhamon continued fighting for civil rights through her time as the Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, her work litigating civil rights cases with the National Center for Youth Law, and as legal affairs secretary to the Governor of California.

She currently serves the Biden administration as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director to the Domestic Policy Council for Racial Justice and Equity.

Ms. Lhamon is a highly qualified nominee. She has a long track record that proves she is a champion for students through and through, and that is exactly what our students need. I am thrilled to have her returning to the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights. I urge all of our colleagues to join me in voting for her confirmation.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The Senator from Kansas.

FIFA WORLD CUP

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am joined on the floor today by my colleague from Missouri, Senator BLUNT, and we rise today to welcome the FIFA World Cup selection committee to Kansas City and to express our strong support for Kansas City's bid to serve as the 2026 World Cup host city.

I express my gratitude to the leadership of Mayor Quinton Lucas and to the leadership of Kathy Nelson from the Kansas City sporting authority, the president and CEO.

Our community, our joint community—Kansas City, people may know, is on two sides of the State line—the Missouri side of the State line and the Kansas side of the State line. Sometimes we are rivals, but in many instances, we are allies and friends, and that is the circumstance we are here today.

Kansas City boasts a rich history of both professional and amateur sports. Kansas City is the home of the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame; the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum; as well as the 2020 Super Bowl champions, the Kansas City Chiefs; the 2015 World Series champions, the Kansas City Royals; and the two-time Major League Soccer Cup champions, Sporting KC. It is also the hometown of our world-renowned football coach, Ted Lasso.

Sporting KC has energized the region's diverse and passionate soccer fan base—a fan base that I am confident is ready to pack up their bags and head to Arrowhead Stadium, the loudest stadium in the world, to cheer on the U.S. men's national team and other nations that compete there.

Soccer has become an even larger part of the culture of Kansas City after U.S. Soccer's National Development Center officially opened in Kansas City, KS, in May of 2018. The NDC is the perfect location—the perfect location—for any team to recover, practice, and prepare for their upcoming matches.

Spanning more than 50 acres, this 81,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art practice, education, and medical facility includes three natural grass fields and two artificial turf fields, with a two-story coaching pavilion, and houses the Children's Mercy Sports Medicine Center.

Kansas City has been host to other major sporting events. The city regularly welcomes thousands and thousands of fans for events such as the Big 12 men's NCAA basketball championship and the NCAA March Madness and will be the location for the 2023 National Football League—the NFL—Draft.

Due to major investment in Kansas City's transportation and infrastructure—something that both Senator BLUNT and I and our colleagues, Senator HAWLEY and Senator MARSHALL, have worked on—Kansas City is well equipped to support soccer fans from around the globe. They will be welcomed at a brandnew Kansas City International Airport, which is currently undergoing a $1.5 billion renovation restart for a state-of-the-art terminal that is scheduled to be completed in 2023.

In 2020, Kansas City also became the first major metropolitan area to offer bus transportation free of charge. Additionally, the Kansas City Streetcar offers free fares with stops just a short walk from many magnificent dining and dynamic entertaining experiences in Kansas City.

Early in my postcollege career, I had an office in downtown Kansas City. The circumstances of Kansas City today and that long time ago when I was a worker in downtown Kansas City are significantly different. The entertainment opportunities are immense—the

arrival of a major, magnificent Sprint Center; hotels, new, large, elegant—all have arrived in Kansas City in just the last few years.

I am confident the entire Kansas City region is ready to make the 2026 FIFA World Cup a resounding success and is excited to add this prestigious tournament to its sporting history.

Again, we welcome the World Cup selection committee to Kansas City today and to the State of Kansas and to the State of Missouri. We welcome them. They are being welcomed to a world-class city known for its heartland hospitality.

I yield to the Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to thank my good friend Senator MORAN for actually all he has done to try to make it possible to see the FIFA World Cup games come to Kansas City.

This is the biggest sporting event in the world. Frankly, soccer has become a bigger part of the entire American society. Kids are playing soccer out there before they can really focus on which way the soccer ball is supposed to go. There is maybe nothing more fun than watching the 3- and 4-year-old soccer match just to see what happens in that match. But around the world, it is important. It is important where Jerry and I live. Giant banners with the phrase ''We Want the Cup'' are proudly displayed on buildings. They are on the streetcar. They are everywhere you want to look. The Kansas City Chiefs' quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, and the Royals' catcher, Salvador Perez, are leading the charge to bring the World Cup to Kansas City.

There is no question that sports are a major part of where we live, professional and nonprofessional. The Women's World Cup in 2019 was celebrated by fans watching games in the Power & Light District. They were broadcast on TV all over the world. Watching Kansas City fans watch the World Cup, we saw hundreds of thousands of fans flood the streets to join the Kansas City Royals in celebrating their World Series title in 2015. We saw an incredible crowd when the Kansas City Chiefs brought home the Lombardi Trophy in 2019. In 2023, Kansas City will host the NFL Draft.

So if our friends from the World Cup selection team are watching, there are others things that have happened to give evidence to the great sports heartbeat of Kansas City. There is plenty to look at and plenty to see. We have the infrastructure we think we need to meet that world sporting event.

Arrowhead Stadium, as Senator MORAN mentioned, is top notch. It is a great place for fans. It is a great place to feel the sense of the game and what can happen there. Local leaders have done everything they could, I think, to secure the right kind of practice fields, the right kind of facilities. Children's Mercy Park would be one of those. In 2021, the Concacaf Gold Cup was hosted there.

Mayor Quinton Lucas is here today. In fact, he is here watching us today from the Gallery. He is here advocating for all things Kansas City but is a particular advocate for seeing this world-class event come to Kansas City.

Location is another advantage we have. We are right in the middle of the country. We are close to the host cities in Canada and in Mexico that would be part of this event. I think we are better positioned than the other 16 cities to really move forward on this bid.

The new airport, as Senator MORAN mentioned, will be welcoming to whoever comes to this event if they come to Kansas City. They are going to be pleased with that facility.

There are lots of opportunities in Kansas City to spend your free time and enjoy what we get to enjoy all the time: the famous barbecue, the world-class museums, the Negro Leagues Museum in Kansas City, the Nelson-Atkins art gallery. There is really a vibrant nightlife and music scene in Kansas City today.

Nearby States have agreed that Kansas City is the right choice. It has become the Midwest choice for this event. In May, associations that represent 310,000 youth soccer players, coaches, and referees from the Midwest came together to endorse the Kansas City bid.

The financial benefits are obviously benefits that we would be excited about if we get a chance to host this. According to the Kansas City Sports Commission CEO and president, Kathy Nelson, the economic impact on the region could be up to $1 billion.

With a rich sports culture, endless entertainment options, strong infrastructure, and an easily accessible central location in our country, Kansas City is the right choice for the 2026 FIFA World Cup host city, and Senator MORAN and I and our colleagues from Kansas and Missouri endorse this effort and are glad that the selection team is looking today at what they are going to get if they decide to come to Kansas City.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, right now, the end of the pandemic may be—I underline ''may be''—within our reach. The Delta surge is finally waning. Over the past month, coronavirus case numbers have fallen by more than 40 percent, thank goodness. The average number of daily vaccinations has increased by more than 25 percent—not an unrelated statistic—and COVID death rates are finally starting to decline. These are all promising developments, and they demonstrate that President Biden's response to the coronavirus is working.

But as winter approaches, we need to ask ourselves a serious question: Will we continue to take the steps that are necessary to save lives and beat this virus once and for all? Or will we do nothing, as some of our Republican colleagues seem to urge, and allow the pandemic to come roaring back for another deadly wave?

Millions of American families have already suffered the consequences of denial, deception, and inaction. A report released earlier this month found that since June—just since June—nearly 100,000 American lives could have been saved if there were more vaccinations. But we can save the next 100,000 lives in America if we rally behind the President's call for his vaccination policy. The American people are already with him. The majority of people support mandating COVID–19 vaccinations for students 12 and up.

Business owners across the country have followed President Biden's lead by instituting their own vaccine mandates. They have helped increase vaccination rates by more than 20 percent. In Texas, where the Governor is seeking to outlaw vaccine mandates, one hospital CEO said that requiring his workers to be vaccinated is ''unequivocally . . . the best decision we ever made'' and that 98 percent of his staff has now been vaccinated.

President Biden's vaccine policy is supported by parents and business owners alike because they recognize a very simple truth: The only way to keep our kids in school, keep our economy on the road to recovery, and stop the spread of this deadly virus is vaccination. A do-nothing strategy is deadly and disastrous for our economy. Yet that is exactly what many of our Republican colleagues continue to propose that we do: nothing. It is the same response they had earlier this month when it came to raising the debt limit.

Let me reflect for a moment on the effort that is underway by State attorneys general. The Republican attorneys general across the United States represent 24 different States. They have threatened to file lawsuits to try to stop vaccine mandates and mask requirements.

I think it is fair to take a look at the period of June 15, 2021, to September 15, 2021, and ask how the States are doing represented by these attorneys general who are fighting President Biden's coronavirus policy. Well, we took a look at the average of the 24 States that are threatening these lawsuits. Their infection rate is more than twice than all the other States'. So the people in their States where they are supposedly fighting for their well-being are losing when it comes to the infections of coronavirus.

How about the death rates? Of the 24 States in this period of time threatening lawsuits, we have a death rate almost three times the death rate in the other 26 States. The vaccination rate is lower in the 24 States represented by these Republican attorneys general.

So what are they winning? Some political war? What the heck difference does it make who wins a political war when we are talking about a life-and-death issue? And that is frankly what we are faced with.

When it comes to the debt limit, we see the same negative default approach

by the Republicans. Senate Republicans were ready to let go of the steering wheel and swerve into oncoming traffic with the debt limit. Right up until the eleventh hour, they wanted to use the filibuster to block Democrats from addressing the debt, the limit of the debt. Do you know when that debt was incurred? It was incurred during the Trump administration, with many of these same Republicans voting for the spending that stands behind it.

Now the minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has once again pledged that Republicans refuse to lift a finger to deal with the debt limit when it expires in the first week of December. Think for a moment what defaulting on the debt would mean to American families. It is fodder for even more inflation.

So don't come to the floor with your posing for Holy pictures on the issue of inflation and then turn around and say: I don't care what happens to the debt limit. Americans will pay more each month because of that for their mortgages and credit card bills and student and car loans. Fifteen trillion dollars in household wealth and retirement savings would be wiped out if Senator MCCONNELL and the Republicans have their way in the first week of December.

If our Republican colleagues are truly concerned about the economic well-being of America, work with us to put together a sensible response to the debt limit. Senator SCHUMER and the Democrats have said to the Republicans: If you won't lead, if you can't follow, then get the heck out of the way. Democrats, with a majority vote, will enact a new debt limit. We understand our responsibility to this Nation.

BUILD BACK BETTER

Mr. President, ''denial,'' incidentally, seems to be the watchword on the Republican side. Certainly it is when it comes to climate change. Some of our Republican colleagues insist, despite all of the evidence, that climate change is a phony, fake news, a hoax. Others acknowledge it is real but say we just can't afford to do anything about it. In fact, what we can't afford to do is nothing. Climate change is here, and the cost of it is disastrous.

One in three Americans live in a county that has been hit by an extreme weather event this summer—one in three—with family homes consumed by wildfires, farms ravaged by unprecedented droughts, and lives lost in floods of Biblical proportion.

Last year, our Nation was hit by 18 climate disasters costing at least a billion dollars each—18. The total tab for climate-related disasters that year was $95 billion. This year is worse. Remember Hurricane Ida? It caused $100 billion in damages. Think about that. One storm: $100 billion.

And don't believe that that is just a matter of private citizens contacting their insurance companies. You can bet that the Federal Government and many State and local governments will be investing heavily to overcome the damage that has been done.

Climate change is the gravest threat to our economy, bar none—not to mention our children's and grandchildren's future. We have waited too long. Climate change must be addressed today. Tomorrow is too late. Delay and denial would not make it disappear. They will only increase the damage and lessen the opportunities for solutions that we might consider.

America is the world's can-do Nation. We are the Nation who looks at problems and says: We can fix it. And here is something that our Republican colleagues either don't get or won't admit: Dealing with climate change has the potential to be the biggest job creator in generations. We have an opportunity to put millions of Americans to work building a sustainable, resilient future for our country.

Let me give you a recent example from last week. I had a chance to meet with the public transit officials in Champaign-Urbana, IL. Of course, Champaign-Urbana, IL, is home to the University of Illinois. They were there to showcase a new zero-emissions bus and a charging infrastructure that is cutting edge. You see, these buses run on hydrogen fuel cells powered by solar energy. They will save tens of thousands of gallons of diesel fuel and prevent more than 130 tons of greenhouse gas emissions every single year.

Imagine if every city in America followed the lead of Champaign-Urbana, reconstructing their public transit system, making them sustainable and dependable. Think of all the Americans we could put to work assembling buses and trains, building charging stations, training workers to maintain and repair these fleets.

That is what President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure bill will help do. It is the largest infrastructure proposal in decades, and it will invest billions in green transit alone.

And, for the record, the previous President, Republican President Donald Trump, had no transportation package. He talked about it in the campaign, and for 4 straight years he delivered nothing.

President Biden's Build Back Better agenda is also an investment in our future. If you are worried about our worker shortage—and you should be—the Build Back Better plan will enable parents, especially mothers, to return to work by making safe and affordable childcare resources and senior care available for every family in this country. And it is a blueprint for America to win the 21st century and boost every family's economic security by investing in schools, education, and first-class job training.

Continuing to do nothing while China and our other competitors pass us by is a strategy for finishing in second place, which appears to be the Republican strategy. Our Republican colleagues say: We just can't afford to invest in America's workers, families, and economic potential. Boy, are they wrong. What we can't afford is to do nothing—nothing.

That is what they did when it came to the American Rescue Plan. Not a single Republican would support our efforts for the American Rescue Plan to address the COVID–19 crisis.

The vaccination program, which has vaccinated most of Americans and continues to do even more, was funded by that program. Money was in that program to help businesses get back on their feet after the pandemic. It was a real investment in the future of America. Unfortunately, it did not have support from the other side of the aisle.

NOMINATION OF TANA LIN

Finally, Mr. President, on another matter, this week, the Senate is going to vote to confirm Tana Lin to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of the State of Washington.

Ms. Lin is an accomplished litigator whose credentials, skills, and decades of experience have prepared her for this assignment. If confirmed, she would be the first Asian American to serve on a Federal district court in the State of Washington.

She graduated from Cornell University and New York University School of Law and began her career here in DC as a public defender. She then continued defending the rights of the most vulnerable as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

Following her time there, she moved to my home State of Illinois to work in the Chicago district office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She litigated cases under title VII of the Civil Rights Act, age discrimination cases, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Today, Ms. Lin works as an attorney in private practice, where she primarily litigates cases involving antitrust, consumer protection, the environment, and labor and employment issues. And as a pro bono civil rights attorney, she has combated racial discrimination, advocated for religious accommodations in the workplace, and helped protect our elections from political interference.

Her nomination is another example of the Biden administration and Senate Democrats working together to advance highly qualified judicial nominees.

Ms. Lin received a unanimous—unanimous—rating of ''well qualified'' from the American Bar Association, and she has the strong support of her home State Senators, MURRAY and CANTWELL.

I urge my colleagues to support Ms. Lin's historic nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Alaska.

REMEMBERING CHUCK BUNDRANT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, this afternoon I come to the floor to recognize the life and the contributions

of a friend, an Alaskan, a gentleman: Chuck Bundrant. He was the founder and the majority owner of Trident Seafoods and a fisherman who really forever changed the seafood industry in Alaska.

Employing thousands of people across Alaska and the country and processing hundreds of millions of pounds of finished seafood products each year, Trident is the largest vertically integrated seafood harvesting and processing company in North America today.

The company—and, really, by extension, Chuck Bundrant—has been critical in giving the rest of the United States and the world a taste of Alaska's delicious and, of course, sustainably managed wild seafood.

Chuck has a pretty interesting story. He didn't grow up in Alaska. He didn't even grow up near the ocean. He was born in Tennessee. He was raised there and in Indiana. He had initially hoped to pursue veterinary medicine and enrolled in a pre-veterinary program at Middle Tennessee State University.

But by the winter of 1961—19 years old; he has $80 in his pocket—he and a few friends drove from Tennessee to Seattle with the thought that they would make it up to Alaska. At that point in time, he didn't have any experience, any exposure to the State. Apparently, he had watched the John Wayne movie called ''North to Alaska,'' and that kind of spurred him.

But he had heard that there were some pretty lucrative opportunities within the fishing industry, but he also knew that finding a job wasn't going to be an easy task. So, apparently, his buddies reconsidered the merits of the trip, but Chuck doubled down and continued on his way to the dream of working in The Last Frontier.

So, according to legend, he spent his first summer in the State working wherever he could in the Bristol Bay fishing industry, even sleeping under a boat on the docks. He eventually got a job busting freezers—which, for colleagues, means literally banging metal pans to knock loose the blocks of frozen shelled crab—and he was out on a floating processor anchored near Adak out in the Aleutians.

Like so many who have the chance to come and visit Alaska, Chuck wasn't satisfied with just one quick stint in the State. He turned his journey north into a 12-year learning experience—and, really, a lifelong business.

By 1965, he had worked his way up from the freezer hold to buying his first crab fishing boat. As Chuck gained more experience in and understanding of the crab fishery, he noticed that there was an inefficiency in the way that the industry operated. After bringing in the harvest, most fishermen would then head back to shore to hand it off to the shoreside processing outfits, where the crab meat would be removed from the shells and then sent to market. And just a lot of back and forth here meant that the fisherman loses valuable time at sea. And this is where Chuck's ingenuity really struck.

In the early 1970s, he and two other crab fishermen, Kaare Ness and Mike Jacobson, used whatever collective earnings they had at that point in time and they built the *Billikin*, which was a 135-foot boat with both crab cookers and freezing equipment that allowed for immediate onboard processing. So this was new. This was novel at the time.

Chuck pushed on. He kept fishing and processing on the *Billikin*. There were protests from other Bering Sea crab fishermen who were in the middle of a strike to secure better prices from processors. Around this same time, he, Kaare, and Mike partnered with another individual, Edd Perry and his Bellingham-based company San Juan Seafoods. And this was, really, the beginning of Trident Seafoods in 1973.

Trident's early years coincided with a phaseout of foreign fleets from the North Pacific harvest due to the enactment in 1976 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—we know it as the MSA—and, also, a burgeoning Japanese market for Alaska frozen fish, salmon, and herring. So Chuck and his colleagues took advantage of this opening. They built a fleet of mobile processing vessels that, really, very quickly made their mark on Alaska fisheries.

Chuck's competitive, resourceful mentality, again, proved useful as king crab numbers and harvest started to decline in the early 1980s. In the seventies, he had watched giant Japanese, Korean, and Norwegian trawling vessels rake in billions of pounds of pollock from the Bering Sea. And then with the enactment of the MSA in 1976, it extended U.S. fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles offshore, giving American fishermen priority access to stocks of abundant fish, like pollock, that inhabited Alaska's coastal waters.

There was a significant market opportunity for pollock in Japan, but in America at the time, pollock was kind of considered a junk fish, a trash fish. And what is more, American boats and processors did not have the equipment to harvest pollock, to extract its roe that was very popular in Japan, and to transform its flesh into commonly consumed surimi paste and fillets.

But Chuck saw things with a vision. He saw this as an opportunity and not pollock as a trash or poor investment. He studied Japanese methods for catching and processing pollock. He strategized about how Trident could enter this market and, in 1981, he took a pretty bold move. He built a plant on a very remote Aleutian island, Akutan, for onshore processing of crab; salmon; and, of course, pollock.

So Chuck really took a risk there. He, after years of trying to convince food wholesalers and restaurant owners to take a chance on pollock, was able to secure a pretty pivotal deal between Trident and Long John Silver's. This was the first major contract to bring the fish to U.S. market. And this deal didn't take place in some fancy restaurant in some major city. This deal took place out in Akutan—the Akutan processing facility that he had taken this chance on back in 1981.

So companies like McDonald's, Burger King soon followed Long John Silver's in replacing cod and whiting with very tasty, and now cheaper, pollock. And these companies have grown to become some of Trident's biggest customers. Odds are that if you have tried their fish and chips or fish sandwiches, you have probably tried Trident product.

Today, Seattle-based Trident operates a fleet of 40 vessels, including catcher processors, trawlers, crab boats, tenders and freighters; 11 processing plants in Alaska—so good jobs in Alaska—5 processing plants in Washington State, Georgia, and Minnesota. It offers a host of frozen, canned, smoked, and ready-to-eat seafood products; and its harvest-and-business model means they know exactly where its products come from. That is important to us.

But as Trident has grown and propelled the industry forward, Chuck remains steadfast in his commitment that Trident remain a family business that supports its employees and the independent fishermen that it partners with. Chuck's son Joe now serves as the company's CEO. He has continued his dad's efforts to seek out new value-added products that can be created from Alaska fish.

It is always a good story, I think, to know of these very successful businesses that keep grounded with the base from which they began; and with Chuck, it was really important that his family continued to be part of this success story.

I am told that Chuck had some pretty strict rules, that if any of his grandkids—and I think he has about 13 of them—if any of them decide that they want to work for the family business, you first have to earn a college degree, which Chuck did not have; but they also had to spend at least 4 years working someplace else other than Trident; and they had to have cut their teeth and fished at least two summers in Alaska.

So he wanted to make sure that you weren't just going to get the job just because you were a member of the family. You worked for it; you knew what this was all about.

It really is difficult to overstate the impact that Chuck has had on his fellow fishermen. Beyond the industry innovation that he drove, he always sought to pay it forward, to offer younger fishermen the same mentorship and support that allowed him to get his start in the 1960s and the seventies and to make Trident the company that it is today.

And this dovetails, really, with Chuck Bundrant's commitment to charitable giving. He was generous in so many, many different ways. He

raised and donated money for the victims of the Tohoku earthquake, the tsunami in Japan, Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, and contributed to multiple cancer research foundations.

I have certainly seen his generosity as he has shared in ways that demonstrate his compassion, his care. His influence on the fishing community is really clear from the outpouring of love and support that he has received since he was diagnosed with an atypical form of Parkinson's.

In September of 2019, four of the captains from the TV show the ''Deadliest Catch''—all of whom considered Chuck a mentor, a friend, and, really, an inspiration—co-hosted what they called Captains for a CURE fundraiser. It was an auction for the northwest chapter of the American Parkinson's Disease Association. They raised nearly $380,000 at the event, and this money goes towards a Parkinson's disease research grant in Chuck's honor—again, trying to shine a light on the specific form of disease that Chuck lived with.

I received a note from Joe Bundrant on Sunday, when Chuck Bundrant passed from this Earth, and I wanted to share just a couple sentences from a personal email. He says:

> Dying is not easy, but Chuck was up to the task and faced death on this earth as he faced rogue waves in Alaska: head-on with dignity, determination and with the faith that he would be safe in God's hands.

He goes on further to say that ''he lived each day fully, driven by the values of integrity, loyalty, hard work and most importantly faith.''

And so as I have reflected on the life of, really, an extraordinary man, it strikes me that, at the end of the day, this individual, Chuck Bundrant, was a family man, cared for his family deeply; but he, at the base of it, was a fisherman. And he lived his life in a way that really speaks to the values of integrity; loyalty; hard work; and, most importantly, faith.

To his family, to his wife Diane: Know that our hearts are with you. We thank you for sharing a truly honorable man with so many of us.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

HONORING OFFICER RYAN HAYWORTH

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, this weekend, thousands of law enforcement officers and their families came to our Nation's Capital to celebrate Police Weekend. And while Americans were paying tribute to our men and women in blue here in DC, North Carolina, once again, received the tragic news of a brave officer lost in the line of duty.

Officer Ryan Hayworth was only 23 years old. He had a bright and promising future ahead of him. He tragically lost his life on Sunday night, just 3 months after joining the Knightdale Police Department.

He and his training officer were investigating a single-vehicle incident on Interstate 540 when a drunk driver crashed into their parked SUV, taking Officer Hayworth's life.

Cody Hagler—his training officer—was seriously injured and remains hospitalized; but, thankfully, he is expected to recover.

This senseless tragedy is another reminder of the constant dangers our brave men and women in law enforcement face every single day. A routine call to respond to an accident resulted in a young officer losing his life in the line of duty.

Although he was only 23 years old, Officer Hayworth already had a distinguished record of service. He served in the U.S. Army, and then in the National Guard. And then he answered the call once again by becoming a police officer.

It is not surprising to anyone who knows the Hayworth family, though. Officer Hayworth's father was a longtime chief of the Zebulon Police Department, and his brother is a firefighter.

A member of his family church told a local news outlet:

> He wanted to be a police officer like his dad. They're good, God-fearing people. They care about the community and it's sad something this tragic happened the way it did.

Knightdale Police Chief Lawrence Capps has noted the high standards Officer Hayworth met and exceeded as a new member of the force.

Police Chief Capps said:

> When we hire police officers, we are looking for individuals that embody the best of this profession—all that is good, all that is wholesome, all that is pure, all that is righteous, and Ryan embodied those things.

It is no surprise to see the outpouring of support to honor Officer Hayworth. People from across the State have stopped by the Knightdale Police Department to place flowers at a memorial created by his colleagues. Other local police departments are now assisting the Knightdale Police Department in their patrols during this difficult time.

I am grateful that the vast majority of North Carolinians truly appreciate the service and the sacrifice of law enforcement. They recognize the men and women serving are good people who put their uniforms on every day and take extraordinary risks to protect others.

Officer Hayworth is an officer who took those risks to protect others, and he made the ultimate sacrifice in doing so. I know the community of Knightdale will never forget his service and sacrifice. And I know that all North Carolinians join me in keeping Officer Hayworth's loving family and his many friends and colleagues in our prayers.

May God bless Officer Ryan Hayworth and all of our Nation's brave law enforcement officers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in supporting S. 2747, the Freedom to Vote Act; and S. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act; and S. 2615, the Right to Vote Act.

As some States and political operatives around the country seek to roll back voter protection laws and gerrymander voting districts, Congress must act to strengthen the freedom to vote and ensure elections are safe and accessible.

Since its original passage in 1965, the Voting Rights Act safeguarded the rights of historically marginalized voters at the polls.

Sadly, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in Shelby County v. Holder gutted key Voting Rights Act protections. Earlier this year, in July 2021, the Supreme Court issued another split ruling further weakening the law in its decision in Brnovich v. DNC, making it more difficult to challenge discriminatory voting laws under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Over the years, this democracy has seen a crisis in access to the polls, and it has been worsened recently as Republican-led State legislatures have implemented policies that disproportionately suppress the voting rights of people of color, the elderly, college students, and those living in rural areas, among others. Those same political operatives have repeatedly weaponized false claims of election fraud, like those perpetuated by former President Trump, to try to overturn the will of the people.

The right to vote is a fundamental right guaranteed by our Constitution and our desired responsibility to protect it. In the United States of America, a beacon of democracy, our elections must be open and transparent and follow a process and procedure that all Americans can trust. It is more important than ever for Congress to affirm that voters have a right to free and fair elections.

The Freedom to Vote Act fulfills this constitutional responsibility by improving access to the ballot, advancing commonsense election integrity reforms, and protecting our democracy from emerging threats from cyber attacks to misinformation bots. It is not the job of government to make it hard to vote; rather, it is our responsibility to balance the convenience of voters with the security of their ballots. This legislation does just that.

I also support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which will repair the damage done by the Supreme Court's decisions by restoring the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division's oversight over historically discriminatory States when they change voting laws and legislative districts.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would provide needed Federal oversight and serve as a check on communities that have engaged in a pattern of restricting voting rights and making it harder for minority voters to be counted.

Finally, I support the Right to Vote Act, which would establish the first-

ever statutory right to vote in Federal elections, therefore allowing Americans to enforce that right by challenging in court any policy that restricts ballot access.

This legislation takes an enshrined right and empowers the people with the tools to defend it. This way, States attempting to restrict voting access will have to meet a high bar to justify any policy that makes it harder for U.S. citizens to participate in Federal elections.

Restricting the ability of Americans to freely and fairly cast their ballots threatens the very core of our Nation's founding democratic principles.

As Americans deal with the ongoing effects of COVID–19 and prepare for elections in the coming months and years, we should be removing—not adding—unnecessary barriers to voting.

While efforts to pass voting rights legislation have been stymied by Senate Republicans, you can be assured that I will continue to stand ready and willing to work with my colleagues in Congress to defend Americans' right to vote, end partisan gerrymandering, and prevent voter suppression.

The vote today will allow us to begin a much-needed debate on the topic of voting rights. I ask my Republican colleagues to come to the table and join us in this conversation about how we can protect our elections and safeguard American democracy.

I urge all my colleagues to support these important bills that would protect and advance voting rights in our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2842

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, our Armed Forces have been asked to work miracles over the last 18 months, and they have performed. During a global pandemic, in the face of natural disasters, facing dangerous missions, our men and women in uniform have risen dutifully, faithfully to the challenge. Many of our servicemembers have contracted—and then recovered from—COVID–19 over the last 18 months. Now these same heroes are being placed in a corner by this administration.

President Biden's COVID–19 vaccine requirement for the Armed Forces does not grant our soldiers, sailors, and marines the respect they deserve, and it could pose a challenge to recruitment and even to military readiness.

This mandate, tied with President Biden's more sweeping general vaccine mandate, has put millions of Americans in difficult positions. In most cases, these are just everyday Americans. They are mothers and fathers, husbands and wives just trying to put food on the table during what has, for many, been a difficult time.

These still unwritten but very much efficacious mandates are forcing millions of our fellow citizens into a sort of second-class, unemployable status, placing countless of our neighbors on the economic and social fringes of our society.

I have heard from almost 300 Utahans in recent days who were worried about losing their jobs due to the mandates. Some of these individuals are heroic members of our military. These servicemembers were rightly praised for serving during a pandemic and for dangerous missions, but now are being forced out, possibly with limited or no retirement benefits because of the President's mandate.

Let me just share with you a few of their stories. One soldier who reached out to me recently has served for 10 years in the military. He never received a single reprimand, whether written or verbal. He honorably and proudly served his Nation. He has been informed, despite his years of successful Active-Duty service, that he will not receive an honorable discharge if he doesn't comply with the vaccine requirement. Accordingly, he asked to resign from the military. His commanders made clear that he would be barred from resignation. Then he sought a personal religious exemption. He was summarily told that his exemption request would be denied.

Of his situation, he said:

> To be backed into a corner with two very bad options is both disheartening and sad, especially with what I have sacrificed and what my family has sacrificed on behalf of the military.

Another soldier told me his story. He has been in the Army for 18 years. All along, he was planning on retiring upon reaching two decades of service. He is about 18 months shy of reaching that point—just 18 months from that retirement point that he has been working toward for nearly two decades. Now, because of the vaccine mandate, he is at risk of losing his benefits and not receiving an honorable discharge.

Regarding his situation, he said:

> This will cause a substantial loss in pay and quality of life for myself and a large number of others I know.

A third soldier reached out to my office in a similar retirement situation. This soldier has children who experienced complications with receiving the vaccine. The soldier also has a child with significant learning disabilities, whom he is worried about providing for.

He said:

> This really could be a life-changing event for my family, and I feel strongly enough about it that I will risk all my benefits not to take [the vaccine]. I just wish I had a choice.

Now, these stories just barely scratch the surface of the hundreds of stories that I have heard from people across my State, including many who are servicemembers. These people, like millions of other Americans, deserve a better option. They have earned that. That is why, today, I am asking that the Senate pass my Respecting our Servicemembers Act. This bill would simply prohibit the Secretary of Defense from requiring COVID–19 vaccination for our military. I am grateful to my colleagues Senators BRAUN and TUBERVILLE for joining me as cosponsors.

This is now the seventh time I have come to the Senate floor, asking that the Federal Government take a more temperate, reasoned approach. As I have said each time before, I am not anti-vaccine. In fact, I believe the development of the COVID–19 vaccine is a miracle. I have been vaccinated, and I have encouraged every member of my family to be vaccinated, and they have done so. I think the vaccine is a good thing. These mandates are simply the wrong way of getting it done.

Look, when we look at the employer vaccine mandate generally, the President doesn't have the authority. In fact, the Federal Government doesn't have that authority. This is not a power that belongs to the Federal Government to begin with. You know, even if it did, we haven't authorized the President to do this unilaterally. Even if we had or even if we were now considering a measure that would give him that authority, it is worth noting here that there are so many other better, more reasoned ways to encourage vaccination.

That is why I am here today, and that is why I will be back for as long as it takes to address these mandates, which are causing pain and suffering to hard-working moms and dads who don't want to have to be making a gut-wrenching choice between, on the one hand, receiving medical treatment that they don't want, whether for religious reasons or a health-related reason related to what their doctors have advised them or some other compelling personal reason or otherwise—they shouldn't have to choose between receiving medical treatment they don't want and forfeiting their ability to put bread on the table for their children. It is un-American, it is unfair, and it is immoral.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 2842 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further 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?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, in reserving my right to object, on August 24, the Secretary of Defense determined that the mandatory vaccination against COVID–19 was necessary to

protect the force and defend the American people.

Vaccination is not mandatory for any servicemember who has a legitimate medical or religious reason for not being vaccinated.

Mandatory vaccinations are limited to only FDA-approved vaccines. All FDA-approved COVID–19 vaccines have been determined to be safe and effective.

According to press reports, as of October 4, Active-Duty vaccination rates are as follows: the Army, 81 percent; the Navy, 90 percent; the Air Force, 80.9 percent; and the Marine Corps, 76.5 percent.

Mandatory vaccination is not a new issue for military personnel. Mandatory vaccinations for critical illnesses are mission critical, and requiring vaccination is almost as old as the military itself. I can personally verify that point. Indeed, servicemembers are currently required to get 17 different vaccinations when they enter the military or before deploying overseas, including for measles, mumps, diphtheria, hepatitis, smallpox, and the flu.

We need a healthy and ready force. We saw what happened when Navy ships were contaminated with COVID. They weren't ready to deploy. They couldn't deploy. They were tied up. Their effectiveness and ability to defend the country were marginalized, to say the least. I think this is absolutely incongruent with the practice and mission of the military.

One other thing I would say is that one of the most fundamental ethics of the military is that every soldier, sailor, marine, airman, and guardian is prepared to sacrifice for their fellow servicemember, and the idea that one would put their own personal feelings ahead of the potential for contaminating or sickening another servicemember and affecting the unit is something that I don't think squares with the ethic of the U.S. military or the effectiveness of the force.

I agree with the Secretary of Defense; therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Thank you, Mr. President. I would ask the quorum call be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is not in a quorum call.

Mr. BENNET. For once, the Senate is not in a quorum call. It is amazing. We are having an actual debate. I can't believe it. It has been so long since that has been true.

FREEDOM TO VOTE ACT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I am here to talk about voting rights today, and I actually am delighted that you are in the Chair, my colleague from Colorado, because over many years you have had so much to do with the fact that Colorado has the second-highest turnout of any State in the country—76 percent—because of what we have done, Republicans and Democrats and unaffiliated voters working together, to make sure that Coloradans can cast their ballots.

I am tired, as I am sure you are, of hearing our colleague from Minnesota come down here, Senator KLOBUCHAR, and say that Minnesota is No. 1 in voting, which they are. They have more than 76 percent of the people that vote, but I think we will catch them, and maybe we will catch them this year.

But the reason why we have such a high turnout is because of things that we have put in place working in a bipartisan way. And when the Presiding Officer was the Governor of Colorado, you know, that was when, really, we moved to the mail-in ballot system that we have, completely fraud free and a delight, especially for people living in rural areas, where it is hard to get to the ballot box sometimes.

And so thank you for helping create a model for the country as we debate this bill in front of us. In fact, much of what this bill does—I will get to the bill in a minute—is reflective of the work that we have done in Colorado.

Mr. President, you came here during a difficult time, I would say, for our democracy. This has been, in many ways, a near-death experience for the U.S. democracy. There are countries all over the world that are totalitarian societies who are counting on our country to fail. They tell us at the negotiating table every time we sit down with them that they think we are going to fail; that democracy isn't up to the challenges of the 21st century; that it doesn't move fast enough. This place doesn't move at all many weeks and could give a person reason to wonder whether or not we are going to make it work.

But in this year, we had a particularly savage experience on January 6, when the Capitol was invaded by our own citizens, and we were escorted off the floor of the Senate, taken to a secure facility, where I watched and the Presiding Officer watched what everybody in America saw, what everybody in the world saw, which were thousands of people streaming into this Capitol to try to stop the counting of the vote at the urging of then-President Trump.

And, fortunately, because there were enough people in this body who wanted to confirm the vote, on January 20, we actually had a peaceful transfer of power, and Joe Biden became the President of the United States.

Most countries that have a January 6 never survive to January 20, you know. And when I was a kid, it was common to see these kinds of things happen in other capitals around the world, places like Tehran. You never would have imagined it would happen here in Washington, DC.

And now it has happened here in Washington, DC. But the big difference is that because more people turned out to vote than at any time in our country's history, we had that peaceful transfer of power.

And now the question for all of us, I think, as Americans, is, What are we going do with the gift that our fellow citizens have given us by turning out to vote in the midst of a pandemic in record number? What are we going to do with that gift they have given to us—a gift of democracy, I would say, a new lease on life.

And I think we have got a moral obligation to them and to our Nation's children and, frankly, to humanity to make sure that this democracy actually works for the American people and not for the special interests that have worked so hard to corrupt it.

And there are so many ways before January 6 that our democracy was being attacked: partisan gerrymandering all over the country to allow politicians to pick their voters rather than have voters pick their politicians. That is an incredibly undemocratic thing for us to be doing across the country; the special interests that lobby this place who are basically unregulated by any campaign finance laws; the effect of Citizens United, which was the Supreme Court's decision that opened the floodgates of billionaires funding American elections instead of people funding American elections; and now, perhaps most egregiously, because it is so strategic and it is so purposeful, the attack on the vote all over the United States of America.

I find it hard to believe. I am 54 years—56. That is the saddest story I have ever told. I am 56 years old, Mr. President. As you know, I went to college in the 1980s, you know, and now I am seeing laws passed that I read about in the 1980s that passed in the 1960s to try to deny people the right to vote all over the country, to make it harder to vote.

Just this year, 19 States have passed 33 laws undermining democracy; laws to make it harder to vote early or vote by mail, two things we treasure in the State of Colorado; laws to slash the number of drop boxes or put them in really inconvenient places so people can't vote, as I do every single election with a drop box just a few blocks from my house. It takes me 30 seconds to vote, completely fraud free. Everyone in America should have the benefit of that.

We have got a law that made it a crime in Georgia to give people water while they are waiting in line to vote.

So I know there is a tendency around this place sometimes to just think that our democracy, just because it has always been here, that it is always going to be around, to assume that we can coast on the blood and the sweat and the tears of Americans who came before us, who fought generation after generation after generation to make this country more democratic, more fair, and more free. This is not a time for coasting. This is a time for us to deal with the profound threat that is stealing the right of Americans all over this country to vote, to have their

voice heard, to be able to have a say in the direction of our democracy or whether we are going to have a democracy at all, whether we are going to accept the world where politicians, like the people in this body but at the State legislatures, can overturn the independent judgment of other parts of the election apparatus, people that held the line this year when somebody in the White House was trying to intimidate them to change their mind.

We have got people in this country, State legislators, who are passing laws that would allow them to do exactly what Donald Trump said he wanted them to do, which was overturn the election judgments of independently elected or appointed officials. That is something we cannot allow to have happen because the minute that does happen, you lose the democracy. The minute you cannot make a decision at the voting booth, at the voting box, at the poll, the minute you can no longer make a decision there that is held up no matter who wins and no matter who loses, that has the confidence of the American people, that is when you lose the democracy because the whole point of a democracy, the way we make decisions, is a peaceful transfer of power.

And in the absence of that very, very unusual aspect of our society compared to other societies around the world and the history of humanity, in the absence of that, what you confront is political violence like the violence that we saw on January 6, where people tried to take by force something that should have been decided and was decided at the ballot box.

And all of this, in my view, is why it is so important for us to pass the Freedom to Vote Act. The bill includes commonsense reforms that are broadly supported by the American people, and that is because they reflect common sense, just like the American people.

And we know these reforms work, Mr. President, because we have already passed them in Colorado, thanks in large part to your leadership. We banned partisan gerrymandering. We don't have it in our State.

So, again, politicians in Colorado don't have the right to choose who their voters are; voters get to choose who their elected leaders are.

We have automatic voter registration, as this bill has; early voting, so people have a chance to get off work and go to vote and don't have to just be there on election day.

Vote by mail, which I have to say, up until the last President's Presidency, there was no one in America that was concerned about vote by mail. We had cast millions of ballots in this country without a shred of fraud. Just ask the American Enterprise Institute. They are the ones that said you are more likely to get struck by lightning than participate in voter fraud by voting by mail. That is not a Democratic-leaning organization, as everybody on this floor knows.

Secure drop boxes in your neighborhood, where it takes 30 seconds to vote—every time I go there, next to the Botanic Gardens in my neighborhood in Denver, and I drop my ballot off, I think about all the people all over this country in 2021 who don't have the simple ability to drop their ballot off in a ballot box, who are having to wait in line for hours for the privilege to vote just because of the State they live in.

We should have basic national standards for people. It is a civil rights issue. It is an issue that is fundamental to our democracy. And having a convenient ballot box is one of those things. Having mail-in ballots is one of those things. We have had zero fraud in our system.

And as I said earlier, in many ways, it is as important to rural Colorado as any other part of our State because the people live a long way from the ballot box.

If our State's history is any guide at all, we can do this in a bipartisan way. And it is not surprising to me that vast majorities of Americans, whether they are Republicans or Independents or Democrats, support the provisions that are in this bill by wide, wide margins.

I am going to be pleased to go back to Colorado and have the chance to tell them that we have banned dark money from our political system; that the Supreme Court's fundamental misunderstanding in Citizens United, where they completely misdefined the problem and failed to see the corruption of inaction that happens around here, the things that aren't done because of the dark money that is spent in our elections because—for fear that some billionaire is going to show up and throw what to them is nothing into a race that could determine the outcome of our elections.

We have got to change that, and the only way we can do that is by passing this bill. And I think that if we pass this bill, what we find is that States all over this country would see 76 percent of the people voting, just like in Colorado, instead of 50 percent of the people voting or 40 percent of the people voting. That would have a huge impact on what we are doing. We could show the world that we can actually compete with the communist government in China. We can resolve the question about whether democracy is up to this in the 21st century or not.

We could invest in the next generation of Americans. We could improve our schools, improve our roads and bridges, and invest in the future again, as so many generations of Americans have done in the past when they stood up for democracy and the next generation of Americans. That is the question that we are confronted with today as we take this vote.

Are we going to stand up for our democracy? Are we going to stand up for humanity, who is relying on us to deliver a democracy that works? And are we going to stand up for the next generation of Americans and remain a beacon to the rest of the world, committed to our highest ideals and not our worst instincts?

I think we have the chance today when we take this vote to follow generations of Americans who have, in their lives, lived out those best ideals, rather than caving into our worst instincts.

It seems to me—putting Democrats and Republicans aside—the question in front of us is: Are you for democracy or not? Are you for the freedom to vote or not? Are you for maximizing fraud-free elections, where people can actually turn out to vote no matter where they live? Or are you suppressing the vote of our fellow countrymen and women?

That is the question before us. And because it is such a clear question, I would urge every one of my colleagues, Republican or Democrat, to vote for this legislation so we can set a basic standard for what the freedom of vote should look like in the United States of America.

With that, Mr. President, I appreciate your indulgence and patience.

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.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—our Nation was founded upon this set of inalienable rights that are provided to each one of us not by government, but by our Divine Creator who made us all equal. It is the role of the government to secure these blessings.

Regardless of our differences and disagreements, these principles outlined in our founding documents have always united us and made America exceptional. They are the framework of the American dream, the promise that through self-determination, hard work, and opportunity, we can all achieve a better life for ourselves and for our families.

Yet, whether you are pursuing a career, attending school, starting a business, or shopping for a dream home, DC politicians and government bureaucrats are increasingly dictating when you may exercise your rights and how you can live your life, and then spying on you to make sure that you are following the rules. This ''Washington knows best'' approach is negatively impacting nearly every aspect of your life, and you may not realize it.

To demonstrate the point, let's walk through a few common scenarios and the real-life consequences you could face as a result of the Biden administration's policies. For each, ask yourself: In this situation, is the government acting to secure or subvert your rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

You work hard and probably put some of your earnings away in a savings account to pay your monthly bills

or to be prepared for an unexpected emergency. And, folks, that is just a smart thing to do.

Well, if you deposit or withdraw more than $10,000 over the course of a year, the Biden administration wants the IRS to be able to spy on you. To put this number into perspective, if you were renting an apartment in Iowa, the average annual cost to do so is just over $10,000 per year. That is the threshold, folks.

Why does Washington even need to know this information about you?

The Treasury Department says this is necessary to make sure ''the top one percent . . . can't evade'' paying taxes.

You heard that right. The Biden administration thinks you are rich if, over the course of an entire year, you either save or spend $10,000. They might even have the IRS audit you for tax evasion.

Treating American citizens like criminal suspects for the innocent act of using a bank account is, quite frankly, un-American.

The Biden administration has been up front about its motive here. Washington Democrats are looking to collect as many tax dollars as possible to finance their never-ending reckless spending spree. And as a direct result of these budget busting bills, government inflation is driving up prices and limiting availability of everyday essentials.

Let's take a look at life in Joe Biden's America. The cost of food, the cost of rent, the cost of nearly everything just keeps going up and up. Meanwhile, the size of many products is shrinking, which means you have to work harder, pay more, and get a heck of a lot less. It is even costing more just to get to the grocery store. Gas is now more than $3 a gallon, the highest price in 6 years. And this really shouldn't come as a surprise.

Remember, on his first day on the job, President Biden signed an Executive order to end the Keystone XL Pipeline, killing thousands of jobs and limiting our access to oil and gas supplies. And while costs keep going up, just finding what you need or want has become yet another ordeal.

As a result of Biden bucks, which paid people not to work for most of the year, many products are in short supply or unavailable altogether. Shipping companies are even facing equipment shortages and, of course, they remain understaffed.

And, folks, this crisis isn't ending anytime soon. The upcoming holiday season is already being referred to as ''Biden's Blue Christmas.'' The White House is even warning there will be items people can't get for Christmas. So let's just hope for the sake of the kids who have been good all year that Biden's broken supply chain problems don't extend all the way to the North Pole.

And speaking of kids, let's take a look at what might happen to parents who take a vocal role in their children's education. It is a good thing for parents to be active in their children's education, and it comes as no surprise that they can often get very passionate about the subject.

So imagine going to a school board meeting and exercising your right to express your concerns about a new policy or proposed curriculum at your child's school, but instead of having your issue addressed, you find yourself labeled as a domestic terrorist.

Yeah, folks, you heard that right—a domestic terrorist under investigation by our Nation's chief law enforcement agency.

It sounds insane, right?

But it is a crazy reality today. President Biden's Attorney General is mobilizing the FBI against parents who make their voices heard at school board meetings.

Let me be very clear about this. Violence or even threats of violence against school board members, teachers, or any public official should never ever be tolerated; but neither should threats of intimidation by the government to coerce parents to surrender control over their children's education.

This is happening at the same time the FBI announced the largest spike in homicides ever recorded. I am not talking about this year, folks. I am not talking about last year, 4, 5, 6 years past. We are talking about the largest spike in homicides ever recorded.

With murder and violent crimes increasing, the President's liberal allies in Congress are threatening to defund the police. That approach certainly is not going to secure life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness.

Folks, all of these disturbing trends we just talked about are stark reminders that the principles our Nation was founded upon are not guaranteed. Every generation of Americans owes it to the next generation to preserve and strengthen the blessings of liberty we were fortunate enough to inherit.

I'd expect government coercion, State snooping, empty shelves, and out-of-control inflation in nations with socialist regimes, like China, Cuba, and Venezuela. But regardless of who our President may be, we must never ever accept any of these as part of life in America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes on the matter at hand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FREEDOM TO VOTE ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in support of what is right before us right now, and that is, proceeding to debate legislation that is critical to our democracy, the Freedom to Vote Act, which I introduced with the members of the voting rights working group assembled by Leader SCHUMER. That would be Senators MANCHIN, MERKLEY, PADILLA, KING, KAINE, TESTER, and WARNOCK. We all have our names on this bill. We all feel very strongly about this bill. Why? Because the freedom to vote is fundamental to all of our freedoms, and it is currently under attack.

Since the 2020 elections, we have seen a persistent and coordinated assault on the freedom to vote, but it has been under attack for much longer, as States have closed polling locations on a massive scale and purged hundreds of thousands of voters from the rolls.

As foreign adversaries have actually attempted to interfere in our elections, these attacks on our democracy demand a Federal response. When you have one State attacked by a foreign adversary, when they try to get into voter rolls in Illinois or Hawaii, are we going to expect those States to respond on their own? When you have an assault, a coordinated assault, on voting rights, so you have similar bills introduced across the country to limit drop-off boxes; when you have coordinated attacks to limit vote-by-mail; when you have coordinated attacks to limit registration to vote, it demands a Federal response.

What is amazing about our Constitution is that the Founding Fathers anticipated this because right in the Constitution, it says that Congress—this place where we work—can make and alter the laws regarding Federal elections. It is bulletproof. It has been upheld time and time again.

The urgent need for action could not be more serious. With over 400 bills having been introduced in nearly every State to limit the freedom to vote—over 30 of those have been signed into law—with redistricting underway to draw congressional maps that will define our democracy for the next decade—and the first primary for the 2022 elections is in a little over 4 months in Texas—we must act now.

It has been over 9 months since that violent mob of insurrectionists stormed into this Chamber, opened up people's desks, and sat where the Presiding Officer is sitting right now. They desecrated our Capitol, the temple of our democracy. This was not just an attack on a building. It was an attack on our Republic. It was an attack on public servants, police officers who were serving us that day.

As I said from the inaugural stage just 2 weeks later under that beautiful blue sky at the very place where you could still see the spray paint on the columns, where we stood in front of makeshift windows—where we stood together, leaders of both political parties in both Chambers and from across the Nation—I said: This is the day our democracy picks itself up, brushes itself off, and does what America always does—goes forward as one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We took back our democracy that day. With this Freedom to Vote Act, which includes provisions that have the support of 78 percent of Americans

who favor 2 weeks of early voting and 83 percent of voters who support public disclosure of campaign contributions because they believe the people should be running the government, not lobbyists and not outside groups, we will take it back again from those who are trying to take away the people's constitutional right to vote.

With 19 States having enacted laws this year to roll back the freedom to vote, we can't simply sit back and watch our democracy be threatened. Whether it be threatened with bear spray, crowbars, axes, or whether it be threatened with long lines, no ballot drop-off boxes, and secret money, we must stand up for our democracy whether we are Democrats or Republicans or Independents. That is what our country is about.

When we are faced with a coordinated effort across our country to limit the freedom to vote, we must stand up and do what is right. But, as we have seen in States like Georgia and Florida and Iowa and Montana and last month in Texas, we are up against a coordinated attack. As Senator Reverend RAPHAEL WARNOCK has said, it is really quite simple: Some people don't want some people to vote. That is what this is about.

What is this Freedom to Vote Act about? It is about minimum standards for voting. You know, it is 15 days of early voting. My State votes up to 40 days. That is not what we put in this bill. We put minimum standards in this bill, ensuring voters have access to at least 2 weeks of early voting so they can cast their mail-in ballot without an excuse—something people were able to use as a way to safely vote in the middle of a public health crisis. They did it in record numbers in the middle of a crisis because they believed in our democracy no matter which way they voted. Why would we take away that right from them now when we are seeing a curtailing of that right in many States across this country?

It counters partisan interference in election administrations, makes sure that these super PACs and issue advocacy groups that hide behind veils have to show who is giving them the money, and prohibits partisan gerrymandering.

Then we listened to secretaries of state across this country, Democrats and Republicans. We listened to our colleague Senator MANCHIN, who proudly has his name on this bill. So what did we do? We made changes to this bill. It provides flexibility for small and vote-by-mail jurisdictions on early voting. It makes it easier to implement automatic voter registration. It creates a new flexible source of Federal funding to help our States. It ensures election officials can use best practices for maintaining accurate and up-to-date voter rolls.

It is important to recognize that the Freedom to Vote Act is the first piece of voting rights legislation this Congress to come to the Senate floor with the support of all 50 Senate Democrats.

Now, our Republican colleagues may not agree with everything in this bill. OK. Then don't be scared. Don't hide behind your desks. Don't deny us the right to simply debate this bill. Our leader, Senator SCHUMER, has made it very clear: We are open to amendments on this bill. We welcome your amendments. We are not putting a limit on amendments.

So why would you shy away from debating this bill—unless you just don't want the American people to hear the truth; unless you don't want the stories told about what is going on in places like Georgia, where voters are now being asked to put their birth date on the outside of the inside envelope. Maybe you don't want to have the stories told about how voters in Wisconsin almost—except for the Governor stopping it in its tracks, voters in Wisconsin almost were limited in the entire city of Milwaukee to one drop-off box. That bill passed their legislature. That is what we are talking about here.

So let's have this debate. Let's hear the argument. Let's not stop the debate over the fundamental right to vote that our entire democracy is founded on.

If our Republican colleagues have constructive ideas on ways to improve this legislation and if they are willing to work with us on amendments, then we are prepared to hear them. We are simply asking them to open up the debate. Instead, it will be more people standing in line, like they did in Wisconsin in the primary, in homemade masks and garbage bags in a rainstorm just to exercise their right to vote. It is going to be people who are told, like they just were in Georgia: You can't even vote on weekends in the runoff period. It is going to be people who served in our military who have to wait in line in the hot Sun, wait for hours to vote. That didn't happen when they signed up to serve our country, but it happens when they try to vote.

Let's have that debate. Americans have fought and died to protect our freedom to vote. They have done so on the battlefield, and they did so in marches during the civil rights movement. Fifty-six years after the Voting Rights Act was passed by this Chamber and signed into law, we cannot shut down the debate.

Our Nation was founded on the ideals of democracy, and we have seen for ourselves in this very building that we can't afford to take that for granted. We can't do it when legislators and Members of Congress get to pick and choose who is going to be able to vote easily. We do it by debating real ideas and standing on the shoulders of those who went out to vote. That is what a democracy is about.

I urge my colleagues to open up the debate, to not be afraid and shut down the debate, to not hide under their desks, to not put their heads down. I urge them to simply open up the debate.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LHAMON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lhamon nomination?

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 419 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the nomination is confirmed.

The nomination was confirmed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 125, S. 2747, a bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box and reduce the influence of big money in politics, and for other purpose.

Charles E. Schumer, Amy Klobuchar, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan,

Raphael G. Warnock, Ben Ray Luján, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Duckworth, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Cory A. Booker, Sherrod Brown.

The VICE PRESIDENT. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed on S. 2747, a bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box and reduce the influence of big money in politics, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 420 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—51

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Schumer
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

Mr. SCHUMER. I change my vote to no.

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 51.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, I want to be clear about what just happened on the floor of the Senate. Every single Republican Senator just blocked this Chamber from having a debate—simply a debate—on protecting Americans' right to vote in free and fair elections.

A little over a year ago, our country held the safest, most accessible, most on-the-level elections in modern history. Our former President could not accept defeat with grace. He refused to show fidelity to the democratic process.

Instead, he told a Big Lie—a Big Lie that has now poisoned—poisoned—the roots of our democracy. Capitalizing on this malicious lie, his acolytes in conservative-controlled legislatures are now passing laws across the country making it harder for younger, poorer, urban, and non-White Americans to participate in our elections.

These laws are a direct attack on our fundamental liberties as American citizens. If there is anything—anything—worthy of the Senate's attention, it is unquestionably this.

And yet, given the chance to respond to an obvious problem, given the chance to merely debate these latest threats against the franchise, Senate Republicans voted unanimously—unanimously—to block any opportunity for action.

Let there be no mistake, Senate Republicans blocking debate today is an implicit endorsement of the horrid new voter suppression and election subversion laws pushed in conservative States across the country. By preventing the Senate from functioning as it was intended, Republicans in this body are permitting States to criminalize giving food and water to voters at the polls. Republicans are saying it's OK to limit polling places and voting hours and shut the doors to more expansive vote by mail.

I mean, my God. Why aren't all of my colleagues outraged by these laws?

Frankly, we haven't heard a clear explanation from Republicans at all because they refused for this Chamber to even hold a debate. It is ludicrous—ludicrous—for them to simply state that the Federal Government has no role to play here. They should read the Constitution of these United States of America. It precisely empowers Congress to regulate the ''times, places, and manners'' of holding elections. The Congress—us. Sometimes the Federal Government has been the only recourse when States conspire to shut voters out.

Madam President, the fight to protect our democracy is far from over in the United States Senate. Senate Democrats have made clear that voting rights is not like other issues we deal with in this Chamber. This isn't about regular old politics. It is not just about even regular old policy. It is about protecting the very soul of this Nation, about preserving our identity as a free people who are masters of our own destiny.

Republican obstruction is not a cause for throwing in the towel. As soon as next week, I am prepared to bring the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act here to the floor.

What we saw from Republicans today is not how the Senate is supposed to work. This is supposedly the world's greatest deliberative body, where we debate, forge compromise, amend, and pass legislation to help the American people. That is the legacy of this great Chamber. The Senate needs to be restored to its rightful status as the world's greatest deliberative body.

Now, in the aftermath of the Civil War, and as the Nation began the colossal work of Reconstruction, America was more divided than at any point in history. It was hard to imagine that a single nation could endure after the bloody conflict of the four previous years.

At the time, the Republican Congress set to work on granting newly freed slaves the basic freedoms that had long been denied to them. These freedoms were eventually enshrined in the 14th and 15th Amendments, granting due process and the right to vote to all citizens, regardless of color or race.

Today, these amendments rank as some of the greatest and most revered accomplishments in congressional history. They are proof that our country is capable of living up to its founding promise, if we are willing to put in the work.

But at the time, the minority party in both Chambers refused to offer a single vote for any of the civil rights legislation put forward during Reconstruction. Not one vote. Not one vote. They argued these bills represented nothing more than the partisan interests of the majority—a power grab, they said, from vengeful northerners.

But that didn't stop the majority. If expanding basic freedoms meant going it alone, that was something they were willing to do. Today, we feel the same way.

To the patriots after the Civil War, this wasn't partisan; it was patriotic. And American democracy is better off today because the patriots in this Chamber at that time were undeterred by minority obstruction. Again, today, we feel the same way.

Today, the question before the Senate is how we will find a path forward on protecting our freedoms in the 21st century.

Members of this body now face a choice. They can follow in the footsteps of our patriotic predecessors in this Chamber, or they can sit by as the fabric of our democracy unravels before our very eyes.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the Lin nomination.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Tana Lin, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I do have to make a quick comment before I jump into a unanimous consent request.

I did appreciate hearing the majority leader talk about how the minority and the majority stood up around Reconstruction. And I found it interesting that he continued to talk about the majority and the minority standing up for the rights of slaves and the rights of individuals, conveniently leaving out it was the Republicans at that time that were the majority that were actually standing up for the rights of all individuals of all races to be able to vote and to be able to be engaged, and it was the Democrats at that time that were working very hard to be able to block the rights of individuals to be able to vote.

So I did have to find it personally humorous when he seems to not be very shy about saying Republican and Democrat on this floor, at that moment he used majority and minority. But I digress. On to other issues.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2879

Madam President, the reason I came to the floor today is because, on September 9, the President of the United States took to the microphone and told the American people his patience was wearing thin—was the comment he made to the American people: My patience is wearing thin; therefore, I am going to start mandating that individuals across the country have to receive a vaccine.

To which he then put out an Executive order across to Federal workers, in particular, and told Federal workers they would have to have a vaccine by the end of this year, to be fully vaccinated, complete.

The deadlines he put in place for the Moderna vaccine, they would have had to have had the first shot by last week; by the Pfizer vaccine, they would have already have had to have the shot by this week; and then the J&J vaccine, they would have to have it by a couple weeks to be fully complete.

And he laid down this statement to say everybody needs to get vaccinated, and then walked away.

Office of Personnel Management and Office of Management and Budget didn't try to start engaging to start catching up on this because there was no rule that was in place. It was an Executive action.

I quickly started getting phone calls from individuals in my State who were exceptionally concerned about that. There are Federal workers who have worked for the Federal Government for decades, who had questions about religious accommodation or for medical exceptions, or, quite frankly, they had already had COVID and recovered from it and they were concerned about the vaccine coming in that they would have some kind of relapse at some point.

It is exceptionally rare, but if it is them and they walk back through it, it is their prerogative.

So I started asking questions immediately. I went to the CDC to ask if they had studied the 44 million Americans who have already had COVID and recovered, would their recommendation be those individuals don't have to have the vaccine if they can show they already have the antibodies in the their system.

And the answer I got back from CDC is: We have not studied it yet.

A year and a half in, and we have not studied it yet.

I went to the Office of Management and Budget to be able to visit with them. I heard one set of issues from them. Twenty-four hours later, I met with the Office of Personnel Management, and I heard a different set of issues that came from them. They were literally in conflict with each other 24 hours apart. They put out guidance. They put out a second set of guidance. Each set of guidance they put out becomes more chaotic in the process.

People who have worked remotely throughout this entire time of COVID and still continue to work remotely are a little confused as to why they are now being suddenly mandated to have a vaccine.

Individuals who have already had COVID, as I mentioned before, and have recovered are a little confused why they are being mandated to do this.

Individuals with medical accommodations who have asked for those, who literally are showing up with paperwork from their physician saying ''This person is currently under cancer treatment, and they do not need to have the vaccine at this point during their moment of treatment,'' are being told by some people ''No, that doesn't count. The CDC has said it is OK. Your doctor's note doesn't count,'' and by others, they are being told ''No, that does count; you can delay it.''

There is one set of rules from one Agency and one set of rules from another. In fact, even within the same Agency, from department to department, there is a different set of rules. Some Agencies have said that the volunteer advisory boards are also included. Other Agencies are saying: No, volunteer advisory boards are not included in this mandate.

Some are receiving word in State agencies in my State that because your agency takes Federal funds, everyone in your State agency also has to be vaccinated or we will cut off the Federal funds to your State. Some agencies are not calling with that same request.

The contractors who work with the Federal Government were told they were also included in this Executive order mandate and that everyone in their company needs to also be vaccinated, except the contractors are asking very simple questions: Is it everyone in our company or is it everyone who actually works on the contract for the Federal Government? They can't get a straight answer on that.

As simple as it is, even for those contractors who have asked—they have said: No, wait a minute, we have a contract already. Are you as the President trying to write in an additional stipulation into our contract that we didn't agree to based on an Executive action? You don't have legal authority to be able to do that. Is this about the current contract or is this about future contracting?

They have not been able to get an answer on that.

Quite frankly, we as a body—I am still fighting to make sure contractors don't have human trafficking in their contracting and get suspension for this, but apparently, with this Executive order, companies can still have human trafficking and not be suspended, but if they are not 100 percent vaccinated, they will be.

This is a bizarre world we are living in currently right now. This mandate came out for Federal workers, Federal contractors, maybe volunteer advisory boards, maybe State agencies, 6 weeks ago, and everyone is still asking questions—what in the world? In the meantime, real families in real-life situations are dealing with the consequences of the debris field behind this.

One of the Social Security agencies in my State, the folks who take care of those folks at the Social Security office—get their cards to them, get questions from them about Social Security—there are eight employees in that little agency, that little spot. Four of the folks are talking about leaving because they are concerned about the vaccine mandate, and they are not getting their questions answered. If that happens, the folks in that part of my State will not be able to get access to Social Security cards and will not be able to get their answers.

So what is happening? People are struggling with a long-term career, deciding whether they are going to leave, literally if they are going to follow their doctor's orders or if they are going to follow somebody from the CDC they have never met before and their orders that are coming down.

Federal contractors are trying to figure out how they can complete a contract because the President of the United States inserted a new element into their contract.

Oh, by the way, many Federal union workers are contacting my office, saying: What in the world? This was not part of our collective bargaining agreement. Literally, the President is adding a new element to our collective bargaining agreement after the fact and saying: I know you are a union member, but your local unions are not going to represent you.

And they haven't. They are going to their stewards and they are going to others and saying ''Hey, I need somebody to represent me here in this,'' and they are telling them, ''No. The President just inserted something into our collective bargaining agreement, and

you can do nothing about it.'' Federal union employees are ticked because they thought their union represented them, not the President of the United States.

Now, to be clear, I took the vaccine as soon as it was eligible for me. My wife did the same. My daughters did the same. I am incredibly grateful for the vaccine. I encourage people all over my State, and have from the beginning, to take the vaccine. It has gone through a rigorous, scientific process. But people in my State, like the 49 other States in this great country, all know this fact to be true: There are side effects for some people in the vaccine. It is a small group, but no one knows if they are in that group until they take the vaccine. There are also dramatic effects for people who get COVID. Some people are asymptomatic—literally get it, recover, never even knew they had it—and some people die from it in a horrible death in a hospital. You never know until you get it.

That is why each individual American has to be able to evaluate their risk of whether they are going to risk it to get COVID or risk it to get the vaccine. I think the risk is much lower in getting the vaccine. Science has proved that number to be accurate. But, you know what, I don't get to decide for them. They have to decide for them. I can bring information to them and let them make the decision. But, instead, the President of the United States has stood up and said: My patience is wearing thin. You have to do what I say regardless if you are under cancer treatments and regardless if you are under any other process.

I even asked the Office of Personnel Management: What are you going to do for religious accommodations?

The answer came back: We cannot decide someone's sincerity.

The next day, I talked to the Office of Personnel Management, which is actually putting the details together, and they gave me a seven-point decision-making process to help people decide if someone's religious beliefs are sincere or not.

This is a mess, and there are lots of people who are caught up in this who just want their government to help them, not fire them for making a decision that affects their personal life and their family. That is why I have been after this for 6 weeks since the famous ''I am losing patience'' speech. For 6 weeks, I have talked about this. For 6 weeks, I have made phone calls to every entity I could make phone calls, written letters, brought legislation. For 6 weeks, I have brought these issues up and said this is a real problem that is out there. For 6 weeks, I am not being heard on this.

There are Americans in my great State who are now having to decide if they are going to leave a career they love serving their neighbors or if they are going to be compelled to take a vaccine risk just because the President has said: My patience is wearing thin.

Just to reinforce a simple statement about people making decisions on risks—it is interesting to me. On the first of October, another Executive order came out that said: If individuals take the vaccine and they are a Federal worker, because of this new mandate, if they do have severe side effects from it, we will cover them medically.

That was a little reminder to some people who were hesitating of why they hesitated.

Listen, why don't we go back to doing what we do as Americans: Respect each other, encourage people to do the right thing, and incentivize. But this chaotic mandate where you don't know if you are a Federal contractor; you don't know the rules if you are a Federal employee; you don't know the rules if you are on the advisory board; you don't know the rules even if you are in a State agency—by the way, the deadlines for Moderna and Pfizer have already passed, and you still don't know the rules. They are nearing a moment of being fired and no one even has the details yet? Please.

Why don't you listen to the people in your own State asking very straightforward questions? This is not about whether you should take the vaccine. This is, are you going to fire a 25-year Federal employee because they disagree with you? That is what this is all about.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of my bill that sets aside this Executive order from the President, S. 2879, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time, passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The junior Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I reserve the right to object. My friend from Oklahoma serves as the ranking member of the Government Operations Subcommittee of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I sincerely appreciate that he brings a thoughtful approach to Federal workforce issues and that we frequently have an opportunity to work together to make government work more efficiently and more effectively.

Unfortunately, I strongly disagree with the legislation being put forward today. This proposal would roll back policies put in place to make sure that Federal workers and Federal contractors who are paid with taxpayer dollars are vaccinated against COVID–19. These Executive orders protect not just the Federal workforce all across our country, but they help protect their families and their communities. There are also commonsense exceptions for people with disabilities, with medical conditions, or with sincerely held religious beliefs. These policies were put in place both carefully and fairly.

The American people are literally sick and tired of this pandemic—a pandemic that has already claimed over 725,000 lives, including the lives of our friends, our neighbors, and our family members. They want this pandemic to end, and vaccines is how we get there.

From the beginning of this pandemic, I and many of my colleagues have been dedicated to bringing safe and effective vaccines to the people who live in our States by investing in science and research and by strengthening our domestic supply chains.

COVID–19 vaccines are now widely available, but we know from trusted scientists and public health experts that we need higher rates of vaccination to get this pandemic under control. The politicization of safe, effective, public health measures is making it harder to end this horrible pandemic. The legislation before us today would without question move us in the wrong direction. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I understand the statement by my friend from Michigan. I have to tell you, though, I wish this was rolled out in an orderly fashion. It has been 6 weeks of chaos and unanswered questions, and the Federal Government is about to fire thousands of Federal employees because they did not bend to their will.

Many Federal employees asked for a medical exemption and were told no. Literally, they brought a letter from their doctor and were told no. Individuals asked for religious accommodation and were told no, they will not get it. It is one thing to say it is offered; it is another thing to say it was actually extended.

I will tell you, from talking to people in my State in the Federal workforce, they are not getting those orderly religious accommodations, those orderly medical exemptions. They are not getting it. They are being told ''No, it is a mandate,'' and then they are being told ''You are about to lose your career. Is it worth it?'' These are individuals literally choosing between their health and their job.

By this January, I don't know how many thousands of Federal employees we are going to have out of our system and how much wisdom we are going to lose out of all these Agencies. But this horrible game of chicken that the President is right now playing with not only Federal employees but with people all over the country is a terrible thing to do to our economy and to individuals who are seeking the best service.

It is amazing to me how many individuals served through the entire pandemic faithfully and took great risk to serve their neighbors who literally the President is about to fire as their thank you. That is wrong. That is wrong.

I stood last week and talked to individuals who work for American Airlines, who are really concerned and frustrated, who love working with American Airlines but are now receiving a mandate coming down on them that they are digging in and saying: I am not going to do it. I have already had COVID. I have recovered. I have natural immunity. Why am I being asked to do this as well?

And they are getting only that the President is mandating it, and: We do Federal work, and so it is going to be required.

It is the same thing happening to packing companies, to manufacturers, to small businesses around the country.

Let me just read you a story. One employee who called our office last week is currently in cancer treatment for the fourth time and is receiving an experimental treatment. She is being told that she will be terminated from her job November 24 if she doesn't get vaccinated, because the President is requiring it on everyone.

That does not sound like an accommodation that is occurring because of medical accommodations.

It is nice to say in DC: Talk to the people in your State what is actually happening on the ground.

All of this push that is happening around healthcare workers all around the country, what does that really look like?

When we talked to an administrator of one of our nursing homes. Most of the individuals in our nursing homes, thankfully, as residents and as staff, have been vaccinated; but some have had COVID, and they are concerned about getting the vaccine. Whether that is rational or not, that is where they are, but they have natural immunity.

This particular nursing home that we talked to, 20 percent of her employees have said that they will not take the vaccine. This particular nursing home in a rural area will close and expose all of those residents and their families to chaos because Biden said: I am losing patience.

It is one thing to say we need to be able to push back on this pandemic. I absolutely agree. It is another thing to irrationally close down nursing homes that are taking care of patients that, by the way, were filled with people—frontline workers—who put their life at risk last year to serve people.

And now to push those people out and fire them this year?

''You are welcome,'' apparently, is what the President should be saying to them.

All I am asking for is reason. All I am asking for is to consider those 44 million Americans who have natural immunity and to accept what we all know scientifically to be true. All I am asking for is real medical exemptions. That is not irrational. All I am asking for is real religious accommodations.

Those are things that should be straightforward, common sense, and doable. But for whatever reason, the train is barreling down the tracks. In the debris field is our Federal workers, individuals who work in private companies, healthcare workers across the board.

I, just this weekend, received an email that was a long email from a very shy physician in one of our major hospitals in Tulsa. She told me flat out: I don't seek personal attention. I don't do media stuff.

In fact, she said: I don't even have social media at all.

But she detailed out her healthcare decisions and what was going on in her own life and said: I do not want to receive this vaccine.

As a physician at a major hospital in Tulsa, she is about to lose her job because President Biden's patience is running thin.

What do her patients do next?

Mr. President, don't play chicken with our families. This is real to them. They do not need to lose their job because they have medical conditions, religious accommodations, or they have natural immunity. They have suffered through COVID once, and now you are going to fire them for that?

Let's have a real dialogue, not a rushed ''My patience is wearing thin.''

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Louisiana.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL B. ENZI

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I wanted to say a couple of words about a couple of friends.

I really miss Mike Enzi. I am referring, of course, to Senator Mike Enzi, our colleague who served the people of Wyoming and the people of America for 24 years in this body. We lost him a couple of months ago. I tried to get out to his beautiful State to say good-bye, and I couldn't. I couldn't rearrange things. I just—I miss him.

I was thinking about Mike this morning. I had a meeting over here early—not too early, about 8 o'clock. I walked from my little, overpriced Capitol Hill apartment, through the park, to the Capitol. The park I am talking about is just east of the Capitol. Mike would always walk through the park when he would come to vote. Not always, but many times he would leave his office and get his exercise and enjoy God's beautiful day by walking through the park. I walked with him a couple of times.

Mike was so many things, but if I had to describe him in three words, it would be ''decent,'' ''smart,'' and ''one of the best fishermen I have ever known.''

I want to talk about the decent part and what Mike Enzi meant to me. I mean, I can talk about his background and the fact that he was a giant among Senators and how everybody respected him, but everybody knows that.

When I first got here—I think all new Senators feel this way. The Members of this body are very, very smart, and they are very, very driven. And at least for me, when I first got here, it was a very intimidating place. I think that is true for most Senators. I think if you ask all 100 Senators what it was like their first month here, 99 of them would tell you that they were intimidated. The 100th would be lying because this is an intimidating place.

But, you know, Mike went out of his way, I remember—I guess he could tell I was insecure—to reassure me. You know, every few weeks I would see him in the cloakroom or I would see him in committee, and he would say: Kennedy, you know, you are making a real contribution to this group.

Well, of course, I wasn't, but it made me feel so good and so more sure of myself. And it also made me realize, when I reflect back on it, what a decent thing it was for Mike to do. I mean, he had been here 24 years. He had his pick of chairmanship. I mean, he really was a giant in this body. I was green as a gourd, brandnew; and he didn't have to do that, but he did. I never told him how much that meant to me, and I really regret not telling him that now.

I feel so bad for Diana—just the most wonderful person in the world. I don't know Mike's children—Amy, Emily, and Brad—but I have a feeling, knowing that they are the children of Mike Enzi and Diana, that they are three wonderful Americans.

I just wanted to say that. I was thinking about Mike today. I miss him.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT TRAVIS SCOTT

Madam President, No. 2, we have an organization in Louisiana called the Public Affairs Research Council. It is one of our premiere think tanks. It is an independent group. They are not political. They do serious research, and they offer very serious suggestions about how we, in Louisiana, can solve some of our social and economic problems. We call it PAR, Public Affairs Research Council.

I don't know how long PAR has been around. As long as I have been in government, which is the late 1980s, it was there way before I came. I didn't have time to look up when it was founded, but I think it is pretty much 2 years older than dirt. It has been there. It is an institution in Louisiana.

It is privately funded. People who care about our State contribute money to do PAR's work. I religiously read all of PAR's white papers and research papers. Everybody I know who cares about my State takes their suggestions seriously.

To be the director or the president of PAR, it is quite an honor. It is a lot of work and it is a big deal. Our president of PAR is retiring. He is a friend of mine. His name is Robert Travis Scott, and I want to say a word about Robert.

Robert is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with high honors, a graduate of Johns Hopkins. He has done it all. Robert has been the president of PAR since 2011. But before that, he was the capital bureau chief for our Times-Picayune newspaper in

New Orleans, and that is how I got to know him. Robert was never an agenda journalist. And we know that those journalists, particularly in the print media, exist, and they exist in the electronic media.

I couldn't tell you today what Robert's politics are. I don't even know what party he is in. I don't know if he is in a party. He was always, when he was a reporter, a straight shooter. He called it like he saw it. He played it straight down the middle. And if he thought he ought to bust you upside the head because you did something dumb in public service, he would do it, but he didn't do it just in a gratuitous way.

So it was no surprise to me when PAR asked Robert to take over running the Public Affairs Research Council. And he did that. He has done it since 2011, 10 years. Robert and PAR have contributed so much to my State.

His replacement is going to be a gentleman by the name of Dr. Steve Procopio, who I know as well. Steve is going to do a great job. But we are going to miss Robert. I hope he doesn't go far.

I just wanted to come say a word about my good friend Robert Travis Scott.

TAX CODE

Madam President, now let me say one final word on a timely topic here.

As you know, our body is going to soon be considering, I think, some changes to our Tax Code. We don't know exactly what they are.

I just want to strongly encourage my colleagues and my friends—because I like everybody in this body—if we are going to make changes to our Tax Code, to make those changes on the basis of sound economic principles. Don't make them on the basis of class warfare.

Some of the proponents of some of the changes that I have seen discussed in the media, in my opinion, don't understand the complexity of the American economy. They just don't. They think of our economy as it was in primitive times, when our ancestors were hunters and gatherers.

In those days, in primitive times, when our ancestors were hunters and gatherers, the only value that was created in the economy that we had was labor. It was all labor. And then, in those days, when somebody became rich, they became rich by exploiting the capital of others.

In fact, that is what Marx talked about. Marx's concept of the economy was that the only value in an economy is work. And if you become wealthy in an economy, you become wealthy as a result of exploiting the labor of others.

So Marx agreed with this description of the—I want to say our medieval, but it was way before medieval times, when our ancestors were hunters and gatherers.

That is not the American economy today. The American economy today is the greatest economy in all of human history because it is a marriage of capital and labor.

And capital and labor are not antagonistic. They work together. Now, it is not without friction. I understand that. But that is why we have become the greatest economy in all of human history. And when capital joins labor and the two contribute and play their own role, we are able to all work and save and invest and fund the research and development and do the innovative things that have given all of us the greatest quality of life in all of human history. So capital is not a bad thing; it is a good thing.

And there has been a lot of talk around here about billionaires—bad, bad billionaires; they are not paying their fair share. I have never completely understood how you determine what the fair share is of somebody.

Let me put it another way. I don't understand what the fair share is of what somebody else has worked for. I don't know what my fair share is of what Madam President's—what she has worked for. It is yours. You worked for it.

But that aside, this talk about the bad, bad billionaires and they don't pay their fair share and they are hurting our economy and they only got rich based on exploiting other people's labor, I think, shows a gross misunderstanding of the complexity of the U.S. economy and a gross misunderstanding of free enterprise. And I hope we don't lose sight of that as we go about the process of making changes to our Tax Code.

Let me say it again. If we make changes to our Tax Code, let's don't make them on the basis of class warfare. Let's make them on the basis of sound economic principles.

So congratulations to Robert Travis Scott from PAR. Robert, I hope you have a wonderful retirement. Don't be moving back to South Carolina or Baltimore or other places. Stay in Louisiana.

And, Mike, I miss you. Mike Enzi, I miss you.

I have heard it said before that—I didn't say this, now; I am just repeating it—most Senators believe in God, and the rest of them think they are God. Mike Enzi was in the former category. Just a great man. Smart, good fisherman. But most of all, he was decent.

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. TOOMEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF SAULE OMAROVA

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I rise today to discuss President Biden's nominee to serve as one of our Nation's chief banking regulators.

About a month ago, President Biden announced his intention to nominate Cornell University Law Professor Saule Omarova to serve as Comptroller of the Currency.

I was on the floor recently, and I spoke about her nomination. And I noted at the time that she has been celebrated on the far left for promoting ideas that she herself has described as ''radical.'' It is one of the few things on which I agree with her. These are radical ideas. In fact, they are very radical ideas.

And most disturbing about this is they demonstrate—these ideas of hers—a very clear aversion to America's free enterprise system at a very fundamental level, despite the fact that our free enterprise system has produced an incredible level of prosperity and standard of living.

I have to say, I don't think I have ever seen a more radical choice for any regulatory spot in our Federal Government that I can think of than Professor Omarova. And let me be clear. That assessment is based on the things that Professor Omarova has written and said in her own words, often quite recently.

So today I want to focus on just one of the radical ideas that she presented in great detail in a paper that she wrote in 2016—not exactly ancient history. This is her plan to have the Federal Government set wages and prices for large sectors of the U.S. economy; in fact, the most important goods and services in our economy.

Under her plan, the Federal Government would designate—and these are her words—''systemically important prices and indexes'' or ''SIPIs.'' She creates an acronym for these things; she calls them SIPIs—for the Federal Reserve to regulate.

So she details five different approaches, different ways, that the government could regulate and take control over these prices of these systemically important goods. And they are all—it is all a terrible idea based on the completely erroneous premise that somehow the government knows what the price of these things should be.

But among all of them, one that is maybe the most troubling is one that she describes here. And this is what Professor Omarova argued. She says: ''The . . . final regulatory option we think worth considering is . . . price maintenance—typically within some band—through OMOs.''

Now, OMO stands for open market operations, and that is an operation that the Federal Reserve engages in. But the Fed uses open market operations—or OMOs, in Professor Omarova's lexicon—to just buy and sell securities for one purpose, and that is to manage the amount of money in the supply—in the economy, to manage monetary policy, to do it by managing the supply of money. That is it.

What Professor Omarova is advocating for is a radical departure from this very, very narrow and limited activity. What her plan would do is to empower the Fed—and these are her

words—''to buy and sell in markets . . . with a view to keeping particular [systemically important prices] within particular bands thought necessary for the purposes of maintaining systemic stability.''

Wow. Now, what kind of prices does Professor Omarova have in mind for the Fed to control by buying and selling these commodities? Well, she tells us. She says:

> Various candidate SIPIs here come to mind. . . . Certain sensitive commodity prices—those for widely used fuels, foodstuffs, and some other raw materials, for example—constitute another class of candidates. Finally, wage or salary indices constitute yet another class of candidates.

Now, here are some of the other candidates for price controls that she has in mind: ''home prices,'' ''productive inputs'' such as ''energy,'' ''certain . . . metals, and other natural resources.''

In other words, like all the most important commodities in America, under Professor Omarova's radical plan, it would be the government that would set these prices rather than a free market determining how these prices should be set. The government would control everything from the size of your paycheck to the amount you pay at the grocery store for a gallon of milk or a gallon of gasoline.

There is no more allocation of scarce goods based on who values them the most—the brilliance of the way that a spontaneous market allocates resources automatically to their best and highest use and enables us to have the lowest possible cost for the most possible goods. None of that. No more.

We will have a committee—it is called the Fed Open Market Committee—and they will dictate the prices that we will pay and how the resources of America will be allocated.

Now, if her radical idea sounds familiar, that is because it is familiar. It has been tried—been tried several times—repeatedly, and every single time it has failed spectacularly, time and again, in all the centrally planned economies in the world, especially the Soviet Union.

In fact, Soviet efforts to control prices in their economy were so abysmal, they failed so badly that they spawned countless jokes within the Soviet Union that illustrate the folly of central planning, the inherent impossibility of central planning.

One of my favorites is about a guy who walks into a store. He walks up to the shopkeeper and says: You don't have any meat, do you?

And the shopkeeper replies: No, we don't have any fish. It is the store next door that doesn't have any meat.

So we can laugh about these things that people living under the misery of the Soviet Union, they had a sort of gallows humor about the misery of their circumstances.

But the fact is, it was this notion that a really smart committee at the center of the government could dictate the prices and the allocation of all resources; that idea is what caused the misery—ultimately, of course, caused the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This is what happens anywhere where governments try to control what should be left to the free men and women in terms of allocating resources. Government-run economies, like the very one that Professor Omarova is proposing—they don't work.

And let me stress a point that I have made before about Professor Omarova. The fact that she was born and raised in the Soviet Union has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not the Senate should confirm her to run a major financial agency.

There are some unbelievably wonderful, successful, patriotic, terrific American citizens who had the misfortune of growing up behind the Iron Curtain. That has nothing to do with whether or not she is qualified for this job. It is her advocacy for the policies that, in disturbing ways, resemble those of the Soviet Union—that is what should inform our judgment about whether this person should be the chief regulator of the Nation's federally chartered banks.

Now, Professor Omarova would likely argue that her centrally planned economy would be different. That is always the case. This time we will get socialism right. As her paper notes, the Fed does already use open market operations to implement monetary policy. That is true. So why not let the Fed use a similar mechanism to set and maintain stable prices for all kinds of important assets?

Well, the answer is simple: Making decisions about what individual—maybe dozens, maybe hundreds of individual assets across something as complex as our entire economy, what they should cost, how they should be allocated, that is an impossibly complex endeavor. There is no technocrat, no bureau, no committee, no agency—there is no entity that can figure that out.

It is the organic decisions, individual decisions, of millions of free people that spontaneously create the allocation that maximizes the well-being of the people of a free society.

By the way, there is a pretty strong case to be made that the government doesn't do such a great job on monetary policy either. People that we have serious doubts about how well they set the price of a single thing—namely, the U.S. dollar—do we want them directly controlling the prices of everything or at least everything that is important? I think not.

So the more I read the radical ideas that Professor Omarova has advocated for and the more I think about the damage this would do to our economy and our society, the more troubled I am by her nomination. So I strongly urge President Biden to reconsider his nomination, his decision to nominate her.

THE ECONOMY

Madam President, I have one other topic I want to address this afternoon, and it has to do with this really extraordinary and very reckless tax-and-spending spree that our Democratic colleagues seem determined to attempt to pass.

Now, there has been a lot of focus, understandably, on the staggering size of this, right? Is this going to be the $3.5 trillion of the budget resolution that passed here and is that a compromise from $6 trillion that some of our Democratic colleagues preferred or 7 trillion—or will it be 1.5 or 2?

OK. I would just say that there is no doubt in my mind, wherever this ends up, if it ends up anywhere, it is going to do a lot of damage. It is going to do a lot of damage to our economy. And I think that is probably why there are significant reservations, even among Democrats, and there is not any support among any Republicans for the various iterations of this bill.

At the heart of it, what this bill does is several things, but one of them is to attempt to redefine the very role of the Federal Government in our society. And what I am referring to is the attempt to have the Federal Government provide the needs—like all kinds of basic needs, so basically anyone in the middle class—from cradle to grave. It is free pre-K, free childcare, free paid leave, free community college—oh, maybe that one got dropped. I mean, many of them aren't even means-tested. They are not meant to be means-tested. If they are, you can have many multiples of the median family income and still qualify. It is all about making the middle class dependent on government. What a terrible idea.

But I will have more to say on another occasion about the idea of putting the entire middle class on the dole. Instead, I want to focus for a minute on a particularly ill-conceived provision on the tax side of this because it has massive tax increases as part of this proposal. And one of them is the huge increase in the U.S. global minimum tax. When we did tax reform of 2017 and brought about the end of corporate inversions, among other things, we established a global minimum tax at a low rate of 10 percent.

Now, what the Biden administration is proposing is going to completely upend the tax reform of 2017. We probably all remember the big announcements about this international agreement on multinational taxation. It consists of two pillars, as you may recall.

Pillar 1 is this unprecedented change that would allow foreign countries to tax American companies based on the sales of the American companies into the foreign country. We have never had a tax policy based on that. You could tax the income of a company that is based in your country; you don't get to reach into the income of a company based in some other country.

Many of our allies and friends around the world have long wanted to grab some income tax from American companies, and American administrations

have fought it. This administration has embraced it.

It is a big revenue transfer from U.S. Treasury to the treasuries of other countries. Unsurprisingly, this feature—this pillar 1—has been a high priority for these other countries. As I say, they have long sought this source of money. That is pillar 1.

Pillar 2 is an agreement by OECD countries to impose a 15-percent minimum tax on the foreign income of their multinational countries.

Now, why was this important? Well, this is very important to the Biden administration because they want to raise the tax imposed on foreign income of U.S. multinationals, and they at least implicitly acknowledge that if foreign countries don't do likewise—if they don't have a very burdensome tax regime like we are going to create under the Biden plan—then we would be at a huge competitive disadvantage, and multinationals would have no choice but to flee the United States and many, many jobs going with them. So that is pillar 2.

Now, here is one of the big problems with this whole arrangement, this whole negotiation. As I said before, the administration has implicitly acknowledged that if the rest of the world doesn't impose this huge minimum tax on their multinationals, we would be at a huge competitive disadvantage. That is why they negotiate with us. But there is a very real possibility that some of these countries—many of them—may not implement a global minimum tax, despite the tentative agreement. And there are at least two reasons.

One is, these countries have only reluctantly agreed to pillar 2 in the first place. They didn't think this was such a great idea, but they agreed to it in return for pillar 1—right?—in return for the commitment that they would be able to grab some of the tax revenue that we normally collect.

There is a problem with that. Implementing pillar 1 requires changing the treaties—the multilateral or the bilateral tax treaties—that the United States has with these other countries. Changing the treaty requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate because under the Constitution, ratification of a treaty is subject to a two-thirds vote.

Well, guess what. I don't think there is two-thirds of the U.S. Senate prepared to vote for this tax giveaway to these other countries. So if I am right, then pillar 1 never gets implemented. If pillar 1 never gets implemented, then the sole motivation for these countries to raise their corporate global minimum tax goes away.

So I am not sure how they square this circle. And at a minimum, I would think they ought to sort this out—the administration, that is—before they just go ahead and put American companies at a huge competitive disadvantage.

By the way, even if they get their way exactly, we are going to be at a huge competitive disadvantage. The best they could negotiate from OECD countries was a global minimum tax of 15 percent.

Their own proposal has an effective global minimum tax rate of 26 percent that we will be imposing on our own companies. That is a pretty big difference on the margin, and it creates an incentive to have your multinational headquartered somewhere other than the United States of America. That is a very bad idea.

So I think there is a very substantial risk that when the administration gets wrapped around the axle because they are finding they can't get the two-thirds majority in the Senate for us to inflict this wound on ourselves—on our own economy—well, the rest of the world is going to rethink raising their minimum tax. And yet—and yet—our Democratic colleagues seem determined to move ahead with this huge tax increase and all this spending. And who knows, maybe it passes any day now.

But let me be clear, this is a destructive tax increase. It will hurt American workers, make the United States a less competitive place to do business, whether or not the rest of the world follows suit. And so I would just urge my colleagues, don't do this damage. I don't know what people think they are fixing.

In 2019—just 1 year after the full implementation of our tax reform—we had the best economy of my lifetime. There was an end to corporate inversions. There was an economic boom. We had a record low unemployment rate—alltime record low unemployment for African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, women. Workforce participation rate was at multidecade highs. Wages were growing, and wages were growing fastest for the lowest income workers. Under our regulatory and tax reforms, we were narrowing the income gap and allowing Americans to create wealth and prosperity and achieve a higher standard of living.

I ask my colleagues: What was so bad about that? What is really so bad about the best economy of my lifetime—rising wages, a better standard of living, and a narrowing of the income gap? What was so bad about that that you want to throw it out the door, out the window? I don't get that. I don't get that at all.

It is not too late. Maybe we will be fortunate enough to be able to dodge this. But if we don't, a lot of families, workers, Americans of all walks of life will have a lower standard of living as a result of this very ill-conceived tax policy in the Biden administration.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Wisconsin.

(The remarks of Ms. BALDWIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3022 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

EDUCATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about America's education system.

As a result of the pandemic, parents have had a front-row seat to their kids' education. Parents are now engaged with their kids' schools much more than ever before. Many parents have had to make tough decisions about a number of things during the pandemic, but especially about their children's education.

Yet parental involvement, I believe, is a good thing for kids in our schools. The more parental involvement, the better. Parents deserve a say in what their kids learn and how best to learn it.

But all across America, school boards and teachers unions and city councils have been outraged to see parents involved as they have been.

Many parents are furious right now. In many cases, they have found out their kids were spending more time on liberal ideology than they were on science or on math.

Earlier this year, the State of California proposed teaching math—hard to believe, but this is what they said—from a social justice perspective—math from a social justice perspective.

Parents, appropriately, were furious, and the proposal was not rejected completely, but just postponed until next year.

Oregon now allows students to graduate—graduate—without proving they are proficient in reading, in writing, or in math.

San Francisco schools spent the entire last year closed, yet the San Francisco school board had spare time to propose changing the name of Abraham Lincoln High School. Kids are not in school, but the school board had plenty of time to consider and propose changing the name of Abraham Lincoln High School.

Well, parents, again, were enraged and this proposal was dropped.

It is very obvious why so many parents all across the country are so angry right now. They work hard. They pay their taxes. And what they see day in and day out are Democratic politicians hurting their kids' future, getting in the way of the education that parents believe their children need.

Last week, we saw even more proof. The Department of Education published the National Assessment of Educational Progress. It comes out every 5 years. It was time. It is the Nation's report card. This year's report card shows test scores in math and in reading have plummeted. This was the first time these scores have dropped in 50 years.

The lesson is obvious: We are spending too much time away from the things that students ought to be spending their time on. We need to spend less time on ideology, more time on education of the basics—real knowledge, real skills.

Many school boards across the country refuse to listen. In fact, the National School Boards Association complained to the Biden administration about angry parents. Now the Attorney General is treating angry parents like criminals. The Attorney General of the United States is deciding that angry parents are to be treated like criminals. Attorney General Garland has ordered Federal prosecutors to work with local police to form ''strategies for addressing threats against school administrators, board members, teachers, and staff.''

The Department of Justice says it will form a task force on these alleged threats against school boards. The task force is going to include representatives from the Department's Criminal Division, from the National Security Division, the Civil Rights Division, and Federal prosecutors, as well as the FBI.

Joe Biden is sending in the cavalry to school board meetings to focus on parents rather than focusing on the education the children need and deserve. He is sending the National Security Division after moms and dads because they are concerned about their children's education.

After the Attorney General's order, I joined with 10 of my Republican colleagues and demanded a legal justification from Attorney General Garland. I still haven't received a response.

We have also found out that Attorney General Garland has a family member who helps schools develop leftwing curriculum. The Attorney General's family member is helping schools developing leftwing curriculum. The Attorney General's son-in-law owns a company with millions and millions of dollars in government contracts—contracts by the Attorney General's son-in-law—contracts with schools all across America.

Well, maybe it is a coincidence, and maybe it is not. Attorney General Garland needs to tell the American people whether this played a role in his decision to treat parents like criminals.

Yet the problem is much bigger than the Attorney General of the United States. The problem is how Democrats treat and think about parents and working families.

The former Governor of the State of Virginia said recently:

> I don't think parents should be telling schools what they can teach.

This is the former Governor of Virginia:

> I don't think parents should be telling schools what they can teach.

Last month, Senator MIKE BRAUN asked the Secretary of Education about the role of parents in education. He asked if parents were ''the primary stakeholder'' in their kids' education.

Secretary Cardona said this: ''They're an important stakeholder.''

In other words, they are not the primary stakeholders. Parents are not the primary stakeholders.

Is it any surprise so many parents are deciding to educate their children at home?

So who does the Secretary of Education think is the primary educator of our children? The union bosses? Are they the primary educators of our children?

Democrats act like kids are the property of the schools. And schools, of course, are the property—in the minds of the Democrats—of the teachers unions. Parents have every right to be upset with what is happening in the public schools all across this Nation. Parents have every right to demand real improvements.

It is time for the Democrats to stop taking orders from the teachers unions and start listening to parents and to the students.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the last couple of years, our Democratic colleagues have suggested a range of unrealistic and downright harmful policies in our shared goal—and I emphasize the words ''shared goal''—to reduce carbon emissions. But it is not just a question of what you are doing; it is a question of how you are going about doing it. The way they are going about doing it is going to raise the prices of electricity, gasoline, and all forms of energy on people on fixed incomes, people who are seniors living on Social Security, and others. They have proposed everything from the socialist agenda that is the Green New Deal to more targeted, but no more realistic, zero net emission mandates.

Now, we all know that energy transition occurs at all times. I have traveled to India—perhaps the Presiding Officer has—and to other countries where people literally cook their food using cow manure patties, dried cow manure. I remember Prime Minister Modi coming to Houston, TX, during an event that we called ''Howdy, Modi!'' when he heralded the use of increased access to cooking gas so that his constituents, Indians, wouldn't have to use dried cow dung to cook their food—that represents progress—or wouldn't have to use wood chips anymore.

Then the transition was to coal, then to natural gas, nuclear, and other forms of energy. So energy transition occurs at all times. The only question is how it comes about, whether it is as a result of higher taxes and forced government mandates or whether it is which form of energy competes favorably for consumers because of its cost and availability.

Well, of all of the dangerous policy proposals, I think the reckless tax-and-spending-spree bill takes the cake. This is the so-called reconciliation bill that is now pending over in the House, or is being negotiated. Nobody has actually seen it yet, but we keep hearing what is in it, and we keep hearing that the left is negotiating with the far left. This is what happens when our Democratic colleagues don't include people in the opposing political party to try to build consensus. It is pretty hard, particularly when you only have 50 votes.

This isn't like FDR's New Deal after the Great Depression, wherein he had huge majorities. I think what our Democratic colleagues are finding out is that, when they try to go it alone, passing these radical policies is really, really hard to do because you have no room for error.

This reminds me of the yellow jackets protests in France, starting back in 2018, as to what is happening now with some of these mandates and these higher taxes. This was, as you may recall, a social movement of French working-class families who felt disenfranchised from the urban elite, who ''can focus on the end of the world,'' they said, ''while we're worrying about the end of the month.'' I think it is pretty apt to where we are today. This reckless tax-and-spending spree not only compiles the most irresponsible policies into one massive bill, as I said, but our Democratic colleagues, along with the White House, are trying to pass it in a 50–50 Senate, on a party-line vote.

Well, talk about bad timing. This comes at a time when Texans and other Americans are already being pummeled by rising costs, especially at the gas pump. Inflation is rearing its ugly head everywhere in terms of energy costs, groceries, commodities, and with things like a washing machine or a new refrigerator. Try buying a new house, and you will see the cost has just jumped dramatically.

It is a demonstrable fact that, in the last year, gasoline costs have gone up 55 percent. The average price today is about $3.33 a gallon. A year ago, it was $2.16 a gallon. For somebody who drives a pickup truck—and we have a lot of pickup trucks in Texas—it would have cost $56 for a tank of gas a year ago, but, today, it is $87—a $31 increase.

Unfortunately, sky-high gasoline prices aren't the only growing drain on family budgets. As I mentioned, electricity, groceries, clothing, eating out occasionally at a restaurant, and countless other expenses are on the rise. Prices are so high that inflation is outpacing wage growth, essentially giving workers a pay cut. Let me say that again. If you are earning, let's say, $10,000 a year—just to pick a number—and inflation rises like it does with gasoline costs, you are effectively getting a pay cut because of the rising costs of goods and services.

But that doesn't seem to deter our Democratic colleagues from moving full steam ahead on legislation that would drive these costs even higher. After spending nearly $2 billion earlier this year on a party-line vote, our colleagues are back for round 2, and this time they are prepared to take a wrecking ball to one of our crown jewels in this country, which is our energy sector. By drowning the energy sector in tax hikes or in increased regulations and costs, our Democratic colleagues think that they can achieve their green

energy dreams with no consequences, but, of course, that is just a dangerous fantasy.

It sort of reminds me of what I saw reported today by NPR. NPR reports: ''Despite climate change promises, governments plan to ramp up fossil fuel production.'' Indeed, the President and members of this body are going to be heading to a climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, starting on October 31. As you know, usually what happens at those conferences, just like at the Paris climate conference in 2015, is that governments make extravagant promises to reduce emissions and to eliminate fossil fuels, including coal and oil and gas, in favor of clean energy.

Now, I am not deprecating clean energy. In Texas, we believe in an ''all of the above'' energy policy. We produce more electricity from wind turbines than any other State in the Nation. So I am certainly not bad-mouthing clean energy, but it has to play a role and not dominate to the exclusion of other forms of energy.

But, as the NPR article points out, ''despite lofty commitments [made] by governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, they are still planning,'' according to this U.N. report that was just issued, ''to extract huge amounts of energy from fossil fuels in the coming years.''

This report was published on Wednesday, today, and it details how the world's largest fossil fuel producers plan to carry on using coal, gas, and oil despite promises made in Paris in 2015. So it really makes you wonder what is going on when these political leaders go to places like Glasgow or Paris, make extravagant promises, and then come back home and break those promises.

Well, I think I know what is happening here because, just like in France in 2018, when the government tried to impose a new fuel tax on consumers, the yellow jackets protested. They said: You are worried about the end of the world. We are worried about how we will pay our bills through the end of the month.

I think a similar phenomenon is occurring now because none of these green energy fantasies come cheap. That is another reason energy costs are going higher. Whether you are talking about energy or agriculture or any other sector of the economy, higher taxes, which are what our colleagues are attempting to assess against the energy sector, always mean higher prices for consumers.

Companies don't absorb those costs. They pass them right along to consumers in the form of increased costs. In fact, many businesses can't absorb increased taxes and keep their prices stable because they simply can't operate in the black, and they will go bankrupt. So businesses just don't take the hits that keep on coming. They will raise prices; they will lay off employees or will implement any combination of cost-cutting measures, and that is exactly what this pie-in-the-sky, green energy fantasy bill contained in the reconciliation legislation would spur.

This year, as I have pointed out, has already given us the highest gas prices since 2014. Now, I just did this year over year, but they are the highest prices we have seen since 2014, and I have no doubt that President Biden's tax hikes will send those prices at the pump even higher just at a time when we are beginning to sound the alarm bells over inflation, including by Democratic-leaning economists like Larry Summers, who sounded the alarm over inflation.

I am old enough to remember when inflation was ranked at about 20 percent, and interest rates were up almost at 20 percent. People had to pay huge amounts of money or borrow huge amounts of money and pay exorbitant interest rates because of inflation.

We are in danger of getting back to those bad old days. The proposal our Democratic colleagues are trying to ram through Congress would increase taxes—already paid by energy companies—on income earned not in the United States but globally. It also adds a new tax, the Superfund excise tax, which was eliminated 25 years ago. They want to add that back on top. The Democrats want to resurrect this tax and force energy companies to pay more on every barrel of crude oil that is used in the United States.

Once again, the burden won't be, ultimately, on the energy and chemical companies. It will fall on consumers, who are already struggling post-COVID to get back on the job and pay the bills and provide for their families—only to be met with a kick in the teeth known as Bidenflation.

The middle class won't just be footing the bill for tax hikes on companies. This is, really, sort of an elitist irony. The Biden reconciliation bill would force middle-class families to subsidize the purchase of electric vehicles for wealthy Americans. Not only are we going to raise prices on you through tax increases, but we are going to take money out of your pocket and give it to rich people who can afford to buy these expensive electric vehicles. This bill provides a tax credit for electric vehicle purchases even if the vehicle is made completely or substantially in China. Won't they love that.

On top of that, you get a bigger tax credit for electric cars built in union shops—some of the greatest political friends of the Democratic Party. Our colleagues haven't provided a very good explanation for this, but I, for one, find it hard to believe that union-built electric vehicles are any greener or cleaner or emit less than nonunion-built vehicles. This is just a big wet kiss for a political constituency.

As a reminder, unlike gas-powered vehicle drivers, EV drivers don't pay any money into the highway trust fund. Now, if you buy a gallon of gasoline, I think it is 18 cents on the gallon that goes into the highway trust fund that is used to build and maintain our bridges and roadways.

Because of more use of electric vehicles that don't pay any money into the highway trust fund, that trust fund is going broke.

So the tax breaks for the rich just keep on coming. They take money from middle-class families, give it to rich folks so they can buy fancy electric vehicles, courtesy of the American taxpayer.

I also have concerns about how the proposal that is being considered by the White House and our Democratic colleagues—how it would impact our energy security.

Over the last several decades, we have made incredible strides. Thanks to great investment, innovation, and expertise in the energy sector, we have made great strides to reduce our dependency on other countries to keep the lights on in the United States.

After all, we don't want a repeat of the 1970s energy crisis.

Now, I know a lot of these young folks who are here serving as pages may not have been around in the 1970s, but they can look it up online.

Here is what happened: When the U.S. supported Israel in the Yom Kippur war in 1973, the Arab members of OPEC—the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—they weren't happy.

What did they do?

They banned the sale of crude oil to the United States—cut us off—and it sent shock waves throughout our country. As you might imagine, such was our dependency on imported oil from the Middle East. Despite some strong domestic oil production, we were still relying at that time heavily on imports, and once the supply was cut off, prices quadrupled.

Many gas stations simply couldn't serve the demand, and when they could, they basically made you get an appointment to come fill up your gas tank.

Some States banned neon signs to cut down on energy use, and a number of towns asked their citizens not to put up Christmas lights because of the drain on the grid.

It was a slap across the face, a hard dose of reality that brought America's energy dependence to light and underscored the need to increase our domestic production and resources and wean ourselves off of this dependency—this dangerous dependency on imports.

And that is what we did. Thanks to incredible investment and innovation in the energy sector and something that has come to be known as the shale revolution—named for a way to basically get oil and gas out of a rock—the tide of the energy landscape geopolitically turned in our favor.

These efforts were so successful that in 2015, the U.S. lifted the crude oil export ban that was put in place in the seventies. Back when we were dependent on imports, we said: You can't export it because we need not only what

we can produce, but what we can import.

We lifted that in 2015 because American energy producers were producing so much oil and gas.

And, in fact, rather than import energy, including natural gas, we turned around what were built originally as LNG—liquefied natural gas—import terminals and created export terminals so we could send that low-cost energy to our friends and allies around the world.

But our Democratic colleagues seem to have a short-term memory problem. They seem to have forgotten about our history.

After years of building our energy independence and strengthening our energy security, they want to turn back the clock. The tax hikes they are trying to impose on energy producers would ensure that the United States, once again, is reliant on other countries, like Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, for our energy needs. The dangers ought to be obvious.

We should never ever put ourselves in a position where we are reliant on any other country for us to keep our lights on, to operate our vehicles, for our small businesses to be able to operate, for us to be able to get electricity from a wall socket when we plug in an appliance.

So we shouldn't be dependent on our adversaries or any other country for our energy needs when we can produce it here in America; and by exporting it to friends and allies around the world, we can actually liberate them.

Recently, I was in on a trip with some Senate colleagues to the Balkins, in a number of countries that used to be part of the old Soviet Union but which are now independent countries, many of which are part of NATO and the European Union.

And one of the things they brought up time and time again is their desire to have a diverse source of energy because they know—they know—that if they depend on Russian gas, that Mr. Putin could turn off the spigot and put them in mortal jeopardy. And that is why it is important for us to be able to continue to export and not be dependent on imported energy ourselves.

President Biden unintentionally demonstrated the hypocrisy of some of his policies earlier this year when he literally begged OPEC to increase production to bring down these prices.

An American President basically shutting down American energy production and begging Russia and Saudi Arabia to please sell us the oil and gas we need so we can bring down prices at the pump—it is unbelievable.

If the President is worried about affordable energy, he needs to stop pushing policies that will drive up these prices.

And it is not just gasoline. It is electricity, you name it.

Well, Texans are already facing high gas prices. Household energy bills, your utility bill, is on the rise. This is not the time to make it more expensive for families to pay for the energy they need.

As I mentioned, Texas has always been a proud supporter of an all-of-the-above energy strategy. We are recognized for the might of our oil and gas sector for sure, but a lot of folks don't realize we are a leader in renewable energy as well. In fact, we produce one-quarter of all of the wind energy in the United States. If we were a country—and we were once—we would be the fifth largest wind energy producer in the world.

And we have no plans of stopping there. We are also making serious strides in energy innovation through cutting-edge carbon capture and storage projects. That is the answer. It is called innovation. Not more taxes, not more regulations that raise prices, but innovation, things that literally suck carbon out of the environment, deposit it in the ground in some of these injection sites so we can actually produce more oil and gas, and keep the carbon sequestered in the ground permanently.

So we need to find a balance—something that is too often missing here in Washington, DC—between conservation, production, and economic power. That balance will not be found by imposing heavy-handed regulations or taxes that drive up the cost for consumers and that benefit our adversaries.

Like the rest of the reckless tax-and-spending spree, the cost of this energy proposal far, far exceeds its benefits. There is a better way to do this.

The Biden administration has managed to compound the already unprecedented challenges facing our energy sector here in America. American energy keeps America and much of the rest of the world running, and the administration and Congress need to take action to support a strong, post-pandemic recovery, and not get in the way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to introduce the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2022. Of course, that is the fiscal year that began on October 1.

Like my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, I am thrilled about the great work that has been done over many months to craft spending bills that lift up the ideals of our country and put the needs of workers and families ahead of the desires of special interests.

As chair of the Interior and Environment Subcommittee, I can say that this is certainly true for the Interior bill that Senator MURKOWSKI and I, along with members of the subcommittee, have worked so hard to create.

And I want to especially thank Senator MURKOWSKI and our fellow subcommittee members for their contributions to this bill.

The Interior bill raises some of the more complex and challenging issues facing America, so we are delighted that it has been filed today.

Together, we have crafted a bill that recognizes not only the danger that hotter, more devastating wildfires, longer fire seasons themselves pose, but the dangers of smoke from them. That smoke is making a bigger and bigger impact back home on our crops and on our entertainment because of outdoor venues being shut down and certainly upon people's health. The bill makes critical investments to lessen the peril.

It doubles the funding for hazardous fuels reductions. When you hear that term, you may not be sure what it means. What we are talking about is the buildup of fuels in the forest that make the wildfires so much worse. So it doubles the funding to take out those fuels to $360 million so the Forest Service can treat more of the highest risk acres of forest lands.

We particularly want to see a concentration of the wild land-urban interface so that the fires are slowed down and can be attacked more aggressively when they are close to our towns.

I will never forget the Labor Day fires of a year ago, where I drove 600 miles up and down our State and never got out of the smoke, and town after town after town was burned to the ground.

This is why we have to invest in reducing the fuels in our forest and making them more fire resilient.

The bill doubles the funding for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program to $80 million instead of $40 million to help fund critical projects that will improve forest landscapes and add to the resiliency while also removing limitations on how many projects could be in each region each year.

You know, the thing about these landscape restoration programs, it brings together the stakeholders from the entire spectrum—from the timber companies, the environmental groups, the local elected officials, the Indian Tribes—to work out a prescription on how to treat the forest, and then that treatment stays out of the courts.

So it brings an end to the timber wars that have so often frustrated so many on all sides while thereby being successful in treating the forests, producing more saw logs for the mill, producing more jobs in the forests, more jobs in the log trucks. So it is a win for fire resiliency; it is a win for jobs; it is a win for our timber industry.

Funding in this bill goes a long way to transitioning to a larger, permanent forest fighting—firefighting force where firefighters risking their lives now get a minimum pay of at least $15 per hour. And that doesn't sound like very much, but it is an elevation from the minimum wages of the past.

And it provides $10 million to create a new EPA grant program to help States, Tribes, local governments, and others prepare for and protect against the hazards of wildfire smoke.

In recent years, whether it is the impact of air quality on those with breathing and health issues or the tourism industry or industries like our wineries and our vineyards, the smoke that can blanket Oregon from fires during fire season has been nearly as devastating as the fires themselves.

Our subcommittee has also crafted a bill that takes on the climate crisis with the seriousness it deserves while we are striving to preserve our lands and our natural wonders. There is no question the planet is getting warmer. Our oceans are getting more acidic as carbon dioxide is transformed into carbonic acid. That is having a big impact on our ecosystems on the Oregon coast. We are facing more extreme weather—droughts, storms, flooding, heat waves—but for too long, we haven't come anywhere close to doing enough to confront this crisis.

We are starting to make changes through the Interior appropriations bill. The bill makes major investments in EPA's climate and enforcement programs, including a 46-percent increase in the clean air and climate program to tackle the crisis, restore clean air capacity, and expand and modernize air quality monitoring. And it provides an extra $56 million for the Agency's enforcement and compliance efforts and over $40 million for the Climate Conservation Corps that will create jobs while jump-starting efforts to dramatically expand on-the-ground conservation work to address the impacts of climate change; conserve and restore public lands and public waters; bolster resilience, increase reforestation, protect biodiversity, and improve access to recreation.

There is also $73 million in new funding to the start the process of transitioning the Interior Department from fossil fuel vehicles to zero-emission vehicles. It is something that has to happen across our entire government.

Finally, we have worked together to craft a bill that makes unprecedented, long overdue investments in Tribal communities, in their health systems, their education systems, social services, water resources and infrastructure, and in law enforcement. For far too long, our Tribal communities haven't received the help or the investments that they deserve. In this bill, we are starting to right that wrong.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is getting a 15-percent increase in funding. The Indian Health Service is getting a 21-percent increase in funding. And for the first time, the Indian Health Service is getting an advance appropriations status. What that means is if the government shuts down, we don't shut down the health services for Native Americans. When that happened in the past, that was an egregious failure. You can't let that happen. This bill puts an end to that, creating peace of mind for everyone that the health service will be there when needed.

We are increasing the Bureau of Indian Education budget by 8 percent, the Native American and Alaska Natives housing programs by 18 percent. We certainly can't make up for centuries' worth of disastrous policy and chronic underfunding when it comes to Indian Country overnight, but I believe this bill and its unprecedented investments should begin to make a large stride toward fulfilling the government's treaty and trust responsibilities, showing Tribal communities that their needs are a priority.

There is a lot more in this bill. The Interior appropriations bill covers a lot of territory. But I wanted to come to the floor to share some of these highlights.

It is important that we get our funding bills for fiscal year 2022 to this floor, to the President's desk, and take all the expertise that has gone into these bills into action by bills that have passed and been implemented.

I want to provide a sense for all my colleagues that the real investments that these bills are making in our Nation are the kind of investments we need to make to ensure strong foundations for families, for our communities, and for our Nation to thrive in the years ahead.

I am grateful for the countless hours of hard work from the Members and, very importantly, from the staff who put these bills together, raising the salient issues, helping to communicate between the Republican side and the Democratic side and the House side and the Senate side and the expertise from the executive branch. The staff work that goes into a bill like this is enormous. So thank you to the staff teams on both the majority and minority side, without whom this bill would not exist.

On my team, we have Melissa Zimmerman, Ryan Hunt, Anthony Sedillo, and Martha Roberts. And on Ranking Member MURKOWSKI's team, we have Emy Lesofski, Nona McCoy, and Lucas Agnew. To each and every one of them, thank you for your tireless efforts. And I must say that the Republican and Democratic team members worked so well together on complex and difficult issues involved in the Interior bill. So I salute them for forging that effort to have a very professional analysis and attitude as we work to solve the challenges facing America.

I look forward to joining with all my colleagues in the Chamber in passing this bill and the other appropriations bills that will put America on a path to a much better future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to take a step back really and evaluate the real-life impacts of President Biden's policies. As every incoming administration does, promises were made to the American people. That is not surprising. But one of President Biden's first promises was to unite the American people. But as we have seen too often here, he has chosen a path that follows the lead of the Democratic leadership of the House and Senate, which is really a solitary path instead of a path of unity.

So it is fair to ask: Has that agenda resulted in a better life for working families? Has it made us more prosperous, more secure? Has it made us safer?

Well, let's take a look. We can start with what is top of mind for all of our folks across the country, and that is the rising price of everyday goods and services. Every day, men and women go to work, take the kids to school, expecting the predictability that filling up their car will cost a certain amount or that trip to the grocery store will be in the same range. And what do they find? Well, thanks to inflation, fueled in part by excessive government spending to the tune of trillions of dollars—and I am afraid we haven't seen the end of it—Americans are paying higher prices for many of the things they just can't do without. Over the past year, consumer prices have risen 5.4 percent, the largest 1-year jump in 13 years.

So if you are saving up to buy a new or used car or truck, keep saving because it costs more under President Biden. Headed out to the grocery store? Prepare to see larger numbers at the bottom of your receipt, thanks to President Biden. Making monthly rent payments? If it seems higher than last year, that is because it is. The national median rent went up 17 percent since President Biden took office. Well, those numbers don't lie. People see them every day and they are in their bank accounts and in their checkbooks and in the strain of trying to make those things work. These are the real-life consequences of misguided economic policies from the left. Unfortunately, for working-class Americans, it means the only thing we have built back better is the return to soaring inflation and economic misery that many of us remember from the Jimmy Carter years.

Those years also remind us of another problem facing every family, as I mentioned before. That is the rising cost of gas. Digits on the gas pump—they tick up faster and faster every time you fill up, and it isn't because our tanks have gotten bigger, that is for sure. In West Virginia, the average cost of gas compared to this time last year is more than $1 per gallon. So not only are those trips to the grocery store more expensive, it costs more to get to the grocery store. The White House has insisted that they are working on it, and on behalf of everyone in my State who drives to work, drops their kids off at school, and hops in the car to visit their families, I sure hope they are.

At the same time, it is important to note that on President Biden's first

day of office, he told us all we needed to know about his energy policy and that would be: America last. One of his first acts as President was to cancel the Keystone XL Pipeline, costing thousands of American jobs—union jobs—claiming that it had to be done to combat climate change. Compare that to just a few months later, when President Biden lifted sanctions—yes, he lifted the sanctions—on a Russian gas pipeline, allowing the Nord Stream II project to continue, further empowering Vladimir Putin and threatening the national security of America and our allies in Europe.

These are just a few of the backward moves by this White House that have left us really scratching our heads. And it has only been compounded by Executive action and regulations aimed at stifling the production of energy here in this country. We remember the effects—I certainly do in West Virginia—the effects of this playbook as it originally was created during the Obama years. So it is just a shame that this administration doesn't remember that.

Again, all of this is hitting the consumer—American consumer—hard right as we are approaching our winter months. It is expected that households will see their home heating bills rise 54 percent compared to last winter. And for homes that use natural gas for heat, which I do in my home and I would highly recommend it, they will pay about 30 percent more than they did last year. Families are having to cut back basic necessities just to heat their homes and make ends meet.

Another pledge President Biden made was to build a fair and humane immigration system. He gutted many of the deterrent policies that effectively kept illegal immigration numbers down, such as eliminating the effective ''Remain in Mexico'' policy; stopping construction of the border wall; and signaling to the whole hemisphere that if you make it to the U.S.-Mexican border, you will be allowed in.

This was reported today, and this has resulted in the highest numbers for a fiscal year that have ever been recorded of border arrests—1.7 million border arrests—the most ever on record. And again, these policies were all done in the name of creating a moral and humane system.

Well, let me tell you, the Senator from Missouri and I took a visit to the border just over the last year, and there was nothing humane about the conditions we saw with overcrowded migrant children facilities in Texas. There was nothing humane about the Haitian immigrants living under a bridge in Del Rio. There is nothing humane about women giving birth, and I believe at last count it was 11 children were born in those conditions. This all happened because they made that dangerous journey to the border believing that if they made it, they would be welcomed in. Well, guess what. They were right because about 12,000 of the Haitian refugees that were under that bridge are in this country right now.

I will take it a step further. There is nothing humane about fueling the disease of addiction millions of Americans battle as deadly drugs flow across our porous border and make their way into our communities. Not addressing an overdose crisis that took 93,000 sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers last year is not humane. You would say: How is this happening? The Border Patrol has got to focus on the human element while more and more drugs can pass through.

As someone representing a State hit hardest by the drug epidemic, I am pleading with President Biden and Vice President HARRIS or whoever is in charge of resolving the self-created border crisis to please do something different—or at least do something.

So this is what the first year of Biden's America looks like: failed policies, broken promises. Americans were promised prosperity, and we have gotten a sampling of socialism. We were promised a secure nation; instead, our borders are open and a humanitarian crisis rages on our southern border. We were promised a repaired reputation on the world stage, and instead we have led from behind and abandoned our own people abroad in Afghanistan. We were promised unity, and instead we heard divisive rhetoric that demonizes half of our country.

The better version of America President Biden was selling, as some of us had feared, was just too good to be true.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, Madam President, in just a few short months this year, we have seen a long list of problems develop in the country. Some of them my good friend the Senator from West Virginia just talked about. They range from inflation and debt to the hiring crisis, major disruptions in the supply chain.

When I was home in Missouri last week meeting with all kinds of employers and all kinds of businesses, big and small, everybody said: We can't find workers; we can't get the supplies we need; and we can't keep up with inflation.

What is astonishing to me is the Democrats continue to move forward with their $3.5 trillion reckless tax-and-spending spree. And, you know, it is easy to take that number and just reduce the length of time you are going to try out all these new policies, and we are going to have to talk about that because that is going to be a big mistake.

In fact, the $3.5 trillion reckless tax-and-spending spree, I think, easily—if you extend all of the policies through the whole 10 years—becomes a $5 trillion reckless tax-and-spending spree. If you reduce the policies, it is pretty easy to get it to $2 trillion.

But if you reduce the policies by just saying, ''Instead of 10 years, we are going to have this policy for 3 years; instead of 5 years, we are going to have this policy for 1 year,'' all you have done is put future Congresses in a place where, frankly, Democrats would hope they can't say no.

After a year of the program, they can't say no to the second year of the program; or after 3 years of the program, they can't say no. I wouldn't take a whole lot of solace in the idea that we are going to reduce the number unless we look at the policies behind the number.

Now, some of my colleagues and some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle—the side of the aisle that the Presiding Officer will be sitting on now, the majority side of the aisle—have jumped headlong into this for the most part, but some of our colleagues have really raised some important questions.

For instance, one Senator said recently that expanding social programs while ignoring the millions of open jobs—this is that Senator's quote—''will only feed a dysfunction that could weaken our economic recovery.''

And, of course, that is exactly right. Businesses across the country are trying to hire workers for the more than 10 million job openings. Half the small businesses say they have jobs that they are struggling to fill—one-half of all small businesses.

I was in Farmington, MO, one day last week, and somebody at that roundtable said: I used to say we need to do whatever it takes to get skilled labor, and then occasionally I would say we need to do whatever it takes to get part-time labor. Now I am saying we need to do whatever it takes to get labor.

Because they can't fill the jobs they have.

What I was hearing all over our State, and I think every Senator in this body is hearing the same thing, which is that people can't find the people they need to do the work. Part of the reason that there are empty store shelves is you can't get people to keep those store shelves stocked, but part of the reason is that they can't get things to the stores to put on the shelves.

Everything from shipyards to trucking routes, to supply chains aren't working the way they should right now, and, largely, it is because they don't have the help they need to have.

Now, I am all for looking at our long-term supply chain needs, bringing things closer to our shores when we can do that, but that is not the problem right now. The problem right now is we can't get the things that come to our country to the places that they need to go, nor the things that are made in our country to the places they need to go.

Businesses are trying to keep up with worker demand, but worker shortage is making that impossible. Expanding and creating government pay—government handouts, I think, was what one of our colleagues on the Democratic side had referred to them as—if they are not connected to need or to work

doesn't make sense. We all want to help people who are in need, but we all want to do that in a rational way.

Another Democratic Senator pointed out the danger of all this extra government spending the President wants is going to really drive up inflation. And that is also correct. You can't put hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy and not have that drive up inflation.

If people have money that they wouldn't have otherwise, particularly money we had to borrow to get there or money we had to take out of the functioning economy to get there, that money gets spent, but not in the way that you would want it to be spent to grow an economy and do the best things for individuals and families.

The big spending spree really began in March with a partisan—a totally partisan, one-side-of-the-aisle only—$2 trillion so-called COVID–19 relief law.

But, frankly, it was a recovery plan when a recovery was well underway. I think the recovery plan slowed down the recovery and made it less likely that people would get back to work. It made it more likely that people would have money to spend that they wouldn't have otherwise and drive inflation.

The expert opinion of economists on both sides of the aisle, who said that what was done in March of this year would assure inflation would rise, it is exactly the same thing they are saying about the bill that is being debated right now. It has already happened, and it is happening. Americans are paying more for everything from groceries to gasoline, to a big purchases, like a new car, or even a used car is selling at a new sudden premium.

Consumer prices have jumped 5.4 percent from 1 year ago. That is not the kind of thing that does anything to help families. In fact, according to Moody's Analytics, a family earning an average income of about $70,000 is spending an extra $175 a month on food, fuel, and housing because of what that article referred to as President Biden's inflation.

The White House Chief of Staff the other day, when I asked about inflation, said: Well, inflation was really a ''high class problem.''

I am not exactly sure what a high class problem means. If it means it is a big problem, that is right. If it means as I think it means, it is a problem that only wealthy Americans have to deal with, that couldn't be right. It is not an upper-class problem or a high-income problem. It is a problem that hits low-income households the hardest.

In the University of Michigan's latest survey of consumers said that only 70 percent of the people in that survey—that consumer survey, only 30 percent of people expect to be financially better off next year than they are right now. Seventy percent thought they would either be worse off or not make any gains at all.

That is not what we were seeing in 2018 and 2019 under the other tax policies where, for the first time in a couple of decades, the distribution of new income was strong at the lowest levels of working families.

The Democratic response is: Let's raise taxes. Let's spend trillions of dollars. Let's pile up more debt.

Or that one theory: No, it won't cost anything because we are paying for it.

Well, obviously, if you are paying for it, it had to cost something.

And how are you paying for it?

You are paying for it by taking things out of the economy in one hand and shoving them back into the economy with another.

At one point, one of our friends on the other side of the aisle expressed his opinion, as he put it, that ''any expansion of social programs must be targeted to those in need and not expanded beyond what is fiscally possible.''

That is, of course, the right position. All of us want to help people in need, but we don't want to expand that group beyond what you can fiscally deal with and not harm their own opportunities in the economy.

This reckless tax-and-spending spree includes a number of ways on how to expand social welfare programs and to cover people with high incomes. They are trying to create permanent, expanded subsidies for ObamaCare insurance plans. Now, we clearly have subsidies. They are clearly permanent. They are clearly substantial. But the bill wants to not only make the subsidies higher, but it wants them to be higher for more people who have higher incomes to start with.

They are also talking about tuition-free community college. Well, there is almost no community college in America today that is not already tuition-free for those people who we have decided are in the greatest need. That is what Pell grants are all about.

There is no community college in Missouri, and few community colleges anywhere in the country, where the full Pell grant doesn't pay all tuition, all books, and all fees with a little money left over to travel back and forth to the campus.

I am a big supporter of Pell grants. I worked a few years ago to go back to where we have year-round Pell grants. So if you are going to school and something is working for you, you can stay in school. You don't have to take a summer off and get a different job and then think you are coming back in the fall to find out that that just didn't work out.

We have solved this problem. If we haven't solved it adequately, well, let's increase the Pell grant amount. And if that doesn't do the job, why don't we increase the amount of family income you can have and still qualify for the maximum Pell grant or some other portion of the Pell grant?

There is an obvious solution here. As a matter of fact, in the markup of the Labor-HHS bill, I think we added $400 to the annual Pell grant this year, which is a pretty substantial increase in that grant. The government already spends more than $28 billion every year for Pell grants.

If you really want to make higher education expensive, make it free. Go to every higher education institution in America, starting with community colleges, and say: We are going to make this free.

I was a university president for 4 years, and we have all seen what happens as we increased the government support for higher education.

I was the first person in my family to graduate from college. I am a big advocate for higher education, but everybody needs to have a stake in the game. You value what you pay for. You value what you have a commitment to. Free usually doesn't get you where you want to get. We don't want to duplicate what we are already doing, and we don't want to create free programs for people who don't need free programs.

Finally, obviously, a lot of emphasis and unease on these tax increases. One of my colleagues on the other side said our Tax Code ''should not weaken our global competitiveness or the ability of millions of small businesses to compete.''

That is undeniably true.

The 2017 Republican-led tax law followed a consensus that we need to bring the U.S. in line with our global competitors. Let's not get out of line and make it harder for us to compete. We were on an incredible trajectory of job creation and pay for all of the working-class families that had been left out of the system for too long. We could easily wipe out those gains with a corporate tax rate increase that loses our competitive advantage to people who we don't want to lose it to.

Democrats are also aiming several of their tax hikes at small businesses and family farms. They plan to hike, we hear, those taxes by 57 percent of the top marginal rate, from 29.6 to 46.4. There are a lot of concerns with the legislation that President Biden and his allies in Congress are trying to push through.

The American economy is struggling against the headwinds of an, frankly, administration that has done so much to create on its own. This terrible legislation would just make everything worse. Let's not work on one side only to make everything worse. Let's see what we can do to work together to make everything better.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I so appreciate the remarks of my colleague from Missouri, and it sounds as if he is hearing from his constituents in Missouri the same thing that I am hearing in Tennessee.

As a matter of fact, I held a telephone townhall last night. Thirty thousand of our citizens from Upper

East Tennessee were on this call, and to say that they are unhappy would be to put it mildly. That really is an understatement. They are angry. They are frustrated. They are exhausted with what this administration is doing. They are angry with how the Federal Government is responding to a host of issues.

They really took President Biden at his word for his Build Back Better. They expected that. But that is not what they have gotten. He has made a mess of it, and, indeed, what you have is a ''Build Back Broke'' agenda.

And my colleague from Missouri really laid that out. It is ''Build Back Broke.'' That is what they are bringing forward. And that agenda of President Biden's and the Democratic Party has really destroyed a lot of the hopes and the dreams and some of the renewed prosperity of Tennesseans whose job isn't to study the economy but to move it forward.

They do the heavy lift every single day.

Last night, I spoke with businessowners who feel like they are under attack by this administration and their economic policy. The cost of doing business is going up. They are bleeding customers because they have less disposable income because of inflation, because of the price at the pump.

Supply chains are collapsing around them. It is difficult to get raw materials, like lumber and steel. They have no confidence at all in the administration's willingness or ability to solve this problem. They feel as if the administration does not give the ripping flip about what happens to them in Upper East Tennessee. This administration has forgotten them.

On top of everything else, these vaccine mandates—now, we are hearing a lot about that, and we are hearing from people who know they are going to lose their job. Many times, these are women who are the sole source—the sole source—of income for their families. These families are very concerned about how they are going to handle inflation, collapsing supply lines, how they are going to handle some of the broken social policies that this administration and their allies are trying to sneak into law.

So far this year, we have seen our colleagues across the aisle and down at the White House try to force through provisions of the Green New Deal that would bankrupt your average family and destroy economic development opportunities in rural areas.

We know that it is expected that the cost to heat your home this winter is going to increase 30 percent. Now, how do you handle that when you have lost your job? Do you just sit there and freeze? And you are losing your job because of a Federal mandate that says you have to go get a shot in order to keep a job that you love, in order to put food on the table to feed your family. This makes no sense.

I also heard from parents very upset about critical race theory and the way this administration is trying to hijack education and force this curriculum, force cradle-to-grave socialism—daylight to dark, 24/7, depend on the Federal Government.

One of the things that frightens Tennesseans the most and came up regularly on our telephone townhall was the broken border policies. I have said it before; I will say it again. This fear has nothing to do with racism and xenophobia. This administration and my colleagues across the aisle need to get that point through their heads.

Tennesseans are afraid because they look at the border. What they are seeing is vulnerability. They see the drugs coming across that border because the drugs end up in their streets: fentanyl, meth, heroin.

Every town is a border town. Every State is a border State because Joe Biden's border policy is: Open up the border. Hang out the ''Y'all come sign,'' and give everybody a plane ticket to wherever they are going in the country. And, oh, by the way, if the commercial flights are full, don't worry about it. We will go charter you a jet and send you under the cloak of darkness into Chattanooga or into Knoxville or into West Chester County. That is what concerns Tennesseans.

They are seeing what is happening with sex trafficking, with human trafficking. They are afraid of what cartels are doing because the cartels are saying: Thank you, Joe Biden. The door is open. We were not fearful. We are setting up distribution centers on U.S. soils.

That is right, the cartels, setting up their distribution centers. Why? Because Joe Biden is weak and feckless and doesn't stand up to protect the southern border.

There is another thing that they were quite exercised about last night, and it is the issue of election integrity. Indeed, I had a Tennessean call me at 6:45 this morning, and he said: Marsha, you have got to be kidding me. You mean they want to pass a bill that says anybody can go vote, that you can go vote the day of the election, that you don't have to show an ID to vote?

He said: You know, I recently had to show not only a vaccine card but my ID to prove that was my vaccine card to go sit inside at the In-N-Out Burger.

This is why people are so frustrated with Joe Biden. This is why they are so frustrated with the Democrats.

What are they looking for? They are looking for legislators to have some backbone, to stand up and stand for freedom, not to kowtow to a socialist agenda, because they know if the Democratic leadership and Joe Biden had their way with one vote, they would take one vote, and they would push to a socialist agenda.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Minnesota.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, October 21, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Lin, Parker, and Perez nominations, in that order; and that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, all postcloture time will be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Lin nomination, the confirmation vote occur at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday; finally, that if cloture is invoked on either the Parker or Perez nominations, the confirmation votes begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Middlebury College, in my State of Vermont, is known worldwide as an outstanding educational institution. What is less well-known is that the college is also a leader in addressing climate change.

The college first became carbon neutral not by simply purchasing carbon credits, but by doing the hard work of actually becoming carbon neutral, including the implementation of 123 individual efficiency projects that are collectively saving the college nearly $1 million a year. With that work complete, they set about securing their energy entirely from renewable sources—first, with one of the largest biodigesters in Vermont and, now, with a 5 megawatt solar array, that will provide 30 percent of the college's electricity.

The project includes energy storage, which will benefit the electric grid by spreading out when the power enters the grid. Perhaps more importantly, that stored energy will also serve as a source of emergency power for a nearby hospital, Porter Medical Center. The project also involves two Vermont companies: Encore Renewable and Green Mountain Power.

Earlier this month, it was an honor to join the groundbreaking for the project, where Middlebury College President Laurie Patton shared her vision for how to get to a better climate future. All should read her impressive remarks at the event, and I ask that a copy of them be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

October 12, 2021.

Good morning.

I am so happy to be here with you today, and it's my honor to share this podium on a beautiful autumn morning with my friends and colleagues Chief Don Stephens, Senator Patrick Leahy, Chad Farrell of Encore Renewable Energy, Matt Murphy of Green Backer Capital, Mari McClure of Green Mountain Power, Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray, Middlebury Select board chairman Brian Carpenter, and the College's own Simone Ameer. Senator Leahy, as a professor of religion I already made arrangements with the heavens for this weather—so you didn't need to make the law!

We come together today as responsible stewards of this planet and of this place we are blessed to call home—Ndakinna [in-DAH-keen-AH], the town of Middlebury, the county of Addison, the state of Vermont.

We gather to recognize the generations who came before us in making this very place what it is today, and we do so in service of the generations to come, to ensure that Ndakinna [in-DAH-keen-AH], Middlebury, Addison County, and Vermont remain places where the health of our environment is paramount, and where our people can come together in concert, rather than competition, to maintain a livable community and planet.

When we at Middlebury announced our Energy 2028 initiative three years ago, we laid out an ambitious ten-year plan, pledging that in a decade's time we would sharply reduce our energy consumption as an institution; reduce and then eliminate our investment in fossil fuels; craft a large educational initiative to continue our research and scholarship into climate change—and, in perhaps our boldest promise, rely completely on renewable energy sources to power our Vermont campus.

The solar array project on which we break ground today takes us one large step closer to realizing this goal, as it is expected to provide nearly one-third of the energy needed to power our campus. This groundbreaking comes on the heels of the start-up of the largest anaerobic digester in the Northeastern United States at the Goodrich Farm in nearby Salisbury, another local project and partnership that is supplying renewable natural gas to the College and community.

Each of these efforts—indeed, all of our efforts to meet our Energy 2028 goals—are collaborative by design, because we all have a stake in the outcome. Just as our plan was crafted in a spirit of independence, in which no individual part could work without the other, the same can be said for our partnerships. Remove any one of us, and we're not here today. Remove any one of us, and we're not here today.

In a few weeks, on a platform a little bit bigger than this one and with just a few more people in attendance, the United Nations Climate Change Conference will convene in Glasgow, Scotland. The comparisons in scope between that and this, here and there, may cause some to peer at us today and wonder: what's the point? We're so small!

As I have written and spoken in the past, a local initiative such as this one is exactly the point, the point being that local wisdom and local practices are the ideal conditions to help put out the fire that is consuming our planet. The sun is one of the oldest symbols known to humans; it is in the earliest cave paintings tens of thousands of years ago, and in the earliest spoken prayers of more than 3000 years ago. It is only fitting that we should return, indeed come full circle, to the sun to heal our planet.

We are so blessed to call this place home. The Green Mountains rest behind me.

In my mind's eye, I can already envision the sheep that will graze beneath the solar arrays, managing the vegetation growing in these fields.

And up above, in a sky that Sabra Field herself could have painted, a golden light will not only illuminate the beauty of our surroundings but will allow us to take another critical step toward building a sustainable future.

Thank you, everyone of you, for your help in building a new world.

LAURIE L. PATTON,
President, Middlebury.

TRIBUTE TO ADELINE DRUART

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, these days, it is not uncommon for people to frequently change careers, companies, or job paths. At one iconic Vermont entity, though, Vermont Creamery, president and chief executive officer Adeline Druart has dedicated more than 17 years to growing and expanding the company's product line and brand. She was recently featured on the Positive Enterprise Podcast, and hers is a story in which all Vermonters can find pride and motivation.

The cheese and butter that Vermont Creamery produces is some of the best in the world. As a Certified B Corporation, Vermont Creamery follows a long Vermont legacy of investing in environmental sustainability, local supply chains, and worker satisfaction. These investments have clearly paid off. In 2017, Vermont Creamery was acquired by Land O'Lakes, a century-old farmer-owned cooperative, and has continued on an impressive path of conscious growth. With Land O'Lakes' support, Vermont Creamery has expanded its facilities nearly 40 percent and is now a recognizable brand in grocery stores across the country. In 2020, the company supported our community through the pandemic, donating 12,000 pounds of food to hungry Vermonters, providing hazard pay to their employees, and advocating for universal childcare for Vermont's working families. They also converted their Websterville-based facility to run on 100-percent renewable energy. And these changes have only underlined their belief that consciously crafted products made with the best ingredients just taste better. Today, the beloved Vermont Creamery makes the No. 1 best-selling goat cheese in the country.

Adeline Druart is responsible for so much of this impressive growth. In the early 2000s, Adeline, then a student from France, came to Vermont Creamery to complete an internship for her master's degree. She just couldn't stay away. Adeline worked her way up the ranks at the creamery, before being named president and CEO in 2015. In that role, she has shown exactly what tenacity and hard work, when paired with a people-first approach to business, can do. The mother of two young sons, Adeline has reinforced Vermont Creamery's original family-oriented culture while steering the company's growth. She is an inspiration to me, and I am so proud that she calls Vermont home.

Vermont is home to some of the finest agriculture, wood-based, and other products in the country. We feature many of these at the annual Taste of Vermont here in Washington, a tradition I hope to return to next year. At the helm of so many of these Vermont companies are people like Adeline. It is in these hard-working and creative leaders that we can find great hope for Vermont's economic recovery and vibrant future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LEVESQUE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of a leader in economic development in the State of Maine. Steve Levesque, of Greenville, ME, is retiring after 41 years of professional experience in the areas of economic and community progress, land use planning, and environmental services in both the private and public sectors, including when I was Governor as commissioner of Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development. Most recently, Steve has made an indelible mark in his position as executive director of Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, MRRA. From his first days in economic and community development in Maine, Steve has held a number of leadership positions in which he has led and advocated tirelessly for local, regional, and State economies with consistent messages of the quality of the business environment in Maine alongside our quality of life as Mainers.

In 2005, there were indications that the Naval Air Station Brunswick, NASB, would be disestablished and Steve, at that time, led the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority, charged with overseeing the successful completion of the Reuse Master Plan for NASB. He has been MRRA's only executive director since its formation in 2008. In 2011, when NASB officially closed, there were persistent doomsday forecasts about the hole that was left behind. Steve brought his own brand of fervency to MRRA to realize a dream of the adaptive reuse of the former base, now known as Brunswick Landing. He started by assembling a passionate and hard-working team and began carefully cultivating what would become critical and dedicated partnerships, developed over the years with so many groups: the Navy, the towns of Brunswick and Topsham, the State of Maine, all of Maine's congressional delegation, the FAA, and especially the impressive list of businesses and private developers who have invested in the vision to convert a former Navy base into an economic engine that

today holds more than 2,400 jobs, surpassing the $150 million former Navy payroll.

When you read the list of other benchmarks at Brunswick Landing, over only 10 years—the creation of TechPlace, a manufacturing business incubator with 35 resident businesses; attraction of over a half billion dollars in private sector capital investment; property sales to more than 20 new property owners, including more than 650 units of workforce housing; more than $150 million in new valuation and $3 million in annual property taxes generated for the Towns of Brunswick and Topsham; more than $40 million in upgrades to Brunswick Executive Airport's—BXM— infrastructure and buildings; more than $100 million invested in new building construction and infrastructure projects owned by MRRA; creation of Brunswick Renewable Energy Center, including ownership of former Navy electrical grid with 3.5-megawatt load and 2 megawatts of on-site renewable electricity generation; 10 percent annual growth in air operations, based aircraft, and aviation fuel sales at BXM; environmental stewardship and wildlife habitat preservation, including transfer of more than 1,200 acres of open space and trails to the town of Brunswick and local land trust—it is no wonder Steve's leadership has been recognized, not once but twice, as a recipient of the Association of Defense Contractor's Community Leadership Award as well as by many other State development organizations. I join them wholeheartedly in recognizing Steve for demonstrating innovation and excellence in his work.

Even in his volunteer time, Steve serves on a number of industry and economic development boards, including the Loring Development Authority of Maine, Moosehead Lake Region Economic Development Corporation, Owls Head Transportation Museum, and the Maine Spaceport Leadership Council, to name a few. Steve has also served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps as an aircraft mechanic.

Due to Steve's commitment to economic development and ability to secure funding for a variety of initiatives throughout the years, there has been continued high quality service for new and expanding businesses here in Maine. His ability to coordinate programs and foster partnerships were critical factors in his success, whether it be at the local, State, or national level. As a champion of economic development, I join with his colleagues, friends, and the people of Maine in thanking Steve for his unwavering service to the economic development of our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY SHERIFF JOHN MINER

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I wish to honor and recognize a true hero from Phillipsburg, KS, Deputy Sheriff John Miner. On November 4, 2020, Deputy Miner responded to an accident caused by a semi-truck colliding with multiple vehicles in Long Island, KS. What was already a scary situation on its own turned worse when fuel from the semi began leaking and ignited shortly after.

A raging fire quickly started, and suddenly, bystanders realized two toddlers—a 4-year-old and 2-year-old—were stuck in one of the cars caught in the accident. Without a second thought, Deputy Miner performed his duty to protect and serve by leaping straight into the whipping fire to rescue those two children. With just a pocketknife, he was able to cut through the seatbelts trapping them and pulled them out miraculously unharmed. Deputy Miner, however, suffered second- and third-degree burns which required skin grafts. Thankfully, he has since recovered from his injuries.

This valiant story caught the attention of many in Kansas and, now, around the Nation, as Deputy Miner has been awarded the Carnegie medal for an extraordinary act of heroism. This award is bestowed on a select few each year for showing true bravery and courage in the face of danger. Deputy Miner is absolutely deserving of this award after rescuing those two children last year from certain death.

I want to thank this brave officer for being so courageous to dive headfirst into peril. As the son of a police chief, I know the risks our men and women in blue take on each day, and they are the most admirable citizens for continually working to ensure our safety. Deputy Miner has shown what true valor looks like, and Phillipsburg is safer because of him. I ask now that my colleagues show this same admiration and recognition for Deputy Miner and that he may stay safe protecting his community.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTH LEBANON

● Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the designation of South Lebanon as an Official City in Ohio. In accordance with section 703.06 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, a municipality that reaches 5,000 residents in the State of Ohio, automatically becomes a city. Since 2000, the municipality of South Lebanon has grown 151 percent and has reached a population of 6,384.

The growing population of South Lebanon also comes with a rich history. South Lebanon is the oldest town in Warren County, OH, and was also deemed one of the most important towns on the Little Miami River in the late 1700s. In its early days of settlement, it was a stopping place for many pioneers who were venturing across the country in search of a new life. Today, that same town that was a place of possibility and refuge to so many early pioneers has become a booming economic power, bringing new jobs, good schools, and a strong sense of community.

I am proud to see South Lebanon be recognized for its growth and perseverance as it continues to expand, making Ohio a great place to live and work.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1029. An act to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4089. An act 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 a point of sale of a covered rental vehicle to prevent and mitigate acts of terrorism using motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4369. An act to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to provide for designation of institutions of higher education that provide research, data, and leadership on advanced and continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing as National Centers of Excellence in Advanced and Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 206 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11116), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Ms. Sharyl Davis of San Francisco, California, to a 3-year term, and Ms. Renee Rodriguez-Betancourt of Edinburg, Texas, to a 2-year term.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1029. An act to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in

the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4089. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4369. An act to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to provide for designation of institutions of higher education that provide research, data, and leadership on advanced and continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing as National Centers of Excellence in Advanced and Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3005. A bill establishing appropriate thresholds for certain budget points of order in the Senate, and for other purposes.

S. 3006. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to extend the discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2022 through 2031.

S. 3007. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to extend the discretionary spending limits.

S. 3008. A bill to establish the Federal Rainy Day Fund to control emergency spending.

S. 3009. A bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to remove the prohibition on States and territories against lowering their taxes.

S. 3010. A bill to cap noninterest Federal spending as a percentage of potential GDP to right-size the Government, grow the economy, and balance the budget.

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–2407. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2408. 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 ''Revision to Restrictions on Shipment or Use for Human Blood and Blood Components Exceptions; Technical Amendment'' (Docket No. FDA–2021–N–0011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–2409. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on the Physicians' Comparability Allowance Program''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2410. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2411. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance and Mitigation Planning Regulations; Correction'' (RIN1660–AA96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2412. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act; Validity of Visa'' (RIN1400–AE82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2413. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Trademark Classification Changes'' (RIN0651–AD57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2414. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedule for Rating Disabilities; The Genitourinary Diseases and Conditions'' (RIN2900–AQ71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2415. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedule for Rating Disabilities; The Cardiovascular System'' (RIN2900–AQ67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2416. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''VA Acquisition Regulation: Loan Guaranty and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Programs'' (RIN2900–AQ76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2417. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''VA Acquisition Regulation: Definitions, Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses, and Forms'' (RIN2900–AR30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2418. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''VA Acquisition Regulation: Simplified Procedures for Health-Care Resources'' (RIN2900–AQ78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2419. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Auction of Construction Permits for Low Power Television and TV Translator Stations; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 111; Bidding Scheduled to Begin February 23, 2022'' ((AU Docket No. 21–284) (DA 21–1176)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

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

*Meera Joshi, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

*Amitabha Bose, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nomination of Nancy A. Hann, to be Rear Admiral.

*Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. James M. Kelly, to be Rear Admiral (Upper Half).

*Mohsin Raza Syed, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

*Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Jason C. Aleksak and ending with Christopher L. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on September 14, 2021.

By Mr. TESTER for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*James D. Rodriguez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

*Guy T. Kiyokawa, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Enterprise Integration).

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KING, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 3013. A bill to require the evaluation and standardization of suicide prevention efforts by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 3014. A bill to establish the Next Generation Telecommunications Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 3015. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to submit to Congress each year a national science and technology strategy, to require the Director to complete quadrennial science and technology reviews, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3016. A bill to address out-of-pocket inequities related to military service uniforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3017. A bill to expand the provision and availability of dental care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3018. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3019. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP code for particular communities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3020. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modify the eligibility of veterans for treatment as a low-income family for purposes of enrollment in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to guarantee health care benefits for veterans enrolled in such system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 3021. A bill to provide non-medical counseling services for military families; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3022. A bill to subject certain private funds to joint and several liability with respect to the liabilities of firms acquired and controlled by those funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 3023. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3024. A bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to provide technical assistance and training to State and local courts to improve the constitutional and equitable enforcement of fines and fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3025. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3026. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure that public institutions of higher education eschew policies that improperly constrain the expressive rights of students, and to ensure that private institutions of higher education are transparent about, and responsible for, their chosen speech policies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3027. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Joseph R. Lentol Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3028. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, States and units of local government to develop, implement, or expand 1 or more programs to provide medication-assisted treatment to individuals who have opioid use disorder and are incarcerated within the jurisdictions of the States or units of local government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 3029. A bill to amend section 230(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 to remove immunity for providers of interactive computer services for certain claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3030. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue a notice to the public regarding each enforcement action under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 that results in large penalties or where multiple violations or repeated other-than-serious violations are present; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3031. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify certain allotments under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3032. A bill to require certain manufactured goods introduced for sale in the United States to have a domestic value content of more than 50 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 3033. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3900 Crown Road Southwest in Atlanta, Georgia, as the ''John R. Lewis Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 3034. A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 424. A resolution commemorating the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Sheppard Air Force Base and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 425. A resolution recognizing the importance of protecting freedom of speech, thought, and expression at institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 172

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 172, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 868

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 868, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to prevent maternal mortality and serve maternal

morbidity among Black pregnant and postpartum individuals and other underserved populations, to provide training in respectful maternity care, to reduce and prevent bias, racism, and discrimination in maternity care settings, and for other purposes.

S. 1115

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1115, a bill to prohibit drilling in the outer Continental Shelf, to prohibit coal leases on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 1151

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1151, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 1850

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1850, a bill to preserve the memorials to chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 1986

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1986, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2102

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2102, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure.

S. 2215

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2215, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2400

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2400, a bill to establish a process for the Board on Geographic Names to review and revise offensive names of Federal land units, to create an advisory committee to recommend Federal land unit names to be reviewed by the Board, and for other purposes.

S. 2434

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to provide tax incentives that support local newspapers and other local media, and for other purposes.

S. 2675

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2675, a bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2700

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 2702, a bill to protect the voting rights of Native American and Alaska Native voters.

S. 2716

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2716, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 2750

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish a precision agriculture loan program, and for other purposes.

S. 2762

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2762, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants to eligible entities to carry out construction or modernization projects designed to strengthen and increase capacity within the specialized pediatric health care infrastructure, and for other purposes.

S. 2806

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2806, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes.

S. 2854

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2854, a bill to allow for the transfer and redemption of abandoned savings bonds.

S. 2875

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2875, a bill 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, and for other purposes.

S. 2900

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 2902

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2902, a bill to modernize Federal information security management, and for other purposes.

S. 2918

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2918, a bill to keep children safe and protect their interests on the internet, and for other purposes.

S. 2934

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2934, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose limitations on the authority of the President to adjust imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security, and for other purposes.

S. 2937

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2937, a bill to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 2945

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2945, a bill to include sexual assault and aggravated sexual violence in the definition of aggravated felonies under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to expedite the removal of aliens convicted of such crimes.

S. 3011

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3011, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to allow States and local governments to use coronavirus relief funds provided under the American Rescue Plan Act for infrastructure projects, improve the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, provide Tribal governments with more time to use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3022. A bill to subject certain private funds to joint and several liability with respect to the liabilities of firms acquired and controlled by those funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of legislation that I have recently joined Senator WARREN in introducing. It is called the Stop Wall Street Looting Act, and it concerns some of the practices and the business model of what I would describe as predatory private equity firms.

Now, before I dive into the details, I want to say that there are very good private equity companies that invest in the businesses they have purchased and the communities and the workers.

But, unfortunately, this is something that I have firsthand knowledge of, the impact of predatory private equity businesses on workers and communities in my home State of Wisconsin. Several historic Wisconsin companies have been driven into bankruptcy or had their facilities moved overseas by the private equity funds and companies that acquired them.

The first company that I want to talk about is ShopKo. For those who weren't in the ShopKo footprint in the United States, ShopKo is a retailer that was founded in 1961 in Ashwaubenon, WI. ShopKo was bought by a private equity firm, after many profitable years of existence, back in 2005. The firm was Sun Capital Partners.

Sun Capital immediately executed what is known as a sale-leaseback. A sale-leaseback is a textbook private equity maneuver in which the fund sells the company's real estate right out from under it. Real estate and the facilities were the most major asset that ShopKo had.

Certainly, they also had inventory and workers, but they owned the real estate, and this private equity firm basically sold ShopKo's 351 locations with hundreds of millions of dollars, and they were sold to a company that would lease the land and buildings back to ShopKo.

Sun Capital promised to reinvest the proceeds of the sale back into the company, but instead it paid out cash to itself in the form of dividends and management fees. Not only was ShopKo prevented from using its cash to reinvest, it was also loaded up with $200 million more in additional debt to fund even more payouts to Sun Capital executives.

After years of being starved of investment, ShopKo was forced into bankruptcy and liquidation in 2019. The 3,000 Wisconsin workers were promised severance pay in exchange for working through the company's final days.

I mean, if you think about that, you have a retail store. You don't want everybody to—the day they find out that store is ultimately going to close—to go out and find other jobs or you don't have the way to wind down your business. So they were promised severance pay in exchange for working through the company's final days. But when the time came to pay the workers, Sun Capital said it didn't have any money.

When I met with these ShopKo workers, I remember meeting Kristi Van Beckum. She said to me:

> I always felt proud to work at ShopKo because it was a Wisconsin-based company and it invested a lot in the community. But I saw how Sun Capital sold out ShopKo's properties and [literally] destroyed the company, all for their own benefit. They made millions while I didn't even get the severance I was promised. Sun Capital ran a company we loved into the ground.

More recently, I visited with workers at Hufcor, a company that has operated in Janesville, WI, for over 120 years. In 2017, the manufacturer was acquired by a private equity firm called OpenGate Capital.

Wisconsinites are sadly already familiar with OpenGate. This is an L.A.-based private equity fund that bankrupted another Wisconsin firm, Golden Guernsey Dairy, back in 2013, only 2 years after acquiring it, laying off hundreds of workers in Waukesha, WI.

Dairy workers showed up one day to find the doors locked. They were given no notice of their layoff, and they had to fight OpenGate for 8 years just to get their back pay.

This past summer, OpenGate notified the 166 workers at Hufcor that their jobs would be terminated, and the workers soon learned that the manufacturing operations would be moved to Monterrey, Mexico.

When I visited with the workers this summer, I learned this from Michelle, who had worked for Hufcor for 23 years. She told me she is anxious about what training she might need to get another job that will pay what she earned at Hufcor.

Then I also heard from Jesse. He was diagnosed with cancer 2 years ago, and he depends upon the health benefit provided by Hufcor for his treatment.

These workers had great benefits because of their representation by the Communications Workers of America union and because of their employment at Hufcor, but they were left with an uncertain future because OpenGate has decided to move their jobs to Mexico.

These stories illustrate the devastation that the predatory private equity business model has wrought on my State. These workers deserve better. We need to rip up private equity's predatory playbook that enriches looters, but leaves workers with nothing but pink slips.

I was proud to work with Senator WARREN to introduce the aptly named Stop Wall Street Looting Act. This legislation will prevent private equity firms from enriching themselves by starving businesses of investment and running them into bankruptcy or shipping their jobs overseas. This bold reform will help rewrite the rules of our economy and protect workers from the predatory practices so that we can start to reward hard work, not just wealth.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the stories from my State, and I look forward to working to pass this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 424—COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE EURO-NATO JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 424

Whereas, in 1940, Major General Rush B. Lincoln, Commandant of United States Army Air Corps Technical Schools, surveyed the sites surrounding the city of Wichita Falls, Texas for a future training school;

Whereas, 80 years ago, Sheppard Air Force Base began as Sheppard Field and opened as a United States Army Air Corps training facility on 300 acres of land in Wichita Falls, named after former United States Senator John Morris Sheppard;

Whereas, during World War II, Sheppard Field trained more than 44,000 mechanics and 445,000 basic trainees, playing a vital role in the development of airpower for defeating the Axis powers;

Whereas, after serving as an Army Air Force separation center following the end of World War II, Sheppard Field was inactivated in August of 1946;

Whereas, on August 1, 1948, Sheppard Field was reactivated by the Department of the Air Force to enhance basic training and was dedicated as Sheppard Air Force Base;

Whereas, by 1953, the base qualified more than 80,000 trained aircraft maintainers and served as the home for 2 percent of all airmen;

Whereas Sheppard Air Force Base adapted and matured alongside the United States Armed Forces by becoming the home of missile maintenance training in 1955;

Whereas, from 1959 to 1962, Sheppard Air Force Base hosted the 4245th Strategic Wing and, from 1962 to 1966, the 494th Bombardment Wing, directing aerial refueling and bombardment squadrons;

Whereas, in 1965, the 3630th Flying Training Wing was activated and in 1966 began providing pilot training to German Air Force students;

Whereas, in 1968, Sheppard Air Force Base became the epicenter for field training in the aircraft maintenance training pipeline, carried on today by the 982d Training Group, who deliver more than 35,000 trained students each year;

Whereas the 3630th Flying Training Wing became the 80th Flying Training Wing, expanding its student radius in 1973 to Iran, El Salvador, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, and other nations under the security assistance program;

Whereas, in 1973, Sheppard Air Force Base held the honor of serving as a reception point for Operation Homecoming, welcoming home Vietnam prisoners of war after years of captivity;

Whereas, in 1981, at Sheppard Air Force Base, the 80th Flying Training Wing began the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program with 11 other partner nations (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, and the United Kingdom), providing the partner nations with several domains of pilot training;

Whereas, on July 1, 1993, Sheppard Air Force Base became the home of all aircraft maintenance training when the Sheppard Training Center became the 82nd Training Wing;

Whereas, in 2016, the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program added Romania as its 14th partner and was extended through 2026;

Whereas the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program remains the world's only internationally manned and managed flying training program;

Whereas, since 1981, the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program has delivered more than 7,800 combat pilots for its 14 partner nations in support of NATO;

Whereas the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program trains 50 percent of all United States Air Force fighter pilots and is the sole source of fighter pilots for the partner nations of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and Norway;

Whereas the 80th Flying Training Wing launches 50,000 sorties per year and is recognized as the busiest joint-use airfield in the Air Force;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2019, Sheppard Air Force Base created $4,600,000,000 in economic impact and served as the region's largest employer, accounting for 1 in 8 jobs in Wichita County;

Whereas the 82nd Training Wing, stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base, graduates more than 60,000 officer and enlisted students each year;

Whereas the 82nd Training Wing is the largest technical training wing in the United States Air Force, teaching 6,000 students on a daily basis across the globe; and

Whereas, over the course of 80 years, Sheppard Air Force Base has delivered more than 7,000,000 trained Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and international partners and pilots to support military interoperability around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the 80th anniversary of the opening of Sheppard Air Force Base and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 425—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THOUGHT, AND EXPRESSION AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 425

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that ''Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech'';

Whereas, in Healy v. James, 408 U.S. 169 (1972), the Supreme Court of the United States held that the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States applies in full force on the campuses of public colleges and universities;

Whereas, in Widmar v. Vincent, 454 U.S. 263 (1981), the Supreme Court of the United States observed that ''the campus of a public university, at least for its students, possesses many of the characteristics of a public forum'';

Whereas lower Federal courts have also held that the open, outdoor areas of the campuses of public colleges and universities are public forums;

Whereas section 112(a)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011a(a)(2)) contains a sense of Congress noting that ''an institution of higher education should facilitate the free and open exchange of ideas'', ''students should not be intimidated, harassed, discouraged from speaking out, or discriminated against'', ''students should be treated equally and fairly'', and ''nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to modify, change, or infringe upon any constitutionally protected religious liberty, freedom, expression, or association'';

Whereas, despite the clarity of the applicable legal precedent and the vital importance of protecting public colleges in the United States as true ''marketplaces of ideas'', the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education has found that approximately 1 in 10 of the top colleges and universities in the United States quarantine student expression to so-called ''free speech zones'', and a survey of 466 schools found that almost 30 percent maintain severely restrictive speech codes that clearly and substantially prohibit constitutionally protected speech;

Whereas, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ''Speech codes adopted by government-financed state colleges and universities amount to government censorship, in violation of the Constitution. And the ACLU believes that all campuses should adhere to First Amendment principles because academic freedom is a bedrock of education in a free society.'';

Whereas the University of Chicago, as part of its commitment ''to free and open inquiry in all matters'', issued a statement in which ''it guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn'', and more than 50 university administrations and faculty bodies have endorsed a version of the ''Chicago Statement'';

Whereas, in December 2014, the University of Hawaii at Hilo settled a lawsuit for $50,000 after it was sued in Federal court for prohibiting students from protesting the National Security Agency unless those students were standing in the tiny, flood-prone free speech zone at the university;

Whereas, in July 2015, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, settled a lawsuit for $35,000 after it was sued in Federal court for prohibiting a student from handing out flyers about animal abuse outside of the free speech zone at the university, comprising less than 0.01 percent of campus;

Whereas, in May 2016, a student-plaintiff settled her lawsuit against Blinn College in Texas for $50,000 after administrators told her she needed ''special permission'' to advocate for Second Amendment rights outside of the tiny free speech zone at the college;

Whereas, in February 2017, Georgia Gwinnett College agreed to modify its restrictive speech policies after two students sued in Federal court to challenge a requirement that students obtain prior authorization from administrators to engage in expressive activity within the limits of a tiny free speech zone, comprising less than 0.0015 percent of campus;

Whereas, in March 2017, Middlebury College students and protesters from the community prevented an invited speaker from giving his presentation and then attacked his car and assaulted a professor as the two attempted to leave, resulting in the professor suffering a concussion;

Whereas, in January 2018, Kellogg Community College in Michigan settled a lawsuit for $55,000 for arresting two students for handing out copies of the Constitution of the United States while talking with their fellow students on a sidewalk;

Whereas, in June 2018, the University of Michigan agreed to change its restrictive speech code on the same day the United States Department of Justice filed a statement of interest in support of a lawsuit in Federal court challenging the constitutionality of the speech code of the university;

Whereas, in December 2018, the Los Angeles Community College District, a 9-campus community college district that includes Pierce College, settled a lawsuit for $225,000 and changed its restrictive speech policies after it was sued in Federal court for prohibiting a Pierce College student from distributing Spanish-language copies of the Constitution of the United States on campus unless he stood in the free speech zone, which comprised approximately 0.003 percent of the total area of the 426 acres of the college;

Whereas, in December 2018, the University of California, Berkeley, home of the 1960s campus free speech movement, settled a lawsuit for $70,000 and changed its restrictive policies after it was sued in Federal court for singling out one student group, apart from other student groups, with the imposition of stricter rules for inviting ''high-profile'' public speakers;

Whereas the States of Virginia, Missouri, Arizona, Kentucky, Colorado, Utah, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Iowa have passed legislation prohibiting public colleges and universities from quarantining expressive activities on the open outdoor areas of campuses to misleadingly labeled free speech zones; and

Whereas free speech zones have been used to restrict political speech from all parts of the political spectrum and have thus inhibited the free exchange of ideas at campuses across the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that free speech zones and restrictive speech codes are inherently at odds with the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) recognizes that institutions of higher education should facilitate and recommit themselves to protecting the free and open exchange of ideas;

(3) recognizes that freedom of expression and freedom of speech are sacred ideals of the United States that must be vigorously safeguarded in a world increasingly hostile to democracy;

(4) encourages the Secretary of Education to promote policies that foster spirited debate, academic freedom, intellectual curiosity, and viewpoint diversity on the campuses of public colleges and universities; and

(5) encourages the Attorney General to defend and protect the First Amendment across public colleges and universities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3863. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3864. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3865. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3866. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3863. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. REAUTHORIZATION OF SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS.

(a) SBIR.—Section 9(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(m)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2022'' and inserting ''September 30, 2027''.

(b) STTR.—Section 9(n)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)(A)) is amended by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

SA 3864. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 5____. PILOT PROGRAM ON ACTIVITIES UNDER THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR A REDUCTION IN SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing the module described in subsection (b) and the services described in subsection (c) as part of the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces participating in the Transition Assistance Program as a means of reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.

(b) MODULE.—The module described in this subsection is a three-hour module under the Transition Assistance Program for each member of the Armed Forces participating in the pilot program that includes the following:

(1) An in-person meeting between the cohort of the member and a social worker or mental health provider in which the social worker or mental health provider—

(A) counsels the cohort on specific potential risks confronting members after discharge or release from the Armed Forces, including loss of community or a support system, isolation from family, friends, or society, identity crisis in the transition from military to civilian life, vulnerability viewed as a weakness, need for empathy, self-medication and addiction, importance of sleep and exercise, homelessness, and reasons why veterans attempt and complete suicide;

(B) in coordination with the inTransition program of the Department of Defense, counsels members of the cohort who have been diagnosed with physical, psychological, or neurological issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, adverse childhood experiences, depression, and bipolar disorder, on—

(i) the potential risks for such members from such issues after discharge or release; and

(ii) the resources and treatment options afforded to members for such issues through the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and non-profit organizations;

(C) counsels the cohort about the resources afforded to victims of military sexual trauma through the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(D) counsels the cohort about the manner in which members might experience grief during the transition from military to civilian life, and the resources afforded to them for grieving through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) In coordination with the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the provision to each cohort member of contact information for a counseling or other appropriate facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the locality in which such member intends to reside after discharge or release.

(3) The submittal by cohort members to the Department of Veterans Affairs (including both the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration) of their medical records in connection with service in the Armed Forces, whether or not such members intend to file a claim with the Department for benefits with respect to any service-connected disability.

(c) SERVICES.—The services described in this subsection in connection with the Transition Assistance Program for each member of the Armed Forces participating in the pilot program are the following:

(1) Not later than 90 days after the discharge or release of the member from the Armed Forces, a contact of the member by a social worker or behavioral health coordinator from the Department of Veterans Affairs to schedule a follow-up appointment with a social worker or behavioral health provider at the facility applicable to the member under subsection (b)(2) to occur not later than 90 days after such contact.

(2) During the appointment scheduled pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) an assessment of the member to determine the experiences of the member with events during service in the Armed Forces that could lead, whether individually or cumulatively, to physical, psychological, or neurological issues, including issues described in subsection (b)(1)(B); and

(B) the development of a medical treatment plan for the member, including treatment for issues identified pursuant to the assessment under subparagraph (A).

(d) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program shall be carried out at not fewer than 10 Transition Assistance Centers of the Department of Defense that serve not fewer than 300 members of the Armed Forces annually that are jointly selected by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for purposes of the pilot program.

(2) MEMBERS SERVED.—The centers selected under paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable, be centers that, whether individually or in aggregate, serve all the Armed Forces and both the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(e) SELECTION AND COMMENCEMENT.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of

Veterans Affairs shall jointly select the locations of the pilot program under subsection (d)(1) and commence carrying out activities under the pilot program by not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) DURATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The duration of the pilot program shall be five years.

(2) CONTINUATION.—If the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs recommend in the report under subsection (g) that the pilot program be extended beyond the date otherwise provided by paragraph (1), the Secretaries may jointly continue the pilot program for such period beyond such date as the Secretaries jointly consider appropriate.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter during the duration of the pilot program, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the activities under the pilot program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the members of the Armed Forces who participated in the pilot program during the 180-day period ending on the date of such report, disaggregated by the following:

(i) Sex.

(ii) Branch of the Armed Forces in which served.

(iii) Diagnosis of, or other symptoms consistent with, military sexual trauma, posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, or bipolar disorder in connection with service in the Armed Forces.

(B) A description of the activities under the pilot program during such period.

(C) An assessment of the benefits of the activities under the pilot program during such period to veterans and family members of veterans.

(D) An assessment of whether the activities under the pilot program as of the date of such report have reduced the incidence of suicide among members who participated in the pilot program within one year of discharge or release from the Armed Forces.

(E) Such recommendations as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs jointly consider appropriate regarding expansion of the pilot program, extension of the pilot program, or both.

(h) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Transition Assistance Program'' means the program of assistance and other transitional services carried out pursuant to section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 3865. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1064. NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS REGARDING REPORTED CASES OF BURN PIT EXPOSURE.

(a) QUARTERLY NOTIFICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each reported case of burn pit exposure by a covered veteran reported during the previous quarter.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to each reported case of burn pit exposure of a covered veteran included in the report, the following:

(A) Notice of the case, including the medical facility at which the case was reported.

(B) Notice of, as available—

(i) the enrollment status of the covered veteran with respect to the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code;

(ii) a summary of all health care visits by the covered veteran at the medical facility at which the case was reported that are related to the case;

(iii) the demographics of the covered veteran, including age, sex, and race;

(iv) any non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care benefits that the covered veteran receives;

(v) the Armed Force in which the covered veteran served and the rank of the covered veteran;

(vi) the period in which the covered veteran served;

(vii) each location of an open burn pit from which the covered veteran was exposed to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes during such service;

(viii) the medical diagnoses of the covered veteran and the treatment provided to the veteran; and

(ix) whether the covered veteran is registered in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

(3) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the reports submitted under paragraph (1) do not include the identity of covered veterans or contain other personally identifiable data.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the following:

(A) The total number of covered veterans.

(B) The total number of claims for disability compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, approved and the total number denied by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to a covered veteran, and for each such denial, the rationale of the denial.

(C) A comprehensive list of—

(i) the conditions for which covered veterans seek treatment; and

(ii) the locations of the open burn pits from which the covered veterans were exposed to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes.

(D) Identification of any illnesses relating to exposure to open burn pits that formed the basis for the Secretary to award benefits, including entitlement to service connection or an increase in disability rating.

(E) The total number of covered veterans who died after seeking care for an illness relating to exposure to an open burn pit.

(F) Any updates or trends with respect to the information described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) that the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED IN FIRST REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in the first report under paragraph (1) information specified in subsection (a)(2) with respect to reported cases of burn pit exposure made during the period beginning January 1, 1990, and ending on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION AFTER DEATH AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY.—Section 201(a) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(3) REPORTING OF INFORMATION AFTER DEATH.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a survivor of a deceased veteran to report to the registry under paragraph (1) the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by an open burn pit, even if such veteran was not included in the registry before their death.

''(4) INFORMATION REGARDING REGISTRY.—

''(A) NOTICE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that a medical professional of the Department of Veterans Affairs informs a veteran of the registry under paragraph (1) if the veteran presents at a medical facility of the Department for treatment that the veteran describes as being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

''(B) DISPLAY.—In making information public regarding the number of participants in the registry under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall display such numbers by both State and by congressional district.''.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing an assessment of the effectiveness of any memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to—

(1) the processing of reported cases of burn pit exposure; and

(2) the coordination of care and provision of health care relating to such cases at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and at non-Department facilities.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry'' means the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) The term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran who presents at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs (or in a non-Department facility pursuant to section 1703 or 1703A of title 38, United States Code) for treatment that the veteran describes as being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits at any time while serving in the Armed Forces.

(4) The term ''open burn pit'' has the meaning given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(5) The term ''reported case of burn pit exposure'' means each instance in which a veteran presents at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs (or in a non-Department facility pursuant to section 1703 or 1703A of title 38, United States Code) for treatment that the veteran describes as

being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits at any time while serving in the Armed Forces.

SA 3866. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1013. STUDY AND REPORT ON HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING AND INDIVIDUALS AT RISK FOR TRAFFICKING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

(A) SURVIVOR OF A SEVERE FORM OF TRAFFICKING.—The term ''survivor of a severe form of trafficking'' has the meaning given the term ''victim of a severe form of trafficking'' in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(B) SURVIVOR OF TRAFFICKING.—The term ''survivor of trafficking'' has the meaning given the term ''victim of trafficking'' in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking ''paragraph (9)'' and inserting ''paragraph (11)''; and

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking ''paragraph (9) or (10)'' and inserting ''paragraph (11) or (12)''.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (referred to in this section as the ''Council'') shall conduct a study assessing the availability and accessibility of housing and services for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability who are—

(A) survivors of trafficking, including survivors of a severe form of trafficking; or

(B) at risk of being trafficked.

(2) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study required under paragraph (1), the Council shall—

(A) coordinate with—

(i) the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established pursuant to section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103);

(ii) the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking;

(iii) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(iv) the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and

(v) the Attorney General; and

(B) consult with—

(i) the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States;

(ii) survivors of trafficking;

(iii) direct service providers, including—

(I) organizations serving runaway and homeless youth;

(II) organizations serving survivors of trafficking through community-based programs; and

(III) organizations providing housing services to survivors of trafficking; and

(iv) housing and homelessness assistance providers, including recipients of grants under—

(I) the continuum of care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.); and

(II) the Emergency Solutions Grants Program authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.).

(3) CONTENTS.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) with respect to the individuals described in such paragraph—

(i) an evaluation of formal assessments and outreach methods used to identify and assess the housing and service needs of such individuals, including outreach methods—

(I) to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities; and

(II) to reach individuals with limited English proficiency;

(ii) a review of the availability and accessibility of homelessness or housing services for such individuals, including the family members of such individuals who are minors involved in foster care systems, that identifies the disability-related needs of such individuals, including the need for housing with accessibility features;

(iii) the effect of any policies and procedures of mainstream homelessness or housing services that facilitate or limit the availability of such services and accessibility for such individuals, including individuals who are involved in the legal system, as such services are in effect as of the date on which the study is initiated;

(iv) an identification of best practices in meeting the housing and service needs of such individuals; and

(v) an assessment of barriers to fair housing and housing discrimination against survivors of trafficking who are members of a protected class under the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.);

(B) an assessment of the ability of mainstream homelessness or housing services to meet the specialized needs of survivors of trafficking, including trauma responsive approaches specific to labor and sex trafficking survivors; and

(C) an evaluation of the effectiveness of, and infrastructure considerations for, housing and service-delivery models that are specific to survivors of trafficking, including survivors of severe forms of trafficking, including emergency rental assistance models.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council shall—

(1) submit a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that contains the information described in subsection (b)(3); and

(2) make the report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 14 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(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, October 20, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive session on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 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, October 20, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a business meeting on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing on pending legislation.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

The Subcommittee on the Constitution of the Committee on the Judiciary

is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Katherine Quinn, an American Institute of Physics Congressional Science Fellow through the American Association of Advancement of Science, who is serving in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until October 21, 2021: Dominique Rupp, Mason Witzke, and Francis Prosser.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRISON CAMERA REFORM ACT OF 2021

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2899 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2899) 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.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2899) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2899

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 ''Prison Camera Reform Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bureau of Prisons has 122 institutions located throughout the United States. The Bureau of Prisons employs nearly 38,000 employees and is responsible for more than 150,000 Federal inmates.

(2) Video footage from security camera systems and reliable communication over radio systems within Bureau of Prisons institutions are essential to protecting the health and safety of Bureau of Prisons employees and Federal inmates.

(3) Based on the experience of Bureau of Prisons correctional staff, the noticeable presence of functioning security cameras serves as an effective deterrent to criminal behavior and misconduct.

(4) Well-documented deficiencies of camera systems at Bureau of Prisons' facilities have hindered investigators' ability to substantiate allegations of serious misconduct by staff and inmates, including sexual and physical assaults, medical neglect, and introduction of contraband.

(5) In a 2016 report, the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Justice determined that ''deficiencies within the BOP's security camera system have affected the OIG's ability to secure prosecutions of staff and inmates in BOP contraband introduction cases, and these same problems adversely impact the availability of critical evidence to support administrative or disciplinary action against staff and inmates''.

(6) Shortcomings in the land-mobile radio systems at Bureau of Prison facilities institutions impede the communication abilities of staff, slowing or preventing the response of correctional officers during an emergency or threat of attack, and jeopardizing the safety of both staff and Federal inmates.

SEC. 3. REQUIRED PLAN FOR REFORM OF BOP SECURITY CAMERA AND RADIO COVERAGE AND CAPABILITIES.

(a) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

(1) evaluate the security camera, land-mobile radio (referred to in this Act as ''LMR''), and public address (referred to in this Act as ''PA'') systems in use by the Bureau of Prisons as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a plan for ensuring that all Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities have the security camera, LMR, and PA system coverage and capabilities necessary to—

(A) ensure the health and safety of staff and Federal inmates; and

(B) ensure the documentation and accessibility of video evidence that may pertain to misconduct by staff or inmates, negligent or abusive treatment of inmates, or criminal activity within correctional facilities.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify and include plans to address any deficiencies in the security camera system in use at Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities, including those related to—

(A) an insufficient number of cameras;

(B) inoperable or malfunctioning cameras;

(C) blind spots;

(D) poor quality video; and

(E) any other deficits in the security camera system;

(2) identify and include plans to adopt and maintain any security camera system upgrades needed to achieve the purposes described in subsection (a), including—

(A) conversion of all analog cameras to digital surveillance systems, with corresponding infrastructure and equipment upgrade requirements;

(B) upgrades to ensure the secure storage, logging, preservation, and accessibility of recordings such that the recordings are available to investigators or Courts at such time as may be reasonably required; and

(C) additional enterprise-wide camera system capabilities needed to enhance the safety and security of inmates and staff;

(3) identify and include plans to address any deficiencies in the LMR and PA systems in use at Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities, including those related to—

(A) an inadequate number of radios;

(B) inoperable, outdated, or malfunctioning LMR or PA systems;

(C) areas of Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities that lack adequate reception for radio operation;

(D) radios that lack an emergency notification feature (also known as a ''man down'' function), which automatically sends an alert and transmits the location of that radio in the event the wearer is in a prone position; and

(E) any other deficits in the LMR or PA systems;

(4) include an assessment of operational and logistical considerations in implementing the plan required under subsection (a), including—

(A) a prioritization of facilities for needed upgrades, beginning with high security institutions;

(B) the personnel and training necessary to implement the changes; and

(C) ongoing repair and maintenance requirements; and

(5) include a 3-year strategic plan and cost projection for implementing the changes and upgrades to the security camera, LMR, and PA systems identified under paragraphs (1) through (4).

(c) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection (a)(2), and subject to appropriations, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall complete implementation of the submitted plan.

(d) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date on which the plan is submitted under subsection (a)(2), and each year thereafter until the end of the 3-year period described in subsection (c), the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the progress of the implementation of the submitted plan.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, October 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lin nomination, as provided under the previous order; further, that if the Lin nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. SMITH. For the information of Senators, the first rollcall vote of the day will be at approximately 10:30 a.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators Tuberville, Marshall, and Hoeven.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, you know, I think Americans must look at what is happening up here in Washington, DC, and think that the Democrats look like squirrels dodging cars in traffic. This is Biden's America, one where the party in power is throwing policy spaghetti at the wall in hopes that one of their harebrained ideas will stick.

It would be almost funny if our country wasn't staring down multiple problems as a result of the Biden administration's policy failures. And it is time the Democrats faced the facts. But after 10 months of President Biden running the country, how are ordinary Americans doing?

Let's just take a look. Take the border crisis: a complete, predictable, self-inflicted disaster.

On his first day in office, President Biden made the radical decision to open our borders by undoing many successful policies put in place by the Trump administration. They were working, and we changed them. You can draw a straight line from those ill-advised policy decisions to where we are as we speak.

Two million illegal immigrants will have been apprehended by the end of this year, and those are just the ones that we caught. Oddly enough, this is one issue that the mainstream media and conservative media agree on.

Here are a few recent headlines. From CNN: ''12,000 migrants have been waiting in makeshift camps under the Del Rio bridge in Texas.'' That is from CNN.

And this from the Daily Caller: ''Migrants Illegally Crossing U.S.-Mexico Border Thank''—they thank—President ''[Biden's] Administration.''

Do those headlines sound like the southwest border is under control?

Here is another headline for you. In a remarkable about-face, the Biden administration announced that it would reimplement the Trump-era Remain in Mexico policy after doing away with it on election day. They are going to reinstate it only because of a Federal judge. It is clear President Biden could have prevented this border crisis if he had not been focused on playing politics from his first day in office.

This is Biden's America.

How about the fact that President Biden didn't listen to the best military advice his top commanders gave him when it came to withdrawing troops in Afghanistan? America's best experts—GEN Mark Milley, GEN Frank McKenzie, and GEN Scott Miller—all advised the President to keep 2,500 troops in Afghanistan to remain stable. Basically, at the end of the day, this was a State Department and President's decision.

Instead, the President's strategy turned into billions in American equipment handed over to the Taliban; our most valuable airfield, Bagram—maybe one of the most valuable in the world—abandoned in dead of the night; Americans left behind in enemy lines that are still there; and a complete abandonment of our allies in Afghanistan. What a disaster.

President Biden was more concerned about a good September 11 headline than a great strategy, more concerned about his press than saving American lives. The President's withdrawal will continue to be a stain on his legacy. Joe Biden created the worst American military foreign policy disaster in recent history, and the United States will be haunted by this decision for many years to come.

Another fact about this is Biden's America: President Biden's policies have undercut economic growth and derailed rapid recovery that was taking place under the Trump administration. And this was even during a pandemic.

Now prices are skyrocketing, businesses can't find people to work, and the United States is facing an unprecedented disruption in the supply chain. And this administration didn't know it was coming.

Incredibly, the White House and its defenders continue to say that all of these deeply concerning realities are due to the fact that President Biden has been so successful in his economic policy. They are using the ''everything is so bad because President Biden is doing so good'' argument. Where in the world are they getting that from?

This month, the President's own Chief of Staff promoted the idea that inflation is only a ''high-class problem,'' the 1 percent. Where has this guy been hiding? Try telling that to the middle-class families in Alabama who are seeing hard-earned money cover less at the grocery store and at the pump.

The fact is, prices are rising—not just for the wealthy but for everybody. Consumer prices are at the highest point in 13 years, and inflation is costing American taxpayers $175 a month. Somebody is screwed up. Again, you can draw a straight line from the President's decisions to where we are now. It is what happens when you pay people to not rejoin the workforce, force vaccine mandates on workers, stifle growth with regulations, and waste trillions and trillions of dollars as our country attempts to recover from a pandemic.

And it will only get worse with this $3.5 trillion tax-and-spend spree—not if when we raise taxes but when we raise taxes to pay for this socialist package. The American people aren't going to buy into it.

The fact is that this is Biden's America. His agenda has led to the border crisis, foreign policy disasters, and a financial strain on American families. This is Biden's America, where Democrats are focused on finger-pointing and scoring political points instead of paying attention to the cold, hard facts of their policy failures.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today with a warning for Kansans and all Americans that the inflation we are seeing, Bidenflation, as I call it, is here to stay so long as those on the left continue to jam through reckless tax-and-spend bills.

Unfortunately, the inflation we are seeing is a double whammy. You have less money to spend, and the things you want to buy cost more. It is hurting every hard-working American but none more than our seniors and young families living paycheck to paycheck. No, President Biden, inflation is not a problem of just the high class. Indeed, there is no equity in Bidenflation.

Make no mistake, inflation and all of its lingering effects rest squarely on the shoulders of President Biden's failed social policies. It is yet another crisis created by this administration.

Having personally lived through the seventies and eighties, I have seen inflation happen firsthand. I have seen it bring so many businesses down. And to put it in simpler terms, inflation is a vicious cycle, like a dog chasing its own tail and the tail is on fire. And, of course, the Biden administration has been throwing gasoline on this fire since the moment they took office.

Today's inflation crisis began with Joe Biden's boondoggle stimulus bill and the proceeding labor shortages. For months now, we are seeing ''Help Wanted'' signs everywhere, from the small mom-and-pop shops on Main Street to big hotel chains and fast-food restaurants. Employers are struggling to fill the open jobs they have despite raising wages and offering return-to-work bonuses.

This labor shortage is having a rippling effect across our economy, from slowing down the supply and logistics chains to putting an unfair burden on employees who choose to show up. This ripple has turned into a tidal wave of inflation and now a full-blown tsunami.

But the storm waves don't stop there. The cost of living has increased as a result of production delays caused by labor shortages. Higher costs at home, such as the cost of gasoline, vehicles, groceries, and energy costs caused workers to go on strike asking for higher wages just to make ends meet.

Folks, I have got news for you: Wages never keep up with inflation. All this, in turn, drives up the cost of goods and services even more. You get the point.

Inflation is a vicious cycle. This is the dog chasing its own tail.

But Bidenflation doesn't stop there now. Why? Because President Biden is throwing more gasoline on the fire with his unconstitutional vaccine mandate. I, too, have seen this firsthand. Just last week, I was in Kansas to meet with union members who are facing the difficult choice of keeping their jobs or getting the COVID vaccine.

These folks aren't just mad; they are panicked. And it is literally job or jab for them. In fact, the unions I spoke with estimate they will lose 30 to 50 percent of their workforce due to Joe Biden's vaccine mandate. This will make both our supply chain shortages as well as inflation even worse.

Mr. President, while I support the COVID vaccine and encourage folks to talk to their doctor about whether to get it, there is no doubt that President Biden's vaccination decree is an all-out assault on our private businesses, our civil liberties, and our entire constitutional system of limited government.

And it is a slap in the face to so many people who stood on the frontlines of the COVID battle last year and never stopped working: nurses, doctors, first responders, and those union workers I met with last week. Trust me, I have heard loud and clear these few weeks from Kansans about what they want, and it is not an unconstitutional vaccine mandate. It is not the socialism that is born out of trillions of dollars' worth of spending and taxing that has led to reckless inflation, hampered our economy, and killed our jobs.

The question is, Do Americans want Big Government socialism or do we want economic freedom and prosperity? Kansans agree that if you want strong roads, bridges, high-speed internet, good schools, and a strong military, we need a strong economy. That should be our focus right now, not continuing down this administration's socialist economic policies.

Pre-COVID, we had the greatest economy in my lifetime. That came about because we lowered people's taxes; we lowered regulations; and we lowered energy prices. We need smart, targeted investments, not radical spending that leaves the country at a disadvantage.

Unfortunately, in the meantime, everyone better buckle up and grab your wallets. Bidenflation is here to stay as long as this administration continues its reckless taxing, reckless borrowing, and reckless spending agenda.

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, before I wrap up, I want to voice my support for Kansas City's bid to serve as host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup prior to tomorrow's highly anticipated venue visit by FIFA representatives.

Kansas is home to some of the most devoted, fanatic soccer fans in the world that are ready to cheer on Team USA, and what better place to do it than in America's heartland. The Kansas City community, alongside Sporting KC, has shown unwavering commitment to make this dream a reality, and Kansas City is no stranger to hosting major sporting events, from the Big 12 Men's Basketball Conference Championships, NCAA March Madness, and plans to host the NFL Football Draft in 2023.

We have great, fan-friendly facilities and something for everyone in the family to do. We have the lodging, public transportation, shopping and dining options needed to make the 2026 World Cup a great success. The FIFA World Cup is the largest and most prestigious single-sport event in the world, and there is no better place for it to be held than Kansas City.

Thank you.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the harmful impacts that President Biden's policies are having on the global supply chain and consumer energy prices.

Americans today are facing the highest increase in costs for goods and services in over a decade, with inflation now more than 5 percent and rising. Similarly, our workforce participation rate is stagnant. There are still 4.3 million fewer workers today than there were in February of 2020. Nationally, there are more than 10 million job openings—more than in any other year.

Record high job openings, coupled with rapidly increasing consumer demand, is causing disruptions to global supply chains and further increasing costs, increasing inflation. Rather than working to spur economic growth, encourage workforce participation, and return our economy to growth, as we saw with the last administration, President Biden and the Democrats in Congress are focused on raising taxes and enacting harmful, job-killing policies.

A prime example of what I am talking about—harmful policies being pushed by the Biden administration—is the Green New Deal that will hinder domestic energy production and increase the expense for every American household.

Affordable and reliable energy is foundational to our economy, quality of life, and national security. Across the country and in my home State of North Dakota, we are seeing energy prices rise across the board. Drivers are paying more for fuel at the pump, and homes and businesses are prepared for record high heating costs as we go into the winter months.

Because the cost of energy is built into virtually every product we consume, we are seeing the inflationary pressures of higher prices on goods across the entire economy, all the way to the dinner table. For an energy-rich nation such as ours, the situation we find ourselves in is unacceptable, and it is certainly avoidable.

In the first week of his administration, President Biden yanked the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline and halted new oil and gas leases on Federal lands and offshore. President Biden's party has also called for new taxes and fees on American energy production.

In addition, the Biden administration is promoting foreign energy production as he stifles energy production here at home. He has allowed completion of Russia's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline while calling on Russia, Saudi Arabia, and other OPEC nations to increase more oil production. Think about that. At a time when he is holding back energy production in our country—oil production in our country, he is asking OPEC, Saudi Arabia, and Russia to increase oil? It defies common sense. Think about it.

If the Biden administration continues down this path, it will not only cause further increased prices for consumers, but it will undermine our energy independence and harm our national security by forcing reliance on foreign energy production.

It is time we recognized the fact that our country's vast oil, gas, and coal resources are a strategic national security and economic asset. As we have seen over the past decade, greater U.S. energy production has strengthened our national security and lowered energy prices for hard-working American families.

The fact is, we should be focused on increasing economic growth, encouraging workforce participation, and restoring our economy to its prepandemic highs. Support for our domestic energy production is a vital step to bringing down prices for consumers, and we need to do it.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:28 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES C. O'BRIEN, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF SANCTIONS COORDINATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR. (NEW POSITION)

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 20, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CATHERINE ELIZABETH LHAMON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ANNE HUGHES, PH.D., RN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Speaker NANCY PELOSI to pay tribute to a registered nurse and leader in health care for marginalized people, specifically people with AIDS and the impoverished. Anne Hughes, Ph.D., RN was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1953 and studied nursing there at Gwynedd Mercy College. She went on to Boston College to receive her Master's Degree and then to the University of Washington in Seattle. She received a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, in 2007.

Dr. Hughes died earlier this year after more than 30 years of service to San Francisco's public health hospitals. She worked at San Francisco General Hospital as a clinical nurse specialist; hospice nurse and on the HIV/AIDS unit. From 1987 to 2000, at the height of the epidemic, she provided compassionate care when HIV/AIDS was highly stigmatized because it affected primarily gay men. She began in an era when few in the country knew much about this disease.

Dr. Hughes was a soft-spoken leader known for her kindness to patients, and colleagues. She also served beyond San Francisco and helped found the American Association of Nurses in AIDS CARE, serving as President of the organization in its early years. Dr. Hughes used her clinical expertise and served as the first co-editor of the ''Core Curriculum for Nurses in HIV/AIDS Care,'' a major undertaking with over 102 contributors.

In 2000, Dr. Hughes left San Francisco General to work at San Francisco's Laguna Honda Hospital, the largest skilled nursing facility in the country. Her doctoral study research focused on how poor and homeless people die in San Francisco. She brought her knowledge of the emerging field of palliative care and her hospice experience to Laguna Honda. She was the first nurse selected to be a department director. She served on San Francisco's End of Life Task Force, an interdisciplinary, inter-health system group that sought to improve care throughout San Francisco.

Dr. Hughes wrote numerous chapters and articles on HIV/AIDS, hospice care and palliative care. She was elected to, and served on, the board of the national Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association. Her many accomplishments won her an invitation to be inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing.

As I close these remarks, let me offer Speaker PELOSI's and my condolences to her wife, Marylin Dodd, Ph.D. RN, and to her extended family. The requirements of a public health professional likely cost Dr. Hughes many hours that might otherwise have been devoted to family and friends. In their grief they can take comfort from the reality that her hours were spent in heroic work, tending to the needs of those who, many times, had few others who would acknowledge their humanity. They can justifiably be proud of all that she achieved in her professional life.

Dr. Hughes gave us a wonderful example of what public service can mean to this nation. Our nation now extends to her this acknowledgement, in its chronicle of the proceedings of Congress. We hope that other stories and facts related herein today will rise to the outstanding example of duty and honor demonstrated by the life of Dr. Hughes.

HONORING ROB WEISS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rob S. Weiss in recognition of his 25-year career at Mentis, Napa's oldest non-profit organization dedicated to providing affordable bilingual mental health services.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Mr. Weiss earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1989. He then entered UCLA's Master of Social Welfare (MSW) program, where he received his graduate degree in social welfare in 1995 and became a licensed clinical social worker. Early in his career, Mr. Weiss discovered a passion for helping those struggling with their emotional and mental health. In 1996, Mr. Weiss began working at Mentis, providing therapy and supportive structure for adults living with mental illness. As a result of Mr. Weiss' dedication and service, he was promoted first to clinical director and then to executive director of the agency in 2011. His tireless work and stewardship of the agency is reflected in the growth of the population Mentis serves each year, which has grown from a few hundred people a year to over 3,500 individuals.

In addition to aiding those with mental health illnesses, Mr. Weiss has dedicated time to support youth through coaching youth sports. His holistic philosophy to coaching has provided hundreds of young athletes with the mental and emotional skills to face challenges both on and off the court.

Mr. Weiss' numerous leadership roles include serving on the Providence Queen of the Valley Medical Center's Committee on Community Benefits to measure progress of the Center's community outreach health initiatives. Mr. Weiss has also served on the Adventist Health Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee to better understand the needs of his community. He is a member of both the Napa County Aging Population Initiative, a group dedicated to supporting older adults in Napa County, and the Community Leaders Coalition, a group that supports vulnerable populations in Napa County.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Mr. Weiss has worked endlessly to serve the most vulnerable individuals in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CONGRATULATING LEWISTOWN'S ''MUSIC IN THE PARK'' FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the residents of Lewistown, Illinois for their weekly community event, ''Music in the Park.''

Each Thursday night during the summer, Lewistown residents bring lawn chairs and blankets to the town square to listen to local musicians perform as a part of ''Music in the Park.'' This event has been a vital place of gathering and community and a safe and positive outlet for human connection during the COVID–19 pandemic.

It is because of gatherings such as ''Music in the Park'' and their organizers that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Lewistown, IL for their community event, ''Music in the Park.''

CONGRATULATING CRAIG BRANDENBURG ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Craig Brandenburg, a true public servant, on his retirement following five decades within the federal government.

The majority of Craig's career was spent as a civilian employee within the United States Navy. Most recently he has served as the Director of Business Operations for Logistics, Maintenance, and Industrial Operations at Naval Sea Systems Command. In this capacity he has been responsible for policy development, mission direction, program execution, operation and evaluation of naval ship life cycle logistics, information systems, and corporate leadership of the Naval Shipyards, and Supervisors of Shipbuilding. You could say he has come a long way from his beginnings with the federal government as a typist with the National Archives in the 1970s.

Throughout his long career, Craig has championed cutting-edge ideas, coordinated Navy-wide support of sailor's and their family's needs, and overseen a variety of efforts to include billion dollar programs. Thanks to his

strategic leveraging of IT solutions, the warfighter can now reach out and touch the shore-based infrastructure anytime any day. In fact, we have Craig to thank for many new and groundbreaking developments within the United States Navy.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Navy, Craig has received the Chief Information Officer eBusiness Government Award, the Civilian Meritorious Achievement Medal, the National Partnership for Reinventing Government Vice President Hammer Award, the CNO's VADM Stanley Arthur Logistics Excellence Award, and the American Society of Naval Engineers Clifford G. Geiger Award recognizing his 25 years of significant career contributions to logistics readiness of the Naval services.

Craig managed many large programs throughout his impressive career, but his true passion was for leading those who worked for him. He has touched many programs and many people, and I know he will be missed by them all. I thank Craig for his contributions to this country and congratulations on his retirement. We know that his family and his children Lauren and Connor are proud of his accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA ZIARKO, MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S NEW VICE PRESIDENT

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Ziarko who has been selected as the Michigan Municipal League's 2021–2022 Vice President.

Barbara has been a Sterling Heights resident for forty-two years and has given much of her time and talent to the community, including serving as a member of the Sterling Heights City Council for twenty years. She was a Macomb Foundation Athena Award nominee, which helps to demonstrate her exemplary leadership and community service. Throughout the years, Barbara has been deeply involved with numerous community organizations, including serving as co-coordinator for the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team at St. Blase Catholic Community, as a committee member of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event in Sterling Heights for five years, as a member of the Regina High School Board of Directors for seven years, and as a member of the American Polish Century Club Ladies Auxiliary.

In her new role with the Michigan Municipal League, Barbara has pledged to work on the organization's ongoing community wealth building and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. I have no doubt that the remarkable leadership she has displayed in Sterling Heights will benefit the entire State of Michigan.

I am truly proud to have the honor of recognizing Barbara Ziarko as she takes on this important role for the Michigan Municipal League in 2021–22. I invite my colleagues to join me in offering her, and the Michigan Municipal League, very best wishes for a successful year ahead.

REMEMBERING MICHELLE LYN PRESENT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a close friend who passed away late last year following a courageous battle against cancer.

Michelle Lyn Present was a young woman blessed with many talents and virtues. She possessed an abounding faith, which enabled her to persevere through a very long and difficult struggle until her passing on December 3, 2020. Not only did she not allow darkness to shadow her days, Michelle was a beacon of light that never flickered but always shone brightly; indeed, hers was a light that helped to guide others in overcoming challenges of their own.

I came to know Michelle through her parents, Marti and Kenny Cox. Kenny was a former member of the District of Columbia Fire Department and, for many years, the Vice President of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 26. Michelle's parents instilled in her their value of service to others and their love of community and country.

Among her many talents, Michelle was a very gifted singer. She was always willing to share her beautiful voice, whether in her church or at fire-service events. For many years, she performed at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony. At the request of the late Hal Bruno, former Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, she would perform the song 'Precious Memories.' The sound of her voice resonated throughout the gathered assembly of family members and fire-service officials. It was a voice that I always looked forward to hearing each year at the very moving ceremony.

On behalf of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus leadership, I extend my condolences to Michelle's husband Jack and their daughter Taylor, to her parents Kenny and Marti, to her brother Ken Jr., and to her entire family. In remembrance of a dear friend who was called home too early, I would like to share the words from 'Precious Memories' with my fellow Members of the House. I hope you will find them as uplifting as I did whenever Michelle sang them to the families of fallen firefighters and all of us who were there to support them each year.

Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul
How they linger, ever near me,
And the sacred scenes unfold

Precious memories, how they linger,
How they ever flood my soul
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious, sacred scenes unfold

Precious father, loving mother,
Fly across the lonely years
And old home scenes of my childhood,
In fond memory appear

In the stillness of the midnight,
Echoes from the past I hear
Old-time singing, gladness bringing,
From that lovely land somewhere

I remember mother praying,
Father, too, on bended knee
Sun is sinking, shadows falling,
But their prayers still follow me

As I travel on life's pathway,
Know not what the years may hold
As I ponder, hope grows fonder,
Precious memories flood my soul

May the precious memories of Michelle Lyn Present be a comfort and a blessing to all those who knew her and to all those to whom she brought her many gifts in life.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAVERSE CITY ELKS LODGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Traverse City Elks Lodge. Through their steadfast devotion and service to their community, Lodge No. 323 has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Since 1896, the Traverse City Elks Lodge has not only worked to provide a supportive environment for their members, but has also continuously assisted others in their community through service and charity. Since their establishment, TCEL has worked to follow and uphold their four cardinal virtues: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

As a result, their organization has helped many Michiganders and families through the multiple charities and scholarships they work with. This notably includes the Elks National Foundation which provides $3.64 million in college scholarships each year. In addition, their work with the Michigan Elks Major Project supports special needs children that do not receive assistance from other agencies or groups. Their help has improved the lives of countless Americans and their families, and their dedication to the well-being of our communities cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Traverse City Elks Lodge for decades of success and service to 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.

CONGRATULATING ROCKFORD'S ''BUILDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES'' PROJECT FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rockford's ''Building New Opportunities'' project for bringing together high school students and families in need to create affordable housing. The organization received the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the incredible work they have done in the community.

Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity and the Rockford Public School District came together to have construction trades students at Rockford's Guilford High School build a house from the ground up as part of their academic year

curriculum. 32 high school students constructed a multi-level, four-bedroom home, which Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity sold to a local family in need of safe and affordable housing. In doing so the students mastered the skills needed for their post-graduation trades careers.

It is because of community projects like Building New Opportunities that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Rockford's ''Building New Opportunities'' for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

IN HONOR OF WILLIE JAMES ''BILL'' McNAIR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Willie James ''Bill'' McNair, Sr. who passed away after a long and fruitful life at 102 years of age on September 26, 2021, in Port Saint Joe Florida.

Mr. McNair served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a member of VFW Post 10069. On his return from service, he served for 30 years as a mail carrier for the St. Joe Paper Company. As a licensed chauffeur, Mr. McNair also drove top executives to and from the airport before retiring in 1981.

Willie James McNair Sr. celebrated his 100th birthday in July 2019 with more than 200 family members and friends, including the last of Mr. McNair's surviving siblings, Mildred 98 and Mercedes 96 years old at that time. All three siblings share the same birthday—July 16th, born two years apart.

Mr. McNair was presented with a commemoration for his birthday signifying his service on the Trustee Board of Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church and another honoring his service to the community.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the long life of Willie James ''Bill'' McNair, Sr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF ACADEMY HILL SCHOOL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Academy Hill School on celebrating their 35th anniversary. This milestone achievement deserves the highest praise for the hard work and dedication of the school's faculty and staff, as well those students whose remarkable commitment to learning has played a pivotal role in the school's success.

Although established in 1986, the Academy Hill School began operating in 1979, offering enrichment classes to gifted students throughout the Greater Springfield community. Two years after opening their full-time day school in 1986, the Academy Hill Center for Gifted Children was incorporated as a non-profit organization. Over the next three decades, Academy Hill would grow and expand their campus, relocating to their current location on Liberty Street in Springfield, and nearly doubling their total enrollment in their K–8 program. This past year has reminded us of the critical role our schools play in our children's lives, with millions of educators across the country taking on the tremendous responsibility of providing our students equitable educational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment. Therefore, I cannot think of a more appropriate occasion to celebrate all that the Academy Hill School has accomplished over the past 35 years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate the Academy Hill School on celebrating their 35th anniversary, and thank them for continuing to inspire our students. Academy Hill is a cherished member of Massachusetts' First District, and I wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

HONORING ELBA GONZALEZ-MARES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elba Gonzalez-Mares in celebration of her 15th anniversary at Community Health Initiative (CHI) in Napa County.

Born in Puebla, Mexico, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares moved to California when she was just a year old, and now lives in Napa, California. She attended the University of California, Davis where she received her bachelor's degree in international relations in 2005. After finding her passion for helping the most vulnerable in her community, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares began working as a health access assistant at Community Health Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enrolling families in affordable health insurance plans. She then became the coordinator and manager for the organization before working her way up to becoming the executive director. She has expanded CHI from serving only the Napa community to serving several counties throughout California. As a result of her commitment to aiding underprivileged communities, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has helped thousands of individuals and families gain access to quality health care coverage.

In addition to serving in her various roles at CHI, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has held numerous positions dedicated to helping underserved communities. She became the board chair of California Coverage and Health Initiatives (CCHI), a statewide association that helps families navigate through affordable healthcare services. Ms. Gonzalez-Mares became commissioner for First 5 Napa County, a nonprofit that provides support services for early childhood development. She was also elected as the president of the Napa Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees. Ms. Gonzalez-Mares is a member of the Community Leaders Coalition, an organization that advocates for vulnerable populations within the Napa County community. Additionally, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has assisted in creating a model for organizations similar to CHI to help individuals enroll in health care coverage and access health care services.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has selflessly dedicated her career to helping Napa's most vulnerable communities. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on October 20, 2021, I was not present for the vote on H.R. 3635, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2021. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted in favor of the legislation.

CONGRATULATING MOUNT CARROLL'S ARBOR DAY PALOOZA FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mount Carroll's ''Arbor Day Palooza'' for its effort to replace trees that were lost to bugs, disease and storms. The organization received the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the incredible work it has done for the community.

The idea for ''Arbor Day Palooza'' was born from a desire to retain the character of the town, as it has been recognized as a Tree City for over 26 years. The city created a Tree Replacement Fund and the community bought in with many volunteers and donors coming forward to assist. In total, the project received over $13,000 in donations used to plant 52 new trees on city property, hold an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony in the new Stone House Memorial Park and host a tour of the Stone House site.

It is because of events like ''Arbor Day Palooza'' and their organizers that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor ''Arbor Day Palooza'' for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION FOR THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delaware River Basin Commission. Founded in 1961, this collaborative partnership between the federal government and the four states which share the

Delaware River has successfully managed interstate water sources without regard to political boundaries. For nearly six million Pennsylvanians living in the Delaware River Basin, including those in Bucks and Montgomery counties, the Commission has reduced water loss, improved water quality, mitigated floods, and conducted stewardship and education efforts, all while saving the taxpayers millions of dollars. The Delaware River Basin Commission's efficient and beneficial public service is admirable, and this year, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary, we express our appreciation for the impact that it has had on our environment and natural habitats, our region, and our local communities.

MAYOR TIFFANY GRAHAM

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I offer the family, friends, constituents, and entire St. Louis community of Mayor Tiffany Graham, my deepest condolences as I share the pain of this untimely loss.

Mayor Graham was best known for her relentless commitment to her community and everyone around her. She personified the role of a public servant wonderfully and was dedicated to doing the best for her residents. She never hesitated to go above and beyond to make sure those she served got her very best every single day.

The impact of her work reverberates throughout the Greendale community and beyond. May we honor her life and legacy by living the way she lived hers, with an unyielding commitment to service.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF POLICE CHIEF STEVEN PARKER

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Steven Parker, a beloved community leader and Police Chief of the Tega Cay Police Department.

Chief Parker has dedicated nearly three decades of his life to protecting communities throughout North and South Carolina. He began his law enforcement career at the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office twenty-eight years ago. In 1995, he transferred to the Rock Hill Police Department where he served in various divisions, including: Training, Investigations, Patrol, Traffic, K-9, and Narcotics. Throughout his twenty years of unparalleled service at the Rock Hill Police Department, the agency received numerous accolades and recognitions, including CALEA National Honors, AAA Outstanding Traffic Safety Community Award, and the SWAT South East National Championships. Chief Parker's time at the Rock Hill Police Department ended with him commanding over 150 employees as Major over Field Services.

In 2015, Chief Parker became the Police Chief of the Tega Cay Police Department. Under his leadership, the Tega Cay Police Department attained South Carolina Accreditation status for the first time in its history. The City of Tega Cay was also ranked ''The Top 3 Safest City'' in South Carolina for seven years in a row and ''The 64th Safest City'' in the United States, all while growing at a rapid pace. Chief Parker also managed the design and construction of a new state of the art police station while serving and protecting over 12,000 citizens.

Throughout Chief Parker's tenure as Police Chief of the Tega Cay Police Department, he emphasized the importance of building trust and community relationships. Leading by example, Chief Parker and the rest of the Tega Cay Police Department support the Special Olympics each year by organizing an annual Torch Run, Donut Eating Contest, and Polar Plunge.

The career of Chief Parker is a testament to all the good our men and women in blue do for our communities. A true servant-leader, he leaves behind a legacy of progress and success. On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, I thank Chief Parker for his service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Tega Cay has truly been blessed to have him as a community guardian for the past seven years.

RECOGNIZING THE PIERMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR HEROIC RESCUE RESPONSES TO HURRICANE IDA

HON. MONDAIRE JONES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, in early September, our communities in Westchester and Rockland suffered immensely in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, with flooded basements, damaged homes, and, tragically, lives lost. I witnessed the damage firsthand, touring some of our hardest hit communities and thanking our brave first responders, including the Village of Piermont Fire Department, whose marine diver unit rescued dozens of Rocklanders from the floors. I am devastated for all those impacted by this disaster, and I will not stop working until our communities have fully rebuilt.

The Piermont Fire Department responded bravely to over 30 emergencies within Rockland County. During the height of the storm, the Piermont Dive Team heroically assisted in multiple water search and rescue efforts. 22 cars were searched by Fire Department members in Rockland, including a dive operation in the Village of Spring Valley on a car that was submerged in 7.5 feet of water.

While the Dive Team responded to water rescues, other members of the Piermont Fire Department responded to emergencies such as flooding conditions, roadway hazards, downed trees and wires, and an unmanned boat throughout Rockland County. The rescue teams went to Sparkill, Tappan, and West Nyack to respond to vehicles in the water with trapped victims inside. All victims were rescued safely thanks to the heroic efforts of the Fire Department volunteers.

Many lives were saved by the brave volunteers of the Piermont Fire Department. Our community is forever grateful for their tireless work to keep us safe. I would like to recognize and thank the following people for their bravery: Chief Samuel Kropp, Jerry Albes, Daniel Albin, Donna Alise, James Alise, Mya Alise, Andrew Baez, Alan Bartley, Mike Bettman, Amy Blomquist, Mark Blomquist, Frank Bockowski, Larry Cabrera, Mark Carlucci, William Cavanaugh, Joan Chadwick, Bernard Comiskey, Phil Esnard, Elizabeth Fagan, Kevin Fagan, Alexandra Gatti, Nick Gatti, Candace Goswick, Daniel Goswick Sr., Daniel Goswick Jr., Hope Goswick, Erika Gould, Donald Hardy, Donna Hardy, Chris Healy, Bill Hickey, John Hickey, Patrick Krummack, Reese McNichol, Nathan Mitchell, Stephen Moscatello, Ernie Nieves, Julie Pagliaroli, Joseph Palkovic, Tim Piesco, Dennis Plunkett, Max Reiter, Chris Sanders, Mary Saunders, Michael Saunders, Richard Scully, Samantha Scully, Brandi Silva, Scott Silva, Al Sisolak, Matt Stevenson, Santina Stevenson, Tim Temple, Tom Temple, Chris Ward, Kyle Weiss, and Noah Weiss.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CLARA DOUTLY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clara Doutly, a lifelong resident of Detroit, Michigan on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Her contributions to our community as a Rosie the Riveter are worthy of commendation,

Born at Herman Keifer Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, she was the youngest of six siblings. She fondly remembers summers spent at Green Pastures Camp, a successful program of the Detroit Urban League for children to spend time in the great outdoors. An excellent student, she attended the prestigious Cass Technical High School. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the subsequent entrance of the United States into World War II, Mrs. Doutly heard the call and started working at Briggs Manufacturing Company in Detroit, making parts for the B–29 bomber aircraft. She worked there as a riveter from 1942 until the end of the war in 1945. As a Rosie, Clara's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women.

Now a member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association, she seeks to preserve and celebrate the legacy of the Rosies. Through her membership, she's been able to board the first ever Rosie the Riveter Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., participate in the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade, and has been featured in National Geographic—including in the June 2020 issue commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Full of life and joy, even at age 100, Mrs. Doutly's sayings and stories are legendary among those who know her. She is a living witness to history and loves to talk about her experiences during World War II. She talks of the days of Detroit's Paradise Valley, where she enjoyed the renowned musicians and nightlife. After the war ended, she married Sylvester Doutly and worked at Detroit Public

Schools, where she remained until her retirement. A proud member of St. Patrick's Senior Center in Detroit for over three decades, she is an active participant in the center's activities and trips. Prior to the pandemic, she could be found there catching up with friends each day.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Clara Doutly on her 100th birthday. I join with her family and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4369, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 318.

CELEBRATING THE GENESEO KIWANIS CLUB FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Geneseo Kiwanis Club for 100 years of service to the Geneseo community.

The Geneseo Kiwanis Club was chartered on October 22, 1920 and meets weekly to serve the community. In addition to donating to over 20 local charities, the Geneseo Kiwanis Club provides a scholarship for students and sponsors GMS Builders Club, GHS Key Club and Boy Scout Troop 131. The organization also provides free tax help, hosts fundraising events, built the Geneseo City Park shelter, and raised tens of thousands of dollars to help eliminate neonatal tetanus throughout the world.

It is because of strong community organizations such as the Geneseo Kiwanis Club that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Geneseo Kiwanis Club on 100 years of service to the community.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRANKLIN CHANG-DÍAZ

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz for being selected as one of the 100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs of 2021 at Goldman Sachs's Builders + Innovators Summit in Healdsburg, California.

Selected as one of 100 entrepreneurs from a diverse range of groundbreaking industries. Dr. Chang-Díaz currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Ad Astra Rocket Company in Webster, TX. He spent 25 years as a decorated NASA astronaut, flying seven missions into space. When he retired from NASA in 2005, he founded the Ad Astra Rocket Company to continue the development of his invention, the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR) engine.

The VASIMR engine is an advanced plasma space propulsion system that will revolutionize space travel. With VASIMR, a sustainable, efficient, and high-powered engine, we can stay longer and travel further in space. Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz and his company. Ad Astra, are transforming the trajectory of our space industry.

Using plasma physics to bring the advanced rocket technology to life, Ad Astra plans to commercialize the VASIMR engine by 2025 for the emerging in-space transportation market. The VASIMR engine's capabilities will vastly change how we think about space travel. Transit to Mars will be shorter by several months, enabling more robust human missions to the Red Planet and beyond.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz for his extraordinary achievements and leadership in the field of space transportation.

DAN HEINS TRIBUTE

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Daniel Heins, who will be retiring at the end of this month from his position as national president of the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA). Dan began his accomplished postal career in Minneapolis, Minnesota in March of 1981 as a distribution and window clerk. He rose through the ranks as a letter carrier, a supervisor, a station manager, and then in 2010, he was appointed postmaster in Stewartville, Minnesota. Prior to his election as UPMA national president, Dan served in various leadership positions within the Minnesota Chapter of UPMA, including district director, executive vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and nine years as a chapter president. Nationally, Dan served in roles as vice-president and secretary-treasurer before being elected president on November 1, 2018. UPMA has 25,000 active and retired members including postmasters, managers, supervisors, retirees and associate members. Dan is committed to making sure that UPMA does everything possible to improve the lives of their members at all levels of the organization. As the organization's first president, Dan worked hard to establish UPMA as a trusted voice among policymakers on Capitol Hill. He was singularly determined to advocate on both sides of the aisle for comprehensive postal reform to ensure that the USPS continues to exist. Dan shared his personal belief in the importance of reform so future employees could have the same opportunities for personal growth that Dan had been blessed with. His passion for being a postmaster and his professional commitment to a successful USPS have been unassailable. In 2019, Dan led a successful UPMA convention and followed up on his commitment to building and growing a dynamic association by having record attendance at the Congressional Summit in early 2020. Hundreds of postmasters who came to Washington under Dan's leadership last year to advocate for postal reform and their benefits. About a month after that successful summit, the COVID–19 public health crisis struck. Dan immediately jumped into action, communicating to policymakers on Capitol Hill the dire situation the USPS was in and the need for supplemental funding to provide PPE and ensure the timely delivery of the unprecedented volume of packages from local stay-at-home orders. In the summer of 2020, Dan and his wife, Karen, traveled the country to a number of UPMA state conventions, demonstrating his commitment to the vitality and success of the Association. Even though the 2020 national convention welcomed only a fraction of its usual attendance, Dan made sure that postmasters continued to come together and be recognized for the essential work they do. In the fall of 2020, as postmasters throughout the country prepared for record vote-by-mail turnout, Dan was a steady voice to his members assuring them that postmasters and postal employees would rise to the challenge. I was proud to meet with my local postmasters from Southern Illinois during this year's Congressional Summit and thank them for the essential service they do every day. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dan Heins for his leadership as president of the United Postmasters of America. I also recognize his wife, Karen, a true partner to Dan whose steadfast support has helped him achieve his success. As a new president takes office, I know that a solid foundation has been built by UPMA because of the work of President Dan Heins.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MR. LOY OWNBY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and service of Mr. Loy A. Ownby of Sevierville, Tennessee. Loy was born on August 9, 1920 and passed away on February 5, 2004.

He was a highly decorated Veteran of the United States Army, having served in World War II in Burma, China, and India as a member of the famous Merrill's Marauders.

Officially named the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), this elite unit was a United States long range penetration special operations jungle warfare unit which fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II. In slightly more than five months of combat, the Marauders had advanced nearly 1,000 miles through some of the harshest jungle in the world, fought in five major engagements and battled hunger, fevers, and diseases as they traversed more jungle terrain than any other U.S. Army formation during World War II. They had the rare distinction of each soldier being awarded the Bronze Star, Silver Star and the Burma Liberation Medal. Their unit was also awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation.

On December 5, 2019, the United States Senate passed Senate Bill 743, the Merrill's Marauders Congressional Gold Medal Act, to honor their extraordinary service. On September 22, 2020, the House of Representatives also passed the bill by unanimous consent. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest expression by Congress of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions to the country.

Loy's legacy of love includes his marriage to his wife, Beatrice; of fifty-nine years, and his children who are so proud of his service, Freda Carver, Linda Ownby, Paul Ownby, and Steve Ownby.

Madam Speaker, Loy A. Ownby faithfully served his country under the most difficult situations possible and as a member of Merrill's Marauders. I proudly honor his legacy and service.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE VETERAN ADMINISTRATION DOMICILIARY PROGRAM AND PSYCHOSOCIAL OUTPATIENT CENTER

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, the construction of the Veterans Administration Domiciliary Program & Psychosocial Outpatient Center in Puerto Rico is a long overdue facility that will serve Veterans in the geographic area of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including close to 23,000 mental health patients. The Center will complement the Veterans Administration Carribean Health System (VACHS) with Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs to assist Veterans living with mental illness. The programs will assist the Veteran by instilling hope, validating strengths, teaching skills, and facilitating community integration so that each Veteran can develop meaningful self-determined roles in the community.

With 52,000 net usable square feet and 177 parking spaces and an investment of approximately $50 million dollars, the VA Domiciliary Program & Psychosocial Outpatient Center will include a Residential Program and a Psychosocial Recovery Program. In the facility the veterans of the region will be able to receive services close to their homes, rather than referring them to other facilities in the U.S. mainland, which could deprive our Veterans from their family support and limiting their ability to fully benefit from the services received, due to cultural and language barriers,

The Veterans of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands have never wavered in their resolve to give their best in the defense of the Nation. Overcoming social norms and without full representation in the U.S. Congress, as deserved by all American citizens, they persevered and are an inspiration to all of us.

Today, October 20, 2021, the words of President Abraham Lincoln, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle," that are the motto of the VA, are fulfilled as we celebrate the ground breaking of the construction of the Veterans Administration Domiciliary Program & Psychosocial Outpatient Center in Puerto Rico. I hope we can all be inspired by the example of the Veterans of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and ask that we can commit ourselves to making sure that the words of President Abraham Lincoln compel us to strive without rest to serve those who served.

IN MEMORY OF CHRIS PACE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a great American, Christopher Jack Pace. Chris was a dedicated public servant and a leader in Clark County, Kentucky. He passed away on October 14, 2021 at 44 years of age.

Chris was elected as the County Judge-Executive of Clark County in November of 2018. He took office the following January and proved from that first day to be a caring and competent leader for the community that he loved. Chris was well-respected by all those he encountered in his position as Judge-Executive. I was honored to collaborate with Chris on many projects to benefit the community. On a personal note, I was honored to consider Chris a personal friend.

Chris was a graduate of George Rogers Clark High School, Eastern Kentucky University, and Northern Kentucky University's Chase College of Law. Chris served as Student Government President at both EKU and NKU. He was a leader who served the community on several boards. Chris was a youth soccer and Upward basketball coach, as well as the public address announcer for GRC volleyball. Most importantly, Chris was a Christian who was strong in his faith in Jesus. He tried to follow Him daily and was a Godly example to us all. Chris was a member of Calvary Christian Church.

Chris loved his family deeply. He was the husband of Shannon, father of Jack, Roman, and Maria, son of Betty Pace and the late Donald Pace, and brother to Donna Gail Baker and Donald Pace, Jr. He had a large and loving extended family.

Chris was the epitome of a good family man, a good citizen, and a good leader. He loved his community and his country. He will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to have known him. He loved life and lived it enthusiastically as evidenced by the genuine smile that was always on his face. It is my honor to lift up the life of Christopher Jack Pace before the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF KEVIN SHOOK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE KEWANEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Kevin Shook, who is retiring from the Kewanee Fire Department after 23 years of service.

Chief Shook has been a member of the Kewanee Fire Department since 1998. Working his way through the ranks, he became Chief of the Department in 2016. His steadfast determination to keep his community safe, strive for innovation, and ensure the preparedness of the Kewanee Fire Department has been unwavering throughout his career in public service. Earlier this year, under Chief Shook's guidance, the Department was awarded a $205,431 regional grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. This transformative investment to the city of Kewanee was made possible because of Chief Shook, one of the latest examples of his strong leadership.

It is because of dedicated and selfless leaders such as Chief Shook that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally congratulate Chief Kevin Shook on his well-earned retirement and thank him for his 23 years of service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF PENN-MONT ACADEMY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Penn-Mont Academy in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate their 60th year providing a Montessori education to the students of our community.

Penn-Mont Academy was founded in 1961 by Aline and Gerald Wolf, who founded the school in their home with a vision to create one of the first Montessori institutions in the United States.

Over the past 60 years, the school has worked to provide a creative and insightful education that molds independent-and lifelong learners.

This school is important to my family and me. My wife, Dr. Alice Plummer Joyce, was one of the school's first graduates.

I am incredibly grateful for the outstanding work that The Penn-Mont Academy does in our community. From the Wolfs front porch to their current home in Hollidaysburg the Penn-Mont Academy has offered generations of students the foundation they need to succeed.

The school's commitment to educating the children of Blair County is exceptional, and I look forward to their continued work to support and inspire our future leaders.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the students, staff, and administration of Penn-Mont Academy on reaching this historic milestone and wish them every continued success in the years to come.

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, October 21, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 26

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine security in Afghanistan and in the regions of South and Central Asia; to be followed by a closed session in SVC–217 at 12:15 p.m.

SD–G50

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador, Brent Neiman, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Joshua Frost, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury, and Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD–215

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Reta Jo Lewis, of Georgia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SD–538

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 Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube.

SR–253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael D. Smith, of Virginia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Larry D. Turner, of North Carolina, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of Labor, Sandra D. Bruce, of Delaware, to be Inspector General, and Amy Loyd, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, both of the Department of Education, and Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, Gerald W. Fauth, of Virginia, and Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, each to be Member of the National Mediation Board.

SH–216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, and Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, both of the Department of State, Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other pending nominations.

VTC

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine emerging threats to election administration.

SR–301

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rostin Behnam, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and to be a Commissioner, of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SH–216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Carlton Waterhouse, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, and Amanda Howe, of Virginia, and David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, both to be an Assistant Administrator, all of the Environmental Protection Agency; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Henry Christopher Frey, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Jennifer Clyburn Reed, of South Carolina, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, and Ben Wagner, to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

SD–406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Department of State and Department of State authorizations.

SD–G50

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

SD–106

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation

To hold hearings to examine Black Sea security, focusing on reviving U.S. policy toward the region.

SD–G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management

To hold hearings to examine strategies for improving critical energy infrastructure.

VTC

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine voting matters in Native communities.

SD–628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine women entrepreneurs.

SR–301

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine a stronger labor market for robust growth.

210-CHOB

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine improving Veterans' employment, education, and home loan opportunities, focusing on success after service.

SR–418

OCTOBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine building a stronger retirement system for all Americans, focusing on a financially secure future.

SD–562

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine social media platforms and the amplification of domestic extremism and other harmful content.

SD–342/VTC

NOVEMBER 2

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

To hold hearings to examine training the Department of State's workforce for the 21st century diplomacy.

SD–G50/VTC

NOVEMBER 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine programs at the Economic Development Administration.

SD–406

NOVEMBER 16

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD–106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7093–S7134

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3013–3034, and S. Res. 424–425. **Pages S7124–25**

Measures Passed:

Prison Camera Reform Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 2899, 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, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7132**

Measures Considered:

Freedom to Vote Act: By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 420), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2747, to expand Americans' access to the ballot box and reduce the influence of big money in politics. **Pages S7107–08**

Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S7108**

Lin Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Tana Lin, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington. **Pages S7108–21**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, October 21, 2021, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Tana Lin, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Douglas L. Parker, of West Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Myrna Perez, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, in that order and that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, all post-cloture time be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Tana Lin, the confirmation vote occur at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, October 21, 2021; and that if cloture is invoked on either the Douglas L. Parker, or Myrna Perez nominations, the confirmation votes begin at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, October 25, 2021. **Page S7121**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, October 21, 2021. **Page S7132**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 50 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. EX. 419), Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education. **Pages S7096–S7107**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 50 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. EX. 418), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S7097–98**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S7134**

Messages from the House: **Page S7123**

Measures Referred: **Pages S7123–24**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S7124**

Executive Communications: **Page S7124**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7124**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7125–27**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7127–29**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7122–23**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7129–31**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S7131–32**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7132**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—420) **Pages S7098, S7107–08**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 21, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7132.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

PRIVATE EQUITY ABUSE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine protecting companies and communities from private equity abuse, after receiving testimony from Michael Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer, Springfield; Shirley Smith, United for Respect, Eastpointe, Michigan; Peggy Malone, Crozer-Chester Nurses Association, Upland, Pennsylvania; and Eileen Appelbaum, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and David R. Burton, The Heritage Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Mohsin Raza Syed, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, Amitabha Bose, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, and Meera Joshi, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, all of the Department of Transportation, Rear Admiral Nancy A. Hann, of Maryland, to be Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps and Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Department of Commerce, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Christopher A. Coes, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, and Laurie E. Locascio, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PFAS CHEMICALS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine evaluating the Federal response to the persistence and impacts of PFAS chemicals on our environment, after receiving testimony from Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator for Water, Environmental Protection Agency.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine health insurance coverage in America, focusing on the current and future role of Federal programs, after receiving testimony from Senators Warnock and Scott (FL); Linda J. Blumberg, Urban Institute, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and Frederick Isasi, Families USA, all of Washington, D.C.; and Sara R. Collins, The Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, who was introduced by Senator Markey, Rahm Emanuel, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to Japan, who was introduced by Senators Durbin and Hagerty, and Jonathan Eric Kaplan, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, who was introduced by Senator Hickenlooper, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Patricia Mahoney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Peter Hendrick Vrooman, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, Peter D. Haas, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Julie Chung, of California, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Brian Wesley Shukan, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, Elizabeth Anne Noseworthy Fitzsimmons, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic, and David R. Gilmour, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Ernest W. DuBester, of Virginia, and Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, both to be

Member, and Kurt Thomas Rumsfeld, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, all of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

DEVELOPMENT IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine investing in economic sovereignty, focusing on leveraging Federal financing for new and sustained development in Native communities, after receiving testimony from Clint Hastings, Associate Program Manager for Native Initiatives, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and Fatima Abbas, Senior Advisor, Office of Recovery Programs, both of the Department of the Treasury; K. Denise Edwards, Acting Director, Office of Indian Economic Development and Chief of the Division of Economic Development, Department of the Interior; Casey Lozar, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Arlan Melendez, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Reno, Nevada; Kuhio Lewis, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Kapolei, Hawaii; Richard Frias, Native American Financial Officers Association, and Pete Upton, Native CDFI Network, both of Washington, D.C.; and Carl Marrs, Old Harbor Native Corporation, Old Harbor, Alaska.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Jennifer L. Thurston, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, and Hernan D. Vera, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, who were all introduced by Senator Padilla, Mary Katherine Dimke, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, who was introduced by Senator Murray, and Charlotte N. Sweeney, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, who was introduced by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

RESTORING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded a hearing to examine restoring the Voting Rights Act, focusing on protecting the Native American and Alaska Native vote, after receiving testimony from Edward Buchanan, Wyoming Secretary Of State, Cheyenne; Jonathan M. Nez, President of the Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona; Jacqueline De Leon, Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, Colorado; Nicole Borromeo, Alaska Federation of Natives, Anchorage; and Sara Frankenstein, Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson and Ashmore, LLP, Rapid City, South Dakota.

LOC MODERNIZATION OVERSIGHT

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Library of Congress modernization efforts, after receiving testimony from Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, Shira Perlmutter, Register of Copyrights and Director, Copyright Office, Mary B. Mazanec, Director, Congressional Research Service, and Jason Broughton, Director, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, all of the Library of Congress.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee order favorably reported the nominations of Guy T. Kiyokawa, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Enterprise Integration), and James D. Rodriguez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1342, to establish an interagency committee on the development of green alert systems that would be activated when a veteran goes missing, S. 1779, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, S. 1937, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to furnish doula services to veterans, S. 1944, to improve Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2283, to improve the Veterans Crisis Line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2386, to amend the VA MISSION Act of 2018, to expand the peer specialist support program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to all medical centers of the Department, S. 2526, to authorize the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements for the planning, design, and construction of facilities to be operated as shared medical facilities, S. 2533, to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2624, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022, S. 2720, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer, S. 2787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2852, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into

contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, S. 2924, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transmit certain information to personnel of Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding members of the Armed Forces transitioning from service in the Armed Forces to civilian life, an original bill entitled, ''Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act'', an original bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish new requirements for State homes for veterans that receive per diem from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an original bill entitled, ''Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Veterans State Eligibility Standardization Act'', and an original bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the Chaplain Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth Brill, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services and Deputy Chief Medical Officer, and David Carroll, Executive Director, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, both of the Veterans Health Administration, and Lawrencia Pierce, Assistant Director, Office of Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development, Veterans Benefits Administration, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Marquis D. Barefield, Disabled American Veterans, and Tom Porter, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, both of Washington, D.C.

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: 19 public bills, H.R. 5635–5653; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 728–729 were introduced. **Page H5725**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5726–27**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 727, relating to the consideration of House Report 117–152 and an accompanying resolution (H. Rept. 117–153). **Page H5725**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Stanton to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5677**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:19 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H5687**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Guidance Clarity Act of 2021: H.R. 1508, amended, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance; **Pages H5689–91**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the "Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building": H.R. 1170, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building''; **Pages H5691–92**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the "Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building": H.R. 3210, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building''; **Pages H5692–93**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the "Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building": H.R. 767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building''; **Page H5693**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Joseph R. Lentol Post Office": H.R. 3419, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Meserole Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the ''Joseph R. Lentol Post Office''; **Pages H5693–94**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the "Patsy Cline Post Office": H.R. 1444, to designate

the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office''; **Pages H5694–95**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the "Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building": H.R. 3175, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the ''Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building''; **Pages H5695–96**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the "Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building": H.R. 2044, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''; and **Pages H5696–97**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the "John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office": H.R. 960, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the ''John H. Leahr and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office''. **Pages H5697–98**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Wednesday, September 29th.

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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 319. **Pages H5698–99**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, October 19th. State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act of 2021: H.R. 2379, amended, to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to reauthorize and expand a grant program for State response to the opioid use disorders crisis, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 380 yeas to 46 nays, Roll No. 320; **Pages H5699–H5700**

Drug-Free Communities Pandemic Relief Act: H.R. 654, amended, to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas to 30 nays, Roll No. 321; **Page H5700**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To provide the Administrator of the Drug-free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, and for other purposes.''; **Page H5700**

Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2021: H.R. 3635, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Strategic National Stockpile, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 397 yeas to 22 nays, Roll No. 322; **Page H5701**

Secure Equipment Act of 2021: H.R. 3919, amended, to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission does not approve radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 323; **Pages H5701–02**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To ensure that the Federal Communications Commission prohibits authorization of radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk.''; **Page H5702**

Open RAN Outreach Act: H.R. 4032, amended, to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding the benefits of Open RAN networks, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 17 nays, Roll No. 324; **Pages H5702–03**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes.''; **Page H5703**

Communications Security Advisory Act of 2021: H.R. 4067, amended, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 397 yeas to 29 nays, Roll No. 325; and **Page H5703**

Information and Communication Technology Strategy Act: H.R. 4028, amended, to require the Secretary of Commerce to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas to 14 nays, Roll No. 326; **Pages H5703–04**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes.''. **Page H5704**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Fortenberry wherein he resigned from the Committee on Appropriations. **Page H5704**

Senate Referral: S. 3011 was held at the desk. **Page H5698**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H5698.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5698–99, H5699–H5700, H5700, H5701, H5701–02, H5702–03, H5703, and H5704.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

ENHANCING PUBLIC HEALTH: LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Enhancing Public Health: Legislation to Protect Children and Families''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled ''The Strategic Importance of the Pacific Islands''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990: THE CURRENT STATE OF INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990: The Current State of Integration of People with Disabilities''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COLORADO RIVER DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND RESPONSE MEASURES—DAY TWO

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled ''Colorado River Drought Conditions and Response Measures—Day Two''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FIND STEPHEN K. BANNON IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA DULY ISSUED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on a Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives Find Stephen K. Bannon in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of the resolution accompanying House Report 117–152, under a closed rule. The rule provides that if House Report 117–152 is called up by direction of the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, all points of order against the report shall be waived and it shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by Representative Thompson of Mississippi, Representative Cheney of Wyoming, and an opponent, or their respective designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution accompanying the report. The rule provides that the resolution accompanying the report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Chairman Thompson of Mississippi, and Representatives Cheney, Gaetz, and Jordan.

ACCELERATING DEEP SPACE TRAVEL WITH SPACE NUCLEAR PROPULSION

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled ''Accelerating Deep Space Travel with Space Nuclear Propulsion''. Testimony was heard from Bhavya Lal, Senior Advisor for Budget and Finance, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and public witnesses.

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND SMALL BUSINESS TRADE CHALLENGES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled ''Global Supply Chains and Small Business Trade Challenges''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ACHIEVING MISSION BALANCE: POSITIONING THE COAST GUARD FOR THE FUTURE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled ''Achieving Mission Balance: Positioning the Coast Guard for the Future''. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Scott A. Buschman, Deputy Commandant for Operations, U.S. Coast Guard.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 2568, the ''United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2021''; H.R. 2724, the ''VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act''; H.R. 2800, the ''WINGMAN Act''; H.R. 2827, the ''Captain James C. Edge Gold Star Spouse Equity Act''; H.R. 3402, the ''Caring for Survivors Act of 2021''; H.R. 3793, the ''Supporting Families of the Fallen Act''; H.R. 4191, the ''Gold Star Spouses Non-Monetary Benefits Act''; H.R. 4601, the ''Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act''; H.R. 4633, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary; H.R. 4772, the ''Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act''; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to repay the estates of deceased beneficiaries for certain benefits paid by the Secretary and misused by fiduciaries of such beneficiaries; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the manner in which the Board of Veterans' Appeals conducts hearings regarding claims involving military sexual trauma and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the language and practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such claims; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death; and legislation to improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Luria, Nehls, Slotkin, Trone, Levin of California, Mrvan, Perry, Connolly, Bustos, Hayes, and Delgado; Nilijah Carter, Executive Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

GOOD FOR BUSINESS: PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE ACTION

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Good for Business: Private Sector Perspectives on Climate Action''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

OSCE MEDIA FREEDOM

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine media freedom in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe region, after receiving testimony from Teresa Ribeiro, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Vienna, Austria; Robert Mahoney, Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, New York; Peter Pomerantsev, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.; and Jamie Fly, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Prague, Czech Republic.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine how private equity landlords are changing the housing market, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Space and Science, to hold hearings to examine international collaboration and competition in space, focusing on oversight of NASA's role and programs, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 1734, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western United States, S. 1964, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, S. 2404, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 2436, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish emergency fireshed management areas, S. 2561, to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that a land resource management plan or land use plan approved, amended, or revised under those Acts shall not be considered to be a continuing Federal agency action or constitute a discretionary Federal involvement or control for a distinct Federal purpose, S. 2564, to establish a pilot program under which the Chief of the Forest Service may use alternative dispute resolution in lieu of judicial review for certain projects, S.

2650, to provide mandatory funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects on certain Federal land, S. 2806, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and S. 2836, to improve revegetation and carbon sequestration activities in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine safeguarding inspector general independence and integrity, 10:15 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 2428, to amend title 31, United States Code, to modify False Claims Act procedures, S. 2429, to amend chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, relating to civil remedies, S. 998, to provide grants to States that do not suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a driver's license of a person or refuse to renew a registration of a motor vehicle for failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee, and 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, 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 the District of Columbia, 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, 9 a.m., SD–106.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4252, to provide additional funding for scholarships for students at 1890's institutions; H.R. 2361, the ''Rebuild Rural America Act of 2021''; legislation on Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act; H.R. 3532, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a periodic wildfire assessment, and for other purposes; H.R. 4489, the ''National Forest Restoration and Remediation Act''; legislation on Cattle Contract Library Act of 2021; and H.R. 5589, the ''Pyrolysis Innovation Grants Act'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Update on VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization Implementation'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Offshore Wind, Onshore Benefits: Growing the Domestic Wind Energy Industry'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Strong Foundation: How Housing Is the Key To Building Back a Better America'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations, and Global Corporate Social Impact; and Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, joint hearing entitled ''Preparing for COP26: United States Strategy To Combat Climate Change Through International Development'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5497, the ''BURMA Act of 2021''; H. Res. 569, expressing continued solidarity with the Lebanese people after the devastating explosions at the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, and the continued efforts to form a secure, independent, and democratic Lebanon; H. Res. 445, condemning all violence and human rights abuses in Ethiopia, and calling on the Government of Ethiopia and the Government of the State of Eritrea to remove all Eritrean troops from Ethiopia, and for all belligerents in the conflict, including the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and Amhara regional forces, and other armed groups to cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and cooperate with independent investigations of credible atrocity allegations; H. Res. 720, calling for stability, the cessation of violence, condemning ISIS-affiliated terrorist activity in northern Mozambique, including the Cabo Delgado Province, and for other purposes; H.R. 4914, the ''Havana Syndrome Attacks Response Act''; and legislation on the Intellectual Property Violators Accountability and Transparency Act, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability; and Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations, joint hearing entitled ''Operation Allies Welcome: Examining DHS's Efforts To Resettle Vulnerable Afghans'', 2 p.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the United States Department of Justice'', 10 a.m., CVC–200 and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Runit Dome and the U.S. Nuclear Legacy in the Marshall Islands'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Equal Rights Amendment: Achieving Constitutional Equality for All'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight; and Subcommittee on Energy, joint hearing entitled ''Judicious Spending To Enable Success at the Office of Nuclear Energy'', 10 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''Three Years After Lion Air 610: FAA Implementation of the 2020 Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Covert Action's Role in Foreign Policy'', 10 a.m., HVC–304 Hearing Room.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Modernizing the Congressional Support Agencies To Meet the Needs of an Evolving Congress'', 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn and Zoom.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, October 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Tana Lin, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Tana Lin, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Douglas L. Parker, of West Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Myrna Perez, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Tana Lin, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, October 21

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives Find Stephen K. Bannon in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol.

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