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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 8, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA LEE 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 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE ANSWERS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of millions of law-abiding citizens who are under attack because they own a firearm. Right now, their rights are under attack from the Biden administration.

This week, it was reported that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives is now in possession of nearly one billion records detailing the firearm purchases of American citizens. This is a gross overstep of the ATF's power. No government agency should be spying on Americans.

Right now, crime is on the rise in cities throughout America. This certainly is not the time to attempt to intimidate law-abiding citizens. It is not the time to infringe on their constitutional right to carry a gun. It is their right to defend themselves, their right to protect their family and their communities.

It is time for the Biden administration to explain this menacing and unconstitutional action.

Madam Speaker, the law-abiding people of America are awaiting an answer.

DEMOCRATS ARE DOING IMPORTANT WORK

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the important work Democrats are doing to strengthen our supply chains and keep the U.S. economically competitive.

Last year, the Biden-Harris administration and their allies in Congress achieved the best record of job creation in history. Let me repeat that: The best record of job creation in history.

Texans continue to find jobs with higher pay or better benefits.

We are seeing the best economy for American workers in decades, with people getting higher wages, better benefits, and better jobs thanks in large part to President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the American Rescue Plan and an effective national vaccine rollout.

When I visited with leadership from the Port of Houston in my district, they expressed their gratitude for Congress' strong investment in the maritime infrastructure needed to keep America's economy moving in the right direction.

But they also expressed concern that more workers were still needed in technical training than our current system will provide.

Last week, the House took another great step forward to support the job creation and the American workforce by passing the America COMPETES Act.

Now it is critical for the Senate to move on the America COMPETES Act to pass measures like my grant program for training at Domestic Maritime Centers for Excellence.

The America COMPETES Act will also provide real solutions to the problems of how we start making more of our Nation's critical products right here at home. This will provide more job opportunities as jobs return from abroad.

It will also make our futures more secure by shifting away from reliance on foreign countries for the products that you and I and everyday Americans rely on.

Finally, it will invest in critical infrastructure and development we need in science and technology to encourage and support our next generation of scholars, incentivize innovation, and keep the U.S. competitive.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that Americans are back to work and getting their vaccines and boosters at a record pace.

The America COMPETES Act can continue this trend.

We must get this bill to the President's desk now.

I urge the Senate to pass it.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

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

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Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, rural communities are the heartbeat of America. These are hardworking, God-fearing people, and they deserve access to basic healthcare. And quite frankly, if our Nation is going to reap the blessings of our food supply and food security and our fuel supply and energy independence, we have to work together to make sure that we have that critical access to care, which means sustainable rural communities and a robust supply of ag and energy.

Now, in 1969 in the wisdom of the Texas legislature, they created the Texas Tech University Medical School that became the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. And the mission was not only to train up the next generation of healthcare professionals and develop the next generation of healthcare innovations, it was to plug a gaping hole in rural communities by providing excellent healthcare services to these good people.

The Health Sciences Center has become Texas' center for innovation in telehealth practices.

The Health Sciences Center has pioneered telehealth and paved the way for over 100,000 rural west Texans to access vital healthcare services.

By understanding the needs of rural patients who are at increased risk for physician shortages and have a higher mortality rate than their urban counterparts, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center was able to provide a blueprint for telehealth best practices that have been essential to our country over the past 2 years.

In addition to protecting patients' physical health, the Health Sciences Center has developed Telepsych, which connects patients, including children, who are having serious mental health issues, to a licensed professional. And unfortunately, with school closures as a result of the pandemic—and I would say later as a result of union-controlled schools—this has become a much-needed and much more popular service.

Thank you, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center for being a beacon of hope for the health and future of our country and especially rural America.

God bless, and go west Texas.

WISHING ELVIN N. HOWELL A HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and wish Elvin Howell a happy 108th birthday.

Mr. Howell grew up in Snyder, Texas, before hitchhiking to Abilene, Texas, to attend Hardin-Simmons University, where he played football and ran track.

After graduating from HSU, Howell moved to Kermit, Texas, with his wife, Rena.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II, Mr. Howell heroically enlisted in the United States Navy and served as a commander on a merchant marine ship guarding the United States from a foreign invasion.

Mr. Howell returned to west Texas after the war to raise his family and educate the next generation of west Texans as a teacher in Tulia, Texas.

Mr. Howell credits his impressive longevity to spending time outdoors, as when he celebrated his 103rd birthday ziplining in the Palo Duro Canyon. What a man.

Elvin Howell has lived a full life of service to his family, community, and his country. He is one of the 20 oldest living veterans in the United States. Elvin is an inspiring coach, a caring educator, and a true west Texan.

Elvin was married to his late wife, Rena, for 60 years. They have two sons, John and Fred, and three grandchildren.

On behalf of my colleagues in this great Chamber, we want to wish Mr. Howell a happy 108th birthday and many more to come.

God bless, and go west Texas.

CONGRESS MUST DO MORE TO ENSURE AMERICANS HAVE SAFE DRINKING WATER

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, for far too long, countless people across our country have been forced to suffer the effects of lead-poisoned drinking water, especially low-income communities and communities of color. We need to fully fund lead pipe replacement in our country to protect our children and our neighbors.

We simply can't build back better if children are being poisoned.

Water contaminated by lead service lines can be found in every congressional district in our Nation and has proven to cause long-term effects like cancer, brain dysfunction, and more. There is no safe level of lead.

A recent water quality study done by the Environmental Working Group and recently published by the Detroit Metro Times shows that there is an overwhelming number of contaminants in our drinking water, not just lead and PFAS, and they are in every community across the State of Michigan. We need $1.65 billion to remove those contaminated water pipes now.

I know experts say that we need close to 45 to $60 billion to basically be able to provide safe drinking water across our Nation.

The U.S. EPA has historically failed to safeguard clean drinking water with regulations that are sorely out of date, but it doesn't have to be this way, Madam Speaker.

We must do more to ensure that we have accessible safe drinking water, and our communities cannot wait. The impact on our children's brain development alone is the reason to move with urgency.

This is why I am proud to have launched the bipartisan Get the Lead Out Caucus with Congressmembers DINGELL, MEIJER, and BLUNT ROCHESTER. We are going to provide a working group bringing us all together in this national crisis that we have.

Our children and our families deserve access to safe drinking water, and I look forward to my colleagues' partnership.

CELEBRATING HATTIE WHITE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hattie White, a long-term resident of southwest Detroit in Michigan's 13 District Strong on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mother Hattie White was born on February 23 in 1922 in Alabama and later moved to the city of River Rouge, Michigan.

Hattie married the love of her life, Albert James White, in 1946. They were married for 52 years and raised their seven children in the River Rouge and southwest Detroit communities with love and instilling an ethic of responsibility and kindness toward others.

In 1967, Mother White and her husband started a community church, Love Joy Missionary Baptist Church in River Rouge, which cemented her role as a matriarch of our community.

Mother White shines bright in our community and has brought so much joy to her family, friends, and neighbors.

Please join me in wishing a happy 100th birthday to Mother Hattie White.

CELEBRATING PROJECT WE HOPE DREAM AND BELIEVE

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Project We Hope Dream and Believe from the 13th District Strong on their hard work on getting civil rights leader Malcolm X's home in Inkster, Michigan, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in 1925 in Nebraska. During his childhood, his family relocated many times to communities in our Nation's midwest, including Inkster, Michigan, before moving to Boston and New York City in his teens.

The home on Williams Street where Malcolm X and his family resided from 1952 to 1953 sat neglected for decades until the leadership of local organization Project We Hope Dream and Believe worked to preserve this historic site.

The house will be transformed into a museum that will focus on the life and significance of Malcolm X, his advocacy, and as a youth learning center.

Thank you to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for their help in preserving our district's Black history and Malcolm X's legacy and impact on our communities.

Please join me in congratulating Project We Hope Dream and Believe on their incredible accomplishment and their hard work in preserving our history.

□ 1015

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA MURPHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melissa Murphy, my chief of staff, who recently moved on to a great opportunity working for Duke Energy of South Carolina.

After a decade and a half of service here in our Nation's capital, Melissa decided it was time to leave her work here in the U.S. House and head back home. Melissa started her career on Capitol Hill working for her home State of South Carolina in Congressman JOE WILSON's office. There, she worked her way up to deputy chief of staff before joining my team when I was elected to Congress in 2014. As my first hire and chief of staff, she helped me assemble an outstanding team, and she helped me build a culture for an office that has accomplished much.

Melissa has always been a trusted advisor and a great friend to many. Throughout her career on Capitol Hill, she served as a mentor and friend to many staffers far beyond my office. She is always there for her colleagues or anyone else searching for advice or assistance.

As every Member of Congress knows, nothing would get done in this place without the dedicated service of our staff who are always working behind the scenes. Melissa's advice, experience, and hard work have all played a large role in helping me to represent the 7th Congressional District in North Carolina to the very best of my ability.

I congratulate and thank Melissa for her many years of congressional service and for leading our team during my first three-and-a-half terms. May God always bless her path.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARRET AUGUSTUS MORGAN, BESSIE COLEMAN, ARCOLA PHILPOTT, AND BENJAMIN BANNEKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, in the past several months, Democrats have advanced the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, along with, most recently, the COMPETES Act, which will increase American innovation, start making more critical products in America, and turbocharge American scientific and technological leadership.

With those bills in mind, I thought it was particularly important during Black History Month to pay special tribute to four bold, brilliant, and Black minds who have contributed in various ways through their inventions to innovation and to infrastructure in America.

First, let's meet the ''Father of Transportation Technology,'' better known as Garret Augustus Morgan. Born in Paris, Kentucky, and later moved to Ohio, Morgan was a Black American inventor. Witnessing a fatal car crash was essentially the catalyst in Morgan's invention of the three-position traffic signal, which is the predecessor to the modern-day traffic light. Though the stop-and-go signals had already existed, Morgan advanced the invention to include a third position that stopped traffic in both directions and allowed pedestrians to safely cross the road. Talented as he was, Morgan's other inventions included a version of the gas mask, grooming products, sewing machines, and much more.

Madam Speaker, a second inspiration was a Black American, better known as ''Brave Bessie,'' and to others as ''Queen Bess.'' The sky was anything but the limit to this Texas native, Bessie Coleman. Fueled by rejections and constant noes, Coleman's determination and diligence allowed her to soar as she was accepted into the Caudron Brothers' School of Aviation in France, and earned her international pilot's license on June 15, 1921.

Becoming the first African-American woman pilot in 1922, Coleman was best known for performing tricks in the air in both the United States and Europe. She passionately encouraged other women to learn to fly, both figuratively and literally, by touring the country, giving lectures, teaching flight lessons, and performing flight exhibitions.

A real go-getter was Arcola Philpott, who earned her place in transportation history in 1944 when the Los Angeles Railway hired Philpott to be the first Black woman streetcar operator. Philpott opened the door for both women and African Americans to operate streetcars in Los Angeles. Just weeks after hiring her, Los Angeles Railway hired its first Black motorman. Philpott's time as the first Black and streetcar operator represents just a small portion of the impact she had.

Originally from Chicago, she graduated from Loyola University with a degree in social science and performed welfare work prior to moving to Los Angeles. When she returned to Chicago, she worked as a nurse and a researcher at the University of Chicago's history department.

And finally, Benjamin Banneker, the Black architect who helped design the capital city. Banneker was hired by the first President, George Washington, and came highly recommended by Thomas Jefferson. He designed the layout of Washington, D.C.'s, streets, parks, major buildings in two days. Known for many well-deserved accomplishments and contributions through his lifetime, he later became a reputable architect, mathematician, engineer, and even an astronomer.

Black people should be proud of their heritage, and all Americans should celebrate the achievements of Black Americans. Infrastructure within the United States would look incredibly different without the inventions, achievements, and innovations of these Black minds. It is important to document and share stories of lesser-known historical figures who also contributed their greatest efforts. Happy Black History Month.

U.S. PARK POLICE MODERNIZATION ACT

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our brave law enforcement officers at the United States Park Police. From every major protest to every parade that occurs on the National Mall, our Park Police officers answer the call to keep our constituents safe when they are visiting here in the Nation's capital.

However, due to an increase in the number of demonstrations and the fact that they are extremely understaffed, one of our Nation's oldest uniformed Federal law enforcement agencies is now stretched extremely thin.

As of March 1, 2021, there were fewer than 500 Park Police officers. That is significantly lower than the minimum requirement they have of 639 officers. This is alarming, and obviously, among other concerns, this leaves the Nation's most historic landmarks extremely vulnerable. And that is why today, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3924, the U.S. Park Police Modernization Act.

And what is the problem? Why are they facing the issues that they are facing? Well, the bottom line, for whatever reason, is because the pay and benefits are much lower for the Park Police than for other Federal law enforcement agencies. And the big question is why is that the case? That is an outstanding question. Why?

There is no real good reason. And it is for that reason that we, here in Congress, need to immediately improve the Park Police's pay and benefits and to put that agency on equal footing with other similar departments. To do so would incentivize officers to both join the Park Police, but even more importantly, to stay. Both of those issues are huge concerns right now. That is how we will ensure that Washington, D.C., the place where each of us work, the place where our staff works, and obviously, where many of our constituents come to visit, remain safe for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3924. Let's put our U.S. Park Police on equal footing with other law enforcement agencies in this area so that they can do the job that we all depend upon them to do.

GUN VIOLENCE IS RUNNING RAMPANT

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today because my district is hurting. Washington Heights-Inwood is

hurting because they saw how Officer Jason Rivera was taken away from us. A 22-year old son of Inwood was taken away from us by gun violence when he responded to a family dispute.

But Harlem also is hurting because both Officers Rivera and Mora patrolled the 32nd precinct in Harlem, and they were both brutally shot and killed in the village of Harlem.

Madam Speaker, East Harlem is hurting because we saw how a young woman, Kristal Bayron-Nieves, who worked in a Burger King, was shot and killed. Even though she gave the money from the register to the person that held up the Burger King at gunpoint, she was still brutally shot and killed—19 years old.

Madam Speaker, finally, the Bronx part of my district is also hurting because an 11-month-old child, just before she turned 1, sat in the car with her mother and was shot in the face. All of this happened within two weeks of each other.

So my district is hurting as we bury these two young police officers, 22 and 27 years old, of Dominican heritage, the first in their family to serve the Police Department. So gun violence is running rampant. And we see how many talk about law and order, but when it comes to gun violence, they are still in the pocket of the NRA; and they won't dare challenge the NRA.

So I rise because my district is hurting. And we are supportive of Mayor Adams' plan of precision policing, which has identified 700 people that have been involved in 1,700 acts of violence involving an illegal weapon. We understand that much more has to be invested in ATF; so we cut off the iron pipeline that brings weapons to the corner of my district from South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. But we also have to invest 50 million in summer youth jobs. We have to invest more money to have the violence interrupters be part of the resolution of this violence ripping our communities across the country.

We must all work together to resolve this epidemic of gun violence. We must pass the package of gun laws that we have here on this floor, including ghost guns, which continue to play an increased role in the death of people across the country, circumventing background checks and other restrictions that must be put in place to keep guns away from people's hands.

Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to join me today for a minute of silence in the memory of Officer Rivera and Officer Mora. And in support of their two families, we join them, and we will always be by their side.

Madam Speaker, I ask for a minute of silence.

ONE BILLION GUN RECORDS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration is engaged in an assault on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

It was recently discovered that the Biden administration has been maintaining nearly 1 billion records on gun sales. My colleagues and I sent a letter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives demanding answers about this registry. The ATF must be held accountable.

Federal law prohibits the Biden administration from maintaining a database of 1 billion gun records.

□ 1030

What makes this more outrageous, this unconstitutional behavior of the Biden administration, is that, at the same time, they are continuing to empower Mexican cartels, criminal cartels who are transporting weapons across the border while threatening the rights of law-abiding Americans.

Lawful gun owners are rightfully concerned, and it is up to Congress to investigate further. President Biden and the Democrats want to defund the police, take away your Second Amendment right to self-defense, and then watch as crime skyrockets across the country, including in cities like Chicago.

I will continue to stand up for our Second Amendment. As long as I am here in Congress, every day I will fight for our constitutional rights, including our Second Amendment.

RECOGNIZING DR. HAROLD WILKINSON

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a local hero from the borough of Swarthmore, Dr. Harold Wilkinson.

Last month, at the age of 95, Dr. Wilkinson passed away peacefully in his sleep after a long life of exploration, inquiry, and service.

Hal enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the age of 18 and served stateside through the end of World War II. After meeting his wife, Rosie, in medical school, the pair settled in Swarthmore, where he opened a family medical practice and she worked as a pediatrician for children with developmental disabilities.

For 42 years, Hal maintained his practice, serving generations of Swarthmore residents. He was known for making house calls long after it went out of fashion, continuing his service into his seventies.

After his wife, Rosie, passed away, Hal was lucky enough to marry another local legend, Sandy Sparrow, a beloved former elementary school principal with whom he continued to travel the world.

Dr. Wilkinson was a pillar of our community, an iconic figure who could be seen strolling with his friends or his rescue dog, Dugan, until late last year. A beloved friend to many, Hal was always interested in hearing the latest updates from friends and neighbors and exploring the world around him.

As the borough of Swarthmore mourns his passing, our hearts are with Hal's family. We were all so lucky to have known him.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF OCTAVIUS V. CATTO

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a Philadelphia hero, Octavius V. Catto.

If you come to Philadelphia, you will see a statue of Octavius Catto on the south side of City Hall. It is the city's first public statue honoring an individual African American.

Throughout his life, Catto was an outspoken activist for the abolition of slavery and for equal rights for Black Americans. During the Civil War, he joined Frederick Douglass and other Black leaders to recruit African Americans to join the fight for emancipation. After the war, Catto continued his advocacy and successfully fought to desegregate Philadelphia's streetcars.

Catto was a man of many accomplishments. He graduated from the Institute for Colored Youth, which is now Pennsylvania-05's own Cheyney University, the first HBCU in the country. He also ran the undefeated Pythian Baseball Club of Philadelphia, a Negro League baseball team that played the first Black versus White game.

However, the most enduring part of Catto's legacy is his efforts to secure the right to vote for Black Americans. He was a champion for suffrage and fought to ensure that no one would be denied access to the ballot box.

Ultimately, his life's work brought about Catto's untimely death. On October 10, 1871, the first election day that Black men were allowed to vote in Philadelphia, 32-year-old Catto was shot and killed by a White mob trying to stop the Black vote.

Octavius Catto's life and sacrifice are an important reminder of the importance of continuing his work and honoring his legacy today to ensure that all Americans have the freedom to vote free from mob rule, gerrymandering, and other efforts to silence their voices.

FOLLOWING THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I have an article here about the Justice Department. It says it continues to go easy on the 2020 rioters.

These are people that destroyed government buildings, destroyed places of business, yet this administration continues to not just prosecute but persecute people who just came into the Capitol wrongly that should be punished. But to have people let loose immediately after burning people, being

involved in incidents where people were killed, is absolutely an outrage to judgment.

Then, to put people under the control of a deputy warden at the D.C. jail who absolutely, maliciously, intentionally despises anybody that supported President Trump—and she is in charge of these people? This is so dangerous and should not be allowed.

On top of that, we have the January 6th Committee. They were not interested in following the traditions and the rules of the House with regard to committees, where both parties could submit people for that committee membership.

There is so much damage that is being done to this institution. It is not the collegial working—sure, we have disagreements over the years, strong disagreements, but we have never seen anything like what we are experiencing now where we could have a commission that is totally made up of people that the one party only wanted on the commission and others that the other party wanted on were eliminated.

So, something has to be done.

Now, we have seen that this administration has not been particularly concerned with its constitutional duties, like the one in Article IV that mandates that the Federal Government must protect the States from invasion.

You know, to Woodrow Wilson, four or five dozen people was an invasion. Nowadays, this administration thinks 2 million is not an invasion even though they bring death and suffering in the form of drugs, sex trafficking, and human trafficking.

At the same time, for the first time since I have been in Congress, we have seen that our mail—we have gotten two mail just a day apart. One came in September 17, stamped by the Department of Justice as being received and reviewed and examined. Another, from a Christian missionary to me, it was reviewed by the Department of Justice.

The Supreme Court has made clear that the Department of Justice cannot even get a search warrant to search a Member's office, yet this administration, like this House, doesn't think the rules, the laws, the Constitution, perhaps, mean what they say.

We have to get back to following the Constitution if we are going to preserve this Republic. It is in a dire situation. It is in a desperate situation.

If we do not get back to following the Constitution and observing the rules of the House, then our Republic will be lost. That is where we are being taken right now.

HONORING NINA OTERO-WARREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, today I stand here to honor Nina Otero-Warren, a New Mexican educator, suffragist, and politician who created a legacy of civil service through her dedication and work.

As the first female superintendent of the Santa Fe Public Schools, she advocated to improve education, especially for the Hispano communities of her beloved State. She preserved the language and cultural heritage of our communities.

One hundred years ago, Nina made history in our country as the first Hispanic woman to run for U.S. Congress. She did so immediately after she led the suffragist movement and helped New Mexico sign the law. So, 100 years ago, she led the effort and was the first Latina to run for Congress, and 100 years later, I am the first Latina to represent Congressional District Three and her Santa Fe home.

Her work paved the way for Latinas like myself and my colleagues to raise their voices and the needs of our families and communities in the people's House. As we continue the fight for election reform here in Congress, it could not be a better time to honor her legacy with this year's American Women Quarters.

She will join Maya Angelou, who we celebrated earlier this week. Maya's words still inspire so many of our colleagues. We are so happy that the women poets, educators, and astronauts will finally be the faces on the coins of our land.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTQ-PLUS COMMUNITIES

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, whether it is in New Mexico or across the world, no one should be in danger for living as their authentic self. Yet, in many places, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex individuals are continuously targets of horrifying human rights abuses. Many suffer cruel and inhumane punishment, imprisonment, and even death just for being who they are. This is unacceptable.

That is why I proudly cosponsor and support the Global Respect Act. This bill demands accountability for individuals around the world who commit human rights violations against LGBTQ-plus communities. It also ensures that we track international human rights information more accurately so that we can help end these egregious crimes.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to voting for this lifesaving legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. There is absolutely no justification for violating another individual's human rights for simply being who they are.

BUILDING ON BLACK HISTORY'S FOUNDATIONS OF PROGRESS

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, Black history is American history. From the dream of Dr. King to the good trouble of Congressman John Lewis, Black History Month is a powerful reminder to honor those before us who built the foundations of progress for our Nation.

Their unyielding dedication to the cultural, economic, and political advancement of all people paved the way for others to follow, but their legacy continues on in the Black leaders of today in New Mexico like Judge Shammara Henderson.

I campaigned with her and met her and just came to rejoice in her wisdom. She is the first Black woman judge to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals and win a statewide election in New Mexico. She is blazing trails never traveled before.

It is also through people like Dr. Charles Nwankwo, who served as the president of Clovis Community College. I had the honor of touring Clovis Community College and meeting with Dr. Nwankwo just a couple of weeks ago.

His work opens doors and unleashes the potential of so many New Mexicans. He is truly dedicated to inspiring the next generation to achieve new heights and conquer new frontiers.

It is through people like Beverly McMillan, who works at the Family Advocacy Center to support victims of domestic violence, child abuse, and domestic trauma. Every child, single mother, or victim of abuse who opens the door of a better future is a testament to the power of love and compassion.

These are just a few of the many heroes we have in the great State of New Mexico writing the next chapter of leadership, courage, and service in the Black community.

Judge Henderson, Dr. Nwankwo, Ms. McMillan, and so many more, thank you for the work you do to create a more just world.

□ 1045

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES—TRADE AND TRADE PROMOTION

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the first installment of my farm bill impact series where I will be highlighting the various aspects of the farm bill that I think deserve Congress' awareness and support.

If America is going to thrive, the people who feed, fuel, and clothe America must thrive, and the farm bill contains certain programs that have been critical to the success of agricultural producers in my district. This week, I want to speak about two of those programs that fall within the trade title of the farm bill.

Each year, $140 billion worth of agricultural products are exported. My State of Kansas is known as the Wheat State, and 50 percent of all wheat sold in the United States is exported. So Congress must think critically and carefully about the international components of the Trade title. Trade programs, which have longstanding records of success in America, represent the partnership between the

public and the private sectors of our country. These programs are essential because they spearhead innovative market access, new market development, and promote agricultural sales overseas.

Through the Market Access Program, or MAP, U.S. agricultural trade associations, cooperatives, State regional trade groups, and small businesses cooperate to share the cost of overseas marketing and promotional activities. MAP reaches virtually every corner of the globe helping build markets for a wide variety of U.S. farm and food products including dairy, wheat, grain, beef, soybean, and sunflowers that come from my district.

The Agricultural Trade Promotion program or, ATP, was created in 2018 to help U.S. agricultural exporters develop new markets and mitigate the adverse effects of other countries' tariff and non-tariff barriers. The ATP supports consumer advertising, public relations, point-of-sale demonstrations, trade fairs and exhibits, market research, and technical assistance for farmers, ranchers, and our agriculture producers.

I support whatever directly benefits farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers in this country because they are the lifeblood of America. They keep us food-secure, and therefore free and self-determining as a nation. That is why I support these trade programs within the farm bill and why I am bringing awareness to them now, to ensure that they remain intact for the 2023 farm bill.

I also support these programs as a fiscal conservative because they are a great return on investment for all Americans.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture continues to thrive in Kansas and in America.

HONORING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize the dedication of law enforcement officers on the thin blue line, and condemn calls to defund, disband, dismantle, or abolish the police.

No one dislikes bad police officers more than good police officers. While some people are quick to share negative examples of law enforcement, they fail to acknowledge the multitude of men and women who bless our country with self-sacrificial care. Police officers are the glue that holds communities together. They put their lives on the line in the morning, and they go to their children's basketball games in the afternoon. Most of us cannot even comprehend the burden of responsibility that they bear for us and our families.

Today, I will share a story about an officer in my district who exemplifies the very best qualities of Kansas law enforcement.

Drew Francis started his career in law enforcement 20 years ago as a police officer at Dodge City Police Department. Since then, he has served in patrol operations, investigations, and now, police administration as Dodge City's Chief of Police.

Recently, a woman approached Drew and reminded him of a time earlier in his career when he was dispatched to help her. She had been a victim of repeated domestic violence, and when Drew arrived at her house, she remembered that he took the time to talk with her about the importance of removing herself and her children from the cycle of violence. The woman said that Chief Francis inspired her to make this change, and she felt that Drew had actually saved her life.

This particular story is an example of the little things that police officers do daily, the positive impact of which may never be fully comprehended.

In honor of these individuals who put their lives on the line for our safety, I have cosponsored several pieces of pro-law enforcement legislation, including a resolution condemning calls to defund the police; the Protect and Serve Act, which enhances penalties for anyone targeting and attacking law enforcement officers; as well as the David Dorn Back the Blue Act, which supports State and local police departments; and also, a resolution designating National Police Week.

I am so proud to represent a district where police officers like Drew Francis live and work. America must stand in support of those who protect and serve us, our law enforcement officers.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today because, if America's students are not taught the truth in school, we can at least make the floor of the House of Representatives their classroom.

My name is CORI BUSH. But Bush was not the name that my paternal ancestors in Nigeria carried. Bush was the last name forced upon them by their slave masters right here in America. My maternal ancestors carried the last name Blakney, forced upon them by their slave masters in Pageland, South Carolina.

Our Black ancestors were kidnapped—stolen—from their homelands. They were the 12 million Africans who were shackled, branded, and packed into the bowels of slave ships during what is known as the Middle Passage where 2 million Africans died. Poor ventilation, burning heat, no room to stand or room to turn their bodies, forced to lay in their own feces and urine, they were starved, dehydrated, poisoned, and beaten.

Those who survived the Middle Passage survived only to be brought onto these shores, bought and sold at auctions like the goods their forced labor was producing.

These auctions launched a longstanding practice in America in which White folks—including White women—scrutinize and violate the bodies of Black people—especially Black women.

We are going to tell the truth today. Black adults and Black children were enslaved and forced to endure being tormented, being tortured, and being raped by White slave owners on slave ships and on the plantations.

Our ancestors tried to escape the bondage of slavery just to be hunted, captured, imprisoned, and executed via slave patrols and convict leasing—those institutions whose primary focus was to regulate, exploit, and control Black bodies.

More than 1,700 Congressmen once enslaved Black people. Those 1,700 people who routinely cast votes cultivating, conserving, and codifying White supremacy did not view Black people as human beings. Our own Presidents owned, sold, and enslaved Black people.

The image behind me is the truth of our country's history that our students are denied. This is what a lynching in America looked like.

What we must remember is that for every Black person they hung from a tree, dozens of White people came to celebrate.

When our students don't learn about these lynchings in school, it is not just to deny us our justice, it is because racist policymakers don't want White children to know that that may be great-grandpa smiling in the picture and pointing at our ancestors dangling like strange fruit.

This is the truth about our country that too many racist lawmakers want to prevent our students from learning.

So to young White people across our country: this is your history. The atrocities perpetuated against Black people for generations were committed by your ancestors—not all of you, but many of you.

So you have to know this is American history.

So what will you do to help repair the damage?

What will you do to help us achieve reparations for the harm done?

And if your history books do not teach this history, then question the book. Talk to your school district. Tell them that we don't want a whitewashed history. We want and deserve the truth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair, not to a perceived viewing audience.

CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the transatlantic relationships between the United States

and European democracies are some of our most important. It is important we work together, try to understand each other, and communicate—not only on a political but on a personal level—through our citizens.

For nearly 40 years, a cultural and political exchange has occurred between the United States and Germany through young members of society. In fact, my office is currently participating.

Maja Sondermann is a 21-year-old from a town close to Frankfurt, Germany, a young professional and student studying marketing and advertisement and currently interning for my office. She is a participant in the 39th year of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, CBYX, a program jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, and one of five CBYX participants currently interning on the Hill.

Initiated in 1983, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange offers young Americans and Germans the opportunity to explore each other's culture. This cultural exchange program involves participants moving to the U.S. or Germany for 1 year and strengthens the ties of our American-German relationship through citizen diplomacy.

Over 26,000 American and German high school students, vocational students, and young professionals have thus far participated in and benefited from this incredible experience.

Even through the pandemic the participants remained resilient and joined the cultural exchange virtually. This year, the CBYX was able to return to an in-person exchange in August of 2021. For the duration of the program, the participants live with host families, immersing themselves in the daily life of a different culture, and attend classes, and the young professionals even work in the foreign country. They form bonds and friendships with people whom they meet during the year abroad and learn about a different culture while fully immersing in it and building strong personal and professional connections.

The participants on both sides gain a new perspective on global affairs, politics, and socioeconomic topics, as well as a new sense of empowerment, independence, and knowledge of a different culture and what it means to be a global citizen.

Their contribution to cultural exchange and the American-German friendship doesn't end with their flight back home. These young minds are positively impacted through this experience, as they share it with others after returning to their home countries.

Even beyond that, the participants stay connected with the people they meet and other participants. Many alumni of the program continue to contribute to transatlantic relations on both sides through the alumni network and their personal career paths.

With the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange in 2023, and as a member of the German-American Caucus, I want to draw attention to this important program. It continues to support both our nations' transatlantic bonds while also inspiring so many young minds to engage in a cultural and political exchange.

Madam Speaker, the CBYX program is an exceptional chance for our countries to connect and communicate on a different level and form relationships that will last and positively impact our future since the program directly impacts the foundation of our future young citizens.

OUR NATION'S FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, there is a fentanyl crisis in our country. It is plaguing our communities. It is plaguing my district, poisoning our children, and devastating American families.

Madam Speaker, it seems to be ignored by many, however, both in the White House and on this House floor. Our southern border is an unmitigated disaster due to this administration's open border policies. Drugs, crime, and the secret transportation of illegal immigrants flooding into our communities without warning in the middle of the night is causing serious, long-term damage. Yet, it seems to be ignored by too many.

Fentanyl is an extremely deadly substance. It has flowed into our country in droves by way of the southern border. A recent study found that fentanyl deaths have doubled in 30 States amid the border crisis. Americans are suffering at the hands of the drug cartels.

Customs and Border Patrol reported a 134 percent increase in fentanyl seizures in fiscal year 2021 with a disturbing 11,201 pounds confiscated, which is estimated to be able to kill every American seven times over. This is devastating and unbelievable.

With this high amount confiscated, the Drug Enforcement Agency was forced to put out a Public Safety Alert, warning the American people about fake pills laced with fentanyl and other fentanyl-related poisons putting so many at risk.

Drug overdoses have hit a record high in 2021 at over 100,000 deaths in the United States including more than 5,000 deaths in Pennsylvania. Nearly two-thirds of these deaths were connected to fentanyl.

□ 1100

In 2021, the leading cause of deaths for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 were drug overdoses. Is there any question that Congress should act? Madam Speaker, I am a cosponsor of the HALT Fentanyl Act. This legislation will permanently schedule fentanyl substances as a schedule I drug, giving law enforcement the ability to prosecute the trafficking of deadly fentanyl into American communities.

My Democrat colleagues recently blocked this lifesaving legislation when my Republican colleagues offered it for consideration last week. It truly is hard to understand why President Biden and far too many of our Democrat colleagues, in fact, all last week, have ignored this crisis, blocked legislation that would help fight it, and have sat idly by as they contemplate what the root causes of our southern border crisis might be.

Madam Speaker, if someone can show me where we have seen the White House actually mention fentanyl as the terrible scourge on our country, I would like to see it. If, however, they were to take a mirror to their own policies, they might realize that the root cause is the policies themselves. It is certainly time for Congress to act, to step up and do its job together to stop the flow of fentanyl into our communities.

BIDEN POLICIES HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I wanted to shine some light on a topic that many Wisconsinites and Americans may not really be tracking very closely. After over a year under President Biden and his administration, it is clear that the policies are having an adverse effect on small business. It is raising the price of goods, which people can see right now when they go to market, when they purchase gas, and it is slowing the economy.

While my colleagues across the aisle have been really, I think, unable to enact an agenda that would combat this, the Biden administration's unaccountable and unelected bureaucrats are trying their hardest to expand and enact these reckless policies. That is what I wanted to touch on today.

President Biden's executive orders, of which he signed many right after being sworn in as President, have had an adverse effect on competition. They consolidate sweeping government power over things like agriculture, which is near and dear to my own State of Wisconsin; the airlines; the banking industry; broadband; health and healthcare products; meat packers, which we are all well aware of; and the technology industry.

It is a broad scope of items that are affected. However, robust enforcement of the antitrust laws could provide substantial benefit to consumers because that would help ensure that the markets are competitive, particularly from predatory actions as we have seen specific to Big Tech.

However, it is clear that the administration's actions are not narrowly targeted at Big Tech where it may be considered appropriate. But they are part

of an effort to expand government. And this is kind of a dirty little secret right now. Control over the vast sectors I just mentioned are all being done under the guise of Big Tech. Giving these agencies broader authority is not really going to do anything to enhance competition, so what we see is the heavy hand of government, which is right now crushing small business with the one-size-fits-all mandates, also allowing these agencies more authority over the economy.

This will make government ultimately less accountable. Rather than promoting competition, the Federal Trade Commission is now imposing more costs on businesses. They are driving up prices on consumers, and this ultimately will force inflation even higher. There is just too much cash in the economy right now with very few supplies and services available. That is what inflation is.

The FTC and the DOJ recently announced that they will be revising merger guidelines out of nowhere, out of the blue, and seem to assume that mergers harm competition and fail to realize efficiencies. Companies are also facing the FTC inquiries related to unionization and environmental and social issues, which are well outside of the agency's mission and also is not related to their responsibilities in and around upholding competition.

The FTC has also required prior approval for future deals from businesses with a previous violation; again, all of a sudden, out of the blue, effectively making them guilty without the presumption of innocence.

Even more bizarre than we could ever imagine, many of the actions have been done using so-called ''zombie votes'' from a commissioner who is no longer there; not even in the system. The clear intent of these actions is to discourage businesses to engage in the legal conduct of mergers.

Even former President Obama's Treasury Secretary, Larry Summers, numerous times has stated that these policies will reduce supply, which will increase prices while discouraging investment. If the FTC and the unaccountable bureaucrats at the other agencies, such as the FDIC, continue to stray from the rule of law, Americans will face higher prices.

HONORING 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 80th anniversary of the Mighty Eighth Air Force unit. The Mighty Eighth Air Force was organized in Savannah, Georgia, on January 28 in 1942. It was comprised of 48 bomber groups, 21 fighter groups, and three photo reconnaissance groups, making it the largest of its kind at the time.

The Mighty Eighth was utilized heavily over the course of World War II, participating in primarily heavy bombardment of strategic and military targets in Nazi-occupied Europe and Germany. The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum opened its doors in 1996, in Pooler, Georgia, during my tenure as mayor. It tells the heroic story of the Mighty Eighth, along with the story of World War II.

Featuring a B–17 project from the National Air and Space Museum, a fire truck used at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, along with multiple other aircraft and state-of-the-art technology, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is a remarkable tribute to our brave soldiers.

The celebration kicked off on the 28th of January and events will be held throughout the year to celebrate this momentous occasion. I am proud to have been involved in the construction and dedication of this tribute to American heroism and want to thank the staff and supporters for making this celebration possible.

HONORING GUS BELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in gratitude for the service of a friend and an instrumental member of the First District of Georgia, Mr. Gus Bell.

Gus is a proud graduate of The Citadel, where he received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. From The Citadel, he continued his education at the University of Kentucky. Gus Bell has worked in every aspect of engineering, starting his career with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Virginia and Albuquerque before joining his private firm.

I am proud to call Gus Bell a friend and have had the pleasure and opportunity to work with him throughout the years. He has had an enormous impact on my career. The work that Gus has done to better the First District is nothing short of remarkable and deserves recognition.

The red brick waterfront, Rousakis Plaza, in Savannah and the I–95 corridor in Pooler are just examples of how Gus' expertise has led to growth and new development for the great State of Georgia. His commitment to his community is an inspiration, and I cherish the time we had to work together.

Gus is an example of a servant to others, and we are very grateful for his years of work and commitment. Thank you, my friend.

RECOGNIZING JEKYLL ISLAND'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jekyll Island's 75th anniversary as a State park. Under Governor M.E. Thompson, Jekyll Island was purchased in 1947 and Jekyll authorities will be having events throughout 2022 to celebrate 75 years.

This island has been a vacation spot for Georgians across the State for decades, and it will continue to be for years to come. Recently, Jekyll has experienced increasing growth with the construction of a hotel in 2010, parks, camp sites, public beaches, and more.

The biggest addition to Jekyll Island was conducted in 2015 with a revamped shopping center, Beach Village, hotels, and the Westin Jekyll Island opening. I had the privilege of attending the kick-off celebration, complete with fireworks and synchronized swimmers, and am excited for what the rest of 2022 has in store for Jekyll.

COVID hit the hospitality industry especially hard and Jekyll Island was no exception. Through resiliency, hard work, and a dedicated community, Jekyll Island will be back in full force and better than ever.

This great Georgia vacation spot will be back on the map as a must-see for residents and people across the country.

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 11 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:

Many are the plans in our hearts today, O Lord, numerous agendas and schedules, lists of expectations, and countless intentions. We lay all of our efforts before You that Your purpose would prevail; that Your direction and design, Your will and aim would guide our lives.

It seems that our days are driven by overwhelming demands on our time, goals to accomplish, and deadlines to meet. We commit to You, Holy God, all that we hope to do today, that You, in Your mercy, would allow our plans to prosper.

The way seems clear in our minds; Lord, would that You establish our steps this day. May we receive the gift of Your counsel and the excellence of Your wisdom.

We pray this prayer in the certainty of Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Postal Service Reform Act. This legislation would finally eliminate the requirement for the Postal Service to prefund pension costs 75 years in advance. The mandate is punitive to the post office and to the people it serves. The unreasonable and unsustainable mandate risks the affordability of mail delivery for customers and it threatens the livelihood of hardworking Americans.

The Postal Service employs 630,000 workers nationwide, including 100,000 military veterans, and 6,100 Western New Yorkers. Each and every day these workers deliver for their communities. We have an opportunity today to secure the future of one of the most historic and trusted agencies in the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TEXAS–25 CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I take a moment to recognize the extraordinary accomplishment of Texas-25's high school football teams this past season. Texas-25 was home to two champions, and I was proud to see all the hard work pay off on the field.

After a season of early mornings, long hours on the field, and staying focused in school, these teams showed dedication, strength, and an unwavering commitment to victory. In Stephenville, the Yellow Jackets became the 4A Division I Football State Champions after beating the Austin Jaguars 38–21, marking their sixth Texas State football title.

The Westlake Chaparrals were named the Class 6A Division II State champions with a 40–21 win over Denton Guyer, cementing their third-straight State championship and finishing the season undefeated with a 16–0 record.

As these winners prepare for their next endeavors, I wish them the best of luck for an even brighter and more victorious future. Winning is good. Go Chaps and go Yellow Jackets. In God we trust.

SKYROCKETING PRICE OF LUMBER

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concern about the skyrocketing prices of lumber, which is adding to the instability of the housing market. Lumber prices have hit record highs; yet, there is still tariffs on imports of softwood lumber. With high tariffs, our low housing inventory will still not improve.

According to the National Association of Homebuilders, America's housing affordability crisis and price swings in lumber have added more than $18,000 to the price of a new home; meaning Americans needed an average income of $144,000 to afford a home last year, more than double the median household income in my district. With almost no stock and rising prices, prospective buyers are faced with terrible bidding wars, wars that can only be won by cash-only investors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Biden Administration to make the high price of lumber a priority to improve the affordable housing market.

APPRECIATING EMILY SALEEBY

(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, I am sincerely grateful to recognize Emily Saleeby, deputy chief of staff for the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Emily has been dedicated and passionate serving the people of South Carolina.

A native of Florence, and a graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she was student body vice president, Emily began working in Congress in 2014. She has achieved being someone who could be relied on for being a dedicated public servant. She is returning to South Carolina for a position with Savannah River Mission Completion, where she will continue to be successful.

I know her parents, Susan and John Saleeby, siblings, Lauren and Timothy, her golden retriever, Cato, and her colleagues share my deep appreciation for her continued success. Lebanese Americans are vital in South Carolina.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghan safe haven to America.

Go Gamecocks! Go Emily!

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JOHN C. LAW

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. John C. Law, who passed away on January 20, 2022. A resident of the city of Santa Monica, John was a beloved husband, father, and champion of affordable, high-quality healthcare.

John dedicated his life to serving others and was a generous philanthropist through Los Angeles County during his time on the board of directors at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. During his tenure, John championed efforts to bring women and people of color onto the board of directors and to better the health and well-being of the community.

As President of the Los Angeles Free Clinic, John also worked to improve healthcare quality, access, and outcomes for underserved communities in the region. John also contributed to healthcare causes and research not only through his leadership, but through his tremendous generosity. John and his wife, Hope, made their first gift in 1992 and contributed frequently to its prostate cancer research and healthcare leadership funds. An accomplished businessman, John served as president of the LA County Capital Asset Leasing Corporation and as co-managing director of Warland Investments.

John is survived by his loving wife, Hope Warshaw, and their son, Jack Warshaw. He had an amazing spirit that was dedicated to serving his family and especially those most in need.

John will be greatly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA—112th ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 112th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. On February 8, 1910, Chicago businessman, William D. Boyce, who grew up in Western Pennsylvania, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America.

Since that time, millions of young men and women have joined the Scouts and learned the values of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance.

The Scouts have helped shaped some of the most memorable figures in U.S. history: Former President George W. Bush, Martin Luther King, Jr., and even retiring Supreme Court Justice, Stephen Breyer.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent more than 50 years in scouting, including serving as Scout Master and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977. It was these experiences that first sparked my interest in public service. The Boy Scout oath, in part, urges us to perform our duty to our country. I am proud to introduce this resolution designating today as Boy Scouts of America Day to honor the tireless service of Scout volunteers and participants in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have witnessed firsthand the important principles, values,

and lessons that are imparted upon young people and last a lifetime. The Boy Scouts of America has played a pivotal role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow and I look forward to seeing their continued contributions to our country.

Mr. Speaker, after the Bible, probably this manual, the Boy Scout Handbook, has done more to shape my life and made me the person that I am today.

VERMONT POSTAL SERVICE

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service is a mess. Today, we are about to take up a reform proposal that is long overdue.

Mail delivery in rural Vermont is critical for all our rural communities. For our seniors who rely on getting their checks and getting their prescriptions, and for Vermont businesses, from local papers that provide news in our country stores, it is crucial.

Mismanagement, underfunding, labor shortages have really created a crisis. Last January, my office received eight complaints. This January, it was 69 complaints. And some Vermonters are going over a week without getting any mail delivery. Our folks are going paycheck to paycheck and not getting their paycheck.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will finally get the United States Postal Service on track for our rural communities and all Americans. It is overdue, and that is why I hope all of us will support passage today.

RISING DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue that is deeply concerning to Kansans: Rising drug prices.

So far this year, the price of hundreds of lifesaving pharmaceutical medications have already increased. Hardworking Kansas families are facing skyrocketing inflation and many simply do not have the funds to keep up with the never-ending rise in healthcare costs.

For the past three decades, the bipartisan 340B program has helped low-income families afford essential medications by requiring pharmaceutical companies to give safety-net and rural healthcare providers discounts on prescription drugs. In my home State of Kansas, we have over 80 hospitals that use 340B savings. Not only do 340B hospitals provide heavily discounted prescription medications, they also make additional healthcare services, such as trauma care and substance abuse treatment available to most of our vulnerable patients.

As the 340B program celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is vital that we reaffirm our commitment to protecting this program and ensuring all Kansans have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROTECTION ACT

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in efforts to control equine populations, the BLM is directed to humanely capture wild, free-roaming horses and burros and put them up for adoption.

BLM, however, uses helicopter companies to round up these animals, leading to frightening and sometimes deadly situations. At $500 a head, since 2011, the top three helicopter contractors have raked in some $37 million in taxpayer funding.

Last month, during a gathering at the Pancake Complex in central Nevada, a young colt was chased for miles by a helicopter, despite having a broken leg, and had to be put down when captured.

My Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act would outlaw the use of helicopters in wild horse roundups, employ more traditional wranglers for gathering efforts, and require the GAO to employ and explore humane alternatives to protect these icons of the wild west.

Mr. Speaker, put simply, save a horse, hire a cowboy.

BIDEN'S VOW TO END NORD STREAM 2

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, energy security for the free world is an imperative. I rise today to strongly endorse President Biden's vow yesterday that if Russia further invades Ukraine, there will, ''no longer be a Nord Stream 2 pipeline across Europe. We will put an end to it.''

During the Trump administration, this Russian energy pipeline was allowed to creep ever closer into the heart of Europe to make our closest NATO allies dependent on Russian gas. What a strategic failure.

Reliance on a tyrannical regime is dangerous. To our dear allies in Europe, if Putin were to succeed in clawing Ukraine back under Russia's command, he would not stop there.

The free world must place stronger sanctions on Nord Stream 2. It must ratchet up diplomat engagement to this strongest test of the rule of law since World War II. As Russian troops amass at Ukraine's border, the free world must deploy the defensive shield to protect her liberty and assure her territorial sovereignty through a coalition of the willing.

□ 1215

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3076, POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6617, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 912 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 912

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Reform now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–32 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. (a) House Concurrent Resolution 69 is hereby adopted.

(b) For purposes of the joint session to receive the President of the United States on March 1, 2022, former Members, Delegates, and Resident Commissioners shall not be admitted to the Hall of the House or rooms leading thereto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), pending which I yield

myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we met in the Rules Committee and reported a rule, House Resolution 912, providing for consideration of two different measures; first, H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. It makes in order a manager's amendment and provides for one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 6617, the Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and provides for one motion to recommit.

Finally, the resolution adopts H. Con. Res. 69, which provides for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President, and the rule restricts former Members' access to the House floor during the joint session.

Mr. Speaker, the Postal Service Reform Act is a major update and improvement to what is going on with our post office. Even in this increasingly digital world, Americans rely on the U.S. Postal Service for access to lifesaving prescription drugs and other essential items of living.

In the ongoing pandemic, the Postal Service has been critical in helping tens of millions of Americans vote safely and securely.

The Postal Service is processing an astounding 5,000 pieces of mail each second and is responsible for processing and delivering 46 percent of the world's mail.

It is no surprise that first class mail used to send things like letters and bills is on the decline in the digital environment we live in. Still, the Postal Service remains a critical lifeline, especially for people who live in rural areas and Tribal communities and for people with disabilities.

The Postal Service adds a million new delivery points each year. That means that the Postal Service is delivering a little bit less mail but to a lot more places.

This act addresses the financial needs of the Postal Service, ensuring that we can continue relying on it for generations to come.

The decline in first class mail, increasing expenses, and the requirement that the Postal Service prefund retiree health benefits have all contributed to some financial instability in the Postal Service.

H.R. 3076 puts USPS on a far more stable financial footing. Specifically, it requires future Postal Service retirees to enroll in Medicare, saving the Postal Service $22 billion over the next decade. While retirees have paid into Medicare their entire careers, a quarter of retirees choose not to enroll, requiring the Postal Service to pay for higher premiums.

Similarly, the legislation also eliminates the uniquely arduous requirement that USPS prefund retiree health benefits for a period of 75 years. No other company or governmental entity has this requirement, which has resulted in significant financial losses for USPS.

The Postal Service Reform Act also strengthens transparency and requires 6-day integrated delivery, ensuring high-quality mail service for at least 6 days a week to all Americans. It requires USPS to develop an online dashboard detailing weekly national and local-level performance data to promote compliance with on-time mail delivery.

Mr. Speaker, the consideration of this measure gives us the opportunity to celebrate the remarkable successes of the post office in our history. The Founders created the post office even before they signed the Declaration of Independence, and they named, of course, Benjamin Franklin as the first Postmaster General for the emerging Nation.

It was the post office that unified 13 divergent and quarreling Colonies into a nation as it created a great communications network that brought the news of the day and the news of public events to the doorstep of every fledgling American citizen. It was an idea that scandalized and horrified the European powers that, of course, always wanted to keep the people in the dark under the monarchies and aristocracies of Europe.

The post office also created the transportation system for America, which is why so many of our towns and cities have streets and roads called Post Road or Postal Road or Old Post Road running through the center of town.

The post office, of course, was an explicit delegation of power to Congress in the Constitution, as well as the power to build postal roads under Article I, Section 8.

The communications and transportation network created by the post office gave rise to the democratic political infrastructure of the Nation. This is how the committees of correspondence met that created the political will for the American Revolution and developed the political philosophy of our revolutionary forebearers.

The post office also gave rise to America's glorious free press. That is why so many of our newspapers, again, bear the name The Washington Post, the Buffalo-Courier Express, the Richmond Times-Dispatch. They were named after the postal operation that made the mass media possible in the country.

The post office has done wonders for American commerce and business, and continues to do that right up to today, so this legislation will help the post office grow and meet our needs in the new century.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and my friend from Maryland for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the rule before us today makes in order H.R. 6617, a resolution to fund the Federal Government through March 11, 2022, and H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

I know that Appropriations Chairwoman DELAURO and Ranking Member GRANGER continue to engage in bipartisan discussions to find a path forward on a fiscal year 2022 funding package, and I want to thank them sincerely for those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER for working together to put forth a truly bipartisan package to stabilize the financial health of the U.S. Postal Service and to improve efficiency and transparency for senior citizens and other Americans who rely every day on the Postal Service.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 3 years, Democratic leadership has written major legislation behind closed doors with little to zero input from House Republicans and, frankly, almost zero to little input from even the committees that, of course, the Democrats control. This has truly been a behind-closed-door process that I have seen for the last 3 years.

So, it is finally refreshing to see the House consider a bill that was the subject of a robust bipartisan negotiation and that actually went through the normal committee process for once. I want to say that I hope my colleagues across the aisle will make this the new normal, as it has previously been the norm.

Mr. Speaker, I also hope the majority will continue the bipartisanship that I have seen here today and continue to work with House Republicans to address the serious and pressing issues facing American families across this Nation.

For example, thanks to President Biden's open border policy, deadly fentanyl continues to just pour across our southern border, which is ravaging our communities, literally killing people in the heartland of this country.

For example, in 2021, drug overdose deaths in the U.S. topped 100,000 for the first time in a single year. In fact, fentanyl overdoses are reported to be the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45. It is past time that Congress acts to stem the tide of deadly fentanyl coming into our Nation

largely through our porous southern border. The fentanyl that comes—let's just say it—is largely from China. It is time we address that issue.

At the same time, America is in the midst of a crime crisis like we haven't seen before, largely thanks to the Democrats' demonization of our police in what I view as one of the worst public policy positions I have ever seen, their push to actually defund police.

In 2021, at least 16 cities set new records in homicides. It is no wonder that 64 percent of Americans disapprove of how President Biden has handled crime. Congress should be working to address this crime surge and working to back the blue as well.

Finally, Americans continue to pay higher prices to do everything, from feed their families, heat their homes, and even fill up their gas tanks. Instead of doubling down on the failed far-left radical policies and out-of-control spending that actually caused this economic crisis, we should be reclaiming our energy independence. We should be eliminating burdensome regulations that hamstring our job creators. And we should be working to ensure American families keep more of their hard-earned paychecks.

□ 1230

I want to applaud the bipartisanship work that went into these bills. I want to applaud the Committee on Oversight and Reform and, of course, the Committee on Appropriations. But there are many other pressing issues that we can also be working on and should be working on for the benefit of American families.

I therefore urge my colleagues to oppose this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his kind words for the bipartisan leadership and initiative taken in the Postal Service Reform Act, H.R. 3076.

Unfortunately, I have to take exception to the suggestion that this is somehow unique on our part. The gentleman may remember the bipartisan infrastructure act that the Democrats brought forward but we incorporated lots of Republicans in the process and we passed it on a bipartisan basis. That is more than $1 trillion invested in the roads, the highways, the ports, the airports, broadband, and cybersecurity.

That was something I remember was talked about during the last administration. I never saw a bill partisan, bipartisan, or otherwise come from that side of the aisle, but within the first year of the Biden administration that bipartisan infrastructure act was moved through Congress. We brought lots of Republicans in. I know a lot of them voted against it, some of whom are claiming credit for it back in their districts now.

But, in any event, this is not new for us. It takes two to tango. So I am glad that the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognizing what we are doing here, but it is hardly unique in terms of the leadership being offered.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of bipartisan leadership, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who is the chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

I rise today in strong support of the rule on my bill, H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act. The Postal Service Reform Act has been years in the making, and I am proud to say that it is bipartisan.

As we all know, the Postal Service is one of our Nation's most vital and respected institutions. It provides service to every American no matter where they live, binding us together in a way no other organization does.

What's more, it is one of the oldest institutions in the United States. In fact, the Postal Service is older than the United States. It has been operating in some form since 1775 when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General by the Continental Congress.

Ensuring that this vital American institution has the tools that it needs to prosper and serve the American people for years to come is of the highest priority. This bill does just that. This bill would require postal employees to enroll in Medicare when they are eligible and retire. All postal employees already pay into Medicare through their careers, and the Postal Service has paid about $35 billion into the program since 1983, and it is the second largest contributor to the Medicare trust fund.

In short, Postal Service employees have already earned these benefits. The bill would also eliminate the unfair requirement that the Postal Service prefund its retiree health benefits for 75 years into the future, a provision that has already passed the House in previous Congresses. These two reforms would save the Postal Service nearly $50 billion over 10 years.

I want to emphasize that these changes do not cost American taxpayers one single dime. In fact, the nonpartisan CBO just last week determined that this bill would save $1.5 billion over the next 10 years.

In addition to these savings, the bill includes a provision that will allow the Postal Service to work with States and localities to provide non-postal service in post office locations. This provision would allow the Postal Service to more effectively serve communities based on their individual needs and raise revenue from currently untapped sources.

It is abundantly clear that this bill is good for both the Postal Service and the American people.

I thank Representative COMER for working diligently with me on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this rule.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her very lucid remarks.

One other historic breakthrough of the post office, I am recalling now, is the fact that it was the first Federal public institution to provide for the hiring of women, African Americans, and other minority groups. So I am glad, again, that we have got bipartisan support for this really critical measure to reform the post office in different ways in order to make it viable in the new century.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, rise in opposition to this postal reform bill not because it does nothing good but because it doesn't do enough.

The post office is a constitutionally authorized yet failed organization. It has failed to make a profit. It has failed to properly serve the American people, and everyone who has a mailbox knows it.

I am pleased that this body and the ranking member are tackling postal issues, but this is not sufficient reform. Unfortunately, for that reason, I cannot support this bill.

The problems with the post office are clear and longstanding. Congress established the post office to be a self-supporting organization, and from the time it received a $100 billion-line of credit, it has simply used credit to cover its losses.

I could agree that prepayment would not be necessary if they were meeting their responsibility on a pay-as-you-go basis to be profitable and to make those reforms. In fact, in 2020, under the CARES Act, Congress provided $10 billion in emergency funding, and yet in 2020 they lost $18 billion and are on course over the next 18 months to lose $22 billion. The fact is they haven't made a profit since 2006 as they are mandated.

The truth is the post office isn't lacking liquidity. It is bankrupt, and nothing in this bill will make the post office truly solvent. It simply wipes out and wipes away debts and shifts the burden on to taxpayers. The bill forgives $46 billion in debts owed by the Postal Service forcing the taxpayers to pay it.

Years ago, when I offered real reform, reform that would save on a constant basis real money, 6, 7, $8 billion a year, those reforms, because they lowered total labor, were unacceptable to the post office even if they were through attrition.

I do support some of the changes, and I do support the Post Master's attempt to modernize the post office, but without teeth in the actual organizational reforms, the post office will continue

to lose money, and for that reason I cannot yet support this bill.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, while I respect my good friend and colleague, especially for what he has done in the private sector as well as the public sector, I do have some concerns.

I believe the Postal Service Reform Act is a strong bipartisan act, and I urge its passage. This measure will bring increased transparency. It will improve operations for senior citizens and Americans who use the Postal Service every day. It will help this institution that is critical, especially to rural America.

Again, I have deep respect and admiration for my friend from California. I just would urge passage of this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, a quick note on the gentleman from California's points. He concedes that our bipartisan legislation does a lot of good things, but he says that it doesn't do everything.

He makes the point that the post office is not making a profit. That is true. It is not making a profit. Of course, our offices don't make a profit. There are very few Federal entities that make a profit. That is not what government does. Government serves the people. We want to be as efficient as possible in doing that, but the post office serves people from Alaska to Hawaii to Puerto Rico to Florida to Texas.

Everybody gets mail, and we want to do it as efficiently and as effectively as possible, but the point is to make sure that we are all connected and that everybody gets the benefit of being able to get their prescription drugs, that small businesses are able to send out their parcels, that consumers are able to receive what it is they are ordering, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), who is a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Rules Committee for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for as long as our country has existed, the United States Postal Service has played a critical role in the function of our country.

Whether delivering news or bills, medicine or ballots, income tax refunds or in a few days maybe Valentines, Americans—our small businesses and our State, national, and local governments—rely on the post office and the essential daily services it provides.

The famous motto of the Postal Service is: ''Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.''

How glad we have been to see them completing those rounds during a pandemic which limited our ability to get goods and services from other places and which limited our ability in some cases to get to the polling places.

While the U.S. Postal Service has always been essential, in the last 2 years it has been even more so, as it has helped us all to navigate a highly transmissible virus.

Unfortunately, during that same time, we have seen the Postal Service struggle to navigate a series of highly disruptive policy changes that slowed service and financial constraints that have threatened its long-term health. Over the past 2 years I have heard from hundreds of constituents about problems with the Postal Service, all asking: What is Congress going to do about it?

This week, I am proud to support the Postal Service Reform Act, a bipartisan bill that will improve the performance of the U.S. Postal Service and guarantee its long-term financial health.

This bill will guarantee the Postal Service's 6-day delivery standard, improve customer support, and provide customers with increased transparency about their local service performance. Most notably, the Postal Service Reform Act will finally end the—unique to the Postal Service—statutory requirement that it prefund retiree health benefits, relieving the Postal Service of this onerous and unnecessary burden that has jeopardized the service's finances since it was enacted 15 years ago.

These reforms which have been endorsed by the postal unions are estimated to save the Postal Service nearly $50 billion over the next 10 years.

The U.S. Postal Service is one of the oldest, core responsibilities of the Federal Government, and so I look forward to enthusiastically voting for this bill to ensure its continued success in the 21st century.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, today's rule also provides for consideration of another continuing resolution to fund the government. The House did its job. We passed our funding bills on time, and Chairwoman DELAURO has pushed her Senate counterparts to begin negotiations early so that a funding deal could be passed on time. However, Senate Republicans have hemmed and hawed and stalled to avoid negotiations because they prefer a CR to finding bipartisan compromise. We are nearly halfway through the current fiscal year. I regret the necessity of another CR, but I look forward to a quick resolution and a vote on an omnibus funding bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I do want to add one point to Ms. SCANLON's excellent delivery.

This legislation, the Postal Service Reform Act, requires the Postal Service to develop an online dashboard that will detail for all of us weekly national-and local-level performance data to promote compliance at every level with the on-time mail delivery expectations that we all have.

I too have spent time in a lot of neighborhoods of mine in Frederick County, Carroll County, and Montgomery County making sure that the Postal Service is getting on time delivery and making it happen. This new tool will allow all of us to monitor exactly what is going on in our particular communities.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. BURGESS), who is my good friend and fellow Rules Committee member.

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

Mr. Speaker, as you have already heard, today's rule provides for consideration of yet another continuing resolution 5 months into the fiscal year and not a single appropriations bill has been signed into law.

This time, the Rules Committee had less than 2 hours' notice before considering the continuing resolution rule in the Rules Committee yesterday leaving no time for Members who might want to offer an amendment or might want to come to the committee to speak on this CR.

□ 1245

This is no secret. This has not been an easy year for the American people; crisis after crisis, and this Democratic leadership in this Congress has not really led on those issues. We are still facing a crisis on our southern border. Mr. Speaker, 2 million migrants have crossed without documentation since President Biden took the oath of office. And in response, what did he do? Well, he halted construction on the border wall, and he tried to eliminate the remain in Mexico program except the courts wouldn't let him do that, so now they are slow-walking the enforcement.

At the same time, Ukraine is facing down 130,000 Russian troops that look poised to invade, and President Biden just recently used his waiver authority to ease the sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a direct link between Russia and Europe for oil and gas. If we had been given time to consider this CR, we could have revoked this waiver authority and reinstated sanctions on the Nord Stream 2.

Another problem exacerbated by this administration is their continued push for vaccine mandates. We see it literally every day on the news. Mandates do nothing but drive unnecessary opposition, and we need to let people make an informed choice for themselves with their doctor. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on enforcing mandates.

Finally, it has been nearly impossible to get a response back from the executive branch agency and the reason is, we have delegated our spending authority. We have delegated our appropriations authority basically to the Speaker's Office, and as a consequence, no Cabinet Secretary feels obligated to answer a phone call from a Member of Congress from either party.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6617, of course, extends funding for the Federal Government until March 11, 2022.

We eagerly anticipate the success of bipartisan negotiations for the full omnibus package.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule providing for consideration of the Postal Service Reform Act. As the only Member of Congress who has a 30-year career as a Postal Service employee, I am honored to stand here today as the House takes action to protect the Postal Service for generations to come.

Few know that the Constitution defines that America will have a post office service. For more than two centuries, the hardworking employees of the Postal Service have lived up to the agency's motto: ''Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.''

As the agency finds itself losing billions of dollars, it is time for the Congress to step in and ensure the Postal Service can maintain its commitment to providing prompt and reliable mail service. This bill will provide the Postal Service with the critical reforms to help address this long-term financial solvency. The Postal Service has delivered the package. Today we have the opportunity to deliver the package.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for those excellent remarks and note that I think she speaks for millions of postal workers across the country who are excited about this legislation and the reforms that it is going to institute. This has the endorsement of the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the mail handlers, and a number of other organizations that are invested in this. So we are excited about this bipartisan investment in making the Postal Service work for the people in this new century.

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

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

Across this country, Democratic Governors and local officials have forced children to wear masks in schools. They have done this without real concern for the social developmental and emotional consequences of their authoritarian actions. These are the actions of petty tyrants, people who do not care about real science.

In stark contrast, House Republicans have been consistent this whole time. We have been fighting for the rights of America's children, and the American parent.

That is why if we defeat the previous question, I will personally offer an amendment to the rule to immediately consider H.R. 6619, the Unmask Our Kids Act. This legislation would block education agencies from receiving Federal funding unless schools are open for in-person learning and school mask mandates allow parents to opt out on behalf of their children.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, here to explain the amendment is the legislation's author, Representative ASHLEY HINSON of Iowa, my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON).

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand for students, to stand for parents' ability to make decisions for their own kids. Across the country, children are struggling. Despite being nearly 2 years into the pandemic now, tens of thousands of students started this year off still being forced to learn from behind a screen, cut off from their peers.

Many school districts are mandating masks for children of all ages against their parents' wishes. Parents should have the option to send their kids to school in person and to decide whether or not they want to have their kids wearing a mask at school. Thanks to the leadership of our great Governor of Iowa, Governor Reynolds, and our hardworking teachers in Iowa, parents have had the option to send their kids to school in person in class for over a year.

Governor Reynolds stood for families by banning school mask mandates and allowing parents—parents—to make this personal health decision for their own children. That is at the heart of this issue we are talking about today. Parents should be empowered. They should be empowered to make choices that impact their children's physical and mental health, their development, and their future.

As a mom, I know why parents across the country are standing up and speaking out when they are being told that they can't decide what is right for their kids or their family. And it is infuriating to watch the very same people who push for kids to wear masks all day long, and they are bending the rules for a photo op or maybe a night out on the town. Meanwhile, kids are sitting at home instead of going to school, and they are interacting with their friends in settings that are not normal. They are interacting from behind a screen. That is why I introduced the Unmask Our Kids Act.

My bill would condition Federal education dollars to schools on those schools doing two very simple things: one, schools cannot receive Federal dollars if they enact wide-reaching mask mandates. They have to allow parents to decide whether their child will wear a mask at school; and two, parents have to have an in-person learning option. Schools must offer an in-person learning option. Our kids deserve normalcy. They deserve a chance to learn in person. They deserve a chance to play with their friends at recess.

This is about giving parents a voice and the final say when it comes to personal health decisions that impact their family. This is about giving school-aged kids who have endured so much over the last 2 years a chance to finally just be kids, to be normal. The next generation is too important not to fight for.

When it comes to our children and their well-being, we will not cave, and that is why this legislation is so important. So let's put politics aside here. Let's put kids first. We should pass the Unmask Our Kids Act today.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. The Washington Post this morning has an article about how a number of Governors—California Governor Gavin Newsom, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, Delaware Governor John Carney, and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont—have all announced changes to indoor masking requirements because of changes of where we are in the disease.

I certainly hope that my colleagues are not saying that we never should have worn masks, although I know some of them have said that and some of them have opposed masking guidance from the very beginning. Need I remind my colleagues that we have lost more than 900,000 people, including a lot of children, to this terrible disease. We have faced an epidemic of denialism from the beginning. Of course, the former President of the United States was out hawking quack medical cures and denying the virulence of the disease for a long time saying it would just disappear at Eastertime. Maybe everybody should just be injected with bleach.

We have come a long way from then, and President Biden has led us in an aggressive scientific effort, including masking where it was appropriate, in order to beat the disease, and we are making great progress. Now the States and localities are able to drop the masking requirements. So I see that they want to get on top of the wave and somehow claim that they are responsible for that when it was the President from their party who presided over an historically reckless and irresponsible approach to COVID–19, one that gave us a leading position in the spread of COVID–19.

So in any event, I haven't seen the bill that they have just introduced yet. I know that the Biden administration has used the post office to ship 500 million coronavirus test kits to people across the country, which, again, underscores the importance of the legislation we are really here to talk about today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that my good friend from Maryland would say the former President was ''reckless'' during the pandemic. This is a man who put together Operation Warp Speed, one of the quickest vaccination programs and one of the most effective the world has ever seen.

If we are talking about numbers, let's just talk about the numbers. More people have died in this pandemic under Joe Biden than ever died under President Trump. The numbers don't lie. During President Trump's first year with the pandemic, there were just over 390,000 deaths and, again, every death is tragic. But to say that President Trump was reckless, look at the numbers of Joe Biden. Since Joe Biden has taken office, over half a million people, 500,000-plus people have died.

So if President Trump was reckless, what word would you use to describe President Biden? I am interested to hear that. But there are two kinds of science; there is real science and there is political science. The risk of severe disease from COVID–19 to healthy children is very low. This is real science. The CDC data shows that 863 total pediatric deaths related to COVID–19 have occurred since the beginning of this pandemic, which is less than—and, again, for the party of science, this is real science—that is less than 0.001 percent of all COVID deaths in the United States. Many of these children had underlying medical conditions making them more vulnerable to severe COVID–19 than the average child, meaning that many of these children died with COVID not of COVID.

But again, that is real science, not political science. Talking about real science versus political science, I have got a photo of Stacey Abrams. This is political science, and here is why. Because the kids in this photo trying to learn, all of them are masked up. Statistically, these children are at very low risk of contracting COVID and even lower risk of dying from COVID. Again, the stats don't lie; 0.001 percent.

The real person in this photo who bears most of the risk is a governor-in-exile Stacey Abrams who is not wearing a mask. This photo is political science. If the mask wearing was reversed, that would be actual science.

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question so that we can immediately consider H.R. 6619 which will prohibit local education agencies from receiving Department of Education funding unless schools are open for in-person learning, and allow parents to opt out of mask mandates on behalf of their children.

Over the past 2 years, our children have suffered academically and socially throughout the pandemic. As a father of four young children, I know how important it is that kids are back in the classroom and free of unnecessary and distracting mask mandates. Parents, not politicians, should have the power to make the best decisions for their children. Let me repeat that because so many across this country and some in this body don't understand that fundamental truth. Parents, not politicians, should have the power to make the best decision for their children. And that includes whether or not they wear a mask in school.

It has been over a year since the CDC implemented universal mask mandates in schools with little science to back up their claim. Studies have shown that students can safely return to prepandemic educational settings; meaning in a classroom and without a mask.

The House has also appropriated $120 billion to reopen schools, nearly three times what the CDC had requested. Yet, we still have school districts across our country refusing to return to in-person learning or forcing kids to wear a mask against their will.

These school districts should not be given any more hard-earned taxpayer dollars from the Department of Education or any other Federal agency.

□ 1300

To make matters worse, the same elected officials who are implementing these draconian mandates are often seen disregarding them completely. The lengths some elected officials will go to gain a political advantage at the expense of the well-being of our children is truly astounding.

The reality is, my colleagues across the aisle are not following the science, and it is damaging an entire generation's educational and social development.

It is time we give parents the power to let their kids experience normal once again. I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and support H.R. 6619.

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

The gentleman from Pennsylvania doesn't have to take it from me. He can take it from President Trump's own Coronavirus Response Coordinator, Deborah Birx.

Dr. Birx said the first 100,000 deaths were perhaps inevitable, but the hundreds of thousands that came after it were avoidable and were the cost of the failure to undertake the public health precautions that were required. So, I would direct him to Dr. Birx.

Of course, when the virus was out of control and President Biden came into office, he was doing everything in his power to try to reverse the damage done by the lethal irresponsibility of the prior administration.

But in any event, Madam Speaker, we are here to try to get beyond all the wreckage at this point. We are here to fund the government through March 11. We are here to make these substantial reforms to the post office, on a bipartisan basis, that will make the post office far more efficient; that will guarantee 6-day service to our people all over the country; that will end that uniquely difficult and punitive policy of making the Postal Service alone have to prefund everybody's healthcare for the next 75 years, which explains a lot of its financial problems. That is what we are here to do today.

We are making progress for America, and we are trying to do it on a bipartisan basis. It seems strange to me that my colleagues would try to pick a fight about COVID–19 in this context when we are just trying to recover from the wreckage left by the prior administration.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My good friend from Maryland referenced Dr. Birx. Let's be honest: Dr. Birx is an unelected career bureaucrat who has been wrong repeatedly, just like Dr. Fauci has been wrong repeatedly.

Although my friend on the left might cite Dr. Birx, I can cite Johns Hopkins University, which just did a study. According to this massive study from Johns Hopkins University—not a bastion of conservative ideology, I might add—they found that lockdowns only reduced COVID mortality by 0.2 percent in the United States. In sum, lockdowns didn't work at all.

What is worse is that those on the left have failed to take into account that the lockdowns actually led to more deaths than they prevented, arguably, with drug overdose and suicide. But that is real science, not political science.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) to talk about more real science.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the previous question so that the House can immediately consider Congresswoman HINSON's H.R. 6619, the Unmask Our Kids Act.

The Unmask Our Kids Act would restrict funds from going to any local education agencies that don't offer an option for in-person instruction at both elementary and secondary public schools. Further, the Unmask Our Kids Act would allow parents to opt their child out of having to wear a mask at school.

As the mother of two children, I understand how important it is for all kids to be in school, learning among their peers. Unfortunately, throughout the COVID–19 pandemic, there has been a political theater of both masking policies and virtual learning, which has resulted in K–12 students paying the price through learning loss, which is at an even higher rate among students who come from disadvantaged families.

Several studies have found that there are adverse effects on the quality of

education due to the lack of time students spend with their peers, especially for students who struggled with school before the pandemic. Students need and deserve to have in-person instruction so that they can receive the best education possible for their future.

As a physician and former director of public health, I recognize that children are at low risk of severe illness with COVID and low risk of transmission. A recent study found that gradeschoolers are at a lower risk than vaccinated adults.

Wearing a mask at school can create both behavioral and physical complications for students. A student wearing a pair of glasses may have to keep defogging their lenses, or a student that has a facial tic may have to keep correcting their fallen mask.

As we have seen across the Nation, mental health has been a big part of this pandemic, and students are not immune to this impact. Not being able to see other peers or your teacher's face can lead to only further loneliness, anxiety, and depression, and the rate of suicide in children as young as 9 has been staggering. Many young students are also unable to learn because facial expressions are absent.

Just yesterday, New Jersey's Democratic Governor announced that, beginning in March, the State will no longer require students and school employees to wear masks. The Governor was quoted saying that: ''This is not a declaration of victory as much as an acknowledgment that we can responsibly live with this thing.'' Europe has had that policy for almost a year.

Beginning this Friday, the Governor of Delaware, the President's home State, will lift Delaware's universal indoor mask mandate, with a lift on the school-based mask mandate beginning March 31.

Also yesterday, a medical analyst for CNN said that the decision to wear a mask should shift from a government mandate to an individual choice.

If a parent and student believe it is in the best interests of their health and well-being to wear a mask, so be it. Let them make that decision for themselves. We do not need elite, powerful people imposing their will upon our most innocent and most powerless.

Remove the mask. Let students be back in school. And vote down the previous question.

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

Someone just tuning in right now might be a little confused and think that we are somehow debating COVID–19. We are here to talk about bipartisan legislation on the Postal Service and to keep the government open until March 11.

I would just point out to my good friend from Pennsylvania, who I am afraid seemed to disparage science on our side or the professional credentials of Dr. Deborah Birx, who was the former President's coronavirus coordinator; she went to Penn State medical school. I don't think the gentleman from Pennsylvania meant to disparage her educational credentials, certainly as a graduate of Penn State.

Look, we don't need the Federal Government dictating to the States and the localities what their policies are going to be about masking. I just read this morning about a bunch of States—I think they have Democratic Governors; New York, California, Delaware—that have pulled back on their masking policies because the virus, today, has dramatically subsided.

Are we going to pass a Federal bill every time the virus goes up or the virus goes down and tell them what their rules are going to be? Come on. I thought that we were all champions of federalism. But instead, they want to dictate it from up on high.

Remember, what this legislation is about—and I wish we could focus more on it—is reform of the Postal Service.

We have bipartisan support now for this. I am delighted to learn that it is not just the postal unions that I invoked before, but we have a bunch of postal associations for it. We have the American Postal Workers Union, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, the National Association of Postal Supervisors, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, the Package Shippers Association, the Major Mailers Association, the National Newspaper Association, Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service, Publishers Clearing House, American Catalog Mailers Association, and the National Retail Federation.

We have both the workers in the Postal Service and then big businesses and small businesses across the country, underscoring the fact that the Postal Service remains the central nervous system of commerce in America as well as our public life. That is something that we should be celebrating rather than picking an unnecessary fight, which is completely irrelevant to this legislation, about what is going on at the State and local level in other places.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, look, for the record, I would bet on Dr. MILLER-MEEKS any day of the week over Dr. Birx. She believes in the real science, not the political theater and political science that the CDC and Dr. Birx speak of. A great example: The CDC never even studied the effects of school mask mandates before mandating masks in school.

Say what you will, but that is not how science works.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), who is my good friend.

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose the previous question so we can immediately consider H.R. 6619, the Unmask Our Kids Act.

This is critical because, as a Member of Congress, but more importantly as a dad of a kindergartner, I am frustrated. I am frustrated because all throughout the pandemic, bureaucrats, mayors, Governors, and school administrators have all lectured us to follow the science. Just follow the science.

Well, I agree. Thankfully, 2 years into this pandemic, we now have science behind the mild impacts of COVID–19 on children and the importance of ventilation instead of masking to limit spread in classrooms. We also have science on how important it is to see faces for a child's development.

Yet, even with this data, schools continue to impose mask mandates, including roughly 85 of the 115 North Carolina school districts. And if you break these mandates, you face severe consequences.

Just last Thursday, 12-year-old Lincoln Matthews, from my district, decided not to wear a mask to school, with the support of his father. Lincoln said he can't breathe in his mask, especially when he is forced to wear it even while running in PE class. However, Lincoln was written up and kicked out for insubordination. This is wrong.

What is worse is, these rules apparently don't apply to everyone. On Friday, just 1 day after Lincoln was kicked out for not wearing his mask, Stacey Abrams visited a classroom in Georgia without a mask while every child around her, as you can see, wore their masks. As my colleague, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, said, this photo is not science; this photo is political science.

Sadly, this is just the latest example of politicians who want to control your life. They tell you what to do then ignore their own rules. For these hypocrites, it is rules for thee but not for me.

Well, I am here to say that the American people are fed up. I am here to say, parents have rights.

So let's actually follow the science. It is time to scrap these mandates and give parents the freedom to choose what is best for their own children.

Today, I encourage my colleagues to pass the Unmask Our Kids Act and end these mandates once and for all. If it is good enough for the politicians, it is good enough for our kids.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, talking about more science, here is some more science: A North Carolina study, where my good friend resides, conducted before vaccines were available, found that not a single case of student-to-teacher transmission occurred when 90,000 students were in school. That is the real science.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time as I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, thanks to President Biden and thanks to House Democrats and their far left, radical policies, Americans are currently facing a border crisis, a crime crisis, and an economic crisis.

Despite a lack of scientific evidence to support masks in schools, Democratic Governors, officials, unelected bureaucrats, petty tyrants, have mandated the use of masks in schools, damaging the educational and social development of our students. It is past time that Democrats stop prioritizing their woke agenda and work with Republicans to address these and other pressing issues facing American families today.

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

□ 1315

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

I want to say a word on behalf of Stacey Abrams, who was the target of some rhetorical attacks over there.

There is a picture of her without her mask on in front of a bunch of kids who did have their masks on, and it was being denounced by the speaker from North Carolina momentarily and also by the floor leader, who didn't have their masks on, standing in front of a whole group of people who did have their masks on.

In other words, they were in exactly the same position Stacey Abrams was, because the rule of reason we have adopted according to medical advice, I think across the country, is where masks are recommended and indicated, people wear them unless they are speaking. To turn that into a political football to denounce a fellow public servant seems to be a little bit beneath the dignity of this body.

But in any event, we are very excited about our postal reform legislation that we are moving through to guarantee excellent 6-day service to everybody, to have an online dashboard so we can all keep track of where the mail is in different parts of the country, and if there are problems, we can address them quickly.

I am glad we have bipartisan legislation—at least I hope it is bipartisan—to keep the government open until March 11.

As for COVID–19 policies, I think we should trust the States and the localities to deal with the manifold questions that come up as we continue to address this public health crisis, which was, of course, set into motion by a President who denied it, avoided it, said he would refuse to wear a mask even when it was indicated, who got it, who had dozens of doctors at his beck and call, who flew in a helicopter to get himself served.

Look, we need to get back on track in America. That means the government has to work for everybody. We have got to stop fighting about public health. We have got to work together for public health, just like we have got to work together for the post office, a great American institution which we improve and we advance today in the 21st century.

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 912

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 6619) to prohibit the Secretary of Education from providing Federal funds to a local educational agency unless in-person instruction is available to all students and parents may opt out of student mask mandates, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 6619.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LAWRENCE). The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 205, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 35]

YEAS—221

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

NAYS—205

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

Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—7

Armstrong
Ellzey
Gohmert
Granger
Kinzinger
LaHood
Waltz

□ 1355

Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Messrs. ROUZER and BOST changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Cooper (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Garamendi (Correa)
Garbarino (Katko)
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Jacobs (CA) (Correa)
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Burgess)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (Johnson (SD))
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Rice (NY))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

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

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 211, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 36]

YEAS—221

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

NAYS—211

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

NOT VOTING—1

Kinzinger

□ 1421

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Cooper (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Garamendi (Correa)
Garbarino (Katko)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Jacobs (CA) (Correa)
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Burgess)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (Johnson (SD))
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Rice (NY))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). Pursuant to House Resolution 912, H. Con. Res. 69 is hereby adopted.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 69

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, March 1,

2022, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 912, I call up the bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 912, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Reform printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–32 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered as read.

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

H.R. 3076

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Postal Service Reform Act of 2022''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—POSTAL SERVICE FINANCIAL REFORMS

Sec. 101. Postal Service Health Benefits Program.
Sec. 102. USPS Fairness Act.
Sec. 103. Nonpostal services.

TITLE II—POSTAL SERVICE OPERATIONAL REFORMS

Sec. 201. Performance targets and transparency.
Sec. 202. Integrated delivery network.
Sec. 203. Review of Postal Service cost attribution guidelines.
Sec. 204. Rural newspaper sustainability.
Sec. 205. Funding of Postal Regulatory Commission.
Sec. 206. Flats operations study and reform.
Sec. 207. Reporting requirements.
Sec. 208. Postal Service transportation selection policy revisions.
Sec. 209. USPS Inspector General oversight of Postal Regulatory Commission.

TITLE III—SEVERABILITY

Sec. 301. Severability.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) COMMISSION.—In this Act, the term ''Commission'' means the Postal Regulatory Commission.

(b) TERMS DEFINED IN TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE.—In this Act, the terms ''competitive product'', ''market-dominant product'', and ''Postal Service'' have the meanings given those terms in section 102 of title 39, United States Code.

TITLE I—POSTAL SERVICE FINANCIAL REFORMS

SEC. 101. POSTAL SERVICE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8903b the following:

''§ 8903c. Postal Service Health Benefits Program

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'covered Medicare individual' means an individual who is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A, but excluding an individual who is eligible to enroll under such part under section 1818 or 1818A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2, 1395i–2a);

''(2) the term 'initial contract year' means the contract year beginning in January of 2025;

''(3) the term 'initial participating carrier' means a carrier that enters into a contract with the Office to participate in the Program during the initial contract year;

''(4) the term 'Medicare part A' means part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.);

''(5) the term 'Medicare part B' means part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.);

''(6) the term 'Office' means the Office of Personnel Management;

''(7) the term 'Postal Service' means the United States Postal Service;

''(8) the term 'Postal Service annuitant' means an annuitant enrolled in a health benefits plan under this chapter whose Government contribution is required to be paid under section 8906(g)(2);

''(9) the term 'Postal Service employee' means an employee of the Postal Service enrolled in a health benefits plan under this chapter whose Government contribution is paid by the Postal Service;

''(10) the term 'Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant' means an individual who—

''(A) is a Postal Service annuitant; and

''(B) is a covered Medicare individual;

''(11) the term 'Program' means the Postal Service Health Benefits Program established under subsection (c) within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program;

''(12) the term 'Program plan' means a health benefits plan offered under the Program; and

''(13) the definitions set forth in section 8901 shall apply, and for the purposes of applying such definitions in carrying out this section, a Postal Service employee and Postal Service annuitant shall be treated in the same manner as an employee and an annuitant (as those terms are defined in paragraphs (1) and (3), respectively, of section 8901), consistent with the requirements of this section.

''(b) APPLICATION.—The requirements under this section shall—

''(1) apply to the initial contract year and each contract year thereafter; and

''(2) supersede any other provision of this chapter inconsistent with such requirements, as determined by the Office.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSTAL SERVICE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Office shall establish the Postal Service Health Benefits Program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program under this chapter, under which the Office may contract with carriers to offer health benefits plans as described under this section.

''(B) APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER REQUIREMENTS TO CONTRACTS.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, any contract described in subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with the requirements of this chapter for contracts under section 8902 with carriers to offer health benefits plans other than under this section.

''(C) PROGRAM PLANS AND PARTICIPATION.—The Program shall—

''(i) to the greatest extent practicable—

''(I) with respect to each plan provided by a carrier under this subchapter in which the total enrollment includes, in the contract year beginning in January 2023, 1,500 or more enrollees who are Postal Service employees or Postal Service annuitants, include a plan offered by that carrier with equivalent benefits and cost-sharing requirements as provided under paragraph (2), except that the Director of the Office may exempt any comprehensive medical plan from this requirement; and

''(II) include plans offered by any other carrier determined appropriate by the Office;

''(ii) provide for enrollment in Program plans of Postal Service employees and Postal Service annuitants, in accordance with subsection (d);

''(iii) provide for enrollment in a Program plan as an individual, for self plus one, or for self and family; and

''(iv) not provide for enrollment in a Program plan of an individual who is not a Postal Service employee or Postal Service annuitant (except as a member of family of such an employee or annuitant or as provided under paragraph (4)).

''(2) COVERAGE WITH EQUIVALENT BENEFITS AND COST-SHARING.—In the initial contract year, the Office shall ensure that each carrier participating in the Program provides under the Program plans offered by the carrier benefits and cost-sharing requirements that are equivalent to the benefits and cost-sharing requirements under the health benefits plans offered by the carrier under this chapter that are not Program plans, except that prescription drug benefits and cost-sharing requirements may differ between the Program plans and other health benefits plans offered by the carrier under this chapter to the extent needed to integrate the Medicare part D prescription drug benefits coverage required under subsection (h)(2).

''(3) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise set forth in this section, the provisions of this chapter applicable to health benefits plans offered by carriers under section 8903 or 8903a shall apply to plans offered under the Program.

''(4) APPLICATION OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—In accordance with rules established by the Office, section 8905a shall apply to health benefits plans offered under this section in the same manner as such section applies to other health benefits plans offered under this chapter.

''(d) ELECTION OF COVERAGE.—Each Postal Service employee and Postal Service annuitant who elects to receive health benefits coverage under this chapter—

''(1) shall be subject to the requirements of this section; and

''(2) may not enroll in any other health benefits plan offered under any other section of this chapter.

''(e) REQUIREMENT OF MEDICARE ENROLLMENT FOR CERTAIN ANNUITANTS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS.—

''(1) MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS.—Except as provided under paragraph (3), a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant may not enroll in a Program plan unless the annuitant is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled in Medicare part B.

''(2) MEDICARE COVERED FAMILY MEMBERS.—Except as provided under paragraph (3), in the case of a Postal Service annuitant who is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and required under this subsection to enroll in Medicare part B to enroll under the Program, if a member of family of such Postal Service annuitant is a covered Medicare individual, that member of family may not enroll under the Program as a member of family of the Postal Service annuitant unless that member of family is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled in Medicare part B.

''(3) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2), as applicable, shall not apply with respect to an individual in the following cases:

''(i) CURRENT POSTAL SERVICE ANNUITANTS.—The individual, as of January 1, 2025, is a Postal Service annuitant who is not both entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled in Medicare part B.

''(ii) CURRENT EMPLOYEES AGED 64 AND OVER.—The individual, as of January 1, 2025, is

a Postal Service employee and is at least 64 years of age.

''(iii) POSTAL SERVICE MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDING ABROAD.—For any contract year with respect to which the individual is a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant or a member of family of a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant and resides outside the United States (which includes the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands), provided that the individual demonstrates such residency to the Postal Service in accordance with regulations issued by the Postal Service.

''(iv) POSTAL SERVICE MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ENROLLED UNDER VA COVERAGE.—The individual—

''(I) is a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant or a member of family of a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant; and

''(II) is enrolled in health care benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs under subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

''(v) POSTAL SERVICE MEDICARE COVERED ANNUITANTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ELIGIBLE FOR IHS HEALTH SERVICES.—The individual—

''(I) is a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant or a member of family of a Postal Service Medicare covered annuitant; and

''(II) is eligible for health services from the Indian Health Service.

''(B) REGULATIONS FOR VA AND IHS EXCEPTIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Office shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Postmaster General, promulgate any regulations necessary to implement clauses (iv) and (v) of subparagraph (A).

''(C) LIST OF INDIVIDUALS RESIDING ABROAD.—The Postal Service shall provide a list of individuals who satisfy the exception under subparagraph (A)(iii) to the Office.

''(4) PROCESS FOR INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Postal Service and the Office, in consultation with the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall establish a process that will enable the Postal Service to timely inform Postal Service employees, Postal Service annuitants, and members of family of such employees and annuitants of the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) in order to be eligible to enroll in Program plans under this section.

''(f) TRANSITIONAL OPEN SEASON.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'current option', with respect to an individual, means the option under a plan under this chapter in which the individual is enrolled during the contract year preceding the initial contract year; and

''(B) the term 'current plan', with respect to an individual, means the plan under this chapter in which the individual is enrolled during the contract year preceding the initial contract year.

''(2) AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), in the case of an individual who is a Postal Service employee or Postal Service annuitant eligible to enroll in a Program plan under subsection (d), who is enrolled in a current plan, and who does not enroll in a Program plan during the open season that immediately precedes the initial contract year, the Office shall automatically enroll the individual, as of the start of the initial contract year, in a Program plan offered by the carrier of the individual's current plan.

''(B) CARRIERS OFFERING MULTIPLE PROGRAM PLANS OR OPTIONS.—If the carrier of the current plan of an individual described in subparagraph (A) offers more than 1 Program plan or option, the Office, in carrying out subparagraph (A), shall automatically enroll the individual in the plan and option that provide coverage with equivalent benefits and cost sharing, as described in subsection (c)(2), to the individual's current plan and current option.

''(C) CARRIERS NOT OFFERING PROGRAM PLANS.—If the carrier of the current plan of an individual described in subparagraph (A) does not offer a Program plan, the Office, in carrying out subparagraph (A), shall automatically enroll the individual in the lowest-cost nationwide plan option within the Program that is not a high deductible health plan and does not charge an association or membership fee.

''(g) OPM REGULATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office shall issue regulations to carry out this section.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—In issuing regulations under paragraph (1), the Director of the Office shall consult, as necessary, with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Commissioner of Social Security, and the Postmaster General.

''(3) CONTENTS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) any provisions necessary to implement this section;

''(B) a process under which Postal Service annuitants and affected family members are timely informed of the enrollment requirements and may request, in writing, any additional enrollment information;

''(C) provisions under which a Postal Service employee or Postal Service annuitant enrolled under the Program may request a belated change of plan and may be prospectively enrolled in the plan of the employee's or annuitant's choice; and

''(D) provisions for individuals to cancel coverage under the Program in writing to the Postal Service because the individuals choose not to enroll in, or to disenroll from, Medicare part B.

''(h) MEDICARE COORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall require each Program plan to provide benefits for covered Medicare individuals pursuant to a coordination of benefits method approved by the Office.

''(2) MEDICARE PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS.—The Office shall require each Program plan to provide prescription drug benefits to any Postal Service annuitant and member of family of such annuitant who is a part D eligible individual (as defined in section 1860D–1(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act) through employment-based retiree health coverage (as defined in section 1860D–22(c)(1) of such Act) through—

''(A) a prescription drug plan (as defined in section 1860D–41(a)(14) of such Act); or

''(B) contracts between such a Program plan and PDP sponsor, as defined in section 1860D-41(a)(13) of such Act, of such a prescription drug plan.

''(i) POSTAL SERVICE CONTRIBUTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (k), for purposes of applying section 8906(b) to the Postal Service, the weighted average shall be calculated in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

''(2) WEIGHTED AVERAGE CALCULATION.—Not later than October 1 of each year (beginning with 2024), the Office shall determine the weighted average of the rates established pursuant to subsection (c)(2) for Program plans that will be in effect during the following contract year with respect to—

''(A) enrollments for self only;

''(B) enrollments for self plus one; and

''(C) enrollments for self and family.

''(3) WEIGHTING IN COMPUTING RATES FOR INITIAL CONTRACT YEAR.—In determining such weighted average of the rates for the initial contract year, the Office shall take into account (for purposes of section 8906(a)(2)) the enrollment of Postal Service employees and annuitants in the health benefits plans offered by the initial participating carriers as of March 31, 2022.

''(4) PAYMENT OF LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTIES.—The Postal Service may direct the Office to pay the amounts required by section 1839(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e)) from the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund established under section 8909a until depleted and thereafter shall pay such amounts from the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003 of title 39.

''(j) RESERVES.—

''(1) SEPARATE RESERVES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall ensure that each Program plan maintains separate reserves (including a separate contingency reserve) with respect to the enrollees in the Program plan in accordance with section 8909.

''(B) APPLICABILITY OF SECTION 8909 TO CONTINGENCY RESERVES.—All provisions of section 8909 relating to contingency reserves shall apply to contingency reserves of Program plans in the same manner as to the contingency reserves of other plans under this chapter, except to the extent that such provisions are inconsistent with the requirements of this subsection.

''(C) REFERENCES.—For purposes of the Program, each reference to 'the Government' in section 8909 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Postal Service.

''(D) AMOUNTS TO BE CREDITED.—The reserves (including the separate contingency reserve) maintained by each Program plan shall be credited with a proportionate amount of the funds in the reserves for health benefits plans offered by the carrier.

''(2) DISCONTINUATION OF PROGRAM PLAN.—In applying section 8909(e) relating to a Program plan that is discontinued, the Office shall credit the separate Postal Service contingency reserve maintained under paragraph (1) for that plan only to the separate Postal Service contingency reserves of the Program plans continuing under this chapter.

''(k) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LAW.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting section 1005(f) of title 39 regarding variations, additions, or substitutions to the provisions of this chapter.

''(l) HEALTH BENEFITS EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'navigator' means an employee of the Postal Service or of a contractor of the Postal Service who is designated by the Postal Service or contractor to carry out activities under paragraph (5).

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Postal Service shall establish a Health Benefits Education Program.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Health Benefits Education Program established under paragraph (2), the Postal Service shall—

''(A) notify Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees about the Postal Service Health Benefits Program established under subsection (c)(1);

''(B) provide information regarding the Postal Service Health Benefits Program and the requirements of this section to Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees, including—

''(i) a description of the health care options available under such Program;

''(ii) the enrollment provisions of subsection (d); and

''(iii) the requirement that Postal Service annuitants and their family members be enrolled in Medicare under subsection (e);

''(C) respond and provide answers to any inquiry from such employees and annuitants about the Postal Service Health Benefits Program, in consultation with the Office as necessary;

''(D) refer individuals to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration that provide information

about Medicare enrollment and options under the Medicare program under XVIII of the Social Security Act; and

''(E) carry out, or provide for through contract or other arrangement, the activities described in paragraph (5).

''(4) INFORMATION.—

''(A) INFORMATION FROM OPM.—The Office shall timely provide the Postal Service with such information as necessary to conduct the Health Benefits Education Program.

''(B) COORDINATION WITH OPM.—The Postal Service shall coordinate with the Office, in consultation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration, to obtain and confirm the accuracy of information as the Postal Service determines to be necessary to conduct the Health Benefits Education Program.

''(5) NAVIGATOR ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in this paragraph, with respect to Program plans and the health care options available under the Program, are the following:

''(i) Educational activities for annuitants and employees of the Postal Service to raise awareness of the availability of Program plans and requirements for enrolling in such plans, including requirements to be entitled to Medicare part A and enroll in Medicare part B.

''(ii) Distribution of fair and impartial information concerning enrollment in such plans.

''(iii) Facilitation of enrollment in such plans.

''(iv) Provision of information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to the needs of the population being served by the Program plans.

''(B) STANDARDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall establish standards for navigators carrying out the activities under this paragraph to—

''(I) engage in the navigator activities described in subparagraph (A); and

''(II) avoid conflicts of interest.

''(ii) CONTENTS.—The standards established under clause (i) shall provide that a navigator may not—

''(I) be a health insurance carrier; or

''(II) receive any consideration directly or indirectly from any health insurance carrier in connection with the enrollment of any individual in a Program plan.

''(C) FAIR AND IMPARTIAL INFORMATION AND SERVICES.—The Postal Service, in consultation as necessary with the Office and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall develop standards to ensure that information made available by navigators under this paragraph is fair, accurate, and impartial.

''(6) REGULATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Postmaster General shall issue regulations to establish the Health Benefits Education Program required under this subsection.

''(B) CONTENTS.—The regulations issued under subparagraph (A) shall include—

''(i) provisions for the notification of Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees about the Program, including a description of the available health benefits options, including a process for notifying Postal Service employees who become eligible for Medicare part B and Postal Service Medicare covered annuitants about their choices;

''(ii) provisions for notifying Postal Service annuitants, Postal Service employees, and their family members of the requirements under subsection (e) to enroll in Medicare as a condition of eligibility to enroll in the Program; and

''(iii) a process, developed in consultation with the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Office, for addressing any inquiry from Postal Service annuitants and Postal Service employees about the Program or Medicare enrollment.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) SERVICE BENEFIT PLANS.—Section 8903(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''two levels of benefits'' and inserting ''at least 2 levels of benefits for enrollees under this chapter generally and at least 2 levels of benefits for enrollees under the Postal Service Health Benefits Program established under section 8903c''.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8903b the following:

''8903c. Postal Service Health Benefits Program.''.

(b) COORDINATION WITH MEDICARE.—

(1) PART B SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—Section 1837 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(o)(1) In the case of an individual who—

''(A) as of January 1, 2024, is—

''(i) a Postal Service annuitant who is entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, but excluding an individual who is eligible to enroll under such part under section 1818 of such Act or 1818A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2, 1395i–2a); or

''(ii) a member of family (as defined in section 8901(5) of title 5, United States Code) of a Postal Service annuitant and is entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, but excluding an individual who is eligible to enroll under such part under section 1818 of such Act or 1818A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2, 1395i–2a); and

''(B) is not enrolled under this part, the individual may elect to be enrolled under this part during a special enrollment period during the 6–month period beginning on April 1, 2024.

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'Postal Service annuitant' means an annuitant enrolled in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, whose Government contribution is required to be paid under section 8906(g)(2) of such title.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) PART A ENROLLMENT.—Section 1818(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–2(c)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''(except subsection (f) thereof)'' and inserting ''(except subsections (f) and (o) thereof)''.

(B) COVERAGE PERIOD UNDER PART B.—Section 1838 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395q) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) Notwithstanding subsection (a), in the case of an individual who enrolls during a special enrollment period pursuant to section 1837(o), the coverage period shall begin on January 1, 2025.''.

(3) TREATMENT OF PART B LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY FOR INDIVIDUALS ENROLLING DURING SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—Section 1839(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''(as defined in paragraph (3)(A))'' and by inserting ''(as defined in paragraph (3)(A)(i)). The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the United States Postal Service under which the United States Postal Service agrees to pay on a quarterly or other periodic basis to the Secretary (to be deposited in the Treasury to the credit of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund) an amount equal to the amount of the part B late enrollment premium increases with respect to the premiums for eligible individuals (as defined in paragraph (3)(A)(ii)).''; and

(B) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read as follows:

''(A) The term 'eligible individual' means an individual who is enrolled under this part B and who—

''(i) in the case of an agreement entered into under the first sentence of paragraph (1), is within a class of individuals specified in such agreement; and

''(ii) in the case of an agreement entered into under the second sentence of paragraph (1), is so enrolled under this part pursuant to the special enrollment period under section 1837(o).''.

(4) PART D EGWP CONTRACTING CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1860D–22(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–132(b)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and shall be applied in a manner to facilitate the offering of prescription drug benefits under a Program plan under section 8903c of title 5, United States Code, as required under subsection (h)(2) of such section, through employment-based retiree health coverage through: (1) a prescription drug plan; or (2) contracts between such a Program plan and the PDP sponsor of such a prescription drug plan.''.

(c) INFORMATION SHARING AND DISSEMINATION REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD AND ENFORCEMENT OF PART B ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms ''Medicare part A'', ''Medicare part B'', ''Office'', ''Postal Service'', and ''Postal Service annuitant'' have the meanings given those terms in section 8903c of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) INFORMATION SHARING BY OPM.—The Office shall, by regulation, establish a process for providing such information as is necessary to the Social Security Administration regarding Postal Service annuitants (and the family members of such annuitants) who may be eligible to enroll under Medicare part B during the special enrollment period described in subsection (o) of section 1837 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p), as added by subsection (b).

(3) INFORMATION SHARING BY SSA.—The Social Security Administration shall provide to the Office and the Postal Service information regarding whether a Postal Service annuitant, or a family member of such an annuitant, is entitled to benefits under Medicare part A and enrolled under Medicare part B, to assist the Office and the Postal Service in determining—

(A) which Postal Service annuitants, and family members of such annuitants, are eligible to enroll under Medicare part B during the special enrollment period described in paragraph (2); and

(B) whether Postal Service annuitants, and family members of such annuitants, satisfy the enrollment requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 8903c(e) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(4) DETERMINATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Office shall determine which Postal Service annuitants are eligible to enroll under Medicare part B during the special enrollment period described in paragraph (2) and provide such information to the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and the Postal Service.

(d) FUNDING.—

(1) CMS APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to ''Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management'', out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until expended, for purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

(2) SSA APPROPRIATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Social Security Administration, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $16,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until the date that is 1 year after the last day of the special enrollment period described in subsection (c)(2), for purposes of carrying out this section, with the exception of carrying out subsection (c)(3)(B), including the amendments made by this section.

(B) RELATION TO OTHER APPROPRIATION.—The amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A)

shall be in addition to the Social Security Administration's Limitation on Administrative Expenditure appropriations.

(3) OPM APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Office of Personnel Management, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $70,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until expended, for purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

(4) FUNDS CREDITED BY POSTAL SERVICE.—The United States Postal Service shall credit to the Treasury from the Postal Service Fund in fiscal year 2022 an amount equal to the sum of the amounts appropriated under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(5) REIMBURSEMENT FOR PERIODIC SSA DATA SHARING.—

(A) INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall enter into an agreement with the Director of the Office under which the Director pays the Commissioner from the Postal Service administrative reserve the full costs (including systems and administrative costs) of providing the information described in subsection (c)(3)(B).

(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office—

(i) shall report the amount paid under subparagraph (A) annually to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) may satisfy the requirement under clause (i) by including the amount paid under subparagraph (A) in any other annual report submitted to Congress.

SEC. 102. USPS FAIRNESS ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''USPS Fairness Act''.

(b) RATIONAL BENEFITS FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d)(1) Not later than June 30, 2026, and by June 30 of each succeeding year, the Office shall compute, for the most recently concluded fiscal year, the amount (if any) that Government contributions required to be paid from the Fund under section 8906(g)(2)(A) exceeded the estimated net claims costs under the enrollment of the individuals described in section 8906(g)(2)(A).

''(2) Not later than September 30 of each year in which the Office makes a computation under paragraph (1), the United States Postal Service shall pay into the Fund the amount (if any) of the excess computed under such paragraph.

''(e) Any computation required under section 3654(b) of title 39 shall be based on—

''(1) the net present value of the future net claims costs with respect to—

''(A) current annuitants of the United States Postal Service as of the end of the fiscal year ending on September 30 of the relevant reporting year; and

''(B) current employees of the United States Postal Service who would, as of September 30 of that year—

''(i) be eligible to become annuitants pursuant to section 8901(3)(A)(i) or (ii); and

''(ii) if they were retired as of that date, meet the criteria for coverage of annuitants under section 8905(b);

''(2) economic and actuarial methods and assumptions consistent with the methods and assumptions used in determining the Postal surplus or supplemental liability under section 8348(h); and

''(3) any other methods and assumptions, including a health care cost trend rate, that the Director of the Office determines to be appropriate.

''(f) After consultation with the United States Postal Service, the Office shall promulgate any regulations the Office determines necessary under this subsection.

''(g) For purposes of this section, the term 'estimated net claims costs' shall mean the difference between—

''(1) the sum of—

''(A) the estimated costs incurred by a carrier in providing health services to, paying for health services provided to, or reimbursing expenses for health services provided to, annuitants of the United States Postal Service and any other persons covered under the enrollment of such annuitants; and

''(B) an amount of indirect expenses reasonably allocable to the provision, payment, or reimbursement described in subparagraph (A), as determined by the Office; and

''(2) the amount withheld from the annuity of or paid by annuitants of the United States Postal Service under section 8906.''.

*(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''**Benefit**'' and inserting ''**Benefits**''.*

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) CANCELLATION OF PAYMENTS.—Any payment required from the Postal Service under section 8909a of title 5, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act that remains unpaid as of such date of enactment is canceled.

(2) EFFECT OF THIS ACT.—In any determination relating to the future liability for retiree health benefits of the United States Postal Service or the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, the Office of Personnel Management shall take into account the actual and reasonably expected effects of this Act.

(d) USE OF FUNDS FROM SALE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2903. Use of funds from sale of property

''In the event that the Postal Service permanently ceases operations, any funds derived from the sale of any real property owned by the Postal Service shall be used to pay any outstanding liability with respect to the salaries and expenses of any Postal Service employee. The balance of any remaining funds shall be deposited into the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund established under section 8909a of title 5.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 2902 the following new item:

''2903. Use of funds from sale of property.''.

SEC. 103. NONPOSTAL SERVICES.

(a) NONPOSTAL SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part IV of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 36 the following:

''CHAPTER 37—NONPOSTAL SERVICES

''Sec.
''3701. Purpose.
''3702. Definitions.
''3703. Postal Service program for State governments.
''3704. Postal Service program for other Government agencies.
''3705. Transparency and accountability for nonpostal services.

''§ 3701. Purpose

''The purpose of this chapter is to enable the Postal Service to increase its net revenues through specific nonpostal products and services that are expressly authorized by this chapter.

''§ 3702. Definitions

''In this chapter—

''(1) the term 'nonpostal services' is limited to services offered by the Postal Service that are expressly authorized by this chapter and are not postal products or services;

''(2) the term 'costs attributable' has the meaning given such term in section 3631;

''(3) the term 'year' means a fiscal year;

''(4) the term 'local government' means a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, or regional or interstate government entity;

''(5) the term 'State government' includes the government of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States;

''(6) the term 'tribal government' means the government of an Indian tribe, as that term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304); and

''(7) the term 'United States', when used in a geographical sense, means the States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

''§ 3703. Postal Service program for State governments

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Postal Service may establish a program to enter into agreements with an agency of any State government, local government, or tribal government to provide property or nonpostal services to the public on behalf of such agencies for non-commercial purposes, but only if—

''(1) such property or nonpostal services—

''(A) provide enhanced value to the public, such as by lowering the cost or raising the quality of such services or by making such services more accessible;

''(B) do not interfere with or detract from the value of postal services, including by—

''(i) harming the cost and efficiency of postal services; and

''(ii) unreasonably restricting access to postal retail service, such as customer waiting time and access to parking; and

''(2) such agreements provide a net contribution to the Postal Service, defined as reimbursement that covers at least 100 percent of the costs attributable to all property and nonpostal services provided under each relevant agreement in each year, except that agreements determined to be substantially similar by the Postal Service with the concurrence of the Postal Regulatory Commission shall be reviewed based on their collective revenue and costs attributable.

''(b) PUBLIC NOTICE.—Not more than 90 days after offering a service under the program, the Postal Service shall make available to the public on its website—

''(1) the agreement with the agency regarding such service; and

''(2) a business plan that describes the specific property or nonpostal service to be provided, the enhanced value to the public, and terms of reimbursement to the Postal Service.

''(c) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—The Postal Service may not establish the program under subsection (a) unless the Governors of the Postal Service approve such program by a recorded vote that is publicly disclosed on the Postal Service website with a majority of the Governors then in office voting for approval.

''(d) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection (b) shall not be construed as requiring the Postal Service to disclose to the public any information—

''(1) described in section 410(c); or

''(2) exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5.

''§ 3704. Postal Service program for other Government agencies

''The Postal Service may establish a program to provide property and nonpostal services to

other Government agencies within the meaning of section 411, but only if such program provides a net contribution to the Postal Service, defined as reimbursement that covers at least 100 percent of the costs attributable for property and nonpostal services provided by the Postal Service in each year to such agencies.

"§ 3705. Transparency and accountability for nonpostal services

''(a) ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each year, the Postal Service shall submit to the Postal Regulatory Commission a report that analyzes costs, revenues, rates, and quality of service for each agreement or substantially similar set of agreements for the provision of property or nonpostal services under section 3703 or the program as a whole under section 3704, and any other nonpostal service authorized under this chapter, using such methodologies as the Commission may prescribe, and in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

''(2) SUPPORTING MATTER.—A report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include any nonpublic annex, the working papers, and any other supporting matter of the Postal Service and the Inspector General related to the information submitted in such report.

''(b) CONTENT AND FORM OF REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Regulatory Commission shall, by regulation, prescribe the content and form of the report required under subsection (a). In prescribing such regulations, the Commission shall give due consideration to—

''(A) providing the public with timely, adequate information to assess compliance;

''(B) avoiding unnecessary or unwarranted administrative effort and expense on the part of the Postal Service; and

''(C) protecting the confidentiality of information that is commercially sensitive or is exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5.

''(2) REVISED REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission may, on its own motion or on request of any interested party, initiate proceedings to improve the quality, accuracy, or completeness of Postal Service data required by the Commission if—

''(A) the attribution of costs or revenues to property, products, or services under this chapter has become significantly inaccurate or can be significantly improved;

''(B) the quality of service data provided to the Commission for a report under this chapter has become significantly inaccurate or can be significantly improved; or

''(C) such revisions are, in the judgment of the Commission, otherwise necessitated by the public interest.

''(c) AUDITS.—The Inspector General shall regularly audit the data collection systems and procedures used in collecting information and preparing the report required under subsection (a). The results of any such audit shall be submitted to the Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

''(d) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Postal Service determines that any document or portion of a document, or other matter, which it provides to the Postal Regulatory Commission in a nonpublic annex under this section contains information described in section 410(c), or exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, the Postal Service shall, at the time of providing such matter to the Commission, notify the Commission of its determination, in writing, and describe with particularity the documents (or portions of documents) or other matter for which confidentiality is sought and the reasons therefor.

''(2) TREATMENT.—Any information or other matter described in paragraph (1) to which the Commission gains access under this section shall be subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 504(g) in the same way as if the Commission had received notification with respect to such matter under section 504(g)(1).

''(e) ANNUAL COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION.—

''(1) OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.—Upon receiving a report required under subsection (a), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall promptly—

''(A) provide an opportunity for comment on such report by any interested party; and

''(B) appoint an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public.

''(2) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE OR NONCOMPLIANCE.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a report required under subsection (a), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall make a written determination as to whether the activities carried out pursuant to this chapter during the applicable year were or were not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, any case in which the requirements for coverage of costs attributable have not been met shall be considered to be a case of noncompliance. If, with respect to a year, no instance of noncompliance is found to have occurred, the determination shall be to that effect. Such determination of noncompliance shall be included with the annual compliance determination required under section 3653.

''(3) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If a timely written determination of noncompliance is made under paragraph (2), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall take appropriate action. If the requirements for coverage of costs attributable specified by this chapter are not met, the Commission shall, within 60 days after the determination, prescribe remedial action to restore compliance as soon as practicable, including the full restoration of revenue shortfalls during the following year. The Commission may order the Postal Service to discontinue a nonpostal service under section 3703 that persistently fails to meet cost coverage requirements.

''(4) DELIBERATE NONCOMPLIANCE.—In the case of deliberate noncompliance by the Postal Service with the requirements of this chapter, the Postal Regulatory Commission may order, based on the nature, circumstances, extent, and seriousness of the noncompliance, a fine (in the amount specified by the Commission in its order) for each incidence of such noncompliance. All receipts from fines imposed under this subsection shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

''(f) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—The Postal Regulatory Commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

''(g) EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCT AUTHORITY.—The Postal Service may conduct market tests of agreements pursuant to section 3703 and section 3704 of this chapter subject to the same terms and conditions described in section 3641 of this title. For the purposes of a market test, the cost coverage requirements in sections 3703 and 3704 of this chapter shall not apply.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for part IV of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to chapter 36 the following:

"37. Nonpostal services ..... 3701".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION 404.—Section 404(e) of title 39, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (2), by inserting after ''subsection'' the following: '', or any nonpostal products or services authorized by chapter 37''.

(2) SECTION 411.—The last sentence of section 411 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking ''including reimbursability'' and inserting ''including reimbursability within the limitations of chapter 37''.

(3) TREATMENT OF EXISTING NONPOSTAL SERVICES.—All individual nonpostal services, provided directly or through licensing, that are continued pursuant to section 404(e) of title 39, United States Code, shall be considered to be expressly authorized by chapter 37 of such title (as added by subsection (a)(1)) and shall be subject to the requirements of section 3705, subsections (a) through (d).

TITLE II—POSTAL SERVICE OPERATIONAL REFORMS

SEC. 201. PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VII of chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3691 the following:

"§ 3692. Performance targets and transparency

''(a) PERFORMANCE TARGETS.—Each year, to ensure that mail service for postal customers meets the service standards for market-dominant products, established under section 3691, the Postal Service shall—

''(1) not later than 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year in which they will apply, establish and provide to the Postal Regulatory Commission reasonable targets for performance; and

''(2) provide the previous fiscal year's performance targets in its Annual Compliance Report to the Postal Regulatory Commission for evaluation of compliance.

''(b) POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—Not later than 90 days after first receiving the performance targets under subsection (a)(1), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall provide to the Postal Service—

''(1) requirements for the Postal Service to publish nationwide, regional, and local delivery area performance information in accordance with subsection (c)(2) that—

''(A) are consistent with the organizational structure of the delivery network of the Postal Service (including at the District and Area organizational levels, or the functional equivalents, and, to the extent practicable, at the U.S. ZIP Code Area level);

''(B) reflect the most granular geographic level of performance information appropriate for the Postal Service to publish; and

''(C) includes time period segments for the published geographic levels to satisfy the publishing requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (C) of subsection (c)(2); and

''(2) recommendations for any modifications to the Postal Service's measurement systems necessary to measure and publish the performance information under subsection (c)(2) that the Postal Regulatory Commission deems relevant.

''(c) PUBLIC PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall develop and maintain a publicly available Website with an interactive web-tool that provides performance information for market-dominant products that is updated on a weekly basis.

''(2) PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—The performance information provided for a market-dominant product on the Website shall include—

''(A) the type of market-dominant product;

''(B) performance information for different geographic areas, consistent with subsection (b);

''(C) performance information for different time periods, including annual, quarterly, monthly, and weekly segments;

''(D) comparisons of performance information for market-dominant products to performance information for previous time periods to facilitate identification of performance trends; and

''(E) the performance targets then in effect, and the performance targets for the previous fiscal year, as established under subsection (a)(1).

''(3) COMPREHENSIBILITY.—The Website shall include plain language descriptions of the elements required under paragraph (2) and information on the collection process, measurement methodology, completeness, accuracy, and validity of the performance information provided on the Website.

''(4) ADDRESS SEARCH FUNCTIONALITY.—The Website shall include functionality to enable a

user to search for performance information by street address, ZIP Code, or post office box.

''(5) FORMAT.—The Postal Service shall make the performance information provided on the Website available—

''(A) in a manner that—

''(i) presents the information required under paragraph (2) on an interactive dashboard;

''(ii) is searchable and may be sorted and filtered by the elements described in paragraph (2); and

''(iii) to the extent practicable, enables any person or entity to download in bulk—

''(I) such performance information; and

''(II) the results of a search by the elements described in paragraph (2);

''(B) under an 'open license' which has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44; and

''(C) as an 'open Government data asset' and in a 'machine-readable' format which have the meaning given those terms in section 3502 of title 44.

''(6) CONSULTATION.—The Postal Service shall regularly consult with the Postal Regulatory Commission on appropriate features and information to be included on the Website.

''(7) PUBLIC INPUT.—The Postal Service shall—

''(A) solicit public input on the design and implementation of the Website; and

''(B) maintain a public feedback tool to ensure each feature of, and the information on, the Website is usable and understandable.

''(8) DEADLINE.—The Postal Service shall implement and make available to the public (and make any subsequent changes in accordance with subsection (b)) the Website not later than 60 days from the date on which the Postal Service receives the requirements and recommendations from the Postal Regulatory Commission under subsection (b), and shall continuously update such information on the Website as required by subsection (b).

''(9) AVAILABILITY.—A link and plain language description of the Website shall be made available on any webpage where performance targets and measurements established under subsection (a)(1) are made available to the public.

''(10) REPORTING.—The Postal Service, the Postmaster General, or the Board, as applicable, shall reference the dashboard described in paragraph (5)(A)(i) in the Annual Performance Plan under section 2803, the Annual Performance Report under section 2804, and the Annual Report under section 2402.

''(11) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—The term 'performance information' means the objective external performance measurements established under section 3691(b)(1)(D).

''(B) WEBSITE.—The term 'Website' means the website described in paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3691 the following:

''3692. Performance targets and transparency.''.

SEC. 202. INTEGRATED DELIVERY NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(b) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting before ''The Postal Service'' the following: ''The Postal Service shall maintain an integrated network for the delivery of market-dominant and competitive products (as defined in chapter 36 of this title). Delivery shall occur at least six days a week, except during weeks that include a Federal holiday, in emergency situations, such as natural disasters, or in geographic areas where the Postal Service has established a policy of delivering mail fewer than six days a week as of the date of enactment of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.''.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a) or the amendment made by such subsection is intended to alter or amend the requirements of chapters 20 or 36 of title 39, United States Code, and related implementing regulations, including provisions relating to costing, accounting, or rates.

SEC. 203. REVIEW OF POSTAL SERVICE COST ATTRIBUTION GUIDELINES.

Not later than the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Postal Regulatory Commission shall initiate a review of the regulations issued pursuant to sections 3633(a) and 3652(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code, to determine whether revisions are appropriate to ensure that all direct and indirect costs attributable to competitive and market-dominant products are properly attributed to those products, including by considering the underlying methodologies in determining cost attribution and considering options to revise such methodologies. If the Commission determines, after notice and opportunity for public comment, that revisions are appropriate, the Commission shall make modifications or adopt alternative methodologies as necessary.

SEC. 204. RURAL NEWSPAPER SUSTAINABILITY.

Section 3626(h) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking ''10 percent'' and inserting ''50 percent''.

SEC. 205. FUNDING OF POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 504 of title 39, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(d)(1) Not later than September 1 of each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2022), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall submit to the Postal Service a budget of the Commission's expenses, including expenses for facilities, supplies, compensation, and employee benefits, for the following fiscal year. Any such budget shall be deemed approved as submitted if the Governors fail to adjust the budget in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2)(A) Not later than 30 days after receiving a budget under paragraph (1), the Governors holding office, by unanimous written decision, may adjust the total amount of funding requested in such budget. Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to authorize the Governors to adjust any activity proposed to be funded by the budget.

''(B) If the Governors adjust the budget under subparagraph (A), the Postal Regulatory Commission shall adjust the suballocations within such budget to reflect the total adjustment made by the Governors. The budget shall be deemed approved on the date the Commission makes any such adjustments. The Commission may make further adjustments to the suballocations within such budget as necessary.

''(3) Expenses incurred under any budget approved under this subsection shall be paid out of the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2003(e), by striking ''(B) all expenses of the Postal Regulatory Commission, subject to the availability of amounts appropriated under section 504(d);'' and inserting ''(B) all expenses of the Postal Regulatory Commission, pursuant to section 504(d);''; and

(2) in section 2009—

(A) by striking '', (2)'' and inserting '', and (2)''; and

(B) by striking '', and (3) the Postal Regulatory Commission requests to be appropriated, out of the Postal Service Fund, under section 504(d) of this title''.

SEC. 206. FLATS OPERATIONS STUDY AND REFORM.

(a) FLATS OPERATIONS STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Regulatory Commission, in consultation with the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service, shall conduct a study to—

(A) comprehensively identify the causes of inefficiencies in the collection, sorting, transportation, and delivery of Flats; and

(B) quantify the effects of the volume trends, investments decisions, excess capacity, and operational inefficiencies of the Postal Service on the direct and indirect costs of the Postal Service that are attributable to Flats.

(2) POSTAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE.—For the purposes of carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall, upon request by the Postal Regulatory Commission, consult with the Postal Regulatory Commission and provide—

(A) access to Postal Service facilities to personnel of the Postal Regulatory Commission; and

(B) information and records necessary to conduct such study.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Postal Regulatory Commission shall submit to Congress and the Postmaster General a report on the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(4) FLATS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''Flats'' means products that meet the physical standards described in the Domestic Mail Manual (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act) for Flats mail for any class of mail.

(b) FLATS OPERATIONS REFORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date on which the Postal Regulatory Commission submits the report described in subsection (a)(3), the Postal Service shall—

(A) develop and implement a plan to remedy each inefficiency identified in the study conducted under subsection (a)(1) to the extent practicable; and

(B) if the Postal Service determines that remedying any such inefficiency is not practicable, provide to Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission an explanation why remedying such inefficiency is not practicable, including whether it may become practicable to remedy such inefficiency at a later time.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.—Prior to implementing the plan described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the Postal Regulatory Commission must approve the plan; and

(B) the Postal Service shall provide an adequate opportunity for public comment on the plan.

(3) COMPLETION NOTICE.—On the date on which the plan described in paragraph (1) is fully implemented, as determined by the Postmaster General, the Postmaster General shall submit to Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission a written notice of such implementation.

(c) SUBSEQUENT RATE ADJUSTMENTS.—During the five-year period beginning on the date on which the Postal Regulatory Commission submits a report under subsection (a)(3), the Postal Service, when making any adjustment to the rate of a market-dominant product (as defined in section 102 of title 39, United States Code), shall consider the findings of such report and, after the plan described in subsection (b)(1) is implemented, the plan's efficacy in remedying the inefficiencies identified in the study conducted under subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 207. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six months thereafter, the Postmaster General shall submit to the President, the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the operations and financial condition of the Postal Service during the six-month period ending 60 days before the date on which the Postmaster General submits such report.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under this section shall include updates, details of changes from previous standards and requirements, and assessments of progress being made

on the operations and financial condition of the Postal Service, including—

(1) the actual mail and package volume growth relative to any mail or package volume growth projections previously made or relied upon by the Postal Service, including a discussion of the reasons for the differences in projections and the associated adjustments being made;

(2) the effect of pricing changes on product volume for market-dominant and competitive products, and associated revenue effects on financial projections, including a discussion of the reasons behind the differences in projections and associated adjustments being made;

(3) customer use of network distribution centers and processing and distribution centers;

(4) the status of the USPS Connect program and revenue effects of the program on the financial projections;

(5) the use of Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, First-Class Package Service, and Parcel Select services (as such terms are defined in the Mail Classification Schedule as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act) among customers and associated revenue effects;

(6) the use of USPS Connect Returns service among customers, and associated costs and revenue effects;

(7) the use of USPS E-Commerce Marketplace among customers, and associated costs and revenue effects;

(8) updates on the reliability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of the transportation network, including the manner in which ground transportation is utilized over air transportation for types of market-dominant products and competitive products;

(9) a review of efforts to enhance employee training, safety, and wellbeing, including associated effects on employee recruitment, satisfaction, and retention;

(10) a review of efforts being made to improve employee allocation, including changes of noncareer employees to career status, and any associated impacts to operational expenses and processing, transportation, and delivery efficiency;

(11) the rate of planned investment into Postal Service processing, transportation, and delivery equipment and infrastructure for market-dominant and competitive products, and a review of any associated effects on operational expenses and efficiency;

(12) changes to network distribution centers and the expansion of regional distribution centers, including costs associated with the changes and any realized reduction in operational expenses or improved resource efficiencies;

(13) a review of the ability of the Postal Service to meet performance targets established under section 3692(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code;

(14) a discussion of the progress of the Postal Service in achieving any new, self-funded investments, including the amounts realized and expended to date, and a discussion of the reasons behind any disparities in the assumptions regarding the expected progress of the Postal Service getting new, self-funded investments to accommodate changes; and

(15) any other information the Postal Service determines relevant, such as barriers or unanticipated events, in order to help the Postal Regulatory Commission, Congress, the President, and the American public evaluate the success or difficulties faced by the Postal Service in implementing the reform plan.

(c) CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under this subsection shall be submitted in a form that excludes any proprietary or confidential information and trade secrets.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Postal Service determines that any information must be excluded under paragraph (1), the Postal Service shall, at the time of submitting the report, notify the President, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Postal Regulatory Commission in writing of its determination and describe in detail the information for which confidentiality is sought and the reasons therefor.

(3) ANNEXES.—The Postal Service shall submit to the persons and entities notified under paragraph (2) any information excluded under paragraph (1) in an annex that shall be treated as confidential in accordance with paragraph (4).

(4) TREATMENT.—No person may, with respect to any information which such person receives under paragraph (4)—

(A) use such information for purposes other than the purposes for which it is supplied; or

(B) permit any person or entity other than a person or entity notified under paragraph (2), or the staff thereof, to have access to any such information.

(d) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date on which the first report required by this section is submitted.

SEC. 208. POSTAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION SELECTION POLICY REVISIONS.

Section 101(f) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''prompt and economical'' and inserting ''prompt, economical, consistent, and reliable'';

(2) by inserting after ''all mail'' the following: ''in a manner that increases operational efficiency and reduces complexity'';

(3) by inserting ''cost-effective'' after ''to achieve''; and

(4) by inserting ''also'' after ''Nation shall''.

SEC. 209. USPS INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERSIGHT OF POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''the Postal Regulatory Commission,''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''(2) In carrying'' and inserting ''(2)(A) In carrying''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) In carrying out the duties and responsibilities specified in this Act, the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service shall function as the Inspector General for the Postal Regulatory Commission, and shall have equal responsibility over the United States Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission. The Commission shall comply with the Inspector General's oversight as if the Commission were a designated Federal entity under subsection (a)(2) and as if the Inspector General were the inspector general of the Commission. The Governors of the Postal Service shall not direct oversight activities for the Postal Regulatory Commission.'';

(B) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by inserting ''pertaining to the United States Postal Service'' after ''subpoenas,'';

(C) in paragraph (3)(B)(i), by inserting ''and the Postal Regulatory Commission'' after ''United States Postal Service'';

(D) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting ''or the Postal Regulatory Commission'' after ''Governors'';

(E) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(F) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) For activities pertaining to the Postal Regulatory Commission, sections 4, 5, 6 (other than subsection (g) thereof), and 7 of this Act shall be applied by substituting the term 'head of the Postal Regulatory Commission' for 'head of the establishment'.''.

(b) APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL.—Section 202 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''The Governors shall appoint'' and inserting ''The Governors and the members of the Postal Regulatory Commission shall appoint, by a favorable vote of a majority of the Governors in office and of a majority of the members of the Commission in office,''; and

(2) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting ''and 3 members of the Postal Regulatory Commission'' after ''at least 7 Governors''.

(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—

(1) PERSONNEL, DOCUMENTS, ASSETS.—All personnel, documents, assets, unexpended balances of appropriations, and obligations of the Inspector General for the Postal Regulatory Commission shall transfer to the Inspector General of the Postal Service on the effective date of this section.

(2) LEGAL DOCUMENTS.—Any order, determination, rule, regulation, permit, grant, loan, contract, agreement, certificate, license, or privilege that has been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the Inspector General of the Postal Regulatory Commission that is in effect on the effective date of this section shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law.

(3) PROCEEDINGS.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall not affect any proceeding pending on the effective date of this section before the Inspector General of the Postal Regulatory Commission, but such proceeding shall be continued by the Inspector General of the Postal Service, at the discretion of that Inspector General. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that the proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this section and those amendments had not been enacted.

(4) SUITS.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall not affect any suit commenced before the effective date of this section, and in any such suit, proceeding shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this section or such amendments had not been enacted.

(5) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document relating to the Inspector General of the Postal Regulatory Commission shall be deemed to refer to the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 504 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (h).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SEVERABILITY

SEC. 301. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision of this Act or an amendment made by this Act to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, and the application of the provisions to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

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

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in House Report 117–243, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for

the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H.R. 3076.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act, which I introduced along with my distinguished ranking member, Mr. COMER.

I am proud to say that our bill, the bill before us today, is the result of a truly bipartisan effort from the beginning until our time on the floor today. We have jointly over 100 cosponsors almost evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. And according to the nonpartisan CBO, this bill actually reduces Federal spending by $1.5 billion over the next 10 years.

The administration also supports the bill's efforts to ''strengthen the U.S. Postal Service.''

Madam Speaker, I include the President's statement in the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 3076—POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2022—REP. MALONEY, D–NY, AND 102 COSPONSORS

The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. The United States Postal Service and its dedicated employees provide an essential public service and the critical public infrastructure for the delivery of mail and packages to all Americans in every corner of the country. The Postal Service provides crucial support to millions of Americans, including our Nation's veterans, including by ensuring their ability to vote and providing access to prescription medications. Furthermore, the Postal Service is an indispensable complement to and foundational support for American businesses and communities.

The Administration supports efforts to strengthen the United States Postal Service, including by providing Postal employees with the dignity, fair pay, and employer-provided benefits they have earned. The Administration is committed to ensuring that the Postal Service delivers the highest quality, most reliable service possible to every American. This legislation would advance these goals in several ways.

Under current law, the Postal Service is required to annually prepay future retirement health benefits, a requirement not imposed on most other public or private entities. Consistent with the President's longstanding commitment, H.R. 3076 would repeal this requirement, which unfairly and unnecessarily burdens the Postal Service.

H.R. 3076 would also establish a new, separate Postal Service Health Benefits Program (PSHBP) within the existing Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), that integrates Postal employees and annuitants into Medicare. Making these changes would improve the Postal Service's long-run financial outlook, without sacrificing quality, affordable health coverage for Postal employees and retirees. The Administration is mindful that these reforms would impose administrative burdens on the Office of Personnel Management and FEHBP, and further, that there could be potential challenges with operationalizing Medicare integration and with ensuring ongoing funding to support administration of the new PSHPB. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to ensure that the goals of H.R. 3076 are met in an efficient, equitable, and cost-effective manner, while safeguarding the continued stability of the FEHBP.

Finally, H.R. 3076 would establish new transparency and reporting requirements for the Postal Service and its regulator, the Postal Regulatory Commission; require the Postal Service to provide semi-annual reports to Congress on the implementation of its strategic plan; provide for a public dashboard using nationwide delivery metrics to track delivery performance; and mandate a review of the costing of competitive and noncompetitive products. The Administration supports these efforts to improve accountability, reliability and transparency at the Postal Service.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. The Postal Service is one of America's most vital and respected institutions. Originally established in Article I of the Constitution, for over two centuries it has provided service across our country to every single address whether you are in an urban skyscraper or rural family farm. It binds our Nation together in ways that no agency or organization does, and it adds over 1 million new delivery points every year.

This bill is an agreement to fix some of the serious problems that have been looming over the post office for years and threatening its financial stability.

It is an agreement that was reached with input from Democrats, Republicans, the postal unions, the postal professionals, and a wide array of private- and public-sector stakeholders. Over 200 different organizations have come out in support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of the organizations in support of this bill.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT

American Postal Workers Union; National Association of Letter Carriers; National Rural Letter Carriers Association; National Postal Mail Handlers Union; United States Postal Service; National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association; Federal-Postal Coalition; National Association of Postal Supervisors; Package Coalition; Scholastic; Pitney Bowes; CVS Health; eBay; International Paper; National Retail Federation; OSM Worldwide; Pharmaceutical Care Management Association; Pirate Ship; Keep Us Posted; Consumer Action.

Sylvamo; Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service; American Catalog Mailers Association; American Forest & Paper Association; Association of National Advertisers; Envelope Manufacturers Association; Greeting Card Association; Major Mailers Association; MailersHub; National Association of Presort Mailers; National Newspaper Association; National Postal Policy Council; National Retail Federation; Letter in Support of H.R. 3076, p. 2; News Media Alliance; Parcel Shippers Association; Printing United Alliance; Retail Industry Leaders Association; Saturation Mailers Coalition; The Package Coalition Companies.

4-Imprint; Action Mail Presort; AIIM; All Island Media; Amazon; Arcadia News; AT&T; Ballard Designs; Baudville Inc.; BCC Software; Belk; Biely & Shoaf Co., Blue Kite Press; BlueCrest; Bluegrass Integrated Communications; Bluestone Perennials; BMS Direct; BMS Technologies; Business Communication Solutions (BCS); C & G Newspaper.

Calyx Flowers, Inc.; Cathedral Corporation; Centron Data Services; Christianbook, LLC; Clarity; CohereOne; Colony Brands: Montgomery Ward, Seventh Avenue, Ginny's, Midnight Velvet, Monroe & Main; The Swiss Colony, The Tender Filet; The Wisconsin Cheeseman, Country Door, Ashro; Columbia Sportswear; Community Papers of Michigan; Content Critical Solutions; Continuum | Marketing Production Services; Corporate Mailing Services; Corporate Mailing Services (CMS); Data Media Associates; Datamatx; Datapage; DataProse; Demographix Media.

Design Toscano; Direct Mail Solutions; DMM; DNI Corp.; Domtar; Doxim; EasyPost; eBay; Etsy; Everything Marketing, LLC; Fairytale Brownies; Fluence; FRONTGATE; FSSI; Gardener's Supply Company; Garnet Hill; Genesee Valley Pennysavers; Grayhair Software; Grizzly Industrial, Inc.; Hallmark Cards, Inc.; Harbor Sweets.

Hatteras/FocusOne; HC3; Holt's Cigar Company; HSN; IC Group; ICS Corp; Image Options; Impact; Improvements; IMS; Indrio Brands: Hale Groves, Pittman & Davis, Sun Harvest Citrus, StuartDM; InfoIMAGE; Inland Press; International Bridge; International Paper; Japs Olson; Johnson & Quin; JSM; Kathleen Schultz Marketing; King Solutions; K-Log; L & D Mail Masters; L&M Mail & Courier; Las Vegas Presort; Legacy Publishing Group; Lett Direct; LSC Communications; Mail Maine; Mailbox Merchants; Mailing Services of Pittsburgh; Mailing Technical Services, Inc.; Midland; Midwest Direct; National Grange; Mountain Hard Wear; MPX; MRS Mail Express; My Shipping Post; Northern Safety & Industrial Novica.

Nueske's Applewood Smoked Meats; OBRIEN; OSG; OSM Worldwide; Package Shippers Association; Path2Response; PCI Group; Pill Pack; Pirate Ship; Pitney Bowes; Pittsburgh Mailing; Plow & Hearth; PMSI; Polaris Direct, LLC; Poshmark; Potpourri Group: Cuddledown, NorthStyle, The Pyramid Collection, Serengeti, In the Company of; Dogs, Magellan's, Catalog Favorites, Young Explorers, Back in the Saddle, Whatever Works; Country Store, Expressions, Nature's Jewelry, The Stitchery, SafeFinds, TravelSmith; Chadwicks; prAna.

Premier Press; Presort Essentials, Inc.; Print Mail Solutions; Print Mannschaft; Prolist; Publishers Clearing House; Quad Inc.; Qurate Retail Group; QVC; R.R. Donnelley; Raymond Geddes & Co., Inc.; Recreation Supply Company; RevSpring; Scottish Gourmet USA LLC; Shades of Light; Shark Publications, LLC; Shippo; Signature Graphics; Silver Star Brands: Miles Kimball, Walter Drake, Easy Comforts, Exposures, As We Change; NativeRemedies, Fox Valley Traders.

SiteForm, Inc.; Smart Market, Inc; Sorel; Specialty Print Communications; Sporty's; Summit Direct; Letter in Support of H.R. 3076, p. 5; Sylvamo; Target Direct; The Bradford Exchange: Hammacher Schlemmer; The

Dingley Press; The Masters Touch; The PLD Group; The Vermont Country Store; Think Patented; TLC Management, Inc.; United Business Mail; United Mailing Services; United Postmasters and Managers of America.

Up With Paper; Upper Valley Press; Ursa Major Associates; USM Print Solutions; Value Direct, LLC; VariVerge; Whittier Mailing Products Inc.; Wiland; Wisconsin Community Papers, Town Money Saver; Wolverine Solutions Group; YRSTORE INC.; Zappos; Zulil.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is an agreement that contains two major reforms that together will save the post office over $50 billion in the coming decade.

First, the bill requires postal employees to enroll in Medicare when they are eligible and retire. All postal employees have already been paying into Medicare throughout their careers, but not all retirees could or would enroll when they reached 65. So the bill simply ensures that Postal Service employees can fully utilize the benefits that they have already paid for.

Second, the bill will eliminate the unfair requirement that the Postal Service prepay its retiree health benefits for 75 years into the future. This commonsense change will help reduce the burden on the retiree health benefit fund and help it remain solvent.

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And the bill would provide Congress and the American people with a whole new level of transparency and accountability. It would establish an online, public-facing database that shows weekly service performance information by zip code.

The bill also requires the Postal Service to continue to deliver mail 6 days a week, using an integrated network, ensuring that Americans can receive their mail and medications on weekends.

The bill also enables our Postal Service to increase revenue through nonpostal services, such as selling permits to go fishing or hunting.

I would like to thank my friend, Ranking Member COMER, for his partnership on this bill and for helping to shepherd it to the floor. It has truly been a joint effort.

I would also like to thank Representatives CONNOLLY, LYNCH, LAWRENCE, and FOXX, for their work and dedication and devotion to getting this bill done.

I also would like to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Whip CLYBURN, all of whom supported this and helped move it to the floor.

Let's do the right thing by all Americans and pass this bill, and send it to the Senate with a large support from this body.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2022.

Hon. CAROLYN MALONEY,
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN MALONEY: I write concerning H.R. 3076, the ''Postal Service Reform Act of 2021,'' which was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 3076, the Committee agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3076.

Sincerely,

FRANK PALLONE, Jr.
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2022.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PALLONE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3076, the ''Postal Service Reform Act.'' As you know, the bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, with an additional referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, due to provisions in the legislation that concern health care, including Medicare.

I thank you for allowing the Committee on Energy and Commerce to be discharged from further consideration of the bill to expedite floor consideration. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Energy and Commerce represented on the conference committee.

I would be pleased to include this letter and your correspondence in the Congressional Record during floor consideration to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
Chairwoman,
Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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

Madam Speaker, Americans hold the United States Postal Service in extremely high regard, and that is for good reason. All rely on it for our paychecks, medications, news, magazines, and correspondence with loved ones. And now, more than ever, Americans enjoy the conveniences of e-commerce no matter where they live in this great Nation.

The United States Postal Service is truly one of our prized national assets. But, as we know, the Postal Service has faced financial trouble for many years. Service delays stemming from an unreliable and outdated delivery network, a drastic historical decrease in mail revenue, and a sustained surge in labor-intensive packages, have all contributed to the organization's struggles.

The rise and dominance of the internet has completely changed the way people shop, pay bills, and generally communicate. It has changed in ways that could not have even been envisioned in the 1970s, when Congress established today's independently operated Postal Service.

We need to face the music. The days of letters alone driving the Postal Service's revenue are not coming back. And with this national pandemic, we have seen what happens when the Postal Service is stressed to its operational limits.

The dual challenges of workforce shortages and a surge in package volume across its delivery network plainly exposed the inability for the Postal Service to adapt to modern challenges.

I stand here today, after more than a year of bipartisan work with my colleague, Chairwoman MALONEY, to call for the House to pass the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act of 2022. This targeted bill addresses the immediate needs of the Postal Service to help it succeed into the 21st century.

H.R. 3076 bolsters Postal Service-led operational reforms that are already showing success with better revenue and delivery performance.

For example, the Postal Service saw one of the busiest holiday seasons ever this past year. And even this current White House could not ignore the fact that nearly 99 percent of consumers received their packages on time or with minimal delays.

This was done under the leadership of Postmaster General DeJoy, and in the face of constant challenges brought about by the pandemic and the current political climate.

Coupled with the Postmaster General's ambitious and comprehensive 10-year reform plan are two legislative requests impacting the Postal Service's ability to operate profitably in the years to come.

First, the well-intentioned 2006 legislative requirement that the Postal Service prefund the retiree health benefits of all future potential costs has proven unworkable and counterproductive.

H.R. 3076 repeals this requirement, while continuing to require annual payments for what is owed to postal retirees. This helps alleviate immediate financial stresses, while still protecting the workforce's earned retirement health benefits.

Secondly, the Postmaster General has sought legislation to seamlessly transition the postal workforce into Medicare upon retirement, rather than continuing as the primary payer for retiree health benefits.

Congress has told the Postal Service it has to act like a business, and this is

not something businesses do. Businesses offer secondary coverage to wrap-around Medicare benefits, and that is what Congress should allow the Postal Service to do as well. This is sensible policy in keeping with the practices of private-sector businesses.

Postal Service retirees have been paying into Medicare their entire careers and, next to the Federal Government itself, the Postal Service is the largest contributor to the Medicare Trust Fund in the Nation.

Together, these two legislative provisions requested by Postmaster General DeJoy are projected to help the Postal Service break even in the coming years.

However, I have made it clear that Republicans need to see solutions that would also allow the Postal Service to fundamentally improve its business model. Our reform bill is designed around the Postal Service's current operational reform plans.

Additionally, our bill makes sure Congress has key oversight tools. For instance, our bill establishes a public-facing, online dashboard with full local mail delivery performance data. This will provide necessary transparency into the on-time delivery of mail, and equip every House Member to conduct oversight of mail performance in their local communities.

Congress should not be caught off guard as we were in early 2020 as the pandemic accelerated performance problems in real time.

My colleagues should also consider what this targeted reform bill does not do. Our legislation does not include draconian cuts to service delivery, such as post office closures, or decreasing delivery to residences.

Our bill keeps the needs of rural Postal Service customers front and center. For instance, the bill codifies the 6-day delivery of mail and packages, which provides assurance to businesses and rural communities alike.

And importantly, our reform bill does all of this without taking the easy approach of a bailout or increasing the budget. In fact, the bill is projected to save over a billion dollars of tax funds over the next decade, over a billion dollars.

Chairwoman MALONEY and I have worked closely on receiving the input from the Postal Service and industry groups large and small, and have come to an agreement that we believe will have a real impact. I am very proud of this product, this bipartisan work.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of this Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding, and I want to thank both Mrs. MALONEY, Congresswoman MALONEY from New York, the chair of the committee, and Mr. COMER from Kentucky.

There is nobody covering this right now. There aren't a lot of Members on the floor. This will pass in a bipartisan fashion. But this is a piece of legislation on one of the most important agencies of government, the most important services to the American people, keeping them in touch, getting them goods and services and prescription drugs that they need, being able to pay their bills.

This bill is a very important bill. The interest in it in terms of the public is belied by the fact that it is bipartisan and that, therefore, it is assumed to happen.

But I tell you, Madam Speaker, this is decades in the making. This bill has been debated—not this bill, but the reforms that this bill achieves, have been debated for decades.

As the former chair of the Treasury Postal Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I know full well how difficult this process has been, and it doesn't need me to say anything more about the specifics of the bill, other than to thank Chair MALONEY. She has been tenacious. She has been focused, and she has been indefatigable in this effort.

Madam Speaker, I want say that this would not have been done without Mr. COMER, because it is easy to demagogue one part of the issue or some other part of the issue. But the gentleman working together with Mrs. MALONEY has made this happen, and America will be better. The Postal Service will be better. Postal workers will be better. And the American community that utilizes and relies on the Postal Service will have greater security and greater service.

So Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. COMER.

I thank all of those who worked on this bill in the committee, and I urge its overwhelming passage on a bipartisan basis.

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who has worked steadfastly and been on board and had significant input in this bill from day one.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Kentucky who has done a masterful job, along with Chairwoman MALONEY, on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act.

The Postal Service is projected to lose $160 billion over the next 10 years as mail volume decreases and costs continue to increase. If nothing changes, the Postal Service will run out of cash in 2024 and plead for another taxpayer bailout.

This bill, coupled with Postmaster General DeJoy's 10-year reform plan, will return the Postal Service to a more sustainable path. It provides additional transparency mechanisms to help hold the Postal Service accountable for meeting its goals and ultimately lead its management to operate more efficiently.

It also allows the Postal Service to choose the most economic reform of transportation, rather than using outdated rules that are not tailored to the modern needs of the Postal Service.

The Postal Service Reform Act allows the Postmaster General to make two financial reforms that are key to the 10-year reform plan. It allows for Medicare integration and the elimination of the pre-funding obligations.

Last Congress, I requested a recorded vote on H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act, and I voted ''no'' on that bill because I believe it is irresponsible for the Postal Service to shed its pre-funding obligations without making needed reforms so that taxpayers are not asked to repeatedly bail it out.

Now I am pleased to say the Postal Service Reform Act delivers those substantial and badly needed reforms to the Postal Service, such that its fiscal stability will be restored. Even the Congressional Budget Office notes that this bill would save taxpayers nearly $1.5 billion over the next 10 years. This keeps the Postal Service solvent, and eliminates the need for further postal bailouts.

Common ground is illusive in this body, Madam Speaker. I am proud to say that the bill before us today is truly a bipartisan step in the right direction to help the Postal Service fulfill its mission for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to join my colleague, Mr. COMER, in thanking Representative FOXX for her unique contribution to this bill. She is co-chair of the Postal Caucus and played a vital role in moving this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the distinguished chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee that has jurisdiction over this bill also, and I thank him for his leadership on this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, let me thank Chairwoman MALONEY. She has worked hard on this and has constantly been telling us for months and years how important this was and we had to get it done. So congratulations. The day has arrived.

□ 1445

The U.S. Postal Service, Madam Speaker, is one of the oldest and most essential American institutions. Unfortunately, it has struggled financially for many years. That is why this comprehensive, bipartisan legislation is important, because it will address the financial challenges facing the Postal Service.

A report last year by the GAO found that, since 2007, Postal Service expenses have grown faster than revenues, in part due to the cost of benefits, including retiree expenses.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has worked closely with the Oversight and Reform Committee to craft healthcare provisions in the Postal Service Reform Act that both protect the benefits of retirees and put the Postal Service on a better financial footing.

Under the bill, current Postal Service retirees will be able to keep their retirement health plans provided by the Postal Service and will not be required to enroll in Medicare. However, the legislation creates a one-time special enrollment period for Postal Service retirees who are eligible for Medicare to enroll in Medicare part B if they so choose.

Postal Service retirees who enroll in Medicare part B through this special enrollment period would not pay late enrollment penalties on their part B premium. Instead, the Postal Service would pay any late enrollment penalties on behalf of the individual.

Arrangements like this exist today for certain State and local government employees. The new special enrollment period will make it easier and more affordable for current Postal Service retirees to enroll in Medicare's comprehensive health coverage, and the majority of Postal Service retirees already choose to take advantage of their Medicare benefits.

H.R. 3076 would also require future Postal Service retirees to enroll in Medicare when they become eligible in order to qualify for the Postal Service's retiree health plan. This would mean that future Postal Service retirees who are eligible for Medicare would have Medicare as their primary insurer but also have their Postal Service health plan filling any gaps in Medicare coverage. This is a common way to provide retiree insurance in the private sector.

Overall, I believe this bill will improve the financial health of the Postal Service, and it will allow the Postal Service to continue providing critical services to the Nation and health benefits to its employees and retirees.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank everyone, particularly Chairwoman MALONEY, for their involvement in this effort, and I urge support for the bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), the ranking member of the House Administration Committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I do want to reiterate congratulations and thanks to Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER.

I am a little disappointed, though, because our colleague, Mr. YOUNG, the dean of the House, is sitting right in front of my favorite microphone. But I will go here.

I do want to say, this is a great day. We see bipartisanship in action, bringing this bill to the floor.

I have been a strong supporter of the Postal Service throughout my time in Congress. The Postal Service is a lifeline to many rural communities across our country and many right in Illinois' 13th District that I am proud to represent.

For many families, the Postal Service delivers lifesaving medications, benefits, and messages from loved ones. Its services are critical. That is why I have been a leader in supporting it and its employees, like the letter carriers and the postmasters, who truly are essential.

Because of the Postal Service's importance to my constituents, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to lead on initiatives to ensure it is not privatized, delivers mail on Saturdays, and retains strict service standards.

The Postal Service keeps us connected in ways electronic communication and other services cannot. Additionally, it finishes delivering packages for private companies in more rural regions of our country, like mine.

I am glad we are here today, voting on this vital piece of legislation that will provide more funding and resources to our postal employees.

This bill, importantly, makes the Postal Service financially viable for generations to come and implements efficiencies that will protect taxpayers and consumers alike. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy projects this legislation will save the Postal Service $58 billion over the next 10 years and correct the agency's long-term financial problems by 2030. Additionally, the Congressional Budget Office estimates this legislation will save the Federal Government $1.5 billion over 10 years.

For these reasons, I support this vital piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the distinguished chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this long-elusive, bipartisan legislation that has been years in the making. Congratulations to Chairwoman MALONEY on her Herculean effort, along with Mr. COMER.

In the past 2 years, postal workers faced historic public health challenges to heroically provide a lifeline for all Americans. Just as they always deliver for us, this reform bill will deliver long-overdue reforms to allow our Postal Service to thrive.

No other entity, public or private, is required to prefund retiree health benefits for all its employees decades into the future. Only the Postal Service faces that fiscally untenable mandate, and this legislation eradicates that burden.

This reform also codifies 6-day mail delivery, which I am proud to have long fought for as an appropriator.

This consensus bill increases transparency; allows other services to be offered to its customers; and expands special rates for newspapers, to help these vital community watchdogs thrive. These are all commonsense reforms.

As we build on it, the next steps should require that Members be able to conduct oversight at postal facilities without prior notice and allow designation of single ZIP Codes for cities like Hollywood and Cooper City, Florida, in my district, where assigned ZIP Codes overlap jurisdictions.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this critical legislation to help the Postal Service better serve the American people.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), who also serves as ranking subcommittee member on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I, as well, support this bill.

This is a bipartisan bill, and people have to realize it has to be a bipartisan bill. I don't think either party could get 218 votes for this bill, and of course, the same thing is true in the U.S. Senate. Therefore, it can't be a bill for extreme people.

There are probably some people who want to get rid of the post office and just see what happens. Those people are going to vote against the bill.

However, this is a bill in part negotiated by our current Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy. I think he has done a tremendous job.

For years, people have said we ought to run the post office like a business. Now, we have a businessman who doesn't need the job, and he has negotiated a package.

Admittedly, some people not normally known to sign have signed off. But it is a good package that will save money.

If this package doesn't pass today, we will probably deal with another package in 2 or 4 years that is not as good as this package.

We are including new machines, which will improve efficiency. We are going to switch to more full-time people, which will result in less overtime. We are going to align the distribution network, and there will be transportation savings there. These things may not happen in the future.

I think Mr. DeJoy has done a good job. I think we should stand with him. I think if we do not vote for this bill today, we are really sending a message that we cannot vote for something unless it is absolutely perfect.

I do believe there will be a substantial savings over the next few years, a savings which would not result if this bill would fail today. I strongly encourage my colleagues, including my conservative colleagues, to vote for this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the distinguished

chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her leadership, as well as Ranking Member COMER. I am also proud as an original cosponsor of this bill and as the chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over postal issues.

This bill contains provisions that, when taken together, will right the course of the Postal Service, returning it to solvency and removing undue burdens that have mired it in debt for 16 years.

Much of the blame for the Postal Service's financial struggle rests squarely here in Congress. In 2003, Congress enacted the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, requiring the Postal Service to make annual, exorbitant prepayments into its retiree health benefits fund, a requirement required of no other entity in the United States. These payments kept the Postal Service from profitability for years, since 2006.

To be sure, this prepayment is not the only issue plaguing the Postal Service's financial posture in an increasingly online and digital society. But as the ranking member indicated, what this bill does do is takes care of that red ink that we are responsible for and puts the Postal Service in a position to buy time to develop a 21st century business model that will work and will continue to serve the American people.

We owe a debt of gratitude to postal workers who have, every day during this pandemic, served every household and every business in America on time and reliably, in terms of providing that lifeline and that one constant in our lives that we depend on.

This bill is going to shore that up and buttress that. It represents a bipartisan compromise that is long overdue, and I salute the leadership of our committee, our chairwoman and our ranking member, in being able to forge that bipartisan coalition that allows us to address this issue today in a meaningful way and to pass this bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act.

The United States Postal Service has been part of our society since Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster General in 1775. However, with the ever-advancing digital economy, the Postal Service's financial difficulties are well known in modern times.

This bill takes the necessary steps toward addressing the financial and operational issues facing the Postal Service and properly updates them for the 21st century. A first-class postal system is critical for businesses and our economy; it keeps 330 million Americans connected.

This bill also seeks to repair the Postal Service's unsustainable health and retirement benefits by coordinating an enrollment into Medicare. Under current law, the Postal Service is required to annually prepay future retirement health benefits, an obligation Congress does not require of most other public or private entities. The Postal Service is bound by statute into this unmanageable system while still being required to work like a private business.

Congress tied their hands. We created this problem, and now it has been returned to sender. The package will not stamp out all the Postal Service's problems overnight, but it is grounded in established practices and will help deliver first-class-level results worthy of the legacy of Ben Franklin.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the distinguished chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. MALONEY for getting us to this point today, and I thank the ranking member also.

Postal reform has been languishing around here for more than a decade, and we are finally there. The two largest elements of this bill—one was already just mentioned by Representative CONNOLLY, the absurd prefunding mandate that was stuck in at midnight in a conference, and no one knew it was there. It was back during the Bush administration. They were trying to kill off the Postal Service.

It said you will prepay healthcare for the next 75 years of employees. That means people who weren't even born yet, people who might go to work for the Postal Service someday, that might retire, we are prepaying their healthcare. That has been an incredible burden on the Postal Service.

Now, that is going to be fixed. We are going to do away with that. That is a bill I have carried for many years, the USPS Fairness Act. We had, actually, 277 cosponsors on that bill in this Congress. I am very pleased it was included as a key part of reform.

The other one is to have postal retirees sign up for Medicare like our Federal retirees. That saves another $23 billion.

Those two things alone will put the Postal Service solvent into the near future, and we will take other steps to increase efficiency.

The Postal Service is critical. They will go where the private sector will not go, does not want to go. I have people who live in the most remote parts of my district, very remote. They make a living on eBay and selling things. If the Postal Service wouldn't pick up their packages and wouldn't deliver their packages with that box rate, they couldn't make a living. FedEx isn't going to go out there; UPS isn't going to go out there. In fact, they dump all the stuff about 25 miles away from Powers and say: Hey, take this out to that little town. We don't want to go out that far.

It is an absolutely crucial service for tens of millions of Americans, and today, we are going to ensure its future.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I thank the chair and the ranking member for their work.

□ 1500

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), who has been a strong supporter of reform from day one.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, we all know the importance of the U.S. Postal Service and its core mission of prompt, reliable, and efficient mail service to all Americans, regardless of where they live.

This is essential in States like North Dakota, where even the most rural postal customers rely on the USPS for the reliable delivery of everything from electric bills to essential medicine.

But for too long, Congress has ignored the substantial problems plaguing the U.S. Postal Service. From declining mail volume to operational inefficiency, the Postal Service has been stuck with a business model that is not suited to meet the needs of the 21st century.

This body has been complicit in allowing the financially independent Postal Service to die a slow death over the last 15 years. In that time, we have seen mail volume collapse by 40 percent; annual losses total more than $90 billion; and the addition of more than 1 million new delivery points every year.

When I was on the floor debating these issues last Congress, I said the Postal Service does not need a short-term bailout; it needs serious reform. This bill begins that process.

H.R. 3076 is complementary to Postmaster General DeJoy's 10-year reform plan and his request to Congress. This bill increases accountability by requiring a public dashboard with national and local service performance data that is routinely updated. It supports the delivery of mail at least 6 days per week. It requires regular reporting to Congress so we can keep on top of the Postal Service's plan and ensure the investment goals, cost savings, and revenue projections are met.

It is more important than ever to support initiatives that place the Postal Service on a path to financial stability and maintain its self-sufficiency. With a current projected insolvency date of 2024, delaying postal reform today will only make future decisions more difficult and more expensive. The status quo is simply not an option.

I appreciate Ranking Member COMER and Chairwoman MALONEY coming together on this bipartisan bill to do the hard work of making the Postal Service more reliable and sustainable in the long term, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to

the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the distinguished vice chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and the ranking member for this amazing legislation.

To my good friend from Oregon, Mr. DEFAZIO, I remember that bill year after year after year because the post office was given the death penalty. That is what happened in the dark of night.

I worked for the post office. Yes, I remember sorting the mail in those old days. But what I most remember is the 1 million new delivery points every year that the post office adds. While others are making a lot of money, they go to the rural areas.

I also remember the letter carriers, the rural postmasters, and all the hardworking men and women who were coming to us week after week, day after day, and said: We are dying out here, and we need to be able to have our healthcare taken care of.

But guess what? The post office had to prepay it. No one else had ever had to do that. It was one of the highest liabilities. Along with that, they were required to fund their pension liabilities at a much higher level than the rest of the Federal Government.

To conserve cash, they hadn't been paying since 2012. Can you imagine, they stopped paying their bills since 2012 because they didn't have any money?

By more closely integrating Medicare, USPS estimates it can save $22.6 billion over 10 years. What a smart thing to do.

Then, of course, the Postal Service Reform Act would eliminate the requirement of the prepaid retirement. And, then, it would require USPS to develop a public-facing online dashboard.

Again, the idea is to save the post office for the American people, save it for the workers, and save it because it is patriotic to do so. I congratulate you.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security, and as Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and a member of the Equality Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

Passage of this legislation is urgently needed because USPS incurred its fourteenth consecutive net annual loss in 2020, and even if USPS continues to default on mandated payments, it would likely run out of cash to fund its operations prior to 2024.

Madam Speaker, USPS funds the universal mail service it provides to nearly 159 million delivery points solely through the sale of postage.

USPS adds one million new delivery points every year, even as mail volume continues to fall.

This means USPS must deliver less and less mail to more and more places.

In addition, several congressional mandates imposed when mail volume was at its peak put USPS on the road to insolvency.

USPS is required to pre-fund the health care costs of its employees, regardless of whether they actually serve until retirement.

USPS is also required to fund its pension liabilities at a much higher level than the rest of the federal government.

To conserve cash, USPS has defaulted on retiree health care payments since 2012.

That is why the key reforms in the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 are so important.

First, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require future Postal Service retirees, who have been paying into Medicare their entire careers, to enroll in Medicare.

Currently, roughly a quarter of postal retirees do not enroll in Medicare even though they are eligible, which means USPS is stuck paying far higher premiums than any other public or private sector employer.

By more closely integrating Medicare, USPS estimates it could save approximately $22.6 billion over 10 years.

Second, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would eliminate the requirement that USPS pre-fund retiree health benefits for all current and retired employees for 75 years in the future.

No private company or other federal government entity is required to comply with such a burdensome requirement and its elimination is estimated to drastically reduce its prefunding liability and allow USPS to save roughly $27 billion over 10 years.

Third, USPS Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to develop a public-facing, online dashboard with national and local level service performance data updated each week to provide additional transparency and promote compliance with on-time delivery of mail.

Fourth, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to deliver both mail and packages at least six days per week across an integrated network.

Finally, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would allow USPS to enter into agreements with State, local, and tribal governments to provide noncommercial property and services that provide enhanced value, do not detract from core postal services, and provide a reasonable contribution to Postal Service institutional costs.

In addition, the legislation contains several provisions that will improve the effectiveness of the Postal Service, including:

The expansion of special rates for local newspaper distribution to promote local news organizations;

A Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) review of cost attribution guidelines for different Postal Service products to ensure pricing accuracy and better accounting;

Increased funding autonomy and control for the Postal Regulatory Commission to increase its budgetary resources commensurate with its mission of regulating the Postal Service, and to shield the PRC from government shutdowns;

A study on operational inefficiencies in Postal Service flats and magazine processing;

Regular congressional reporting on Postal Service operations and financial performance to enable accountability of stated cost savings, revenue, and infrastructure investment goals;

Adjustments to the considerations USPS must make when deciding which mode of transportation to use to deliver mail in order to ensure greater consistency and reliability; and

The consolidation of the PRC's small Inspector General Office into the more robust Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

Madam Speaker, the Postal Service's unmatched network and Universal Service Obligation serves 159 million homes and businesses every day, processing and delivering an average of 430 million pieces of mail and packages per day.

In fact, USPS often delivers seven days a week due to demand and necessity.

This has been especially true during the Covid–19 pandemic as American homes, businesses and private shippers have relied on the Postal Service to meet their needs in these extraordinary times.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the dean of the House.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. COMER and Mrs. MALONEY. This is a good bill.

I have been working on this program for, actually, 48 years. I was here when they stopped the post office, when we used to run it, and we caused this mess. You guys are cleaning it up. I want my colleagues to know this is the right way to go for the post office.

Now, you may wonder why I am so excited about this bill. Try living in Alaska when you don't have any roads. Try not having anything but the post office. Try to get your medicines and all the other things. The post office is the key to the communities in Alaska. This bill solves all the problems for the post office.

I am proud of the work you have done. I want to thank the staff who worked on this legislation. It was a hard issue because there are some people who say: Oh, let them go private. Don't worry about it.

You can't run something like this in the State of Alaska. Because of our distances and lack of transportation, the post office is the key to our economy in our great State. I want to thank both of you for the work you have done. God bless you.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER for the great work they have done on this bill.

As the son of a postal worker, my mom; as the brother of two postal workers, my sisters Karen and Linda; and as a nephew and cousin to about at least a dozen more, especially Pat Morris, my favorite, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

This landmark reform agreement will finally place our most trusted government institution on a path toward financial viability. It is the product of bipartisan collaboration and meaningful stakeholder input. It focuses solely on fundamental reform areas that have long been the subject of bipartisan and stakeholder consensus.

To that end, H.R. 3076 repeals the onerous mandate in current law requiring the Postal Service to prefund retiree health benefits years before it is necessary.

The agreement also integrates postal retiree health benefits with Medicare to ensure that all postal workers receive the benefits that they have already paid for, a total of more than $35 billion over the last 40 years.

Moreover, this legislation codifies our support for an integrated network through which nearly 650,000 dedicated clerks, mail handlers, letter carriers, supervisors, and postmasters process and deliver mail and packages to the American people at least 6 days a week, even amid a global pandemic.

I want to acknowledge the tireless contributions of our employee partners, especially the unions, in this effort, including President Fred Rolando of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Paul Hogrogian of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, President Ronnie Stutts of the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, and President Mark Dimondstein of the American Postal Workers Union.

I also want to recognize Kori Blalock Keller, Jim Sauber, Paul Swartz, Katie Maddocks, Brian Young, and Judy Beard, and the irreplaceable Bob Losi, my great pal and union brother, and all their staffs for their good work.

Again, I commend Chairwoman MALONEY, Ranking Member COMER, Chairman CONNOLLY, Representative LAWRENCE, and our dear departed friend Elijah Cummings, who put a lot of time in on this, for their great work.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 3076.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in support of this bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act.

Our postal workers are the reliable chain that links Americans and businesses, from coast to coast.

This bill improves the efficiency of the Postal Service by streamlining the transportation network, optimizing the workforce to avoid costly overtime, and requiring reporting accountability.

Additionally, it eliminates the requirement that the USPS prepays 75 years' worth of retiree health benefits, saving $27 billion over the next 10 years. It also improves customer service by requiring 6-day delivery.

It is time for us to pave a better path for our neighbors who rely on and work for the U.S. Postal Service, like John Byers, who recently retired after 40 years of dedicated service to my district.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to stand alongside our postal workers and vote for this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), the distinguished co-chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act.

As the only Member of Congress who served an entire career of 30 years at the post office before coming to this House, I am thrilled to support legislation that will be the groundwork for the Postal Service to continue serving America.

I came to Congress with a promise to my constituents and to this country that I would fight to protect and to ensure that we uphold and make sure that our Postal Service is strong. Throughout my career, I was a letter carrier, a clerk, a supervisor, and then moved up to management. I know firsthand how important the Postal Service is. As a matter of fact, I call myself a public servant. I know the hard work of our postal employees and how much this bill means to them and their lives.

I know that, today, in a bipartisan way—how amazing is that to say on this floor—we are working to uphold our commitment to address the longstanding financial issues facing this agency.

Every day, the dedicated Postal Service workers deliver packages around this country. They deliver them to us. Today, Congress has the opportunity to deliver a package that will take care of the Postal Service, one that is established by the Constitution, to ensure that neither rain, sleet, nor snow will deter them from their appointed rounds.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to establish post offices and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for executing that task. Yes, the U.S. Postal Service, like the Department of Defense, is a constitutionally created entity.

As a lawyer and longtime small business owner and publisher of a direct mailed newspaper, the importance of access to our unique system of universal mail via the United States Postal Service is a game changer.

Affordable and reliable mail service has given small businesses and entrepreneurs a level playing field that would be eliminated if the Postal Service were to be replaced by other more expensive private options.

Seniors and vulnerable citizens rely on the Postal Service for access to prescriptions. Small businesses and farmers rely on the post office to provide reliable and affordable daily delivery. Families across America, and especially rural America, need the Postal Service to stay connected here and around the world.

This bill ensures the U.S. Postal Service can continue delivering universal mail services for years to come by alleviating financial burdens and increasing transparency and accountability.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair and our ranking member for this bipartisan bill, and I am pleased to speak today in support of the Postal Service Reform Act. Amongst other good policy, this bill would finally get rid of the prefunding of retirement health benefits that has unnecessarily marked the U.S. Postal Service's finances in a way that other Federal agencies are not treated, nor the private sector.

Under current law, the Postal Service is required to prefund retiree health benefits for all current and retired employees for 75 years in the future. This is a unique requirement, and I am pleased that this bill that enjoys widespread support would fix this. The bill amends the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act to correct this accounting problem, allowing the Postal Service to save an astonishing $27 billion over the course of 10 years. The accounting problem led to U.S. Postal Service showing losses annually of $5.2 billion since 2007 when the U.S. Postal Service, from 2013 to 2018, instead would have shown a surplus of nearly $4 billion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. NORTON. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to note my strong concerns about delayed and undelivered mail in the District of Columbia. Throughout most of the pandemic, I have written to the Postal Service to repeatedly raise these concerns. These problems at the Postal

Service in the Nation's Capital and throughout the country need immediate attention.

I thank Congresswoman MALONEY for her leadership on this important issue.

□ 1515

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO).

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021.

The United States Postal Service is in urgent need of reform. The U.S. Postal Service provides an essential service to the American people, but due to losses in revenue year after year, the long-term viability of that service is in jeopardy. In fact, it is projected that the U.S. Postal Service will run out of money completely by 2024.

This bill would institute reforms that would save the Postal Service an estimated $46 billion over 10 years. Among other provisions, the Postal Service Reform Act would require postal employees to enroll in Medicare when they are eligible and to eliminate the unreasonable requirement that the Postal Service prefund its retiree health benefits 75 years into the future.

Additionally, this bill would improve service by instituting transparency requirements, promoting compliance with on-time delivery of mail, requiring operation of at least 6 days a week, and expanding nonpostal services.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the collapse of our postal system. I urge every one of my colleagues to support this bill to prevent this.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I salute the leadership of Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Ranking Member JAMES COMER. I thank them both for bringing this important legislation to the floor and their determined leadership to have a bipartisan bill, which is really important, and doing so, again, in a spirit of bipartisanship that would make our Founders proud.

Madam Speaker, 230 years ago this month our fledgling Nation took a bold step toward the future by formally establishing the modern United States Postal Service, a beautiful thread that continues to weave together communities across America.

Today, I rise in support of the Postal Service Reform Act, which takes long overdue actions to strengthen this pillar of our democracy so that it can continue to serve our communities for decades to come.

Since our earliest days, when couriers on horseback traversed the Colonies, America's postal system has been a model for the world.

Indeed, our Founders knew the value of a strong Postal Service, enshrining it into Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution: ''The Congress shall have the power . . . to establish post offices and post roads.''

And, when Alexis de Tocqueville visited in the early 19th century, he was in awe of how our Postal Service brought Americans together, writing there was ''no French province in which the inhabitants knew each other as well as 13 million men spread over the extent of the United States.''

Yet, decades of poor policy decisions and chronic underinvestment have put this all-American institution on the path of insolvency. As was indicated by the gentleman who just spoke, experts project that USPS will run out of cash as soon as 2024; and reduced services and added delays would only continue and bring harm in every ZIP Code.

Meanwhile, our Nation continues to ask more and more of our postal workers. Today, they deliver to nearly 159 million delivery points—imagine that—159 million delivery points—across the Nation, and they add one million more delivery points each year. And millions of Americans depend on the USPS to deliver prescriptions, Social Security benefits, paychecks, tax returns, absentee ballots, and more.

I will just say in the period of COVID the U.S. Postal Service was angelic. It was delivering prescriptions to our veterans who were in need of those prescriptions, as well as to seniors and others. So we thank them for that.

So this legislation would put the Postal Service on stronger financial footing while improving the reliability of its services while protecting the benefits of employees and retirees.

The legislation makes bipartisan, commonsense provisions that will welcome all future postal retirees into Medicare, free the U.S. Postal Service from the unnecessary requirement to prefund retiree health benefits 75 years in advance—and we call that a financial albatross—and improve USPS reliability with new transparency measures that will help ensure consistent on-time mail delivery.

I have much more on that that I will submit for the RECORD, Madam Speaker.

As a mother of five and grandmother of nine, I heavily depend on the Postal Service for all kinds of things. Children write letters to Santa. They still write letters to Santa. They do not text Santa. Some do, maybe, but the letter to Santa is very important. Parents sharing graduation photos; friends offering condolences; wedding announcements; whatever it is, it is still the duty of the Postal Service to deliver it. And servicemembers communicating with home is so important.

This important legislation takes the strong step to empower the Postal Service to continue its crucial mission to improve our lives, touch our hearts, and connect our communities.

With that, I once again want to thank Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER, and I urge a strong bipartisan vote for this legislation.

And again, even though we are communicating electronically in so many ways, there is no substitute for that personal connection that the Postal Service provides for us.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I had not originally planned to speak on this bill, but I think there are several things that need to be underscored. And before I get into those, let me say we have all had our moments with the Postal Service; I certainly have. But this is one agency that is specifically prescribed by the Constitution. Major reforms are always hard, and when we have the opportunity to make these reforms, we need to take that opportunity.

Part of the reason why I am so strongly in support of this bill is my friend Louis DeJoy, who is the Postmaster General. There is no one more capable and qualified to serve in that capacity. This is a gentleman who is one in a million.

Now is the best time to get these reforms passed and get them implemented. If we don't do it now, it may never happen.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Postal Service Reform Act. I thank Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER for delivering good news for America.

What is this good news? This bill eliminates the retirement health prefunding mandate. It requires 6-day-a-week delivery. It increases transparency and accountability for the Postal Service.

I thank all of our allies who have been working to pass this bill, including the letter carriers, post handlers, rural carriers, postal workers. Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, nor politics or partisanship can get in the way of this bill.

I urge swift passage of the Postal Service Reform Act.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Postal Service Reform Act.

As my colleagues have pointed out here, this is a long-overdue reform measure that will ensure 6-day delivery, eliminate the prefund mandate which, by the way, applies only to the U.S. Postal Service. Not a single other government agency across this Nation

has been subject to this wildly outrageous provision that has significantly undermined the financial stability of the post office.

Madam Speaker, the very first Postmaster General was someone from my hometown of Philadelphia, a man by the name of Ben Franklin. His annual salary was $1,000 a year. And you look at the history of the U.S. Postal Service, all the way up to and including the time of the COVID–19 pandemic where they were up there on the front lines serving our communities, serving our constituents, making sure that our country continued to run. We owe them this support to reform these measures and ensure the stability and strength of our hero letter carriers and postal workers across our Nation.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 8½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 9 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), the distinguished chairman of the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I commend the chairwoman of this committee and ranking member for bringing this very important bipartisan bill to the floor.

I associate myself with many of the comments that have been made by colleagues on both sides, but I also remember when Chicago, the third largest city in the United States of America, believed that its Postal Service was the best thing it had going. We took great pride in it. That has not been the case for the last several years.

And so we are coming to this point today where we can restore the viability of our Postal Service. I also worked at the post office. It was my first real job. And we had a saying: ''Clean hands, gentle touch, surely we owe a letter that much.'' We will restore that.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the distinguished chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bipartisan United States Postal Service and Postal Service Reform bill.

By eliminating the unnecessary and harmful mandate to prefund retiree benefits, and preserving 6-day delivery, we are investing in our hardworking postal workers and safeguarding this vital American service.

For more than 200 years, the United States Postal Service has delivered to households and businesses in every community on every block in every State of our great Nation. What an American enterprise.

Through rain, sleet, and snow, hundreds of thousands of postal workers serve America every single day, making sure we all remain connected.

I was a carrier; I know, too.

The United States Postal Service is foundational to our American way of life. It is incumbent upon Congress to support this cherished and essential institution for all the generations to come.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the Postal Service Reform bill and vote for the United States Postal Service.

I thank all those who labored for so many years to bring this to the floor. Congratulations to you and to America.

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

□ 1530

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my House colleagues for their heartfelt remarks today.

Madam Speaker, America's most esteemed institution, the United States Postal Service, is in trouble. Since the 1970s legislative reform, Congress has expected the Postal Service to operate as an independent and self-sufficient organization. However, for years, the Postal Service has spent far more than it has brought in, and last year alone lost over $9 billion. Many of these challenges are beyond the control of prior Postal Service leadership.

The U.S. Congress has legally obligated the Postal Service to provide universal mail service delivery. Today, that means delivery to over 160 million addresses. This is a massive and expensive undertaking that cannot be glossed over. Additionally, as our Nation's population and economy continues to grow, so will the Postal Service's ever-increasing expenses.

H.R. 3076 does not change this universal service obligation, but we risk having that difficult national conversation if we do nothing. The price for inaction is a Postal Service that will eventually require drastic service reductions, especially in rural, remote parts of America, or continual taxpayer-funded bailouts, which no conservative and no taxpayer should want. Neither are desirable options.

We have an opportunity to pass targeted legislation to relieve the Postal Service of certain financial hardships and bolster its ambitious structure reform initiatives.

This moment, with a bipartisan bill and bold Postal Service leadership at the helm, may not be easily replicated in future years. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3036.

Madam Speaker, before I yield back, I would be remiss if I didn't say my grandmother spent her whole career as a rural mail carrier. Her name was Maitred Witcher, and she had Route 1 in Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. I grew up with an appreciation for our mail carriers and I appreciate all the hardworking employees of the U.S. Postal Service.

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

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

Madam Speaker, as we have heard many times on the floor today, the Postal Service is vital to the United States. It is so important that the Founding Fathers put it in the Constitution, right there under Article I. They did this because they knew that the Postal Service would keep our people connected and would ensure that no matter where a person lives in this country, they can receive mail and other critical deliveries.

As the gentleman, the dean, from Alaska said, one stamp can take you from across the street in an urban area all the way to Alaska to some of the most remote areas. It is a critical, critical service.

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan bill will dramatically improve the financial situation of the Postal Service—and I would say the country that depends on it—and enable it to continue performing these essential services for the American people.

We all know firsthand the incredible job that the postal workers did during the COVID–19 crisis, risking their lives to deliver our mail every day. While many of us were quarantined and safe in our homes, they were out interacting with people every day providing the service. At times in my district, half the Postal Service was out sick with COVID because of the interaction that they did to save our lives.

Just as 9/11 was helped so dramatically by the police and fire, along with the healthcare workers, this COVID crisis was helped dramatically by the Postal Service. They are really the heroes and heroines of this crisis.

Madam Speaker, I share my thanks for the support of so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who understand and support the necessity of these reforms. A vote for this bill is not only a vote for the post office, I would say it is a vote for yourself, for the services that we all receive, for America, for our institutions, and our values.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter that lists all the Members who reached out to indicate that they would have cosponsored the bill had they had the opportunity to do so.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 8, 2022.

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: As a result of a clerical error, numerous Members of Congress who had expressed interest in cosponsoring H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act, were not added to the bill before it was discharged

from all committees and placed on the union calendar. Below is a list of the Members of Congress who would have cosponsored H.R. 3076 had they been able to be added.

Brad Sherman (CA), David B. McKinley (WV), Andy Levin (MI), Maria Elvira Salazar (FL), Mark Pocan (WI), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA), Salud Carbajal (CA), Madeleine Dean (PA), Eric Swalwell (CA), Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE), Veronica Escobar (TX), Jim Langevin (RI), Peter DeFazio (OR), Yvette D. Clarke (NY), Peter Welch (VT), Betty McCollum (MN), Bobby L. Rush (IL), Marc Veasey (TX), David Trone (MD), Nydia Velázquez (NY), Brendan Boyle (PA), Alma Adams (NC).

Raúl M. Grijalva (AZ), Ann Kuster (NH), Jim Himes (CT), Robin Kelly (IL), Doris Matsui (CA), Rashida Tlaib (MI), Tom Malinowski (NJ), Barbara Lee (CA), Haley Stevens (MI), Jake Auchincloss (MA), Pramila Jayapal (WA), Greg Stanton (AZ), Judy Chu (CA), Gregory Meeks (NY), John Yarmuth (KY), Deborah Ross (NC), Colin Allred (TX), Antonio Delgado (NY), Jim McGovern (MA), Donald Payne Jr. (NJ), Diana DeGette (CO), William Keating (MA).

Sara Jacobs (CA), David Cicilline (RI), André Carson (IN), Kweisi Mfume (MD), Mark DeSaulnier (CA), Lizzie Fletcher (TX), Emanuel Cleaver (MO), Luis Correa (CA), Henry Cuellar (TX), Carolyn Bourdeaux (GA), Paul Tonko (NY), Adam Smith (WA), Suzan K. DelBene (WA), Danny K. Davis (IL), Chrissy Houlahan (PA).

Jared Golden (ME), Mary Gay Scanlon (PA), Mike Levin (CA), Matt Cartwright (PA), Sean Casten (IL), Vicente González (TX), Suzanne Bonamici (OR), Michael Waltz (FL), Julia Brownley (CA), Jamie Raskin (MD), Ashley Hinson (IA), Glenn ''GT'' Thompson (PA), Mark Takano (CA), Adam Schiff (CA), Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX).

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Chairwoman,
Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a list of over 200 diverse organizations across our country that support this bill.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE,
Washington, DC, June 28, 2021.

Hon. GARY C. PETERS,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROB PORTMAN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CAROLYN P. MALONEY,
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight and Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PETERS, CHAIRWOMAN MALONEY, RANKING MEMBER PORTMAN, AND RANKING MEMBER COMER: I want to salute your leadership in introducing bipartisan, bicameral legislation to restore the Postal Service to financial sustainability while advancing service and operational accountability. You have struck an important balance in the Postal Service Reform Act, evident by the impressive list of bipartisan original cosponsors. The American people and the men and women of the Postal Service will be the beneficiaries of this outstanding work for years to come.

The Postal Service supports the bill and has provided your staff with modest technical refinements that we hope will be adopted as the legislative process advances. We have provided similar feedback to the Office of Management and Budget at their request. Postal reform legislation has faltered in past Congresses when language is added that unsettles the kind of careful balance you have achieved in this bill. Accordingly, I would commend your collective resolve in advancing a reform bill limited to the current set of provisions.

I wanted to particularly comment on Section 202, the Integrated Delivery Network provision, which as introduced requires six-day delivery through an integrated delivery network for market-dominant and competitive products. This provision sets forth important principles that underlie the Postal Service's provision of universal mail and package delivery service and that therefore benefit the American people. I strongly urge you to retain the wording as introduced, despite what we consider to be a parochial and misguided effort to modify or eliminate it.

I have elaborated in an attachment on the reasons this provision is so essential to our mission.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to advance the postal reform legislation you have put forward to serve the interests of the American people. Each of you have already shown yourselves to be exceptional leaders to preserve this essential institution and its noble mission. Please let me how we can assist in your important efforts.

Sincerely,

LOUIS DEJOY,
Postmaster General, CEO.

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK ENABLES SIX-DAY DELIVERY

I offer the following context regarding the merit of the language proposed in Section 202 of your bill, which would amend how the Postal Service's universal service obligation is described in our enabling statute, Title 39 of the United State Code. Specifically, that provision would amend 39 U.S.C. 101(b) by adding the following: ''The Postal Service shall maintain an integrated network for the delivery of market-dominant and competitive products (as defined in chapter 36 of this title). Delivery shall occur at least six days a week, except during weeks that include a Federal holiday or in emergency situations, such as natural disasters.''

Initially, the Postal Service took the position that it was not necessary to codify in Title 39 the requirement to deliver six days a week. We argued the ''Delivering for America'' plan includes at its core the ''maintenance of universal six-day mail delivery and expanded seven-day package delivery reach.'' Recognizing, however, that it is Congress's prerogative to interpret and define the scope of the Postal Service's universal service obligation, we understand the policy goal of including a requirement to deliver six-days a week in Title 39, rather than continuing to include it as a rider to annual appropriations legislation. In particular, we understand that Congress wishes to make it clear in our enabling statute that it is appropriate public policy, and in the best interests of the American people, that the Postal Service provide at least six days of mail and package delivery as a central aspect of our universal service mission.

This same rationale applies equally to the language requiring the retention of the ''integrated network for the delivery of market-dominant and competitive products'' concept with any codified six-day delivery requirement. This language properly reflects that the unitary postal delivery network has delivered letters as well as packages at the same time and through the same delivery network for well over a century. American businesses and consumers benefit from the economies of scope and density resulting from the delivery of packages across the Postal Service's universal service network, which reduces the average cost of every mail-piece in the network and leads to more affordable prices for both mail and packages. These benefits accrue to other shipping companies as well, who can access the Postal Service's delivery network through our Parcel Select product. Overall, society as a whole benefits from these economies, and there is nothing unfair or inappropriate about them. Simply put, and just like 6-day delivery, an integrated network for the delivery of mail and packages is in the best interests of the American people.

The Postal Service also considers this language to provide the appropriate operational flexibility. It does not prevent us from structuring our delivery network in an optimal fashion, such as by running special parcel routes as a supplement to our normal integrated routes when business conditions warrant. It also does not inhibit our ability to structure our middle mile processing network in the manner that we see fit, as it only applies to the delivery of mail and packages, not processing.

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK ENABLES OUR UNIVERSAL SERVICE MISSION

Congress has recognized the importance of universal package delivery, and we see the inclusion of this provision as consistent with that fundamental principle. In this regard, the universal delivery of packages is a core component of the Postal Service's universal service mission. The Postal Service provides affordable, universal package delivery services to the American people in all communities whether urban or rural, and to American businesses of all sizes. This enables full participation by all Americans in the e-commerce economy. The importance of this public service mission has become even more apparent during the COVID–19 pandemic. Now, more than ever, there can be no doubt that the Postal Service is part of the critical infrastructure of the country, providing an essential service to the American people, delivering packages with life-sustaining medications and other necessary consumable goods throughout the pandemic, and thereby shoring up the resilience of our nation.

Not only do competitive products themselves represent an important service, they also provide critical financial support to other universal services. Package delivery enables us to generate revenue that is absolutely necessary to support the provision of prompt, reliable, and affordable universal services in a self-sufficient manner, and therefore critical to our financial sustainability. Our package products generate an increasingly vital level of contribution to support the Postal Service's universal service network and thereby ensure the continued provision of reliable and efficient universal postal services to all American people and to all American businesses. Efforts that limit our ability to compete equally or chip away at our revenue generation capabilities are contrary to the public policy goal that we be self-funded while continuing to provide essential universal service to the nation.

Therefore, if Congress believes that six-day delivery is critical enough to the universal service obligation to codify it in Title 39, then as a matter of sound public policy, it should also recognize the equally critical importance of the Postal Service providing both mail and package delivery across an integrated postal delivery network.

I encourage you to retain the language of Section 202 of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 3076/S. 1720) as introduced.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. And I would again thank Ranking Member COMER for his partnership on this widely supported bill. It would not have happened without his partnership, and I am deeply grateful.

Madam Speaker, with that, I urge all of my colleagues to support this historic bipartisan bill. We rarely get a chance to vote for a bill that helps so many people, that actually saves taxpayers money, that reforms our government, doesn't cost anything. We are just reforming and making government work better to serve the people. That is what this bill is. It is a win-win-win in every direction.

Madam Speaker, I hope that this body would unanimously vote for it and send it to the Senate with a message that they should pass it as quickly as possible.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. COMER, for his leadership, his friendship, and for the long path we went through together to make this happen. I thank all my colleagues who participated in making this happen, particularly our Speaker and our leadership in this Congress.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this important legislation to bolster the United States Postal Service.

As we all saw in the last few years, the postal service is vital to our communities and I'm glad that it is getting the attention that it deserves. From keeping rural and small-town America connected, to delivering Social Security checks and medications, to maintaining our democracy by ensuring that people can safely cast a vote, we have so much at stake.

Meaningful postal reform affects us all and I am happy to support this critical program.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Reform Act. It is my hope that the changes in this legislation will help the United States Postal Service and its hardworking employees continue to serve our communities.

Our communities depend on a strong and vibrant Postal Service. The United States Postal Service reaches into every community of every size across our nation through its unmatchable delivery network. Over 600,000 hardworking Postal Service employees, nearly a quarter of them veterans, help the Postal Service carryout its obligations and provide top quality service to our communities which has helped the Postal Service consistently rank as one of the most respected institutions.

My constituents, like most Americans, rely on the efficient and timely delivery of bills, parcels and medication by the Postal Service. And when asked to do more, our postal workers step up. For example, the administration recently leaned on the Postal Service to help distribute at home COVID test kits, given its presence and ability to reach every community in our country. It is critical that the House take up legislation to help strengthen the Postal Service. This debate has been long overdue and so I welcome today's vote. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will quickly follow suit.

The challenges facing the Postal Service are well known. The adverse impact of mandates imposed by Congress in 2006 Postal Reform legislation that have hurt the Postal Service. The declining volume of first-class mail and associated revenue losses. Policy changes initiated by the current Postmaster General that has slowed the mail while raising mailing costs, a recipe for disaster.

At the same time, the Postal Service has an aging vehicle fleet that becomes more expensive every year to maintain and keep on the road.

The bill before us, while not perfect and not addressing every issue, would help put the Postal Service on a better path. I fear that every day of further inaction or delay on legislation such as the Postal Reform Act would only worsen the situation facing the Postal Service, its customers, and its employees. And failing to act may only lead to even more drastic measures and service cuts that will only adversely impact the millions of Americans and businesses that rely on the USPS. For example, some have used the current situation to push for ill-advised privatization of the Postal Service.

The Postal Reform Act includes provisions from stand-alone bills that I support such as preserving six-day mail delivery and repealing the requirement that the USPS prefund future retirement health benefits. And it would provide more flexibility for the Postal Service to offer work with state, local and tribal governments, to explore avenues to help generate more revenues.

We need a strong and vibrant Postal Service that maintains accessible services for all in our community. As the most trusted institution in the federal government and the cornerstone of a trillion dollar plus industry, the Postal Service and its dedicated postal workforce deserve every effort on our part to ensure it remains a viable and thriving institution.

I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security, and as Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and a member of the Equality Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022.

Passage of this legislation is urgently needed because USPS incurred its fourteenth consecutive net annual loss in 2020, and even if USPS continues to default on mandated payments, it would likely run out of cash to fund its operations prior to 2024.

Madam Speaker, USPS funds the universal mail service it provides to nearly 159 million delivery points solely through the sale of postage.

USPS adds one million new delivery points every year, even as mail volume continues to fall.

This means USPS must deliver less and less mail to more and more places.

In addition, several congressional mandates imposed when mail volume was at its peak put USPS on the road to insolvency.

USPS is required to pre-fund the health care costs of its employees, regardless of whether they actually serve until retirement.

USPS is also required to fund its pension liabilities at a much higher level than the rest of the federal government.

To conserve cash, USPS has defaulted on retiree health care payments since 2012.

That is why the key reforms in the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 are so important.

First, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require future Postal Service retirees, who have been paying into Medicare their entire careers, to enroll in Medicare.

Currently, roughly a quarter of postal retirees do not enroll in Medicare even though they are eligible, which means USPS is stuck paying far higher premiums than any other public or private sector employer.

By more closely integrating Medicare, USPS estimates it could save approximately $22.6 billion over 10 years.

Second, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would eliminate the requirement that USPS pre-fund retiree health benefits for all current and retired employees for 75 years in the future.

No private company or other federal government entity is required to comply with such a burdensome requirement and its elimination is estimated to drastically reduce its prefunding liability and allow USPS to save roughly $27 billion over 10 years.

Third, USPS Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to develop a public-facing, online dashboard with national and local level service performance data updated each week to provide additional transparency and promote compliance with on-time delivery of mail.

Fourth, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would require USPS to deliver both mail and packages at least six days per week across an integrated network.

Finally, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 would allow USPS to enter into agreements with State, local, and tribal governments to provide non-commercial property and services that provide enhanced value, do not detract from core postal services, and provide a reasonable contribution to Postal Service institutional costs.

In addition, the legislation contains several provisions that will improve the effectiveness of the Postal Service, including:

1. The expansion of special rates for local newspaper distribution to promote local news organizations;

2. A Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) review of cost attribution guidelines for different Postal Service products to ensure pricing accuracy and better accounting;

3. Increased funding autonomy and control for the Postal Regulatory Commission to increase its budgetary resources commensurate with its mission of regulating the Postal Service, and to shield the PRC from government shutdowns;

4. A study on operational inefficiencies in Postal Service flats and magazine processing;

5. Regular congressional reporting on Postal Service operations and financial performance to enable accountability of stated cost savings, revenue, and infrastructure investment goals;

6. Adjustments to the considerations USPS must make when deciding which mode of transportation to use to deliver mail in order to ensure greater consistency and reliability; and

7. The consolidation of the PRC's small Inspector General Office into the more robust Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

Madam Speaker, the Postal Service's unmatched network and Universal Service Obligation serves 159 million homes and businesses every day, processing and delivering an average of 430 million pieces of mail and packages per day.

In fact, USPS often delivers seven days a week due to demand and necessity.

This has been especially true during the Covid–19 pandemic as American homes, businesses and private shippers have relied on the Postal Service to meet their needs in these extraordinary times.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 17, line 2, strike ''2022'' and insert ''2023''.

Page 17, beginning on line 5, strike ''section 1839(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e))'' and insert ''an agreement between the United States Postal Service and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under section 1839(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(e)(1))''.

Page 18, line 9, strike ''by'' and insert ''for''.

Page 20, strike lines 10 through 15 and insert the following:

''(D) in consultation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration, provide information to individuals about enrollment under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and refer individuals to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration as necessary for additional enrollment information; and''.

Page 24, before line 24, insert the following:

(C) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN POSTAL SERVICE ANNUITANTS OR FAMILY MEMBERS.—Section 1862(b)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(1)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN POSTAL SERVICE ANNUITANTS OR FAMILY MEMBERS.—Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a group health plan from determining an individual's eligibility to enroll in a health benefits plan offered under the Postal Service Health Benefits Program under section 8903c of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with subsection (e) of such section.''.

Page 26, line 19, strike ''a'' and insert ''the''.

Page 28, line 5, strike ''(o).'' and insert ''(o)''.

Page 28, starting on line 15, strike ''through'' and all that follows through line 18, and insert the following: ''through—

''(1) a prescription drug plan; or

''(2) contracts between such a Program plan and the PDP sponsor of such a prescription drug plan.''.

Page 29, line 13, strike the period at the end and insert the following: '', or who may be subject to the enrollment requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 8903c(e) of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).''.

Page 29, line 23, strike ''are eligible'' and insert ''may be eligible''.

Page 30, strike lines 9 through 16.

Page 30, strike line 18 and all that follows through line 25 on page 31 and insert the following:

(1) CMS APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management Account, for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

(2) SSA APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Social Security Administration for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $16,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes of carrying out this section (with the exception of the purposes set forth in subsection (c)(3)(B)), including the amendments made by this section.

(3) OPM APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Office of Personnel Management for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $70,500,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes of carrying out this section, including the amendments made by this section.

Page 30, beginning on line 20, strike ''Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management'' and insert ''the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management Account''.

Page 31, line 11, after ''out'', insert ''subsection (c)(3) for the purposes set forth in''.

Page 32, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

(4) FUNDS CREDITED BY POSTAL SERVICE.—The United States Postal Service shall deposit an amount equal to the sum of the amounts appropriated under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) into the Treasury as a miscellaneous receipt from the Postal Service Fund in fiscal year 2022.

Page 32, line 15, strike ''described in subsection (c)(3)(B)'' and insert ''described in subsection (c)(3) for the purpose set forth in subsection (c)(3)(B)''.

Page 48, line 17, insert ''for each product'' after ''performance''.

Page 48, line 21, insert ''for each product'' after ''compliance''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 912, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this manager's amendment to H.R. 3076, which makes minor technical changes to the bill. We have already discussed this bill at length so I will be brief.

The Postal Service is one of America's most vital and respected institutions. Every American benefits from the services it provides. This bill will dramatically improve the financial situation of the Postal Service and will allow it to continue providing its essential services for years to come. The technical changes made by the manager's amendment will help ensure that the bill is implemented swiftly and effectively.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment, but before that, I want to really give my heartfelt thanks to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, the staff, that made this happen, particularly Mark Stephenson and Ethan VanNess.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), my friend, the ranking member.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment.

Madam Speaker, as we have worked together on the Postal Service Reform Act over the past year, Chairwoman MALONEY and I strove to fully incorporate the legislative feedback we received from the relevant agencies. This manager's amendment contains necessary technical fixes to ensure the bill's requirements are efficiently and effectively implemented.

For instance, it ensures that the U.S. Postal Service, and not the American taxpayer, fully cover the implementation costs of the Office of Personnel Management, Social Security Administration, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman and the Committee on Oversight and Reform staff for working diligently with me to make sure this bill is done right.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill and on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

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

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

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

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 912, I call up the bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 912, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6617

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 ''Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short Title.
Sec. 2. Table of Contents.
Sec. 3. References.
DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022
DIVISION B—EXTENSIONS
Title I—Extensions
Title II—Budgetary Effects

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–43) is further amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting ''March 11, 2022'';

(2) in section 163, by striking ''$200,000,000'' and inserting ''$300,000,000''; and

(3) by adding after section 163 the following new sections:

''SEC. 164. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for 'Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for 'Columbia Class Submarine (AP)' in an amount not to exceed $1,601,805,000.

''SEC. 165. (a) Notwithstanding sections 101 and 106 of this Act, for the duration of fiscal year 2022, amounts made available in fiscal year 2022 to the Department of Defense under the heading 'Operation and Maintenance', other than amounts designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, may be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, in addition to any other funds specifically made available for such expenses, for purposes the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the Navy, as appropriate, determines to be proper with regard to the response to the disruption of the water supply near the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, on O'ahu, Hawaii, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 127, in an amount not to exceed $53,000,000: *Provided*, That not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2022, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, setting forth all categories and amounts of obligations and expenditures made under the authority provided by this subsection.

''(b) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by this Act, there is appropriated to the Department of Defense $250,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2022, for necessary expenses to address drinking water contamination at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Hawaii, for the accounts and in the amounts specified:

''''Military Personnel, Army', $33,263,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022;

''''Military Personnel, Navy', $91,327,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022;

''''Military Personnel, Marine Corps', $5,206,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022;

''''Military Personnel, Air Force', $27,564,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022;

''''Operation and Maintenance, Army', $22,640,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022; and

''''Operation and Maintenance, Navy', $70,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

''(c) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by this Act, there is appropriated to the Department of Defense $100,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2022, to remain available until expended, for transfer only to accounts under the headings 'Operation and Maintenance', 'Procurement', 'Research, Development, Test and Evaluation', and 'Defense Working Capital Funds', for the Secretary of Defense to conduct activities in compliance with the State of Hawaii Department of Health Order 21–UST–EA–02, signed December 6, 2021, related to the removal of fuel from and improvement of infrastructure at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided in this subsection is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That amounts provided in this subsection shall not be available for transfer, obligation, or expenditure until the Secretary of Defense briefs the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate regarding the recommendations of the third-party assessment of the operations and system integrity of the Red Hill facility and the Department's own analysis regarding the distribution of fuel reserves for operations in the Pacific theater, as well as other activities recommended by the third-party assessment or Departmental analysis: *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2023, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, setting forth all categories and amounts of obligations and expenditures made under the authority provided by this subsection.

''SEC. 166. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of the Interior under the heading 'Working Capital Fund' may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to implement enterprise cybersecurity safeguards.''.

This division may be cited as the ''Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022''.

DIVISION B—EXTENSIONS

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS

SEC. 1101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS FOR NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.

Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking ''February 18, 2022'' and inserting ''March 11, 2022''.

SEC. 1102. EXTENSION OF ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''February 18, 2022'' and inserting ''March 11, 2022''.

SEC. 1103. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act (Public Law 116–114), section 2 of such Act (as amended by Public Law 117–70) is amended by striking ''February 18, 2022'' and inserting ''March 11, 2022''.

SEC. 1104. EXTENDING INCREASED FMAP FOR CERTAIN TERRITORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905(ff)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(ff)(3)) is amended by striking ''February 18, 2022'' and inserting ''March 11, 2022''.

(b) REDUCTION OF MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.—Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''$101,000,000'' and inserting ''$99,000,000''.

TITLE II—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 1201. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

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

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. DELAURO. 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 measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act, which continues funding for Federal programs and services through March 11. I would have preferred to come before the House to pass a fiscal 2022 omnibus, but I believe we are very close to an agreement and I am eager to move this process forward. I have every expectation

that we can finalize a framework in short order and then work together to fill in the details and enact an omnibus.

The American people deserve the certainty that comes with full-year funding bills. The transformative investments an omnibus provides will help create good-paying jobs and grow opportunity for the middle class. An omnibus will expand access to childcare, strengthen our public schools, make college more affordable, bolster job training, and help small businesses access the capital they need to thrive. And it will rebuild our public healthcare systems after the devastation of the pandemic.

□ 1545

An omnibus bill will confront the climate crisis by supporting environmental protection, land conservation, and clean energy development. It will protect our national security and restore America's place in the world.

An omnibus is the only way to unlock the full potential of the transformative funding in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, accelerating the rebuilding of our Nation's crumbling roads, bridges, water systems, and other critical transportation infrastructure.

Of great importance to the people we represent, an omnibus would enact Community Project Funding that both Republicans and Democrats requested for their districts, with strong community support. From rebuilding local health and transportation infrastructure, helping veterans to find jobs, supporting small businesses, and expanding educational opportunities, these investments will revitalize our communities and strengthen them for years to come.

Once we have a framework, I am confident that appropriators will work with great intensity to fill in the details so that we can enact an agreement that is worthy of the American people.

To provide the time to get that done, the Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act continues government funding at current levels through March 11.

This legislation is straightforward and includes minimal anomalies, the most notable of which is $350 million in direly needed new funding to address water contamination from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Hawaii.

No one wins from additional continuing resolutions, which is why, after we pass this extension, we will finalize an omnibus that will deliver for our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 6617, a short-term continuing resolution through March 11.

I am disappointed to be on the House floor today to speak on another CR and not a full-year appropriation bill. It was my hope that, by now, we would have finalized our work for fiscal year 2022. While conversations are ongoing, we need more time to complete our work.

No one wants to have a CR, but the alternative is much worse. If we don't pass a CR by next week, we could have an unnecessary and costly government shutdown. I think both sides agree that would be disastrous, especially for our national security.

This bill keeps the government open for another 3 weeks and ensures the continuation of basic Federal responsibilities, such as national defense, border security, and care for our veterans.

The bill also includes defense-related anomalies that fund the on-time development of Columbia-class submarines, DOD's top modernization priority; it provides flexibility to counter threats like Russia; it equips DOD to address the Navy's Red Hill fuel leak that displaced servicemembers and their families; and it continues development of critical cybersecurity systems.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that this CR will give us time to work out our differences and pass bipartisan, full-year bills. We will not be able to achieve this goal unless we find consensus on spending levels and know that controversial policies have been dropped. I have been very clear about what House Republicans need to support a final product. We will not support partisan bills that include irresponsible spending increases or extreme policies.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for the 3-week CR before us, and I look forward to the additional time to finish this year's appropriations process.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I express sincere appreciation to our extremely able chair, ROSA DELAURO, for working so hard, along with our able ranking member, KAY GRANGER, on the bipartisan effort, the latest short-term continuing resolution before us.

Congress holds a bipartisan responsibility to pass a full-year appropriations package, and I guarantee you if the people on this floor were the ones totally in charge, we would have done it.

These appropriations bills deliver the services the American people need and deserve, everything from the defense of our Nation to funding vital health services and tending to our national parks.

As chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, our fiscal year 2022 bill will continue the progress of the bipartisan jobs and infrastructure bill.

The bill will invest in clean energy technology. It will bolster the Army Corps of Engineers' ability to protect our majestic rivers, lakes, and coastlines, and improve our dams and shipping lanes.

What America makes, builds, and grows makes, builds, and grows America. These energy and water investments will create good-paying jobs for hardworking men and women across our land.

Too many of these projects are languishing on the sidelines, waiting for these two bodies to do their job. We cannot meet America's objectives if we don't pass these appropriations bills.

As we make progress on passing these bills, we have before us now a continuing resolution that will allow our Federal Government to continue operating until a final agreement is achieved. This is a must-pass bill.

I respectfully ask all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this necessary legislation and let us continue the work to build our country forward by investing in the American people who sent us here to do their work.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the continuing resolution before us. I am pleased we came to an agreement, but it is only a stopgap. A bicameral, bipartisan omnibus bill must be passed to fund government for the remainder of fiscal year 2022.

Limping along from continuing resolution to continuing resolution keeps us from making necessary investments in critical programs, and it halts progress on new programs, including a number included within the bipartisan infrastructure law.

The infrastructure initiative makes historic investments in roads, bridges, public transportation, broadband, and much more, but without a full-year bill, formula funding is going to be restricted to fiscal year 2021 levels, and our ability to transform our Nation's transportation infrastructure will be limited.

For example, the newly created Carbon Reduction program and the PROTECT grant program to promote resilience can't be initiated. Restricting funding to fiscal year 2021 levels for some programs will delay contracts and grants.

A full-year Transportation-HUD bill would update our aging transportation infrastructure, remedy inequities in housing and transportation, prevent evictions, and make our infrastructure more resilient to natural disasters and a changing climate.

We also spent months, Madam Speaker, vetting hundreds of Community

Project Funding requests in a bipartisan manner for well-designed housing, transportation, and economic development projects. Without completing the annual appropriations process, none of these investments will happen.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this CR today. I urge my colleagues to work together to meet Congress' most basic constitutional responsibility, funding our government and directing investments for the future. We must come to the table with a constructive path forward for fiscal year 2022 appropriations.

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

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for her strong leadership in bringing the CR to the floor, but also for her relentless work in negotiating the omnibus, what this is all about.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the CR that will keep government open, meet the needs of the American people, and honor the values of our Nation.

This short-term measure will ensure that we have the time we need to finalize negotiations on a strong, bipartisan omnibus to fund the government through the end of the year.

As I commend the gracious madam chair, ROSA DELAURO, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, I want to also commend Ranking Member GRANGER for her leadership as well.

This legislation extends government funding at current levels through March 11. To be clear, this bill keeps government open while making virtually no changes to existing funding policy. The CR does, however, include urgently needed emergency funding to help clean up contaminated drinking water leaking from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Hawaii. In doing so, we deliver a crucial downpayment to help the Navy meet immediate needs and keep families safe.

In order to advance our priorities for our country and our communities in the long term, Congress must enact an omnibus funding package.

For families, a new full-year spending package means strengthening public schools, protecting clean air and clean water, improving public health, and ensuring food and consumer safety.

For workers, it means creating new jobs and supporting small businesses.

For our veterans, it means funding for benefits, reducing backlogs for veterans and their families seeking assistance, and meeting the needs of the VA's healthcare system.

For our national security, it means support for our troops, improvements to defense readiness and modernization, the securing of our cyber infrastructure, and stronger leadership abroad.

Now that President Biden has proudly signed our bipartisan infrastructure bill, it is essential that we enact an omnibus in order to unlock billions in more Federal dollars for infrastructure projects. While they were in the infrastructure bill, the money cannot be spent unless we pass the omnibus.

This will help us rebuild our Nation while reinvigorating our middle class, creating millions of good-paying jobs improving roads and bridges, ports and airports, water systems, broadband, and more.

As the preamble to our Constitution states: It is our duty as lawmakers to ''establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.''

Today, we uphold this sacred responsibility in the short term with this continuing resolution. With our omnibus legislation, which we hope to bring to the floor soon, we will take an important step to honor the vision of our Founders.

Madam Speaker, I urge a strong bipartisan ''aye'' vote.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that we are here again today to pass another continuing resolution. I know that the appropriators on both sides of the aisle want to get a full fiscal year 2022 omnibus done as soon as possible.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairwoman DELAURO for her tireless efforts to negotiate a bipartisan agreement with the Senate. We have to pass this CR today because America simply cannot afford a shutdown.

A shutdown would have a disastrous impact on our continuing economic recovery. It would diminish our ability to fight the COVID–19 pandemic. And Europe is facing one of the greatest threats since the end of World War II. Our Federal Government should be sending a strong, unified message to Vladimir Putin that we stand united with our European allies.

As chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I want to highlight a critical life, health, and safety provision in this CR for our brothers and sisters in Hawaii. The fuel leak that occurred at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Hawaii last November is nothing short of an environmental catastrophe, one that has impacted thousands of residents. This spill should have never happened. Congress will hold the Department of Defense accountable to make this right.

Today, we provide an additional $350 million for the Department and the services to continue their efforts to address this crisis.

□ 1600

I want to thank my colleagues from Hawaii for leading on this issue, especially Representative CASE, who also joins and serves with us on the Appropriations Committee. You will hear from him later, Madam Speaker.

You have my commitment that our subcommittee will do everything we can to stay on top of this. The people in Hawaii impacted by the spill deserve clean drinking water. They deserve to know that their drinking water will be secure. It is just one more reason to support the CR today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''yes.'' Let's keep the government open and get the full omnibus across the finish line.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), who is the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for yielding.

Here we are again debating the most basic function of our democracy: funding our government. Yet, once again, here we are kicking the can a bit further down the road instead of passing a budget for a fiscal year that started 130 days ago.

As chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I know that we need a full annual appropriations bill for military construction projects that are critical to our national security and to make the needed annual investments in veterans' healthcare and benefits.

I have been in this Chamber many, many times when we came together for the good of the Nation, just like we recently did to pass the infrastructure bill that was bipartisan with at least some support from the other side of the aisle. We found common ground because infrastructure affects every corner of this great country. But the benefits of that landmark legislation cannot be fully realized until we enact the fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills.

Some States are even putting off projects until we appropriate funding from the full-year budget. The Federal Railroad Administration can't hire the staff it needs in order to implement the infrastructure bill. New programs to reduce carbon emissions and to protect roads and bridges against the effects of climate change will stall. All our communities in blue and red districts cannot access these new programs until we do our job and pass the full budget.

Without full-year appropriations bills we risk upending the greatest year of job growth the Nation has ever seen. We risk knocking down ladders

into our middle class. We risk our national security. We are close to a funding agreement thanks to our appropriations leadership. But we need time to finish that legislation in full. This continuing resolution gives us time to finish that vital work for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the CR, and I urge our colleagues in the entire House of Representatives to diligently work together to make sure we can bring this budget process in for a landing.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), who is a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Appropriations Committee, I rise in strong support of this measure.

I especially highlight section 165, directing $403 million in emergency funding to the Department of Defense's urgent response to contamination of the city of Honolulu's drinking water from fuel leaks from our military's Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility at Pearl Harbor.

Red Hill is a 250-million-gallon, World War II-era facility located only 100 feet directly above the major aquifer providing drinking water to some 500,000 residents, of which some 100,000 are military families served by the Navy's water system and are drawing from this aquifer.

Obviously, contamination of this aquifer from Red Hill fuel leaks would be catastrophic, most directly to general public health, but also to fundamental military readiness. And yet, that is exactly what happened last November when likely tens of thousands of gallons of fuel did leak from Red Hill into the aquifer and then through the Navy water system to thousands of homes, businesses, and military operations. People got sick, pets died, lives were disrupted, schools and businesses closed, and some 3,500, mainly military, families remain displaced. Overall public confidence in our military remains shattered.

Since then, our military, with their partners in State and Federal Government, has focused immediately on remediating contamination, restoring safe drinking water, and returning families to their homes. Our military has expended hundreds of millions on these efforts to date, with hundreds of millions more imminent and billions eventually required to implement Red Hill alternatives.

This measure's $403 million of emergency funding is critical to sustain the immediate effort to stabilize and defuel Red Hill, return our families to their homes, and restore public confidence in safe drinking water.

I deeply appreciate the commitment of my chair and committee; our Senate counterparts; the administration; and my Hawaii colleague, Senator SCHATZ, to the inclusion of this critical emergency funding.

Mahalo.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this bill.

I would now like to take some time to honor one of my committee staff, Dave Raser, who passed away suddenly on Saturday. At just 24 years of age, he worked just as hard as anyone and did so with a heart of gratitude and service.

Dave joined my staff as an intern in 2019 and did such a great job that he officially joined my staff in 2020. Next week, we would have celebrated his 2-year anniversary with the committee. He always had a smile on his face and a joyful spirit that uplifted everyone. He truly made a positive impact on everyone he interacted with.

On behalf of Congress and the Appropriations Committee, I offer our sincerest condolences to his family, especially his sister, Emily, whom he greatly admired and cherished.

Words cannot express how saddened we are at the loss of someone so young and so kind.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first let me join Ranking Member GRANGER in expressing my condolences at the unexpected passing of Appropriations Committee staff member Dave Raser over the weekend.

Not an hour ago—to my colleague and ranking member—I spoke with his father and expressed our condolences and our thoughts and prayers being with him and assured them that they are not alone and that they have a family here that mourns with them for the loss of Dave.

The gentlewoman from Texas so aptly described him and the promise for his future.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with him, with his family, with his sister, Emily, with whom, as my friend mentioned, he was very, very close, and his friends and his co-workers.

Again, I join Ranking Member GRANGER's sadness at this great loss for our committee.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the legislation before us, the American people need a government funding agreement to support working families, expand access to childcare, education, and job training. We need to be supporting small businesses. We need to rebuild our public health and transportation infrastructure, confront the climate crisis, provide care and benefits for our veterans, and protect our national security. That is what we need to be about.

Let us pass this continuing resolution. Let us complete an omnibus and let us get the job done for the good people whom we represent.

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this latest continuing resolution to keep the federal government funded through March 11, 2022. I commend my good friend, the gentlelady from Connecticut, Ms. Delaura, the Chair of the Appropriations Committee for her leadership in helping the House get its funding bills passed last year and her continued dogged efforts to reach an agreement to finalize FY 22 funding.

I hope that this is the last CR that this chamber has to consider. The House passed funding bills provided critical increases for a range of education, health care, transportation, housing, funding for our veterans, and other priorities that cannot take effect under a CR.

This includes priorities that I was pleased to work to secure including additional funding for the TRIO program which helps provides services to help students not only get to college, but graduate. Other priorities include programs such as WIC, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants, and funding for school breakfast programs, among many other programs that this House was able to support in its FY 22 bills.

Additionally, enactment of the final FY 22 funding bills is crucial to unlocking programs and funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that passed Congress last fall with bipartisan support in both chambers.

The House passed some great FY 22 funding bills that will help our communities, create jobs, and provided long overdue investments. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to work with us to get these bills over the line. And soon.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with concern regarding our ongoing use of Continuing Resolutions.

While this Continuing Resolution (CR) is necessary to keep the federal government open in the short term, CRs are an expensive and wasteful solution that we should not continue to rely on. Congress has a constitutional responsibility to ensure that our government serves the American people effectively. Short term funding resolutions hamstring federal agencies and our national defense by freezing their ability to award grants, sign contracts, and do any long-term planning.

The House of Representatives completed consideration of a majority of our full year appropriations bills months ago. The refusal of some to come to the table and do the hard work of legislating has created the need for these short-term bills to avert a shutdown.

While I am pleased that this CR includes additional funds to keep the critically important Columbia Class Submarine program on track, we should not need to rely on small carveouts to ensure funding for important defense programs that have already been authorized by Congress. Other critical programs, such as those that ensure children are fed, the elderly can afford their heating bills, and everyone can file their tax returns, are also stymied by short-term funding.

I urge my colleagues to pass full year appropriations expeditiously and work together to ensure that we can complete the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations process on time before September 30, 2022.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 912, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

SPECIALIST MATTHEW R. TURCOTTE POST OFFICE

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 (S. 566) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the ''Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office'' on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 432, nays 0, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 37]

YEAS—432

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 (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
Massie
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
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
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
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Roy

□ 1655

Mrs. BOEBERT changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Gallego (Gomez)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Jacobs (CA) (Correa)
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Burgess)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (Johnson (SD))
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Rice (NY))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 342, nays 92, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 38]

YEAS—342

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Balderson
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert

Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carson
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Feenstra
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (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)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
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
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—92

Allen
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Banks
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Burchett
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Cline
Cloud
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Estes
Fallon
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Harris
Hern
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hollingsworth
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamborn
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Mann
Massie
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rose
Rosendale
Roy
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Steel
Steil
Steube
Taylor
Timmons
Van Duyne
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Williams (TX)

□ 1716

Mr. HAGEDORN changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Gallego (Gomez)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Jacobs (CA) (Correa)
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Burgess)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (Johnson (SD))
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Rice (NY))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

(By unanimous consent, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania was allowed to speak out of order.)

CONGRATULATING REPUBLICAN PLAYERS ON THEIR VICTORY AT THE CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL GAME

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as you know, this past September we played the Congressional Baseball Game. We had another record crowd and raised over a million dollars for our charities. It was a great game, 13–12.

I am here today to congratulate our Republican players on their victory, a hard-fought victory. They played hard. The lead went back and forth all the way to the last inning when they scored enough runs to get that extra run and beat us.

Congratulations. We will see you next year. I think the game has been set for July 28, and we are looking forward to playing it then.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was a great game, 13–12. There were a lot of runs scored. I think this next one coming up is going to be the gentleman's last one after many years of managing, and we appreciate what he has done.

He mentioned the charities; the charities were the big winners. Almost $2 million in charity income was raised from the game. It was a great night.

It is a huge honor to accept this championship trophy for not only the team but all of the Republican Conference. Being America's team is not easy. And we are officially America's team. We are looking forward to July 28 where we hope everybody returns and we raise more money for charity.

It is a great honor. We will display this proudly. We look forward to seeing our opponents again on July 28. We will have Greg Steube ready to go along with his bat and everybody else we have playing.

God bless all of you, and God bless the great game of baseball.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the passage of the bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 272, nays 162, not voting 0, as follows:

[Roll No. 39]

YEAS—272

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver

Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Dunn
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Granger
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Womack
Yarmuth
Young

NAYS—162

Allen
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Comer
Crenshaw
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Upton
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Zeldin

□ 1737

Mr. MCCLINTOCK changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Gallego (Gomez)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Jacobs (CA) (Correa)
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Burgess)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (Johnson (SD))
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Rice (NY))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

D. EDWINA STEPHENS POST OFFICE BUILDING

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. 2324) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the ''D. Edwina Stephens Post Office'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 428, nays 1, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 40]

YEAS—428

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 (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
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
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)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
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
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
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
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
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—1

Massie

"PRESENT"—1

Roy

NOT VOTING—3

Cawthorn
Doyle, Michael F.
Loudermilk

□ 1756

Mr. MASSIE changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

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.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Gallego (Gomez)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Jacobs (CA) (Correa)
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Burgess)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (Johnson (SD))
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Rice (NY))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

ARTHUR LUIS IBLETO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). 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. 735) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the "Arthur Luis Ibleto Post Office Building", as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 4, answered "present" 1, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 41]

YEAS—422

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 (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
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
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)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
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 (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
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)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
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 (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
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
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—4

Harris
Hartzler
Massie
Norman

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Roy

NOT VOTING—6

Doyle, Michael F.
Loudermilk
Murphy (NC)
Palazzo
Rogers (AL)
Schiff

□ 1813

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 designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the 'Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building'.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 41.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei (Balderson)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Takano)
Bera (Correa)
Bowman (Jeffries)
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)
Brooks (Moore (AL))
Brownley (Meng)
Clarke (NY) (Kelly (IL))
Cohen (Beyer)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeSaulnier (Raskin)
Doggett (Raskin)
Dunn (Joyce (PA))
Fallon (Ellzey)
Frankel, Lois (Meng)
Gallego (Gomez)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Balderson)
Gonzalez, Vicente (Correa)
Gosar (Gaetz)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hagedorn (Carl)
Huffman (Gomez)
Jacobs (CA) (Correa)
Kahele (Case)
Keating (Cicilline)
Kelly (PA) (Balderson)
Khanna (Gomez)
Kinzinger (Rice (SC))
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Kuster (Bonamici)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lucas (Burgess)
Malinowski (Pallone)
McEachin (Wexton)
Moore (WI) (Raskin)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Pingree (Bonamici)
Porter (Wexton)
Reed (Johnson (SD))
Roybal-Allard (Correa)
Ruiz (Correa)
Rush (Kaptur)
Salazar (Kim (CA))
Schneider (Rice (NY))
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sires (Pallone)
Soto (Wasserman Schultz)
Strickland (Takano)
Suozzi (Raskin)
Trone (Beyer)
Vargas (Correa)
Waters (Jeffries)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, the order of the House of January 4, 2021, and the order of the House of March 12, 2021, of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. GALLAGHER, Wisconsin

RESTRICT USE OF NO-KNOCK WARRANTS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it has been 342 days since the House of Representatives passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. For 11 months, Senate Republicans have filibustered this bill, blocking meaningful change and accountability to address systemic racism and the use of excessive force.

One critical reform that can wait no longer is restricting the use of no-knock warrants. These extreme warrants too often create dangerous situations for innocent bystanders as well as for suspects and law enforcement.

That is why the Saint Paul Police Department has not issued a no-knock warrant since 2016. But the Minneapolis Police Department continues to insist on using these no-knock warrants.

The irresponsible choice that they are making has resulted again in a death, the killing of Mr. Locke last week, another life cut tragically short during a no-knock search, a headline that we have become all too familiar with. That is why we need Federal reforms now.

The House has done its job. The Senate must do its job, stop stalling, and pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

HONORING JOE SOUSA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Joe Willie Sousa for being inducted into the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Joe is no stranger to the Georgia broadcasting awards scene, as he also earned the Best Pandemic Coverage Award. In the face of a public health crisis, Joe's knowledge and expertise helped educate listeners on issues of supreme importance to them. He developed this experience as an on-air radio personality for several stations over his four decades-long career.

His career began in the 1970s when he took a chance to get into broadcasting while working at a Winn-Dixie in Brunswick. He had planned to attend the University of Georgia after graduating high school but got his big break when he was introduced to Ed Wright and began working on a radio show from 7 to midnight.

After only a year of work, and showing off his natural talent, Joe had shown he was more than capable, and Wright offered him a spot on the morning show. The rest, as they say, is history.

Since that day, Joe has broadcast his personality across the airwaves, and we hope to continue to hear from him for years to come.

SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT OPTIONS

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, public transportation that everyone can access is a critical, long-term investment in our communities.

The bipartisan infrastructure law is the largest Federal investment ever in safe, healthy, and sustainable transit options for millions of Americans, options like Pace bus that keep seniors and our neighbors in my community in northern Illinois connected.

Not only will the bipartisan infrastructure law continue record job growth by adding millions more good-paying union jobs; it invests $4.5 billion in Illinois for critical upgrades and repairs to aging transit infrastructure.

Last week, I visited the Crystal Lake Metra station to highlight the difference this money will make for us at home. Now, Metra can invest in upgrading ADA accessibility and replacing decades-old railcars with cleaner alternatives.

I am proud to work with the Biden-Harris administration to improve, modernize, and expand our public transportation infrastructure.

CONGRATULATING HEARD, MCELROY & VESTAL ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friends and community leaders who have been serving my hometown of Shreveport for a remarkable 75 years.

The CPA firm of Heard, McElroy & Vestal has been an integral part of our community since 1946. In fact, founding partner Charles McElroy served as one of the first chairmen of the Louisiana Certified Public Accountants.

From the very beginning, the firm has established itself as a pillar of trust, integrity, and competence. Their firm is now one of the largest public accounting groups in northwest Louisiana.

This firm and its over 100 employees have worked faithfully for the people of Louisiana every day, and they have continued to be a cornerstone for our region. We are blessed to have their mission of accounting excellence and commitment to integrity as a part of our community.

Thank you to my friends for serving so well for all of these years, and happy 75th anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF TOM BRADY

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Tom Brady.

As the Congressman for Foxborough, Massachusetts, I represent the home of the New England Patriots. For 20 of his 22 seasons in the National Football League, Mr. Brady was a Patriot. He brought pride and six Super Bowl victories to my district and to the fans of New England.

Mr. Brady embodies excellence. He is the greatest football player of all time, and his final MVP-worthy season is an indication that he was still getting better when he retired.

He won 35 playoff games throughout his career. That is more than double the second-place quarterback. Even down by 25 points with little more than 15 minutes on the clock in the biggest game, he never gave up on his team.

Indeed, teamwork was Tom Brady's top talent. He elevated others through his team-first ethic and his competitive drive. From the sixth round to seven Super Bowls, the GOAT was always focused on the team, not himself.

On behalf of two decades of Foxboro Faithful, I thank Tom Brady for the memories.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANDREW SPYROW

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man in my district.

On February 1, Andrew Spyrow of Bettendorf passed away after a nearly 4-year battle with brain cancer.

Andrew was a lifelong native of Bettendorf, graduating from Our Lady of Lourdes and Assumption High School, where he developed many lifelong friendships. He loved playing sports and running, participating in several marathons across the country.

I first met Andrew in 2014 when he volunteered and worked at the RNC victory office in Bettendorf.

Andrew was a devoted husband, son, and father. After his cancer diagnosis, Andrew built a beautiful family. He married his best friend and love of his life, Mary. They had two beautiful children, Audrey and Oliver.

No matter what was happening in his life, Andrew always put the needs of others first. Even when he was fighting cancer, he always made sure to ask how others were doing, never complaining about his diagnosis.

Andrew's family, friends, and his RNC friends are in our prayers during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MOTHER HATTIE WHITE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mother Hattie White, a longtime resident of Southwest Detroit, in Michigan 13 District Strong, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Mother Hattie White was born on February 23, 1922, in Alabama and later moved to River Rouge, Michigan. She married the love of her life, Albert James White, in 1946. They were married for 52 years and raised their seven children in River Rouge and Southwest Detroit neighborhoods with love and instilling an ethic of responsibility and kindness toward others.

In 1967, Mother White and her husband started a community church, Love Joy Missionary Baptist Church, in River Rouge, which cemented her role as a matriarch of our community.

Mother White shines bright in the community and has brought so much joy to her family, friends, and neighbors.

Please join me in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

FENTANYL OVERDOSES SKYROCKETED IN 2021

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in 2021, U.S. drug overdoses due to fentanyl skyrocketed, and it is now reported to be the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45. The leading cause of death for Americans between 18 and 45 is imported fentanyl, mostly coming across our open southern border.

Instead of combating this epidemic by prosecuting drug traffickers or banning molecularly altered fentanyl substances, the Biden administration is making America's drug problem worse by actually putting crack pipes into the hands of users—crack pipes distributed by the U.S. Government into the hands of drug users. Yes.

This has been already modeled in San Francisco, so I guess we want to do the Californication of the rest of the country with these crazy ideas coming from the Biden administration. Boy, we have gone from just don't do it to, hey, just hand it all out.

It is unbelievable that this is a policy at a time of drug problems in this country skyrocketing, harm coming to people, and the Biden administration wants to hand out free crack pipes in the name, I guess, of racial equity. Unbelievable.

CRACK PIPE DISTRIBUTION BY BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I was just listening to Congressman LAMALFA from California, and I couldn't agree with him more.

Here we are, in the United States, where crime is skyrocketing. Fentanyl is crossing the border in record amounts and is the number one cause of death for ages 18 through 45.

Here, today, I see this headline. I just googled it and came up with this one from blackenterprise.com. The headline says: ''Biden administration to fund the distribution of crack pipes and syringes to promote 'racial equity.' ''

''On Monday, applications closed for the Biden administration's new $30 million grant program to provide crack pipes and 'smoking kits' to promote 'racial equity.' ''

Are you kidding me? Our crime is rising, and this is what the Biden administration thinks is the priority? It is nuts.

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NFL'S LACK OF RESPONSE TO RACISM

(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. Mr. Speaker, many of our jurisdictional committees have oversight over the major league sports teams, from baseball to basketball to football.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I have been engaged with my committee in the oversight of the National Football League. In fact, I remember more than a decade ago we were the first committee to deal with brain concussions and the lack of response by the NFL to the players.

Today, I rise for the lack of response to racism and racial discrimination in the NFL. I take note of the lawsuit filed by Coach Brian Flores and would hope that the words, ''it is without merit'' will not stand.

I believe it is important, with the number of minority players versus the number of coaches to that in terms of statistics, that we address the seeming appearance of racial discrimination in the NFL. I think it is important to reassess the Rooney rule to give a criteria for how coaches are selected, so mistakes like the coach from Boston sending the wrong notice that ''you have been hired'' to someone else would not happen.

To Mr. Goodell and the owners, let's work together, let's get the teams to look like America.

CRISES FACING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). 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. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this evening we will have Republican Members from across this country to address the multiple crises that are facing our country, whether it is the economic crisis, the crime crisis, the energy crisis, the border crisis, the foreign policy crisis, or now the related issue of the staggering and ongoing crisis of fentanyl, a scourge upon this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield first to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) to address this issue.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, in 2020, my State of Virginia hit a tragic milestone: Fatal drug overdoses hit an all-time high of 2,309. Fentanyl and its analogs caused or contributed to 71.8 percent of those deaths. The statistics we have for 2021 indicate it may surpass that heartbreaking number of overdose deaths.

We have tools at our disposal to reduce the availability of illicit substances such as fentanyl and meth and, in turn, prevent overdose deaths, but they are not being used. Cartels are taking components of fentanyl from China, manufacturing it in Mexico, and smuggling it across the border.

In fiscal year 2021, fentanyl seizures by U.S. Customs and Border Protection increased by 134 percent, but the Biden administration is weakening our country's ability to secure its own border, allowing not only more illegal immigration, but smuggling of deadly drugs.

Meanwhile, fentanyl-related substances have only temporarily been listed as a schedule I drug, with extensions passed every few months, including today we extended it another 3 weeks, but not a permanent scheduling.

To correct this problem, I have introduced the HALT Fentanyl Act with Congressman BOB LATTA of Ohio. It would permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances. But our bill doesn't stop there. It streamlines research on fentanyl analogs so we can better understand the effects of these substances.

At a recent hearing of the Subcommittee on Health, we heard testimony there are as many as 4,800 fentanyl analogs. We have data on fewer than 30 of them; in other words, fewer than 1 percent of them.

Most of the fentanyl-related substances we have data on are dangerous, but some are inert and may even have properties that block opioid addiction. We simply need to know more.

Our bill makes room for researchers, not just at Federal agencies, but across research institutions, to get to work. I believe our bill would save lives. House Democrats should help us send it to the President's desk.

But this bill alone will not solve the problem. It helps, but it will not solve the problem. We have to use all the tools available to us.

We need to increase the number of border agents that we have, particularly on the southern border.

We need to give them the tools they need.

We need to give them more drones for electronic surveillance in the air.

We need to give them more dogs to help them figure out what is going on, to sniff out the drugs when they can. It is coming across in small amounts. Here you see it, 2 milligrams, a lethal dose for most Americans, and there it is compared to a penny. They need more dogs at the border.

They need more horses because some of that terrain is not suitable for motor vehicles.

And last but not least, Mr. Speaker, we need to finish building the wall.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I could not have said it better myself. I thank my friend for those comments.

Mr. Speaker, what Mr. GRIFFITH is explaining there is the magnitude of this crisis, and I have a number of colleagues here tonight who will speak to it. Illegal drug overdoses recently became the leading cause of death for Americans age 18–45; the leading cause of death. Today in America illegal drug overdoses are killing more people at this age demographic than car accidents, obviously, than cancer, more than COVID. In my home State of Louisiana alone, opioid deaths increased in 2021 by 40 percent; 40 percent in one year; mostly driven by an increase in illicit fentanyl.

What is fentanyl? Fentanyl is this synthetic opioid that is 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine. It is created with chemicals shipped from China to Mexico. It is trafficked across our southern border. Its potency means the smallest amount, even to fit on the tip of a pencil, is considered a lethal dose, and now it is fueling one of the worst drug epidemics in American history.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's response has been nothing, passivity. They have been passive about securing our border, the entry point for all these drugs coming into our communities. They have been passive about prosecuting drug offenders. Many Democrat-led jurisdictions are lowering felony offenses to misdemeanors. They have been passive about preventing drug abuse. The Democrats' American Rescue Plan, so-called, even includes a provision, as you have already heard tonight, and you will hear it more, to distribute drug paraphernalia at taxpayers' expense. It is unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, fentanyl deaths are certain to increase unless we act with the same resolve that we have used to attack other less-deadly threats. If the Biden administration were serious about addressing this crisis, they would start by securing our turnstile at the southern border. It is time for the Democrats in charge here to wake up.

To help address this problem, we have to take immediate steps. We have to secure our border. We have to prosecute criminals again. We have to work with localities to prevent drug abuse rather than accommodate it.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of colleagues, as I mentioned, who will address this issue in further detail. I am delighted that they have taken the time to be here. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN).

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Louisiana giving me some time to talk about this vitally critical matter.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of our border agents, who work tirelessly to defend our Nation against the flow of deadly drugs crossing our southern border. Their job is made incredibly more difficult by the Biden administration's open border policies.

I am sometimes asked why, as a Floridian, I care so deeply about what is happening on our southern border. Whether it is criminals, terrorists, human traffickers, or drug smugglers, problems at the Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California borders quickly become problems for all Americans. Florida may be hundreds of miles from the border, but illegal drugs from there are flooding our communities.

The Tampa Bay area, my home, has an overdose rate that is 50 percent higher than the national average. To put that figure in context, 30 people in the Tampa Bay area are dying every week from overdoses. Let that sink in. The lion's share of these overdoses are from fentanyl. This highly lethal drug, primarily manufactured in China and smuggled in by Mexican cartels, is many times stronger than heroin, morphine, and other opioids. As little as two milligrams, smaller than the tip of a pencil, which you can see right here in perspective relative to a penny, is often enough to kill an adult.

Fentanyl overdoses are now the number one killer of adults age 18 to 45. This is a national tragedy. It is exasperating to see the hands of our agents tied as they try to stop this crisis because their own government stands in the way. As one frustrated border agent told his chief in a recently leaked video, ''for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.''

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration is doing worse than nothing. It is actively promoting an open border policy that allows dangerous drugs to flow into our communities. This administration has the blood of its citizens on its hands. For the safety and security of our Nation, it must stop.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for that compelling message. He is right, every State is a border State now, whether you are on the coast or whether you

are up north or anywhere in the country, and Tennessee is no exception to that.

I yield now to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), my good friend.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the great work that Chairman JOHNSON has been doing on this for the last few weeks, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Six days ago, Mr. Speaker, I spoke about the fentanyl crisis in this Chamber. According to the trajectory of the CDC's most recent 12-month data on drug overdose deaths, over 1,600 Americans have died since that speech, 1,600. In reality, I am afraid that number is actually a lot higher thanks to illegally trafficked fentanyl.

Just last week, an unsuspecting high school student in Connecticut overdosed on marijuana laced with fentanyl. Thankfully, that student is all right, but sadly, there are many others who do not survive an overdose.

A man called my office the other day. His son died. He was in the Carolinas, unsuspecting, took a street drug, and it was laced with fentanyl. They said the fentanyl, the pill was still in his mouth, it was that strong.

Our government needs to stop illegal fentanyl from entering the United States right now, Mr. Speaker. Republicans and Democrats must demand more action on this issue from our leaders.

Here in the House, Speaker PELOSI controls the floor schedule and does not say much about illegal fentanyl trafficking. Down Pennsylvania Avenue, at the White House, President Biden issued financial sanctions against foreign smugglers who bring drugs like fentanyl into our country. Mr. Speaker, that is a nice start, but I doubt these cartel thugs and bums will quit the drug trade just because they can't use an American bank.

Earlier today, I delivered a letter to Speaker PELOSI requesting that she do everything in her power to stop fentanyl from entering our country. President Biden received a copy of that letter as well. I urged them to consider my Fentanyl Trafficker Elimination Act, which would sentence fentanyl traffickers to life in prison, as a possible solution to reducing the amount of fentanyl that flows across our borders.

Politically, I have little in common with Speaker PELOSI and President Biden. I met President Biden after the prayer breakfast, and I told him that I don't agree with hardly anything he does, but I pray for him every day, and that is true. However, I believe all three of us agree more needs to be done to stop Americans from overdosing on illegal fentanyl. I think overwhelming majorities in our respective parties feel the same. The American people will be glad to see us put politics aside and do something to reduce the tragic fentanyl overdose deaths that have become too common in our communities.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we spend most of our time up here and, as I have said before, these bridges and post offices aren't going to name themselves. We need to get back to the people's work, Mr. Speaker, and put an end to this tragedy.

As always, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your more-than-lackluster abilities.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. It is a serious issue. Every moment of levity helps us. I tell you what, if we can't work in a bipartisan fashion to prosecute criminals and stop the cartels, there may not be a lot of hope for this institution. I hope we can get back to that soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO). Arizona is a State that certainly deals with this every moment of every day, and she has seen it up close.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am going to read off some headlines. The first one is from the New York Post. It says, ''Fentanyl now leading cause of death among teens in Arizona border county.'' In the article it says, ''Fentanyl overdoses have overtaken car crashes as the leading cause of death among teenagers in an Arizona border county, as Governor Doug Ducey blames President Biden's neglect of the U.S. border for the rise in lethal drugs coming into the country.''

The next article is from a TV station in Tucson, and it is entitled, ''Arizona poison centers sound alarm as fentanyl overdoses spike.''

Another article, and this one is from The Center Square. ''Arizona seizes record amount of fentanyl, now cited as leading cause of death of Americans between 18 and 45.'' It goes on to say, ''Authorities in Arizona seized $9 million worth of fentanyl pills in the State's largest bust of the illicit drug—enough, they said, to kill half the population of Arizona.'' Wow. It goes on to say, ''Fentanyl has become the drug of choice of the Mexican Sinaloa cartel, which controls the U.S.-Mexico border stretching from California to El Paso, Texas.''

□ 1845

'''This is not a recreational drug' Scottsdale Police Department Chief Jeff Walther said. 'This is death.' Two milligrams is a lethal dose. A teaspoon holds about 5,000 milligrams, enough to kill 2,500 people. One pound of fentanyl, or 453,592 milligrams, could kill 226,796 people.''

The next headline, and this is from NBC News: ''Fentanyl Deaths from 'Mexican oxy' pills hit Arizona hard.'' And just a couple things it says in this article: Aaron Francisco Chavez swallowed at least one of the sky blue pills at a Halloween party before falling asleep forever.''

He and three other teenagers took this drug.

And it says the four thought they were taking oxycodone. They didn't know that it was laced with fentanyl. '''It's the worst I have seen in 30 years, this toll that it's taken on families,' said Doug Coleman, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration special agent in charge of Arizona. 'The crack (cocaine) crisis was not as bad.'''

These are just some of the headlines, ladies and gentlemen. And I live in the border State of Arizona. We are impacted greatly.

I call on President Biden. I plead with President Biden: Come down to the border. See it for yourself. Talk to the Border Patrol agents. They will show you all of the fentanyl pills that they have seized. But we know that there is a lot they haven't even caught, and it is coming into our communities. It is killing our kids. It is killing our brothers. It is killing our sisters. Please, President Biden, take this seriously and secure the border now.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, that passion is authentic. And as we said, from Arizona you see it every day.

Mr. Speaker, I just received a text message from our colleague, Mr. KATKO, and he is the lead Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, and he said make sure when we are talking about the cartels to point out they are getting magnificently enriched through this alien smuggling surge, and they are, therefore, flush with cash, and they are now developing their own ability to make fentanyl. That is a dangerous game changer for the country. This crisis gets worse and worse by the hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I am honored by your yielding and the work that you are doing in this area.

We are in the midst of perhaps the widest array of crises this country has ever seen.

A global pandemic, inflation, and an unstable world stage that could erupt at any moment.

Yet, COVID–19 and these uncertainties aren't the only things slowly infecting every corner of this country.

Fentanyl. Fentanyl. That word.

It takes just two milligrams of this substance, which is 100 times more potent than morphine, to kill a full-grown adult.

In fact, Border Patrol has already seized more than 2,700 pounds at the southern border this year, 2,700 pounds, enough to kill every single American twice over.

The massive inflow of this deadly substance is a direct result of our weakening southern border and policies designed to entice illegal immigrants to flow into our Nation.

Often sourced directly from China, our open-border policies have allowed the worst of humanity to sneak this drug into every community, small and large, rural, urban, or suburban across our great America.

It has become so bad, in fact, that fentanyl is now the leading cause of

death, as you have heard over and over again because it is so unbelievable, of all Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. Imagine that. It is incomprehensible.

Exacerbated by the stress of mandates and lockdowns, fentanyl-related overdoses across the board increased by more than 55 percent.

I have seen it personally in my home district and across the great State of New Jersey, where thousands of families last year lost a loved one to a fentanyl overdose. It has to end. It has to stop.

We must secure our southern border. We must provide the resources to get this drug off our streets, and we must permanently make fentanyl a schedule I drug.

It is time to finish the wall, stop the relocating of illegal migrants across the country, and we must empower our law enforcement at the border to uphold the rule of law.

If not, we will lose our America that we love.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, strong words on a very important set of issues.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this Special Order tonight and continuing to keep the effort up to put this in front of the American people and the Congress and the White House.

We have talked a couple times here this evening so far, and this is a statistic that I don't know if it is reaching across to enough people. The leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45 is fentanyl. It isn't car wrecks, it is not gun violence—which is usually people violence it takes people to run a gun, to clear up a term—it is not cancer, not some other form, it is a drug.

So what is this? It really boils down to it is a border problem.

So when the Biden administration decided to have a much more open, hands-off policy on our borders, the opposite of what the Trump Administration had been attempting to do, this problem has been exacerbated. The number of people coming across, some for asylum reasons, others for economic reasons, but the ones that are mixing in, that are coming with them are bringing this stuff with them.

Now, as a Californian we have prime examples of what that looks like on our streets, what it looks like for homelessness and for people literally dying on the street; San Francisco being a shining example of what most cities don't want to be with the problems they have on their streets with homelessness, with drug use, people dying on our streets.

Needle programs. We call it clean needle exchange programs. They are not even exchange programs. Even one of my district towns, Chico, California, a nice town, people bring these needles in. And they don't exchange them, as I mentioned, they just give them out until finally the city council changed, and they have moved in a direction to try and stop this sort of thing. It was killing a small valley town like Chico. And yet our administration is promoting an open border policy that is allowing in this fentanyl.

You heard some of my colleagues tonight talking about how small of an amount it takes to not only negatively affect people, but kill them. It is extremely potent. It doesn't take much of this stuff to cause a death. And it is coming across, pounds and pounds at a time, over our border.

Why are we allowing this to happen? It's coming freely over our borders, distributors without consequence putting it out, harming our people, harming this country.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, if the Democrats, if the White House really cared about the health and safety of the American citizens, they would implement commonsense policies to combat this epidemic, increasing search and seizures at our border, prosecuting traffickers instead of letting them go.

It is just so unbelievable. People come up to me all the time as their Representative ''We just can't believe what is going on in our country lately.'' The prosecution letting people out of prison, right back to offend once again.

And this wide-open border that is just an open conduit to so much harm from terrorism. They picked up five Syrians the other day. It isn't just people coming from Central America wanting a better life or reuniting families when you have single young men coming across the border. This is a fraud that is being committed against the American people here, and fentanyl is just one example of harming not just economically but our open border, and so many people with an illegal drug because we have a terrible policy.

Our border control folks are so demoralized by what is going on here, and so are the people of this country. We have many crises these days, but this is one of the worst because we are losing the identity of our country with what has been going on.

President Biden's team needs to get on the job here and enforce our border and not allow this poison to keep coming across.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

The Border Patrol agents are as frustrated as we are. Demoralized is exactly right. We have met with them and heard their stories. And the reason they are so frustrated, Mr. Speaker, is because all of this crisis is completely avoidable. These are the results of bad policy choices, and that is what is so outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to add a few additional things about fentanyl.

I first got here about 7 years ago, and at the time there were 47,000 deaths caused by illegal drugs a year. By comparison, there were 57,000 people who died in Vietnam, but that was over a 10-year period, a 12-year period. This is over 1 year, 47,000 people. And it was a national crisis. And every politician had to address that crisis.

Well, 7 years later what became of that statistic, 47,000 deaths a year from fentanyl? It went up to 100,000 deaths a year.

Now, I have been at the border five times. Every time I am down there the Border Patrol, again and again, emphasizes that with this open flow of people coming into this country, you're getting unlimited fentanyl.

So we have to do two obvious things to address the problem. We just passed a continuing resolution today with some increases in there, but the budget proposed by our President doesn't increase funding for the Border Patrol at all. You go through that budget, 12 percent over here, 18 percent over here, 7 percent over here. Border Patrol, nothing. Like these lives don't matter at all. We have got to spend more money at the border.

Secondly, when it comes down to penalties for people who are selling this fentanyl or trafficking in fentanyl, they are not great enough.

Right now, your penalties for heroin, which is a fraction as lethal as fentanyl, are much higher, the mandatory minimums, than the cutoff for fentanyl.

I have introduced a bill that is going to deal with that called the Fentanyl Penalties Parity Act, which adjusts the mandatory minimum to be the same as heroin.

So we have got to throw more people in prison. That 100,000 deaths, by the way, that is not what we call nonviolent. Ask the parents of the people who died of these fentanyl overdoses whether that is just a nonviolent crime, and we will slap somebody on the wrist and who cares? We have got to up the penalties on people who are selling that fentanyl. We had 560 people die in Milwaukee County alone last year, and Milwaukee County is not that big.

And secondly, we have got to do something at that border. The idea that these fentanyl drugs continue to flow across the southern border, and we can pretend there is nothing we can do, that we can continue to allow KAMALA HARRIS to look out at the border, which is just like a joke on the American people. It is a joke on anybody who has had a loved one die of this fentanyl. That has got to end.

I hope everybody in this building, those people fortunate enough to meet the President tell him, Get KAMALA HARRIS off that border and get us some more Border Patrol agents down there so it shows that we are taking the lives of these 100,000 people a year a little more seriously.

□ 1900

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that forceful message.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 32 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield next to a gentleman who has been on the front lines of all this as a retired police lieutenant. He is also a former professional hockey player, and that is pretty cool, too. He is a tough guy, but he knows the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the congressman for this Special Order. It is needed and I appreciate the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the devastating fentanyl crisis that is wreaking havoc on our communities and our families. The hardest thing I ever had to do during my 23 years as a law enforcement officer was tell an unsuspecting mother that her child had died due to a drug overdose.

The opioid crisis has ravaged our communities for years, and when people were forced inside during this pandemic, things only got worse. For the first time ever, in 2021, drug overdoses in the United States topped 100,000. Overdose deaths are now claiming a new victim every 5 minutes.

As stated earlier, fentanyl overdoses were the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45 just last year. That is more than the COVID–19 deaths, car crashes, or suicides put together for that age group.

The American people are suffering. We have a moral obligation to do everything we can to prevent another addiction, to prevent another death, to prevent another heartbroken family. The DEA revealed in December that criminal drug networks in Mexico, using resources from China, are trafficking fentanyl over Biden's open southern border at a rate that could provide a lethal dose to every American over seven times.

Cartels and their drug runners are exploiting open border policies of Joe Biden and this administration, and the American people are literally paying the price with their lives. Without serious action, this fentanyl will continue to flow across our border and affect our families and communities.

Joe Biden must secure our border by finishing the wall, fully reinstate the Remain in Mexico policy and send the clear message: Don't come to the United States illegally.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. I appreciate his words and his expertise on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who I think will address some of the other crises we are facing as well.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Louisiana for having this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, there are multiple crises. That is exactly right. It is nearly impossible to discuss President Biden's self-inflicted economic crisis without mentioning his excessive spending. I am not talking about money to strengthen our military or to make America more competitive in the world. Biden and the Democrats have no interest in that. This out-of-control spending is necessary only to appease the radical Democrat base who prioritize radical climate change policies without a care in the world for their consequences.

As a result, inflation sits at a 40-year high and our national debt has increased by trillions of dollars. For years, my colleagues across the aisle have worked tirelessly to desensitize Americans to the word ''trillion,'' and they have succeeded for the most part because a trillion of anything is such a mind-boggling figure for the average human to wrap his mind around it.

When I was elected to Congress in 2014, our national debt was $17 trillion. Fast-forward 8 years later, our national debt has topped $30 trillion. This should shock every American taxpayer, but it doesn't seem to. Allow me to put this into perspective.

If you owed $1 trillion, and you decided to pay $1 per second until your debt was paid off, it would take you around 31,700 years to become debt-free. Now, multiply that by 30, for $30 trillion of our national debt. I am no mathematician, but this amounts to approximately 951,000 years. So if we paid $1 per second until our $30 trillion national debt is paid off, it would take us just shy of a million years to become debt-free.

President Biden and the Democrats must be stopped. American solvency must be preserved. Generations of future Americans are counting on us to regain control of Washington's unsustainable spending. We literally cannot afford to fail.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, that debt is so staggering. And Dr. Babin is right, so many people don't stop to think about the magnitude of it and what we are doing to our children, our grandchildren, every future generation of Americans. We better get control of it. Thank you for that insight tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), another gentleman with a lot of expertise, who will address some of the crime crises that we are facing.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank him for hosting this night.

Mr. Speaker, for years, Democrats have been pushing this ''defund the police'' rhetoric that has demonized our law enforcement officers and left them unequipped and abandoned by their government. Now, we are paying the price.

In the year 2021, 73 of our bravest police officers lost their lives in defense of their country and their communities. This is a 59 percent increase from 2020 and the most that we have had since 1995. This is utterly unacceptable. The language from top Democrats empowers those that wish to do harm upon others and leaves our law enforcement stranded with nowhere to look for aid.

After an entire year of this detrimental rhetoric, at least 16 U.S. cities have set new homicide records in 2021, 346 officers were shot, and we saw 115 percent increase in ambush-style attacks on law enforcement from 2020. Democrats aren't just downplaying the impacts of their soft-on-crime rhetoric, they are completely ignoring it.

Shoplifting in California and New York has gotten so bad that it is now mocked on social media and offenders simply walk into a store, grab what they want, and walk out. The First Congressional District of Georgia is unfortunately no exception to this current trend.

In the first half of 2021, violent increased 7 percent, property crimes rose 10 percent, and shoplifting has risen 9 percent, all in Savannah alone.

Folks, this rhetoric is harmful. It hurts our communities, it hurts our law enforcement, and it hurts our constituents. We must put a stop to this and reinforce the fact that we have the backs of our police officers. This issue is of the utmost importance, and I call upon President Biden to say, unequivocally, that he supports our men and women in blue.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for his insights there.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman JOHNSON for organizing this Special Order hour tonight and for yielding me time to speak.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to ring the alarm bell regarding the United States' current financial crisis caused by the Biden administration and Democrats' far-left policies and out-of-control spending. Just last week, the national debt eclipsed $30 trillion.

As our national debt balloons, American taxpayers will be left to foot the bill, not only for the billions and trillions of dollars we are spending annually but also on a dramatically increasing cost—interest on the debt.

The Federal Government has continued to kick the can down the road, ignoring the explosive problems caused by our out-of-control spending and greatly diminishing our future generation's quality of life through no fault of their own. What a gutless and inexcusable thing to do.

Well, our time is running out, as we expect interest rates to rise in the immediate future. If interest rates rise to just 5.1 percent, as was the case in 2021, American taxpayers would suddenly be burdened with an annual interest payment on the national debt of $1.5 trillion, twice the budget for the Department of Defense, or almost 75 percent

of all income taxes collected in fiscal year 2021.

Put another way, three-quarters of the income taxes Americans pay would go toward nothing more than paying interest on the national debt, while only a quarter would be left to pay for much-needed programs and expenditures like the Justice Department, infrastructure, and defense.

Americans' pocketbooks are hurting. Whether at the gas pump, at the grocery store, or for the energy that heats your homes, prices are going up everywhere due to President Biden and Democrats' far-left policies and out-of-control spending.

Just last week, House Democrats doubled down on these disastrous decisions by ramming through their $325 billion America COMPETES Act—more like America concedes to China act, if you ask me—which only will worsen America's economic crisis.

How can anyone sit here today and encourage this reckless and irresponsible behavior? I have two sons; Guy, who is 4 years old, and Sam, who is 10 months. They will have to make payments on this massive debt for their entire lives, and the generations that follow will do the same unless we act. We must rein in Washington's out-of-control government spending to prevent future generations from paying the price for our financial mistakes.

This ticking time bomb, otherwise known as our national debt, has been ignored for far too long. With rising interest rates on the horizon, now is the last time and the best time for President Biden and Members of Congress to take a serious look in the mirror and ask ourselves if we really think the American people are okay with our country being steered off this fiscal cliff.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. I think about the same thing, our children and what we are doing to them and their future. They will have less security, less financial stability, less opportunity. They won't have the great fortune that we have because we are making bad policy decisions right now. We are adding to the debt. We are compounding the problem day by day, and we just can't get anyone here to pay any attention to it.

The Democrats in charge refuse to address the issue. In fact, they just continue to double down on bad policy, and it is just so frustrating.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) to talk about this energy crisis more.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman JOHNSON for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that President Biden's slew of crises are self-inflicted wounds that have devastated American workers, their families, and small businesses across this great Nation. The ongoing energy crisis is no exception.

President Biden's destructive energy agenda has created skyrocketing gas prices, forced burdensome home heating bills on Americans already struggling with record-high inflation, destroyed thousands of energy jobs, and canceled American energy independence.

The energy crisis has been fueled by the Biden Administration's failed policy decisions, starting with canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline, which eliminated over 11,000 American jobs.

Infamously, President Biden also greenlit Russian President Putin's Nord Stream II pipeline. He begged OPEC to produce more oil, and released three days' worth of oil from our own Strategic Petroleum Reserve ahead of last Thanksgiving.

Unfortunately, the ramifications of President Biden's ill-advised policies extend far beyond the gas pump and now into matters of national security. President Biden surrendered American energy independence to benefit our adversaries, including Russia. By handing Russian President Vladimir Putin the Nord Stream II Pipeline, Biden abandoned vital leverage, leverage that could be used right now as tensions rise between Russia and Ukraine.

Yet, after conceding this opportunity many months ago, the President now claims he will bring an end to the Nord Stream II Pipeline if Russia actually invades Ukraine. Really? So do you think this new claim is going to make Russia tremble in their boots?

Following a year of embarrassing weakness on the world stage, this empty threat means nothing to Vladimir Putin. But energy independence means everything to Americans struggling to fill their gas tanks and to keep their families warm this winter, as they wonder why President Biden prioritized Russian energy above their own.

Mr. Speaker, we must always put Americans first, yet the Biden administration and their self-inflicted energy crisis have again failed America.

□ 1915

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, as we have illustrated tonight with so many Members coming in from all over the country to express our concerns about all of these crises—and we genuinely could go for hours upon hours. But the hour is getting late tonight, and our Special Order hour is running out.

I just want to reiterate again some of the things we highlighted in this last hour on the floor here in the people's House tonight.

We addressed this economic crisis. It is just staggering. A $30 trillion Federal debt is a number that previous generations of Americans couldn't even have imagined.

We talked about the crime crisis and the utter lack of responsibility that Democrats in charge have shown and that the White House has shown to address this issue.

The border crisis and now the fentanyl crisis that is directly related to that. It has become the number one killer of Americans aged 18 to 45 in this country.

The energy crisis—because I come from an energy state, the State of Louisiana, I just want to conclude with a couple of remarks to put a fine point on that latter issue before we close this evening.

Mr. Speaker, the problem here is that, as with all of these crises, all this is totally avoidable. All of this is the result of policy choices. It is bad decisions, bad policy by the White House and by the Democrats in charge.

Mr. Speaker, on the energy crisis, President Biden's anti-energy agenda has caused the price of a gallon of gas to skyrocket to $3.42 nationally. Last week, oil prices hit $90 a barrel. Mr. Speaker, $90 is a 7-year high. In just the last month, oil prices have surged 37 percent. That is in 1 month, and it has been on a steady and rapid increase.

Given this agenda and the rapid rise in prices, it is not surprising that, according to a recent Gallup poll, American satisfaction with our energy policies is the lowest in two decades. That is because Americans have paid at the pump more now than they paid since the Obama-Biden administration.

U.S. households will also pay between $700 and $1,700 more for heat this winter, depending on where they live and what type of fuel they use. More than one in four Americans report now that they skipped basic expenses to pay their energy bill in the past year. One in five Americans report they could not pay their full energy bill. This is a crisis.

Let me just tell you, and break it down in layman's terms, why this is happening.

From the very beginning of the Biden administration, the first couple of weeks, as soon as he took office, he issued that slew of executive orders, a record number of executive orders. Among those early executive orders were his directions on energy policy.

He reflexively did exactly the opposite of what President Trump had done and accomplished. We were energy dominant, not just energy independent. We were energy dominant because of the Trump-era policies.

What does President Biden do? He does exactly the opposite, reflexively almost. President Trump moved us to domestic oil and gas production to increase that to make us energy dominant, to make us a net exporter. What does President Biden do? The opposite.

He shuts down and puts a moratorium on drilling and exploration on Federal lands, including offshore, off the coast of States like mine, Louisiana. That was a killer for the national economy. It is a direct contributor to driving the costs up.

He also killed the Keystone pipeline, of course. That was a big source, an artery, as it were, for domestic production and supply in our country. Here is the great irony. Ostensibly, the reason

for doing all those things is he wanted to help the environment, I guess. I guess he owed it to some interest groups or something. They claim that that would be better for the environment if we moved away from fossil fuels, as we always hear.

But here is the great irony—and I will close with this. When President Biden shut down domestic production, not only did he drive up the cost of all the fuel that we need to heat our homes and to fill up our gas tanks and all the rest, not only did he increase the pain on American consumers, but here is the irony. When they shut down domestic production, the demand for fossil fuels, oil and gas, in this country didn't go down. The demand didn't change nationally just because the President decided he didn't want to supply it anymore. In fact, the demand is at least stabilized and, in some cases, has gone up.

So, what does that mean? Well, Americans have to get their supply from somewhere else. If we are not going to produce it here, the bountiful resources that God has given us beneath our own feet, if we are not going to do it here, we have to get it from somewhere else.

The Biden administration turns to OPEC. They turn to Russia, Saudi Arabia, begging for more production and begging for our supply to be met from these overseas parties.

Do you know what the greatest irony about all of this is? Ostensibly, they wanted to help the environment, but do you know what they do when we get more of our oil and gas from Russia and Saudi Arabia? We do exponentially more harm to the environment.

If you believe their metrics, this is a terrible policy solution because—guess what?—we produce oil and gas in a much cleaner fashion in the United States than they do in those other countries.

So, the great irony is not only do they drive up costs for American consumers, not only do they increase the pain for everybody; they are actually doing more harm to the world that they claim they want to help.

It is truly unbelievable, not to mention it has destabilized us and put Russia in a better position. Now, we see the results of that on a whole different crisis that we didn't even have time to address tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am out of time. I would just close by saying that the American people cannot tolerate this for much longer, and they won't tolerate it for much longer. We cannot wait for this election cycle that comes up later this year when we get an opportunity to be returned to the majority to govern this place again and bring some sanity back to Washington.

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

ECONOMICS OF CURING DISEASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, last week, I got behind this microphone, and we were actually trying to show something that was a bit optimistic. But like everyone else on our side, the frustration we are going through on so many of the Democrat policies that I don't think were meant to be mean-spirited or so dystopian in the damage they cause, particularly to the working poor, which is one of my fixations—sometimes, the economics is the economics, sometimes virtue signaling over the unintended consequences.

I want to go over something and try to explain why I think this is such a big deal for both those on the left and those of us on the right. There is actually a window of optimism, but it is going to take a policy pivot.

Last week, I got up here and talked about—remember, I gave a couple of presentations last December, a major success in curing type 1 diabetes. Now, it was really only one use case where they were able to take T cells and convert them into insulin-producing cells. In that particular one, the individual would need some immunosuppressants because of the body's reaction to it.

Now, we have an organization that is doing some of the same technology with T cells, turning them into insulin-producing cells but with CRISPR as a partner. They are doing a tiny tweak. The model says the body won't recognize it as a foreign cell, and you won't need immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of your life.

Conceptually, why is this such a big, big, big deal to have a cure for type 1? If you dig through the literature, it says that, at least for people with type 2, we might have a way to get their body—actually, we do have a way—dear Lord, let the technology be true and actually coming forward—to help individuals in type 2, their bodies to produce insulin again.

Then, we have some other big policy things we would have to do here. We would have to have an honest conversation of how we do nutrition support. We would have to have an honest conversation of what we do in the farm bill, what we encourage Americans to grow, instead of just sort of the commodity crops.

North America used to grow 3,500 different types of grains. Maybe you design a farm system that allows both regional and uniqueness for different arid climates and others, sort of a cacophony, or whatever the proper word there would be, for optionality because there is a food security issue when you only grow certain crops.

God forbid you have like what is happening in parts of Europe, where olive trees have a type of fungus. Olive trees that are hundreds and hundreds of years old are dying. We make ourselves much more fragile in food security.

I sort of say that because I actually see an elegant solution coming here if we could change the way we view public policy. It is often this right-left paradigm of the left's version of wanting to be compassionate. They are going to build more clinics for those in urban areas and Tribal communities and even certain world populations that have just stunning percentages of type 2 diabetes and the misery that comes with that. Put up more clinics. My argument is: Screw that. Let's cure it.

If we are seeing technology that may lead us to a cure, put the resources forward that create the disruption because curing a misery is so much more wonderful than helping people being able to maintain and live within their misery.

Oh, by the way, for those of us who are absolutely fixated that the debt is going to destroy this Republic, it makes a hell of a lot of difference. Let's walk through some of the math of why I wish we were having this level of optimism that the technology disruptions we have now of knowing how to cure so many diseases actually may be the path that we start to take on the crushing debt that is coming.

This is important. This is year-old data from CBO. It is a year out of date. The numbers today are much worse. In 29 years, $112 trillion of publicly borrowed debt in today's dollars; the vast majority of it is Medicare, Social Security. The rest of the budget is in balance.

Why this is so important is the political class, particularly here in Washington, we have lied for decades to our constituents.

The left will say: Oh, rich people don't pay enough. We spend too much money on defense.

Republicans say: Oh, we have to get rid of foreign aid, waste, and fraud.

Maybe those are true, but they are not the driver of the debt. The debt is demographics. We are getting old as a society. You are going to see some slides later on that really will kick you in the head on these numbers. That $112 trillion of publicly borrowed debt as projected by CBO last year—and this is a number that says there are no more pandemics and no more recessions.

How many of you want to have a secure retirement? How many of you give a darn about your kids? Well, think about one little factoid here. You just saw that Medicare was the primary driver of U.S. sovereign debt. What was it? $77 to $78 trillion of borrowing over the next 29 years? Thirty-one percent of Medicare is just diabetes. Now, you are seeing the tie.

If I come to you and say: I hope it works, but considering the numbers and the benefit of if it does work, why aren't we, at least the left and the right, saying let's end people's misery? Oh, by the way, by doing that, one of the greatest effects we can have on society is actually curing these diseases that make us poorer, sicker, and actually are the primary drivers of our debt.

□ 1930

Mr. Speaker, 31 percent of Medicare spending is just related to diabetes—33 percent of all healthcare costs. So, remember, Mr. Speaker, the problem with this place is ObamaCare, the ACA, and the Republican alternatives were finance bills. They weren't about what we spend, they were who got subsidized. That is the math. The Democrats' bill had three tiers, the Republican had four tiers, but it was who was cross-subsidizing whom and then how much was coming out of the general fund to subsidize those groups. They were spending subsidization bills. They had nothing to do with what we spend.

My argument is if we would embrace the technology, push it forward—and we have changed a bunch of laws to legalize the very technology that will disrupt healthcare costs—then we save Medicare. But we also end a hell of a lot of misery in our society.

And is that Republican or Democrat?

I am sure at some point someone will contribute to one side or the other and we will turn it into partisan, right?

But at least between now and then it is technology.

And, once again, I fixate on this also: 5 percent of our brothers and sisters who have multiple chronic conditions are the majority of our healthcare spending.

If you say you care about healthcare, Mr. Speaker, is it nationalizing health care?

Well, once again, nationalizing health care, the Medicare for All, doesn't remove any costs. It just collectivizes how you can ration.

If you want to reduce costs, cure people, and end the misery, once again, 5 percent of our brothers and sisters are the majority of our healthcare spending.

You already see what is going on right now, Mr. Speaker, with some of the messenger RNA, some of the new stem cell therapies, the number of diseases we are curing. We now have a cure for hemophilia. We are about to have trials for sickle cell. You already see in so many diseases we are taking on, so many of the blood cancers today, we can cure. But the 10,000-pound gorilla is diabetes.

Maybe it is a little bit utopianism, but we have seen a perfect example of this.

Do you remember this body just a decade or so ago, Mr. Speaker?

We were having a real stressor. We were having to have conversations with State Medicaid systems on how we were going to pay for all these liver transplants for those people who may have had too good a time in the seventies. Remember, we had hundreds of thousands of individuals in the United States that we thought were having failing livers from hepatitis C. Liver transplant clinics were being funded and organized all over the country, and then, suddenly—I think the first drug out was Sovaldi—we figured out how to cure it. And the drug was outrageously expensive, it was something like $88,000, but it was a fraction of the cost of a liver transplant and then someone spending the rest of their life on anti-rejection drugs.

And then another drug came to market with a slightly different technology. The price crashed and saved a fortune and ended lots of future misery.

We lived in the last decade an example of what I am talking about.

But I beg of my friends on the Democrat side: Think about your legislation like H.R. 3. We know H.R. 3 functionally makes Big Pharma bigger because it incentivizes them to take their current portfolio of pharmaceuticals, make little tweaks, and keep them. But the capital staff for the small biotechs that are disruptive is crushed. There are good articles out there, and there are good economic papers that make it very clear.

If the Democrats get their way, it is great politics. It is absolutely brilliant politics. Talk about drug prices, how outraged we are. We are outraged.

But, Mr. Speaker, are we outraged to the point that you are going to kill the next generation because they don't get the next pharmaceutical that is curative?

We need to think maybe more with a calculator like economists, maybe economists with a soul and a heart rather than: Hey, this is brilliant for the next election cycle.

Back again, think about the body, the place we work in. We go home, we campaign, and we say all the wonderful things we are going to do. But the fact of the matter is, this last fiscal year, 77 percent of all the spending here was on autopilot. It is what we call mandatory.

Ten percent was defense. Thirteen percent was everything else. We act as if we are here doing something when if you put defense and say we are just going to keep the baseline where it is at and the 77 percent is mandatory—Social Security and Medicare, you fall under a certain income, you are part of a certain ethnic or tribal group or you hit a certain age—it is automatic. It is formulaic.

This is all we get to focus on. This is what all the theater here is about. And one of the reasons I think the theater has gotten so hyperbolic is we know this is what wipes us out, and not one person here has actually voted on this. It has been, except for the last handful of votes the Democrats moved forward, we were adding, like we just did today, in a piece of legislation that actually added to mandatory spending because it is easy. It makes you look like a hero. Hey, all we protected is there.

But we don't have the resources to pay for it.

To give you an idea, Mr. Speaker, of how crappy the last fiscal year was and how much we borrowed, these slides are all out of date now. The numbers are much worse. One of the reasons I grabbed this one is, take a look here. This was 2030. We are going to hit $30 trillion of borrowing. Well, we hit that last week.

Think about what we have done. And there was a time here a couple of decades ago the discussion was: Well, are you willing to do entitlement reform?

Take that off the table. I know it is great political rhetoric, but it is too late. The vast majority of baby boomers are already in their retirement age. We missed the window. The window was a quarter century ago if we were going to do entitlement reform.

Other than the things we have come here and talked about, the massive subsidies that we give actually to really, really, really rich people, when it is their third home on Martha's Vineyard and we give them subsidized flood insurance, or the Democrats' Build Back Better bill which if you would be making $400,000 or $800,000 a year and you were going to get—what is it, $125,000 in tax credits if you bought the right electric vehicle, the right solar panel. At some point we need to have an honest conversation. We calculated over the next 10 years there are $1.4 trillion of subsidies for really rich people.

So instead of the constant rhetoric of let's tax rich people more and make them pay their fair share, maybe we should just stop subsidizing them because the subsidies create distortions.

So back to the thing we don't do here called math, the 2050 number, we were saying we were going to be at 195 percent of GDP. That number, the best calculation as of today is 15 points higher than that. We will be well over 200. And that is a baseline, not another pandemic, not another war, and not another major recession.

Then we start to deal with our newest reality, and I should have grabbed the slide, but you see part of it here. There is a model put out by CBO that says that if interest rates over the time of that 29-year period, if the baseline borrowing costs of the United States was 2 points higher in that 25 year, then every dime—every dime—of tax receipts will go just to pay interest. We have made ourselves that fragile, that if the cost of borrowing money goes up by 2 points on U.S. sovereign debts over the baseline, then every dime in the future just goes solely to cover the interest costs.

We have lost our minds. And yet, think of the crazy stuff we debate here. It is as if we are desperate to debate the shiny objects, the stupid, little indignation of the day, and at the same time we are borrowing $47,000 every second—$47,000 every second.

That is why I keep coming behind these mikes saying that it doesn't have to be this sort of dystopian, crushing future. I need the majority to think differently, and I need my minority over here to think differently. Because here are some of the drivers, and this is really uncomfortable. I have been booed in front of audiences when I have given this presentation, but the math is the math, and the math always wins.

We can virtue signal, we can tell anecdotal stories, and we can talk about how compassionate we are. But at some point, the math will win.

This is important because I am going to show you the sister slide to this in a couple of moments, and you need to get your heads around this. The money you put in taxes, into Social Security, and the money you are going to get out of Social Security are pretty close to each other. You actually get a little bit more out. It is a fairly even deal. But that chart you were seeing, Mr. Speaker, is substantially driven by this. So the average couple—and this is someone who is retiring right about now—has put in about $161,000 into Medicare, and they are getting $522,000 out. And those are adjusted dollars. So, ceteris paribus, whatever the fancy term is, that gap there is the primary driver of U.S. sovereign debt.

So, Mr. Speaker, what happens when you talk to millennials?

We all have in our offices over here kids born in 1985, and they just think they are never going to see any of this. These are actual surveys where they already see themselves in enough financial pain, and they are worried. Then they have people like me get behind the microphone and show them the slides and basically say: If we don't do something about this, your retirement—and this is a technical economic term—you are screwed. We need to start using language like that around here because somehow the fancy language doesn't seem to sink into the thick skulls here.

Do you care about this generation?

These 25-year-olds we have in our offices who are freaky smart, they are working their hearts out, and they look at the numbers saying, Oh, my God, when they start getting near their retirement age, the United States will have a couple hundred percent of debt to GDP, and if interest rates are up, if interest rates are up—I didn't bring the slide—there is one model that says that 2 percent higher baseline borrowing costs, we go from that 210 percent debt to GDP in 29 years to about 300, 320 percent because of the multiplying effect because we never pay anything off.

The model as it is as of today says that millennial, that person born in 1985, they are going to put $236,000 into Medicare. And if we don't do something to disrupt the cost of healthcare, then they are going to take out over $1.2 million, and this makes the curve steepen. When you see the CBO curve, you wonder why it starts to steepen. It is this delta there.

There is a hope. There is a path, but it needs to be everything. I have my healthcare disruptions, but I have also come here and talked about how you can change the immigration system to maximize economic growth and not crush the working poor. When we open up the borders—we have brought the papers here—we crush the working poor because we flood the country with people with similar skill sets.

Mr. Speaker, in the last year and a half, we are what, 1.7 million behind in legal immigration. The kid who just got the Ph.D. from Arizona State University and we are sending him home. You have seen the healthcare. If you care about the environment, the concept of radically changing the way we look at regulation using crowdsourcing and data instead of the 1938 model of stick paper in file cabinets, a Tax Code that maximizes economic growth.

Are we willing to have really disruptive conversations, or should we go to a border adjustability model, so you don't have a tax arbitrage for around the world to move products to the United States instead of making them here?

□ 1945

There are ways, and the trick is, the model says you have got to do all of it almost at the same time. And this place can barely agree on what time of day it is. Then we have seen policies around here that when so many of our brothers and sisters who are older, are basically saying it is the rational decision: I am leaving the labor force.

One of the other parts of that growth model is everyone is needed. Every American is needed. We need your talents. We need your labor, particularly if you are older. Would this place be willing to provide certain incentives? So you are 65, you don't need to retire. But we are going to fix parts of the way we tax your benefits to incentivize you to stay in the labor force.

There are ideas that work that basically make the future something optimistic. My wife and I joke about this, and I have said it behind this microphone a bunch of times. We are both 59 years old and I have a 6-year-old daughter. You know you are pathologically optimistic when you are 59 years old and you have a 6-year-old daughter. But darn it, doesn't she have the right, doesn't the kid that is growing up in a neighborhood of poverty have the right, doesn't the person who is older have the right to have a decent retirement?

Don't we have the right to be in a nation of optimism where we told the truth about the math and our demographics, and then we provided an optimistic vision that gets us there instead of the crazy stuff that has been posed this last 12 months that we keep showing economists after economists—and these are not conservative economists. Many of them are from liberal groups saying: You do realize that Build Back Better by the end of the decade make people poorer?

But it was great politics. Stop the crazy. Buy a calculator, and then if we do it by math, I think you could actually see this body work together because an optimistic vision can be ours if we just fixate on the disruptions that make the future great.

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

RECOGNIZING OXFORD MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community of Oxford Michigan located in my district in Oakland County.

As everyone knows, last year on November 30, Oxford suffered the worst sort of tragedy when a student at the town's high school brought a gun to school and used it to shoot a teacher and 10 fellow students.

The community lost four beautiful, kind, talented and beloved young people that day: Madisyn Baldwin, Tate Myre, Justin Shilling, and Hana St. Juliana. I had the honor of attending the funerals for Justin and Hana and the visitation for Madisyn, and witnessing the outpouring of love for them from hundreds and hundreds in their community was inspiring.

The United States, unfortunately, has seen many of these shooting in the past 25 years but nothing prepares a community for being the one where it happens. In Oxford, the wounded from that terrible day extends far beyond the teacher and six students who were shot. The entire community has suffered a devastating and life-changing trauma.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about what that means and what I hope we will do to support the people of Oxford and its neighboring communities in the months and years ahead, because it will take years to heal.

First, I want to share with you some of the stories from Oxford from the last 2 months. In the aftermath of the shooting, the community was determined to be ''Oxford Strong.'' The people I have met and sat with and listened to in the past couple of months have made it clear that ''Oxford Strong'' isn't just a catchphrase.

Strong, in Oxford, is about compassion, about caring about asking for help when you need it, and finding a way to help your neighbors even if it comes at a real cost to yourself.

To our local small businesses, which, in the days after the shooting, went to great lengths and great expense to provide families with support and a safe haven. It started with the local Meijer, which closed the day of the shooting to provide a gathering place for students fleeing the building. Meijer had partnered with Oxford schools to be part of their emergency evacuation plan so students knew exactly where to go when the building became unsafe.

By the next day, Sick Pizza had offered to donate 100 percent of their proceeds from pizza sales over several days to victims' families. Owner Scott Taylor hoped to raise about $25,000. Instead, his restaurant raised four times that amount.

Oxford Bank sprang into action offering to collect donations for the victims so that the community would have a

trusted, central location to direct its generosity. To date, more than $1.6 million has poured in and the bank has enlisted the National Compassion Fund to ensure it is distributed thoughtfully, fairly, and transparently.

And though I am only scratching the surface of the local business community's generosity, I would be remiss not to mention Legacy Center and its many tenant businesses which offered services entirely for free for several days and became a community gathering spot for grieving teens throughout December.

As recently as a couple of weeks ago, the Legacy Center provided a space for my staff and I to meet with a group of Oxford parents and educators for a listening session. They continue to be true partners to people of Oxford.

For the remarkable contributions made by our local small businesses in the wake of this tragedy, I read the statement into the people's House so that it may be remembered in perpetuity.

To our elected local leaders, we find out what people are made of in difficult times. Local Oxford Village President Joe Madore, Oxford Township President Jack Curtis, and Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett, you responded immediately to the crisis facing your community working tireless in the shooting's aftermath to provide anything and everything you could, from meals for students returning to school because all the stored food had perished, to clear backpacks to enhance security.

Jack Curtis opened the township doors to me personally, giving me space to conduct a virtual townhall meeting. Your helpers were too many to count, but their actions in those initial days will never be forgotten.

For the remarkable contributions made by our local leaders in the wake of this tragedy I read the statement into the people's House so that it may be remembered in perpetuity.

To the first responders, though the story of the Oxford shooting is, of course, a horrific one, one part of the story has brought many families and the larger community comfort, and that was your incredible actions on that day. More than 30 agencies responded to the school that day from all levels of government, many arriving little more than moments after the 911 calls began. You were incredibly brave, and your expertly coordinated effort, we know, undoubtedly saved lives.

During the time I spent in Oxford, I have had the honor of meeting with many of you, starting with Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard and Deputy Sheriff Mike McCabe, who just retired. I also met Oxford Police Chief Mike Solwold who started his career as a school liaison officer in Oxford and who worked literally nonstop in the shooting's aftermath; and Oxford Fire Chief Peter Scholz and Lieutenant Mike Majestic who, despite the grief of witnessing the death of young people whom they had known for years, kept showing up to serve their beloved community, including working as valuable partners at emergency management planning meetings every week to address public safety, mental health, funding, and other needs for the schools and surrounding communities.

I spoke with Lake Orion Police Chief Harold Rossman and Lieutenant Todd Stanfield who helped secure the building and who tried desperately to save one of the victims, and who spoke eloquently of the impact limited mental health services have on the community. And I met with Orion Township Fire Rescue Department led by Chief Robert Duke who also responded to the scene and who, like many of their colleagues, pressed on in the days after in the face of their own grief with little respite.

At the funeral for Hana St. Juliana I sat with Lieutenant Gregory Glover and Detective Sergeant Richard Hubble, both of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, whose mere presence was a comfort to me personally and to so many others on that incredibly sad night.

I had the chance to see them again during a recent visit to town. Both men were among the first to enter the building along with Deputy John MacDonald, who put Tate Myre in his vehicle in a heroic effort to save him.

Down the street from the sheriff's substation is the Brandon Township Fire Department which I visited at the invitation of Lieutenant Doug Brice. He and his fellow firefighters entered the building directly behind law enforcement and did everything they could to aid the wounded.

All of these men, like so many others on that day, stayed focused and calm in the face of real terror, and by doing so not only saved lives but provided comfort to terrified students who, no doubt, will forever view first responders differently, having been so well protected and shepherded to safety when they needed it most.

For the remarkable bravery displayed by our first responders in the wake of this tragedy, I read the statement into the people's House so that it may be remembered in perpetuity.

To the parents and students of Oxford, I want to recognize you most of all. I have met with many of you in recent weeks, sometimes in hours-long sessions, to hear how you are doing and what you need most. And it is clear what you need from the rest of us is to listen. I have heard from parents whose children are worried they will fall behind in school if they don't attend, but who find going to class in the same building where they fled bullets and friends were hurt or killed just a few weeks ago to be hard to tolerate.

I have heard from students who now wince at loud sounds and get overwhelmed by crowds, who are worried about their friends and themselves and who feel overlooked. Many have told me they badly want to get the mental health support that they need but their parents can't afford a therapist and they are tired of telling and retelling their story of the crisis.

The fact is, everyone in Oxford has post-traumatic stress. Everyone. There is no escaping the impact of this immense and overwhelming tragedy. But I want you to know that post-traumatic stress does not have to become post-traumatic stress disorder. With proper support, traumatized people can recover. You may never be exactly the same as you once were, but you can discover new reserves of strength and renewed appreciation for life and for your loved ones.

Psychologists have a term for this. It is called post-traumatic stress growth. It is a theory that holds that people who endure intense trauma can see positive growth come from their desperate struggle.

But that doesn't happen overnight, and it doesn't happen without a lot of hard work and help. The people of Oxford, though incredibly resilient in the face of staggering loss, need our support. ''Oxford Strong'' does not mean Oxford can or should do it alone. I have heard from teachers who tell me they can't possibly provide the mental health support that some of their students need.

Schools have precious few social workers on staff and troubled students have effectively nowhere to go in a State with fewer than 300 psychiatric beds in the entire State, all of which have long waiting lists. So kids with serious emotional and behavioral issues often must stay in class with little support, causing challenges for their peers and unable to get the intervention they so badly need.

I have heard from nearly everyone that we need to make sure at the very least that we keep guns out of the hands of our kids. The shooting at Oxford High School made it very clear that we have a serious, systemic problem to solve. But in the meantime, the least we can do is ensure that kids don't have access to guns. I am not talking about families who teach their kids how to hunt, which in Michigan is very common. I grew up in a gun-owning household. I am talking about leaving a deadly weapon unsecured. We must do everything we can to keep our kids safe, and that is one easy and crucial step we can take.

I wasn't able to be in Oxford last Friday night. The Michigan High School Athletic Association organized an Oxford Strong night and across the State. Teams playing their Friday night games showed their support and love for the people of Oxford. The MHSAA raised $200,000 for the victims and their families with its effort. That kind of ongoing love and support is so heartening to see. I am standing here today asking all of us to continue to hold Oxford in our hearts, and to do the hard work necessary to ensure its people get the resources they need to recover, and to ensure no other community suffers such a needless and devastating event.

It is the honor of my life to represent the people of Oxford in the U.S. House of Representatives and to be able to speak their stories of resilience into the permanent record of the people's House.

In the face of unimaginable adversity, you have shown us a path forward on the road to recovery.

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

□ 2000

ISSUES LARGELY UNTOUCHED BY AMERICAN MEDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we are going to address three what I consider key issues that have sadly been left largely untouched by the American media.

The first one is the penalties against married couples in income transfer payments and the degree to which these income transfer payments are going to be affected by the Build Back Better bill, if any of that survives for passage at the end of the year.

We know that Karl Marx wanted to destroy the American family. We know for a while, last year, Black Lives Matter, which was so important in last year's campaign, had on their website that they wanted to destroy the Western-prescribed nuclear family. As a practical matter, this means they wanted to keep the man out of the house.

People might wonder why I keep bringing this up. It seems like old news. I would feel better if some Democrat stepped forward and publicly condemned Marxism and publicly praised the idea that children may benefit from having a father at home. But that is not going on.

In America, before Lyndon Johnson came in with his Great Society, or war on marriage, whatever you want to call it, all but 7 percent of American children started out with both parents.

Now, I know wonderful single parents. I know children who became wonderful adults raised by single parents. But nevertheless, the statistics again and again show, whatever metric you have, you might be better off or it might be easier to raise that child with two parents at home.

After the Gingrich reforms in the 1990s, that number has since stayed at about 40 percent of children born without both parents at home. So it went from 7 percent to 40 percent, a steady increase 35 years after Lyndon Johnson passed his war on marriage bills in the 1960s. Things have been relatively static for the last 25 years.

Now, in my opinion, the reason the number of families with both parents at home dropped is because most government transfer payments are conditioned upon not having a lot of income or not having a major breadwinner in the house.

There are about 90 government transfer payments this is true of. But some of the ones that the average person should be aware of are SNAP, the food stamp program; the low-income housing program; the earned income tax credit program; the Pell grants; and the TANF program. All of these programs are designed to disappear if you have a person who makes an average income in the household.

In Build Back Better, the earned income tax credit goes up. Joe Biden increased the food stamp benefits on his own, and there will be large increases in the amount of low-income housing available.

I want to point out one of the programs, by the way, that we used to build more low-income housing. It is called section 42 housing. It is funded by very generous tax credits, which come from, obviously, very wealthy property developers. As a practical matter, the government winds up paying for over 80 percent of the housing that a private person gets through the tax credits. So one of the primary benefits of this form of low-income housing is we are, quite frankly, making the rich richer. It is one of the big tax benefits that helps the wealthier people.

In section 42, because so much of the housing is paid for by the government, the person who does the building has every incentive to make that property as expensive as it can be. We are glad the Chair is listening here because it is something I didn't know about until about 6 years ago.

It creates a situation in which a developer who is building low-income housing can outbid another developer for prime land, and they can build fancier countertops, that sort of thing, because the government is paying for 80 percent of it. So if you are somebody like me, who sometimes thinks our tax code does benefit the ultrawealthy, section 42 is one of those provisions.

Pell grants are another example of a program that you can benefit from, either you or your children, provided nobody in the household is making too much money. It is another program therefore designed—as one mother told me: Me and my husband work. My poor kids have to take out such big student loans. Is it fair we are penalized for being married and working?

That is the way that program is set up. It is designed to penalize the old-fashioned family, which is what Karl Marx would have wanted.

It is not unusual to have situations in which the penalty for getting married can be as much as $14,000. Like I said, as we have more low-income housing, as we up the earned income tax credit, these programs are pushing, I think, America in the wrong direction.

I will direct people who are listening to recent studies that have been put out by The Heritage Foundation and Robert Rector, who has long been an expert in this field, describing the degree to which the penalty on people who get married goes up.

Now, I would hope, for children in the future, that we don't continue down this path of apparently penalizing both parents for staying in the home. I hope it is something that is looked at by Republicans if we get the majority, and I hope more Democrats look into this before we add too many other benefits conditioned upon a low-income situation if Build Back Better is passed.

Again, I think it would be good if the press, which hasn't so far—but I would hope the press would pick up on Mr. Rector's paper and comment on how America will change if more and more benefits are targeted at people who are not married with children.

I think this is one of the key stories in America over the last 50 years. I hear a lot of people back home, when they feel that America is not quite as enjoyable to live in as it was 50 years ago, that one of those reasons is what they would refer to as the breakdown of the traditional family. I hope, after hearing my explanation tonight, more people realize that that was not necessarily by accident. There are evil, leftwing people who want to break down the family, and the public policy of the American Government right now is to use their financial incentives to penalize the average family.

Now, the next issue that, if we look 15 years down the road—and I always think when we take up issues or address issues or decide how to vote on issues, we should say: How is this going to affect America not only today but 15 years from now?

I do believe that the screwed-up welfare system continues to chip away at America. But I would say the second-biggest—maybe the biggest—issue is what is going on at our southern border.

Earlier today, I had the chance to talk to a member of the Border Patrol, who appeared here in the Capitol. Having seen the border five times last year, I thought I had my fill of bad things that are going on. But talking to him as far as what is going on right now, it is worse than ever. They are seeing more people and more drug gangs operating near the border.

We are at a point in which we are not only seeing Mexican drug gangs hanging out in California, fighting for the marijuana fields that are apparently popping up in California, but they are now fighting with Chinese gangs. I mean, I have been down there several times. I have yet to see them, but this Border Patrol agent told me what we have going on in California is violent conflict between Mexican gangs and Chinese gangs, and they are becoming more aggressive.

You didn't used to see people coming to the border shooting at Border Patrol agents, but that is what we are getting now. In the past, when I have been

down there, they would avoid the Border Patrol agents. Now, you really have to look out.

I mention that because I think as we work our way through a continuing resolution today and work toward the budget, we had better do something to help out the Border Patrol.

The Border Patrol right now has to deal with a lot more people than they did a year ago. When President Biden took office, there were about 20,000 people coming across here every month. We are now at about 90,000 every month, including a lot more unaccompanied children.

Obviously, when people turn themselves in at the southern border, which they do under our asylum policy, the Border Patrol agents have to drop what they are doing, ignore the border, and do the paperwork. There is even more paperwork when we have unaccompanied minors coming to the southern border because then we have to check out the young children, and we ship them around the country, wherever they have to go.

Now, this drives the Border Patrol up the wall—right?—because if somebody in this room took their children and dropped them off at the Washington, D.C., airport and just told the Southwest ticket agent, ''Oh, here is Johnny. Send him to somebody in Portland, Oregon,'' social services would be after those people. Why are you letting those people go?

But at the southern border, it doesn't work that way. If Johnny shows up at the southern border and has on his T-shirt, ''I want to go to 14 East Elm Street, Portland, Oregon,'' we deliver him to 14 East Elm Street, Portland, Oregon, no questions asked. I mean, presumably, Johnny knows those people. Hopefully, it is an aunt and uncle or grandparents. Hopefully, it is somebody, but we don't know for sure.

That is the reason there is a report that the U.S. Government will lose track of one in three unaccompanied alien children it releases to sponsors into the country. We don't even know where these kids are.

I don't know, for whatever reason—maybe it is that they like the current administration—there are not banner headlines about this, but there should be banner headlines about it. Like I said, if it were our own children just released to the airlines to go around the country, we would be concerned.

I have been at the southern border. I have watched as I flew out of McAllen, Texas, and watched all the people getting on the airplanes, children getting on the airplane, and people getting on the plane without identification. Again, you and I, we have to turn in our driver's license. ''Here I am. Can you let me get back to Milwaukee?'' That is not the way it works with the illegal immigrants. They are let in, and it is a recipe for trouble.

But the one primary thing I took out today was, again, the large number of people coming into the country.

I should point out, too—and this says something about the administration's motivation. In the first 6 months of last year, about 85 percent less people were deported than 3 years ago. Some of that can be attributed to COVID, but we largely know how to deal with COVID today.

So, you begin to get even more suspicious of the administration, that not only are they greatly increasing the number of people who come into the country, but they are dramatically decreasing the number of people with criminal records who are being deported from the country. How can America survive?

Again, when I look at Congress, when I look at what we should do, I say: What effect is this going to have over the next 15 years?

We are right now accepting people who we know very little about. I mentioned they don't need IDs. The last time I was down at the southern border, you looked at a path, which was maybe as wide as this table, and it was littered with ID's as people from wherever—Venezuela, Colombia, Chili, wherever—throw their ID's out, I guess because they want to start a new life and don't want the American government to know who they are, I guess.

That is how we are changing America. That is how we are determining who the new people coming into America are, rather than, if we really want to, doing something under the current system where people have to check in, where people are monitored, where there is some vetting process.

□ 2015

Why you would do it this way if you cared about the future of America, I don't know. And I felt more sorry than ever for some of the people in California who are having these drug gangs buy up houses, sometimes at heightened rates, but are also buying up houses that they are using for their operations. Of course, very quickly, those neighborhoods change if you have drug cartels owning houses in a given area.

Now, I am going to address one final issue tonight, and I am a little frustrated at the media not bringing it up. As I have said before, I am not the most hawkish person on the Ukraine-Russian situation, but since Russia and Ukraine are in the news, you would figure the media, including the conservative media, which hasn't been that loud about it, but any impartial media person would take it upon themselves to talk about the Ukrainian famine.

In the early 1930s, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union controlled what happened in Ukraine, and they were mad at Ukraine because some people in Ukraine wanted to be independent and hadn't been under the Communist heel enough.

Ukraine was a very wealthy region as far as agriculture was concerned, so in order to punish the Ukrainians or make sure the Soviet Union took over Ukraine, they instituted a famine. They wouldn't let Ukrainians leave the country. They took over the crops in Ukraine. It dramatically differs if you look up the numbers, but somewhere between, say, 4 and 15 million people starved to death in Ukraine in the early 1930s.

Now, isn't that news? If you were a well-informed, well-read American who went to middle school, went to high school, maybe did some college, shouldn't you know that 4 to 14 million Ukrainians were starved to death by the Soviet Union in the early 1930s?

But I talk to people. I talk to people in this building. I talk to people back home. Somehow, nobody knows it. Well, maybe that has something to do with some of the animosity between Ukrainians and the Russians. Regardless, it is something every American should know so they know why people like me are a little bit concerned when we are nice to groups founded by Marxists or when a U.S. Senator from Connecticut shows up at an anniversary for the Communist Party of America and thinks it is no big deal and we can just laugh it off.

There are many, many things wrong with communism. Suppression of free speech and the free flow of ideas is one of the things that is scary. It was not uncommon in places like Red China or the Soviet Union early on to wipe out all houses of worship. That is something that we find scary, as well as complete government control of the economy and a situation in which they determine that your success economically will, to a certain extent, be dependent upon following the line and bowing to the government.

I cannot imagine a worse form of government than that of communism. It is horrible, even without the mass murders. But every American child should know about the great Ukrainian famine of 1931 and 1932 and the millions of people who died, both so they are knowledgeable on Marxism or communism and to know a little bit about historic Ukrainian-Russian relations.

So, I beg our media to recount what happened. It would be a good time to recount what happened for the American public, and I hope in the future members of the American education system do a little bit better job of explaining some of the horrific things that happened in history.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–3386. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3387. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Brian T. Kelly, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3388. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule- Energy Conservation Program: Product Classes for Residential Dishwashers, Residential Clothes Washers, and Consumer Clothes Dryers [EERE-2021-BT-STD-0002] (RIN: 1904-AF14) received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3389. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Refrigeration Products [EERE-2017-BT-TP-0004] (RIN: 1904-AD84] received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3390. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Distribution Transformers [EERE-2017-BT-TP-0055] (RIN: 1904-AE19) received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3391. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Metal Halide Lamp Fixtures [EERE-2017-BT-STD-0016] (RIN: 1904-AD89) received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3392. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's notice of final interpretive rule — Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Commercial Water Heaters [EERE-2018-BT-STD-0018] (RIN: 1904-AE39) received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3393. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Test Procedure Interim Waiver Process [EERE-2019-BT-NOA-0011] (RIN: 1904-AE24) received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3394. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Definition of Showerhead [EERE-2021-BT-STD-0016] (RIN: 1904-AE85) received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3395. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Procedures, Interpretations, and Policies for Consideration in New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards and Test Procedures for Consumer Products and Commercial/Industrial Equipment [EERE-2021-BT-STD-0003] (RIN: 1904-AF13) received February 1, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3396. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Final Determination of Fans and Blowers as Covered Equipment [EERE-2011-BT-DET-0045] (RIN: 1905-AC55) received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3397. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-314, ''DSLBD Noncompetitive Grant Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2022'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–3398. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties received February 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3399. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Operation Allies Welcome Afghan Evacuee Report'', pursuant to Public Law 117-43, Sec. 2503(a); (135 Stat. 378); 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. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5616. A bill to require reporting regarding accreditation of basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–244, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5616 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk: Motion No. 3, February 8, 2022 by Ms. ESHOO on H.R. 1916.

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. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. REED, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. MEIJER, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 6637. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make mandatory and permanent requirements relating to use of an electronic employment eligibility verification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Ways and Means, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, the Budget, Education and Labor, Foreign Affairs, Oversight and Reform, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MANN (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 6638. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BASS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 6639. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code to require adequate supervision before a juvenile can possess a firearm, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 6640. A bill to require the Department of Housing and Urban Development to inspect certain public housing developments to ensure compliance with housing quality and safety standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. KELLER, Mr. REED, and Mr. MRVAN):

H.R. 6641. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for certain adjustments to Medicare payment

for items of durable medical equipment that were formerly included in round 2021 of the DMEPOS competitive bidding program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6642. A bill to repeal the corporate average fuel economy standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6643. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 with respect to certain regulatory actions related to hydraulic fracturing within the Susquehanna, Delaware, and Potomac River basins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6644. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the production tax credit and the investment tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 6645. A bill to promote the production of hemp and hemp products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BEYER, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6646. A bill to prevent the illegal sale of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 6647. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 6648. A bill to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of military or security assistance to Ukraine until operational control of the United States - Mexico border is achieved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 6649. A bill to prohibit adverse action against a member of the Armed Forces who refuses to receive a vaccination against COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BABIN, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 6650. A bill to require issuers filing annual reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission to disclose whether the issuers have connections with the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 6651. A bill to establish an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.J. Res. 71. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Congress should issue a subpoena to Dr. Anthony Fauci and reduce the salary of the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Chief Medical Advisor to the President; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H. Res. 914. A resolution supporting the designation of a ''Boy Scouts of America Day'' in celebration of its 112th anniversary; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois introduced a bill (H.R. 6652) for the relief of Reverend Olusegun Samson Olaoye; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 6637

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 6638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 6639

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 6640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into 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. MULLIN:

H.R. 6641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6642

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6643

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 6644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 6645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 6646

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 6647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. ROSENDALE::

H.R. 6648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 6649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 6650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This constitutional authority for this legislation is based in the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution to regulate commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 6651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.J. Res. 71.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 82: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 310: Mr. ELLZEY and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 336: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 477: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 748: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 851: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 890: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 1012: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1179: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1284: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. MEIJER.
H.R. 1297: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1316: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1330: Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 1579: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1627: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1729: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 1730: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1735: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1803: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 1813: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1945: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1946: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 1987: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2120: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 2127: Mr. YOUNG and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 2145: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2192: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 2229: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2252: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 2281: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 2373: Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2629: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2773: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2919: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 2965: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2996: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3079: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 3134: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3183: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3207: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 3259: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3297: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3425: Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 3525: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3577: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3586: Mr. POSEY, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3617: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 3630: Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 3897: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 3932: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3944: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4134: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4188: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 4385: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 4442: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 4485: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 4497: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4587: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4601: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4634: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 4693: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4700: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 4738: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 4772: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4785: Mr. FEENSTRA and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 4787: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4792: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4844: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 4853: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4903: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 5035: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 5054: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 5370: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 5389: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5414: Mr. LONG and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 5459: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 5508: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 5526: Mr. NEGUSE and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 5529: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 5605: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 5631: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5666: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 5769: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5770: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5776: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 5809: Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 5841: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 6005: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 6006: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.
H.R. 6050: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 6059: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 6097: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 6107: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 6132: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 6167: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 6168: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 6184: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 6207: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 6215: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 6232: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 6252: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 6286: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 6287: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 6307: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 6365: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 6394: Mr. BACON and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 6396: Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Ms. CHU, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 6397: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 6435: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 6436: Mr. MEIJER.
H.R. 6439: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 6448: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 6463: Mr. PERRY and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 6479: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6482: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 6492: Ms. MENG and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 6494: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 6526: Mr. CASE and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6531: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 6536: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 6537: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 6555: Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 6557: Ms. TITUS, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6571: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 6573: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6577: Ms. ROSS and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 6579: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 6592: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 6600: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 6602: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 6612: Ms. TITUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 6615: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 6619: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 6625: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 6633: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 6636: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. PAPPAS.
H. Con. Res. 70: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 174: Mr. CICILLINE.
H. Res. 582: Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. CAREY, Mr. HERN, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Res. 668: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H. Res. 881: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. POSEY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. CASE, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. HILL, Mr. MCHENRY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H. Res. 888: Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 892: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. STANTON.
H. Res. 895: Mr. BERA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LIEU, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. ISSA.
H. Res. 896: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. LIEU.
H. Res. 907: Mr. BERA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. JONES, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. BROWN of Ohio.

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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. on the expiration of the recess and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Majestic God, who owns the world and everything in it, we honor Your Holy Name. Lord, You laid the foundations of the oceans and surrounded us with beauty. You permit us to daily borrow our heartbeats from You. Continue to bless and guide our lawmakers as they look to You for wisdom. May Your precepts provide a lamp for their feet and a light for their path.

Lord, guide them as they travel like pilgrims in a sometimes unfriendly world. Fulfill Your promise to supply their needs out of the abundance of Your celestial riches.

We pray in Your triumphant 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, February 8, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Biden administration spent the end of last week boasting that our economy added back more jobs in January than some economists had predicted, but American families aren't buying their spin.

The working men and women of this country know painfully well that the Biden administration's economy is failing them. One typical recent survey showed a majority of Americans disapprove of the President's job performance, and Democrats' poor handling of the economy is a major factor.

So let's be clear. The country was always—always—guaranteed to add back jobs following the 2020 COVID recession. The Biden administration did not create the vaccines, it did not create this milder variant, and it is not owed particular credit for the fact that our economy is continuing to climb out of the crater caused by the 2020 lockdowns.

Our trajectory of adding back jobs has stayed remarkably consistent from late 2020 up through today. Job growth under President Biden has just kept bumping along the trajectory that he inherited—notwithstanding that Democrats blew trillions of dollars on supposedly job-creating policies in the meantime.

There has been no noticeable acceleration in job growth relative to the baseline that was forecast before Democrats took power, but inflation, on the other hand, has absolutely soared relative to those forecasts. Consumer prices exploded by 7 percent in 2021—the worst inflation in 40 years. More than 80 percent of Americans say the cost of everyday goods have shot up, and two-thirds disapprove of the job President Biden is doing to help their wallets.

Even though American workers have been earning pay raises, inflation is leaving them with less purchasing power than they had in the first place. Once you factor in inflation, the average American has gotten a 2-percent

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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real pay cut—cut—under Democratic policies. According to one calculation, only in one single sector across the entire economy did wage growth outpace inflation last year. That was leisure and hospitality, as those incredibly hard-hit sectors rebounded from their especially nightmarish 2020. Everyone else, on average, got a pay cut.

The average retail worker got an inflation pay cut; same with miners and loggers—inflation pay cuts. Construction workers, manufacturing workers, and transportation workers got inflation pay cuts, and on and on. Americans know that Democrats' failed policies are the reason.

ISIS

Mr. President, now, on another matter, last week, the U.S. military took another top terrorist leader off the battlefield. This particular leader had been ISIS's top militant since 2019, when American special operators introduced his predecessor to a similar fate.

I am proud of our special operations personnel who took on this dangerous mission. President Biden deserves credit for making the tough call to send U.S. servicemembers into harm's way.

Until this terrorist chose to kill himself and take innocent citizens with him, their mission had been to capture him alive for interrogation. That is an encouraging sign. If the past 20 years of counterterrorism have taught us anything, it is that just taking out top leaders does little to uproot their networks. This terrorist could have been a source of valuable information for destroying ISIS.

But this aspect of last week's mission also raises a question for our Commander in Chief. If President Biden recognizes the value of detaining top terrorists, then why are his staff still caught up in the longstanding liberal obsession with shutting down our detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

The White House said last year that closing Gitmo was ''certainly our goal and our intention,'' but last week, U.S. forces undertook this mission that was designed to take this terrorist murderer alive for detention and questioning. So how exactly was the Biden administration planning to square their political quest to close Guantanamo with their stated intention to capture this terrorist alive? Where were they planning to house this killer—a Holiday Inn? Did they intend to turn this guy over to a nonstate, third-party partner like the Syrian defense forces? That would have created new risks of another major ISIS prison break. And would his jailers have obeyed the Geneva Conventions? What if the Syrian regime—itself a state sponsor of terror—retakes that part of Syria? Or was the administration planning on bringing him before U.S. courts, under article III of our Constitution? Did the FBI come along on the raid to read this foreign terrorist his Miranda rights? Was their plan to eventually give this sworn killer the same rights as U.S. citizens and risking the possibility of a jailbreak attack on our own American soil? Or perhaps the correct answer—Guantanamo Bay—was their plan all along. Maybe the Democrats' virtue signaling about closing this important facility has finally given way to reality.

Guantanamo is a highly secure, humane, and entirely legal place to detain terrorists. It would have been the safest place to interrogate this terrorist, well within the bounds of the laws of war.

Any Democrats who want to shutter it should look closely at the reality of the Syrian defense forces' makeshift prisons, like the major jailbreak by hardcore ISIS figures that just happened in Hasakah. They should remember the massive ISIS prison break when the Taliban overran Bagram in Afghanistan.

So if President Biden is pumping the brakes on his own plans to close Gitmo, he should say so, and I will be the first to applaud him. If he isn't, he owes the country some answers about his intentions with last week's raid and our national security going forward.

September 11 taught us definitively that we cannot treat terrorism as merely a law enforcement challenge. I hope and pray it does not come to pass that this administration is forced to relearn that lesson the hard way.

This war against terrorists will not end simply because we hope it ends. It will require sustained pressure to keep our enemies off balance.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. President, on one final matter, yesterday, the House of Representatives introduced legislation to keep the Federal Government open and funded through mid-March. Avoiding a government shutdown in the near term is an obvious, commonsense step. But our military commanders and their civilian bosses badly need our country to escape the hamster wheel of chronic continuing resolutions. The urgent task of continuing to modernize and strengthen our military requires predictable budgeting and advanced planning. So I am glad the bipartisan, bicameral conversations about a long-term funding agreement are continuing.

Let me briefly reiterate some basic facts that are known to everybody here in Congress. I have been saying since last year that three basic boxes will need to be checked for a government funding deal to pass the Senate and make it to the President's desk.

No. 1, the agreement will need to honor the longstanding, bipartisan norm that spending growth for our national defense receives parity—parity—with spending growth for nondefense. We live in a world that is too dangerous for Democrats to go hog-wild on domestic programs and welfare. Instead, we need to refocus our attention on resourcing our great-power competitions with Russia and China in equal measure.

No. 2, any agreement will need to preserve longstanding, bipartisan policy riders. Again, this is just the bipartisan norm. The Hyde amendment prevents taxpayers from having to fund abortions against their will. Another rider prevents the IRS from weaponizing political bias and targeting citizens. In a 50–50 Senate, we obviously need to honor the bipartisan status quo on legacy riders.

No. 3, likewise, any agreement will need to keep new partisan poison pills out of the process.

That has been the big picture for months now—parity for defense, keeping longstanding bipartisan policy riders in, and keeping new poison pills out. With these basic things, a bipartisan deal should be achievable. Without them, it will be impossible.

I thank Ranking Member SHELBY for his tireless work. I hope our Democratic colleagues in both Chambers will fully embrace this noncontroversial framework, which has been clear to everybody literally for months, so that Congress can soon deliver the full-year funding that our servicemembers need to keep us safe.

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. SCHUMER. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, our colleagues in the House introduced legislation that will provide a temporary extension of government funding until March 11. The continuing resolution is expected to be taken up as soon as today, and once it is passed by the House, I intend to have the Senate take it up quickly and in time before the February 18 deadline.

While negotiations on the full-year funding agreement continue, we will in the meantime avoid a pointless and costly government shutdown. This CR provides a little more time to reach a deal for a spending package. It is the responsible and prudent path forward that eliminates the risk of a shutdown.

My colleagues have made good progress, and I am optimistic that Democrats and Republicans can soon arrive at a top-line deal for an omnibus. I am more confident than ever before that we can reach agreement for an omnibus by March 11, which is far more preferable to the alternative, a CR for the rest of the year.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on nominations, today, the Senate will continue focusing our responsibility to confirm more of President Biden's nominees.

By the end of today, we expect to finish the confirmation of four more nominees, including Amy Gutmann to

serve in the pivotal role as U.S. Ambassador to Germany.

For the information of all Senators, there is a strong likelihood that a significant number of additional votes will be held later today. If so, we want to make sure things keep moving briskly on the floor. Just as we did last week, I ask my colleagues to cast their votes quickly, to remain in their seats or near the floor as much as possible, and to be flexible in order to prevent extended delays. We did a good job of it last week, so let's continue the pace this evening as well when we move forward on more votes.

Off the floor, it is an important day for my home State of New York when it comes to nominations. A few moments ago, it was my honor to come before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and introduce Assemblyman Nick Perry to serve as Ambassador to Jamaica. I was also proud to introduce Randi Charno Levine to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Portugal. It would be impossible—impossible—to find a better fit for Ambassador to Jamaica than my friend Nick Perry, whom I urged the Biden administration to select for the post.

Assemblyman Perry represents so much of what is good and promising about America: He is an immigrant; he is an Army veteran; he is a graduate of Brooklyn College and one of New York's leading voices fighting for working families. He is a very, very familiar face in Brooklyn because he likes to do politics the old-fashioned way: shake hands, show up as much as possible, and just listen to people's stories.

When confirmed, Assemblyman Perry would make history as the first ever native-born Jamaican to serve as U.S. Ambassador. It is a truly important milestone and one that is long overdue, and it makes Brooklyn particularly proud.

When I go through Brooklyn, I sometimes ask my constituents, particularly at the West Indian Day Parade, I ask them: What is the largest island in the Caribbean? I tell him it is a trick question. Some people say Cuba. Some people say Haiti. Some people say Barbados.

I say, no, Brooklyn is the largest island in the Caribbean because we have more Caribbean immigrants than just about anywhere else. And that is why Brooklyn, particularly, is so proud that Nick is going to become our Ambassador to Jamaica. Not only is he Jamaican-born, but he is a Brooklynite through and through.

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 to add to this legacy, as he has for decades. So I am so proud to support him and to recommend him as nominee for Ambassador to Jamaica.

This morning, it was also my honor to introduce Randi Levine to become only the second woman to ever serve as Ambassador to Portugal. I have known Randi and her husband Jeff for over 30 years. They have been longtime advocates for many different communities across New York, especially our Jewish population.

As chair of the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy here in Washington, Randi has also been one of our top leaders for promoting cultural exchanges between students, diplomats, and business leaders. In other words, she has already advanced—in a different context—the work that any good Ambassador must accomplish: encouraging and fostering understanding between our country and people around the world. I have every bit of confidence that Randi will represent the United States with distinction as an ambassador to Portugal, and she has my most enthusiastic support.

Finally, I also want to recognize and commend the nomination of Professor Deborah Lipstadt to serve as the State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, a position that carries the rank of Ambassador.

Dr. Lipstadt's leadership is desperately needed. The malicious poison of anti-Semitism must be confronted whenever it rears its ugly head. We have seen a spike of anti-Semitism here at home and abroad, making this position exceedingly important.

As one of the Nation's top scholars on the Holocaust and on modern-day anti-Semitism, Dr. Lipstadt ought to be confirmed as soon as possible, and I am glad she is receiving her confirmation hearing today.

FORCED ARBITRATION

Mr. President, now last, on forced arbitration, last night, Congress took an important and overwhelmingly bipartisan step forward in the fight to eliminate forced arbitration for victims of sexual harassment and assault.

By a large, large margin—335 to 97—our House colleagues approved legislation that, for the first time ever, would ensure people who face sexual harassment or assault at work have the freedom to hold employers accountable in court. It would eliminate the long-used practice of including forced arbitration clauses in employee contracts, which, for so long, have effectively served as a condition for employment.

I commend my House colleagues for approving forced arbitration legislation with overwhelming bipartisan support. If you look at the vote, it is pretty clear that a majority of both parties voted for this legislation.

It is my intention to move on this bill as quickly as we can in the Senate, and we hope to take action here on the floor as soon as this week. I expect it will be met with nothing less than broad support from both parties, enabling us to move quickly.

The legislation has been years in the works, and I want to recognize my friend Senator GILLIBRAND, who has spearheaded the cause of ending forced arbitration on this issue for a long time. Thanks to her leadership, we are close to seeing this change become law.

I also want to recognize Senator GRAHAM. Because of his backing and his work with Senator GILLIBRAND, this proposal has gotten the momentum it needs to move forward.

Despite disagreements on both sides, legislation like this is a prime example of both parties finding a way to work together on legislation that will make a tangible difference in people's lives. We want to work with our Republican colleagues on similar proposals whenever possible because at the end of the day, ending forced arbitration for sexual harassment and assault is about making our workplaces safer, holding abusive employers accountable, and making sure that every American can exercise their right to justice in a court of law.

For decades, abusers have used arbitration as a shield for their horrific behavior. Employees have been put at massive disadvantage when trying to hold wrongdoers accountable. This law will finally change all that.

I look forward to finishing the work of passing this bill through the Senate and getting it closer to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am sure that you, more than most Members of the Senate, remember our debate a few weeks ago on the Voting Rights Act. I remember your statement on the floor. It was powerful and really spoke to the truth of why we were meeting and debating this issue.

We realize that, sadly, since the Civil War, when African Americans were finally given the right to vote, this has been a battle every year since. And yesterday, the Supreme Court decision tells us that we still have a battle to fight when it comes to voting rights in America.

By a 5-to-4 vote yesterday, the Supreme Court's conservative majority allowed Alabama lawmakers to move forward with a congressional districting map that diminishes the power of Black voters in a State where Black Americans account for more than 25 percent of the population.

You see, this case had been considered by a three-judge district court panel in Alabama, and they ruled in a unanimous decision that the map likely violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and they ruled that we should block that map because it would violate the right to vote of African Americans.

I might say, for the record, this three-judge panel, two of the three judges were appointed by former President Trump, and yet they came to that conclusion. So the Supreme Court had a decision of whether to go along with this three-judge panel and stop the implementation of this map until they

could have a full hearing on the subject or allow them to go forward. And, sadly, by a 5-to-4-vote, the Supreme Court's conservative majority stayed a lower court's decision, where they ruled unanimously that the district map was discriminatory.

The Supreme Court did not issue a well-reasoned decision; they issued basically no reason. They did so on what is known as the shadow docket. We are seeing it more and more by this Court—no explanation, no full briefing, no signed opinion for the majority. What we have was a scant reaction by the Court.

But I do want to note that Justice Kagan wrote that that decision by the Supreme Court in favor of allowing this Alabama map to go forward ''does a disservice to the District Court, which meticulously applied this Court's longstanding voting-rights precedent.'' She went on to note that ''most of all, it does a disservice to the Black people of Alabama who under that precedent have had their electoral power diminished in violation of the law this Court once knew to buttress all of American democracy.''

Yesterday's decision is the latest example of the Supreme Court hacking away the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most important civil rights laws in our history—a law singularly responsible for decades of progress in minority representation in public office.

As a result of these decisions, legal protections for voters of color throughout the country are being systematically dismantled by the Republican Party through State legislatures and, sadly, by our Federal courts.

So now what do we do? Well, Congress must act. We must restore the Voting Rights Act to its full power and potential, and we can do that by enacting the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

This legislation would strengthen and modernize the Voting Rights Act's protections, including by requiring Supreme Court Justices to actually explain their reasoning behind their decisions when they overturn a lower court's decision on a voting rights case. Is that too much to ask, that the Supreme Court explain to the American people why they are overruling a lower court's decision which says Americans are being discriminated against when it comes to their right to vote? I don't think the Supreme Court is that busy that it can't tell the American people its logic behind these decisions.

Every day, we are seeing the consequences of this Senate's failure just a few weeks ago to protect the right to vote. Mr. President, you and I agree; we cannot wait any longer.

JANUARY 6

Mr. President, let me address a related topic: 2022 is an election year. We know that well. And over the next 8 months, both parties will have a chance to make our case to the American people for the November election, to engage in spirited, public debate about the issues that matter: the pandemic, the economy, and the challenges facing our country.

But what happened last week in Salt Lake City, UT, is incredible. The Republican Party made its opening move in this year's election. Instead of offering a vision for the future of America, the Republican Party leaders meeting in Utah chose to attack democracy itself.

On Friday, the Republican National Committee declared that the January 6, 2021, insurrection was a form of ''legitimate political discourse.'' This outrageous declaration, printed under the official letterhead of the Republican National Committee, is the saddest commentary on what Donald Trump and his acolytes have done to a great political party, the party of Abraham Lincoln.

The violence that we personally witnessed in this Chamber on January 6, 2021, was deadly, seditious, and un-American—far from legitimate. Is that what we call the worst assault on the Capitol since the War of 1812? Was it legitimate political discourse when the violent mob beat police officers with metal poles and assaulted them with bear spray? Was it political discourse that contributed to the death of five police officers who confronted that mob? Was it just merely political discourse when a defeated, embittered former President incited that mob to attack this Capitol Building and do its best to overturn the results of a free election, which he lost? No. It was an incitement to violence and an attack on our democracy.

Let's be clear: The Republican Party's whitewashing of the insurrection isn't just a pathetic capitulation to Donald Trump and his Big Lie; it is a dangerous revelation of the mindset of the leadership of America's Republican Party. By legitimizing the insurrection, Republican Party leaders are exploring the use of violence and saying it is perfectly acceptable, it is legitimate when it comes to the political goals.

This is how democracies die.

Last year, the intelligence community warned that ''narratives of fraud in the recent general election . . . will almost certainly spur some [domestic violent extremists] to try to engage in violence.'' That came from our intelligence community. This is not a hypothetical.

Over the past year, we have seen how the Big Lie, promulgated by the former, defeated President of the United States, has inspired his supporters to commit and threaten violent acts.

On Friday—the same day that the Republican Party declared that the insurrectionist mob was legitimate political discourse—a Texas man appeared for his first day in court. That man is facing Federal charges for threatening to kill public officials in the home State of the Presiding Officer, the State of Georgia.

What is exactly alleged to have happened? Well, the day before the January 6 insurrection, this man posted a message on the website Craigslist calling for the murder of three election officials in Georgia. He wrote: ''It's our duty as American Patriots to put an end to the lives of these traitors and to take back our country by force. We can no longer wait on the corrupt law enforcement and the corrupt courts. If we want our country back we have to exterminate these people.''

The case against this man is the first case that has been brought forward by the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force, which the Department established last June in response to the burgeoning threats of violence against election officials. But it is going to be far from the last case, unfortunately. Right now, the Department of Justice is investigating dozens of similar cases.

And less than 1 week after charging this Texas defendant, the Department also charged a man in Nevada who told an election worker that she was going to ''die'' because she played a part in ''stealing'' the 2020 election from Donald Trump. Thankfully, that election worker was not physically harmed, but she was shaken and disturbed by that declaration.

She is not alone. Last April, the Brennan Center published a report finding that nearly one in five election officials in America had received threats because of their roles in the 2020 election. One in three of these election officials says they worry for their safety because of the rising tide of political violence. Political violence. And the Republican National Committee describes it as ''legitimate political discourse.''

Is this the cost of participating in a democracy in Mr. Trump's vision of America? Since the 2020 election, the former President and his supporters have latched on to the Big Lie to discredit American democracy and the decision of American voters and to go after those who work in it, like election workers.

But this is not the first time a malicious lie has been used to foment distrust, disdain, and even hatred for America's public servants. It was 72 years ago this week that Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy delivered his infamous ''Enemies from Within'' speech in Wheeling, WV. In that speech, Senator McCarthy pulled a sheet of paper out of his pocket, held it up to the crowd, and claimed he had a list of more than 50 names of Communist agents who had infiltrated our government. These scurrilous accusations by Senator McCarthy made headlines and provoked nationwide hysteria. Rumors abounded about card-carrying Communists working within our government.

And over the next 4 years, Senator McCarthy led a personal witch hunt

against public servants, journalists, members of the military, and average citizens. He destroyed lives in the process. But he never revealed his list of 57 names or any other credible evidence for his claims. Nonetheless, Senator Joe McCarthy discredited and defamed anyone standing in his way. He would accuse his opponents of being Communists or Communist sympathizers if they publicly disagreed with him.

With rare and notable exceptions—and one of them Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Republican Senator of Maine, and a few others—no one had the courage to question Joe McCarthy or challenge his wild allegations. Politicians were too afraid that he would turn on them next, so they remained quiet.

And in the absence of opposition, he assumed even greater power—until 1954, when some courageous members of Senator McCarthy's own political party, the Republican Party, joined together with the Democrats in the Senate. They voted to condemn Senator McCarthy and the lies that had fueled his witch hunt. They stood in a bipartisan majority to do it. With that vote, Senator Joseph McCarthy's reign of terror was brought to an end. The press began to ignore him, and the public had had their fill.

What will it take for our Republican colleagues today to say that they are done with the Big Lie of Trumpism? What will it take for them to reject it and renounce the normalization of political violence? What will it take for Republicans to admit that January 6 was a deadly insurrection, not a ''legitimate political discourse''?

Americans of conscience of both political parties and Independents as well need to unite in support of the truth. That doesn't mean we are going to agree on every issue. On the contrary, real debate is the lifeblood of our democracy. But we have to work from a shared set of facts and reality—like the fact that President Biden actually won the 2020 election and there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud.

I want to commend my Republican colleagues who have been willing to speak the truth in the last few days. I know it can't be easy.

Over the weekend, Senator MITT ROMNEY, Senator BILL CASSIDY, and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI spoke out against the Republican National Committee's decision to censure Congresswoman LIZ CHENEY and Congressman ADAM KINZINGER of Illinois for committing the unforgivable sin of investigating the violent assault against American democracy. Unfortunately, they are a small but courageous minority. The vast majority of my Republican colleagues remain silent while their party leaders declare January 6 legitimate.

And on Friday, former Vice President Pence publicly stated: ''President Trump is wrong . . . Under the Constitution, I had no right to change the outcome of our election.''

That simple, declarative statement of truth—that the Vice President cannot singlehandedly overrule the will of the American people—is welcomed, but the fact that it drew outrage from former President Trump and his supporters is a sad reflection on the reality of today's Republican Party.

If the events leading up to January 6 taught us anything, it is that aspiring authoritarians like Donald Trump will toss aside longstanding laws and values to cling to power. That is why for the past several months, a bipartisan group of Senators have been discussing a proposal to modernize the Electoral Count Act, an obscure law that was at the heart of former President Trump's efforts to overturn the election. I have been working on this effort on our side with Senators KING and KLOBUCHAR, and there is a bipartisan effort, on the same matter, taking place as well.

By updating the Electoral Count Act, we can make clear that the Vice President does not have the power to reject a State's lawfully appointed electors and overturn the results of an election. That is important, and I believe it is a promising sign that Democrats and Republicans are going to join together in discussion of finally rewriting this ancient law.

But I also want to be honest about the scope of threats facing our American democracy. At a moment when too many Republican Party leaders are legitimizing the January 6 insurrection and Republican State legislators are erecting new barriers to the ballot box, particularly for African Americans, we must have the courage to restore the Voting Rights Act. And we need to come together across party lines to defend our democracy, condemn violence, and to live by the rule of law, not the rule of the mob.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). 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.

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I don't need to tell anyone—except perhaps the Democratic Party here in Congress—that our country has a major inflation problem. The first year of the Biden administration has been characterized by a huge increase in inflation. Inflation is currently at a 40-year high. Let me just repeat that. Inflation is currently at a 40-year high. The last time inflation was this bad, ''E.T.'' was just premiering in movie theaters and ''Return of the Jedi'' hadn't even come out yet.

Inflation is so bad that despite wage increases in 2021, Americans saw a de facto pay cut. A December survey by the New York Times found that just 17 percent of Americans said their wages had kept up with inflation.

The White House Chief of Staff may think inflation is ''a high-class problem,'' but for the mom at the grocery store wondering if she can afford to buy ground beef this week or for the young worker just starting out who is wondering if she can afford to fill up her car, inflation is a very real problem.

Americans are struggling. They are facing huge price increases at the grocery store; huge price increases at the gas pump; big increases in the cost of household goods, like furniture and bedding and laundry equipment; massive increases in the cost of fuel oil and gas service; higher electric bills; and on and on.

Inflation is weighing down businesses, too, from larger businesses to family farms and ranches. A recent survey from the National Federation of Independent Business found that 22 percent of small businesses consider inflation to be the biggest challenge facing their business, a 20-point increase from the beginning of 2021—a 20-point increase.

It is no wonder that 69 percent of Americans disapprove of the President's handling of inflation and 56 percent disapprove of his handling of the economy.

Inflation is a major burden for American families and businesses—a fact that seems utterly lost on members of the Democratic Party. While American families struggle, Democrats' focus is on anything but inflation.

What is worse, many Democrats are still hoping to pass elements of their reckless tax-and-spending spree, the so-called Build Back Better plan, despite the fact that it was a bloated Democrat spending spree that helped get us into this inflation mess in the first place. Yes, while the pandemic created inflationary pressures, a big reason we are in our current inflation mess is because of Democrats' decision to push through an unnecessary and partisan $2 trillion spending bill last March.

When Democrats took office last January, inflation was well within an acceptable range, what is known as the target inflation rate. It might have stayed there had Democrats not decided that they needed to pass a massive government spending spree under the guise of COVID relief and, I might add, mere weeks after Congress had already passed a major COVID bill. That is right. December 2020 saw Congress pass its fifth bipartisan COVID relief bill, and that one was a nearly $1 trillion piece of legislation that met essentially all current pressing COVID needs. But the ink was barely dry on the page before Democrats decided that they needed to take advantage of the COVID situation to pass yet another bill—this time, a hyperpartisan $1.9 trillion piece of legislation packed with unnecessary government spending and payoffs to Democrat interest groups.

Again, there were five bipartisan COVID bills, the last of which passed in December of 2020. It was a $1 trillion

bill that took care of all the outstanding COVID needs. Yet, within weeks, Democrats here in Congress were proposing another $2 trillion, most of which had little to do with COVID or the pandemic and a lot more to do with their partisan agenda.

But the point is, the definition of ''inflation'' is ''too many dollars chasing too few goods and services.'' That is exactly the situation the Democrats helped create with their so-called American Rescue Plan. They sent too many Federal dollars into the economy, and the economy overheated as a result. Now we are sitting here with the worst inflation in 40 years, and instead of trying to address our inflation crisis, Democrats still—still—want to double down on the strategy that helped get us into this mess in the first place. ''Reckless and irresponsible spending'' is putting it mildly.

In January, Senator TIM SCOTT and I introduced the Inflation Prevention Act, a bill to stop Congress from considering any legislation that contains new spending and is estimated to increase inflation if the year-over-year inflation rate exceeds 4½ percent. One would hope that legislation like this wouldn't be necessary at a time when inflation far exceeds the target inflation rate, but, as we have seen with Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree, that isn't the case.

So Senator TIM SCOTT and I, along with several of our Republican colleagues, have introduced this bill, which would help prevent reckless spending legislation, like the Democrats' so-called Build Back Better Act, when inflation is high.

Again, let me just point out that on top of a $2 trillion spending bill a year ago in March—less than a year ago in March—the Democrats' prescription now is another $5 trillion in spending, financed in part with tax increases, which also fuels inflation, and about $3 trillion in debt on top of the $30 trillion in debt we already have.

So we have rampant pandemic inflation, attributable largely to the massive spending bill passed on a partisan basis last March. Now, instead of tackling inflation and putting policies in place that would help drive inflation down, the solution Democrats are proposing is a $5 trillion spending bill.

Americans are struggling. Everywhere they turn, they are facing higher prices, stretching their budgets to the limit. If Democrats really want to help American families, they should abandon the reckless tax-and-spending spree once and for all and focus on mitigating damage they have already done with their inflationary spending.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MORAN and I be able to complete our remarks prior to the scheduled votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF RETA JO LEWIS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting American manufacturing and support the nomination of Reta Jo Lewis to be President of the Export-Import Bank. As President of Ex-Im and chair of the Bank's Board of Directors, Ms. Lewis will lead our Nation's official export credit Agency as it supports U.S. workers and manufacturers, especially in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and throughout our country. Ex-Im's job is to support American businesses in the face of competition—so often, unfair competition from countries like China.

Ms. Lewis is the leader we need in the fight to help U.S. manufacturers compete globally. She has 25 years of distinguished leadership experience in international affairs, law, and public policy. She is a historic nominee as the first Black woman to lead Ex-Im.

She serves as a senior fellow and director of congressional affairs at the German Marshall Fund, where she leads bipartisan efforts to strengthen transatlantic cooperation. Before joining the German Marshall Fund, Ms. Lewis served in the Obama administration as the State Department's first-ever Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs.

She will put American workers and exporters first. That has been the hallmark of this administration—putting workers at the center of our government; putting workers at the center of our economic policy.

Ms. Lewis understands that Ex-Im is vital to these manufacturing jobs and our Nation's economic competitiveness.

There are some 100 export credit agencies and credit programs around the world that support foreign manufacturers. China's export finance activity is larger—China's is larger—than all the export credit provided by the G7 countries combined. That alone is reason to move forward on Ex-Im. We know that the Chinese Government used export credit as a weapon to win manufacturing business in critical sectors and to undermine American companies and American workers. We must be in a better position to compete.

We have had so much good job news in Ohio over the last few weeks. It is not a coincidence that for the first time in my lifetime, we have a President who leads by talking about workers, who leads by talking about unions. As a result of his leadership, we are seeing more job creation in Ohio. We have seen more jobs created in 2021 than in any number of years in the past. We are seeing now tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs—Intel, Hyperion, GE Aviation—coming to my State. It is all made possible because we are putting workers at the center of our economy.

Look at the results we are getting. Last year—this is worth saying like five times—last year, for the first time in 20 years, our economy actually grew faster than China's. Our GDP grew faster than China's GDP. Again, that is because we have a President of the United States who puts workers at the center of our economic policy, who understands that carrying a union card means better wages, better benefits, and more control over your work schedule.

But we know that China and our other competitors aren't giving up. They are constantly finding new ways to cheat, new ways to undermine American jobs. That is why we need every tool possible to compete, including a fully functioning Export-Import Bank with an experienced, tenacious leader at the helm. Jobs in Ohio and jobs around the country depend on Ms. Lewis's success.

I urge my colleagues—as we voted overwhelmingly on cloture—I urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Reta Jo Lewis for the Ex-Im Bank.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John P. Howard III, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON HOWARD NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Howard nomination?

Mr. BROWN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 38 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lankford	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lee	Smith
Carper	Lummis	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Hawley	Peters	

NAYS—34

Blackburn	Grassley	Rubio
Boozman	Hagerty	Sasse
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Inhofe	Shelby
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Cramer	Kennedy	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Risch	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Feinstein	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for a term of fifteen years.

VOTE ON ALIKHAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the AliKhan nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 39 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Blunt	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Manchin	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Tester
Collins	Merkley	Tillis
Coons	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Portman	
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—41

Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Feinstein	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

RECESS

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:07 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 650

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of Martha Williams to be the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I represent a State that goes by many names. Most of you know it as Montana, but it is often called Big Sky Country, the Last Best Place, and even the Treasure State. Montana has earned these names through an abundance of beauty and natural resources, and as a result we have fostered a robust outdoor economy that relies on responsible forest management. Folks come to Montana from all over the world to enjoy all that our State has to offer. Thousands of folks make their living by working the land and showing folks the best way to enjoy it.

But the key to preserving our multi-billion-dollar outdoor economy is proper stewardship and oversight of our natural resources. That means talking to folks on the ground. It means bringing competing interests to the table to find the most sustainable ways to manage our public lands. Not only do our forests and rivers create thousands of good-paying jobs, but they also create countless memories for families in our country. So it is critically important that we have balanced oversight in place to guarantee that Montana's outdoor economy remains vibrant for generations to come.

The Director of Fish and Wildlife Service plays a central role in this oversight, and that is why I am proud to support Martha Williams' nomination today. As Director, she will be tasked with the management and recovery of our Nation's fish and wildlife and overseeing a large chunk of our public lands—89 million acres, to be exact, from Montana's own Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge all the way to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As a Montanan and a former Director of the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Ms. Williams has demonstrated time and time again her ability to bring folks together to find lasting solutions, to collaborate to find common ground. She always leads with science and has developed State management plans for issues ranging from grizzly bears to aquatic invasive mussels, and she has done it with input from all the relevant stakeholders.

She also has a profound respect and understanding of the bedrock laws that guide responsible land and wildlife management. She will be bringing with her over a decade of legal experience with the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks as well as a well-regarded legal scholar at the University of Montana.

She has spent her entire career standing up for our public lands and proven herself to be a thoughtful, nonpartisan steward who works collaboratively with folks on the ground to make positive change. Her top-notch ability to find common ground between sportsmen and conservationists alike and her skills as an exceptional problem-solver will make her an outstanding Director at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

She has strong support from sports men and women, biologists, and academics alike and has already received strong bipartisan support from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She was passed out of committee on a 16-to-4 vote.

Make no mistake about it, we will miss her leadership in the Treasure State, but I am looking forward to seeing her effective management skills at the Federal level. This position is very important for the stewardship of our land and our waters, and I would urge my colleagues to support her confirmation today.

And in that vein, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 650, Martha Williams, of Montana, to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; that the nomination be

confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I would like to talk a little bit about not just Ms. Williams—who as my friend from Montana has mentioned—I actually think she is qualified—but the issues that are in front of the Fish and Wildlife Service, as we speak, that relate to my State, the great State of Alaska.

Unfortunately, it has been one Executive order, Executive action, delay targeting Alaska—some from the Fish and Wildlife Service that has had an enormously negative impact on my State.

I agree with the Senator from Montana. Fish and Wildlife Service is important. He mentioned that it manages 89 million acres nationwide. Well, 77 million acres of that 89 are in Alaska. Eight-five percent of Fish and Wildlife Service land that is managed is in one State, the great State of Alaska, a size bigger than the State of New Mexico, just for Fish and Wildlife Service land control.

So this Agency, this nominee will have an enormous impact on my constituents and, indeed, right now is having an enormous impact on my constituents, and I can't get them to do anything constructive for the people I represent.

Let me give you two, and perhaps my colleague from Montana can help me out with this. These are two directly—directly—in the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service that we have been asking for support on and haven't gotten it. One is the Russian River land exchange. This is a vital exchange that needs to happen for a highway project on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

Here is the thing about this land exchange. It has been in the works since 1975—44 years, to be exact. We believe it is the longest running federally led environmental impact statement in the history of America, which is actually what happens a lot in the great State of Alaska. Groups come up; they don't want any resource development; they don't want any access to land and they sue and they stop and they try to delay things. This one has been delayed, in one form or another, for 44 years.

Now, the previous administration, to its credit, heard the voices of Alaska, responded to the input from different stakeholders, and actually put forward a reasonable land exchange that was approved by the Federal Government. The regional office of the Fish and Wildlife Service sent the approved package to headquarters in Washington, DC, in November, where it sits—where it sits.

So one thing I would like to do before this nominee moves forward is get a commitment to approve that. It is very simple—44 years. I don't think we are asking too much, but it is delayed.

Let me give you another one. Many of you have heard about the King Cove road. You are going to hear about it again because it is an issue that every Alaskan, even those who don't live out on the Aleutian Island chain, are passionate about. Only in Alaska could this happen. It is an 11-mile, single-lane gravel road that will save lives for people in the community of King Cove—primarily Alaska Native—and they need approval of that through another land exchange. We have been working on that for over 40 years—40 years. People in my communities in that part of the State have died because there is no road to access an airport. There are a lot of storms in that part of the world, the Aleutian Islands. When they need access to get out on a plane, they often don't have it because we can't build a single lane, 11-mile gravel road.

We have a land exchange approved by the previous administration. This administration has said they are looking to approve it too. That is great news, but the Secretary of the Interior has said she is not going to fully endorse it until she goes out to King Cove and sees it herself. OK. We have been waiting for that visit for a year—for a year.

There is a theme here. With the new administration, if there is something that has been helpful to my State, primarily by the previous administration, the Trump administration, on so many issues, bipartisan issues for Alaska, which has helped us in historic ways—on those helpful things, the new administration comes in, and they say: We are going to delay it. We are going to delay it. We have to relook at it. We don't know. If the Trump administration did it for Alaska, it must have been bad. That is their thing.

But on things that harm my State, this administration on day 1 has expedited so many things. Day 1, the President is in office for 1 hour, and he issues an order dealing with ANWR, which this body approved in 2017. If it helps Alaska, they delay it. If it hurts Alaska, they are all over it.

What we have in the first year of the Biden administration—first year—are 21 Executive orders and Executive actions negatively impacting my State across the board on every topic you can imagine: access to lands, tourism, fishing—21 Executive orders or actions.

I gave a speech on this before the holidays, and it was 20—now it is 21—solely focused on Alaska. There is no other State in the country that is getting this kind of attention from this administration. I am sure the great State of Montana isn't.

It is not just about resource development. These actions are hurting the ability of my constituents to put food on the table, lights on in their homes, jobs, cultures.

And one area that doesn't nearly get enough attention, these actions, so many of them, are actually negatively impacting the Alaska Native community of the great State of Alaska. The Native people of my State are targeted. Let me give you one example. The previous administration, working with this body in a bipartisan way, finally passed a bill that provided justice to Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who served their country during Vietnam. The Alaska Native community is one of the most patriotic communities in the country. They serve at higher rates in the military than any other ethnic group in the country.

When many of them went to fight in Vietnam, they came home, and a law that had been on the books since 1906—the ability to get a Native allotment—had expired. They came home and said: Wait, I can't get my native allotment? So we finally fixed that almost a half century later. Of course, a lot of radical enviros hated it because it is giving land in Alaska to people.

The No. 1 issue I raised with Secretary Holland during her confirmation process was to make sure the Executive order to get these lands to Vietnam veterans—Alaska Native Vietnam veterans—stays on track. The Trump administration did all they could to make it happen. All they had to do was hit ''send.'' She delayed it for 2 years—delayed it for 2 years. She wasn't even going to tell the delegation. I guarantee you, in the next 2 years, as this is being delayed, a lot of these Vietnam vets—Alaska Vietnam vets—will die before they even get their lands. So we are starting to hear it.

I want to make one final point. This is very important. This administration talks a lot about racial justice, environmental equity. They talk about it all the time, but it comes with a caveat. They say they want to help disadvantaged communities, minority communities. I think that is a good goal, but it comes with a caveat—racial justice, environmental equity, unless it is for the indigenous people of Alaska, and then they get targeted.

A lot of these Executive orders are targeting them. I have a whole list where some of the most disadvantaged Americans in the country are being targeted—in my view, because of their race—by this administration.

I have submitted these before, but I am going to submit them again for the RECORD, several letters from Alaska Native groups talking about this unwarranted lack of consultation and targeting of their interests in my State.

I ask unanimous consent to have one of these letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

VOICE OF THE ARCTIC IÑUPIAT,
December 10, 2021.

Re Executive Order 13985

DEAR SECRETARY HAALAND: My name is John Hopson Jr., and I am President of Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (VOICE). VOICE is a nonprofit corporation whose members include representatives from Alaska's North Slope tribal councils, municipal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, our local school district, regional health organization, and the tribal college from the North Slope

of Alaska. I am writing today to provide comments on Executive Order 13985 calling on federal agencies to advance equity by identifying and addressing barriers to equal opportunity that underserved communities face due to government policies and programs.

The North Slope region is one of the most remote areas in the United States and all eight communities in our region are considered ''underserved.'' We see many barriers and challenges when addressing equity in government policies and action. The focus areas identified in EO 13985 around contracting, recreating on public lands and tribal discretionary grants are part of a larger problem when addressing the issue for native communities that we see, in addition to recent decisions by this administration around resource development and the economy our region relies on.

As an organization built on inclusiveness, we emphasize the importance of addressing equity in several ways: most importantly, with continued dialogue because we still see and feel the effects of a federal government that treated our people as a burden and an impedance. Several of our communities are still dealing with the cleanup of toxic materials leftover from military occupation and the development of Distance Early Warning—''DEW line''—sites during the Cold War. One of our communities, Kaktovik, was forced to relocate three times in recent history and their homes and gravesites were bulldozed to flatten out a runway for Air Force activity without restitution or even an apology. Trust in our federal government is still being built, and the basis of that relationship is meaningful consultation, collaboration and only then can greater equity be seen for underserved communities like ours.

In terms of equity, we understand that the Biden Administration has made promises domestically and internationally to curb this country's emissions and we, as Iñupiat people whose homelands are on the front lines of climate change, can understand the need to move in that direction when it comes to address government policies. What we cannot support, however, is that those efforts are made on the backs of indigenous peoples without even a conversation, that is not how more equity is achieved. The federal government must allow us the time and resources for a thoughtful, deliberate, and sustainable transition of our economy but instead we have seen secretarial and executive actions that threaten our way of economic sustainability and therefore our way of life.

Our most pressing concern is the imminent threat to the North Slope Borough economy that started on day one of this administration, with little warning nor communication through reversing Records of Decision, halting new projects, and a reductionist climate agenda that singles out and vilifies the oil and gas industry as an alternative to creating a realistic, multi-dimensional climate strategy. The State of Alaska has some of this highest and most rigorous environmental protection policies in the country with respect to oil and gas development. Our regional government, the North Slope Borough (NSB) is a home-rule government responsible for more territory than any other local government in the nation, an area roughly the same size as the state of Indiana. The NSB receives 96% of their revenue from property taxes that are levied on oil and gas industry infrastructure on the North Slope, which enables them to provide services that were historically inaccessible in the Arctic. The Borough School District provides vocational and academic education for people of all ages; NSB health clinics provide modern medicinal services to residents in even the smallest and remote of villages. The Municipal Services Department operates water, sewer, and electric utilities, plows roads and runways, and maintains landfills. The Planning Department provides a third level of oversight to the oil industry within our region on top of State and federal oversight and regulations. Other NSB departments provide housing, police and fire protection, search and rescue, and other critical services to our communities. They do this independently, without assistance from state nor federal government. The benefits of modern American civilization, common in the rest of the nation, have been built on the foundation of the North Slope oil industry.

In terms of equity for our region and as economies transition, the U.S. government must work to create as much stability as possible and make every effort to not leave our residents to deal with the volatility and instability that will likely result from policy changes made in the name of decarbonization. Fossil fuel usage will no doubt decrease over time as renewable resources become more widely available and affordable. However, renewable resource technology has not developed to a place where it can be widely applicable in our region; charging an electric car is not easy in villages that experience blackouts or still rely on diesel generators for power. Instead of trying to score short term political capital by drastically changing oil and gas extraction and ignoring local perspectives, a long-term realistic outlook and working with the people in the places that currently rely on these resources is not only the right thing to do, but an obligation of the government under its trust responsibility with its indigenous peoples. Without that cooperation and relationship, equity will be impossible to achieve as indigenous and local voices will ignored.

CONTRACTS FOR BUSINESSES WITH CHARACTERISTICS THAT ALIGN WITH THE DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY

Impacts on equity seen through the contracts and businesses awarded by federal agencies are visible in many ways. Our region has had little investment or resources put in place to develop businesses that can help build capacity to provide the ability to search for, apply and win government contracts. If a local business has an economic development arm, most are not comparable to outside larger firms who have an advantage and can adjust their business models easily to bid and be awarded government contracts. The businesses that do get contracts typically do not align with local traditions and practices or rarely have the potential to bring tangible economic return to the community beyond short-term labor positions. When and if activity does occur, some larger businesses fail engage with local tribes, and sometimes even the awarding agency fails to communicate with residents on what project or business opportunities are upcoming in their own community. The Department of the Interior (''Department'') can use power of procurement to contract with and support businesses that align and respect native communities, particularly small and disadvantaged businesses that align with local traditions.

We recommend that the Department find more creative ways to distribute information via social media and local media in addition to helping facilitate matching programs for small businesses to become teaming partners. The Department can also do better by communicating opportunities that are available to tribal businesses by facilitating additional networking through conferences, forums or meet and greets. Another way would be for the Department to implement additional policies requiring large businesses to work with smaller businesses on contracting opportunities, like the small businesses acting as a sub-contractor to a prime contractor, allowing for partnership and mentorship between the companies of different sizes. Regional non-profits can help facilitate this partnership and have capacity that smaller tribes and communities may not.

Another way to improve the process and relationships around federal contracting would be to help provide clearer communication channels for businesses to access the Department's point of contacts. As most interactions with the federal government, it is difficult finding answers to questions in a timely manner, creating additional issues for smaller and tribal businesses who are trying to navigate the application process.

We also see barriers surrounding the application processes themselves. No two agencies have the same procurement or application requirements. This builds additional stumbling blocks into the system and requires local businesses, often an incredibly small team of people, to do significant additional work. Streamlining federal grants and contracts to have similar requirements would greatly improve equity and the ability of small indigenous companies or entities to be successful through these processes.

RECREATION ACCESS TO DOI-MANAGED LANDS FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The Iñupiat people and the residents who call the Arctic home have a unique relationship with the lands and water. Historically our people regularly roamed hundreds of miles in search of game and hunted up and down our coastlines to survive. But many of our communities continue to have a strained relationship with the federal government and agencies with the Department because of historical slights and being denied access to lands that were historically used. On top of that, additional burdensome Departmental and agency regulations and policies have created additional barriers when trying to access and recreate on across our homelands that are now public lands which surround many of our communities. Two communities in our region, Anaktuvuk Pass which lies inside the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Kaktovik which lies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are impacted by Department agencies that have not implemented their rights under the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (''ANILCA''). There are several provisions under ANILCA that have either not been implemented or have been partially implemented that restricts these communities access to their subsistence resources through restrictions. Section 1110(b) was intended to protect the traditional overland travel for these communities to allow for summer access however the appropriate documentation of traditional access has not been completed for Kaktovik over 40 years after the passage of ANCSA. The regulation of motorized vehicles on public land makes it harder for native communities to access their own lands, let alone public lands in the federal land system. The agencies have not worked with either community in implementation of Section 1307 with respect to tourism in either the park or the refuge. This is the opposite of the question, in that the Department agencies are issuing permits over the homelands of our people yet not providing either Anaktuvuk Pass or Kaktovik the ability to control tourism to their economic benefit by not following Section 1307.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change appears in many different forms across Alaska. It is well known that the Arctic is ''ground zero'' for climate change; on Alaska's North Slope, increased

ice-free seasons have resulted in greater coastal erosion and difficulty accessing some of our subsistence resources; melting permafrost has exacerbated this erosion in addition to creating infrastructure damage that is expensive to repair, ruining our traditional siġuaqs (ice cellars where meat is stored) through flooding, and is making travel across tundra more difficult. Elsewhere in Alaska, other regions are also struggling with an increase in wildfires, the warming of rivers that leads to stresses in the fish populations that they rely on to subsist, flooding, and the introduction and expansion of invasive plants and insects. Any response mechanisms that the government introduces must be flexible and robust enough to cover the varying changes that we are seeing across our region and the State as a whole.

VOICE's overarching recommendation is that the Department consider—in lieu of new ''top down'' policies that, while well intentioned, don't always serve communities as they are intended—setting up a grant program that allows affected communities the flexibility and empowerment to respond to the impacts that they are facing in a culturally responsible way that fits their local environment and community. Overall, we have not seen very many examples of government responses and assistance to our climate related changes that have been particularly useful. Any action related to a changing climate falls to the NSB, to handle the responses in our communities, including building sea walls to protect against erosion and fixing roads and buildings damaged by permafrost thaw. Through a multi-year effort, the NSB has been working through the process of receiving funding and support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build revetment in the community of Utqiaġvik, our largest community, to prevent erosion from consuming many houses, businesses, and local infrastructure. Utqiaġvik is not the only community in our region that is experiencing significant erosion; there are similar needs in Point Hope and Wainwright. Programs and policies that would assist in assessment of climate related changes and address solutions and funding around these impacts are necessary.

In terms of climate change observation and other related programs, we have seen most success in local observer networks, when local people are trained to monitor and measure the changes that they are seeing in their own communities, this creates a sense of empowerment rather than helplessness. Ideally, permanent, local jobs within our communities threatened by climate change would be created by an initiative from the federal government. We believe that support of these local networks should be prioritized over the many studies in our communities that are conducted by multiple federal agencies. Current local network systems need to be expanded to include all communities because they rely heavily on indigenous and traditional knowledge of our environment in a way that no western scientist can compare. VOICE recommends that there are clear definitions developed around climate change terminology, for example, 'climate change resilience' is ambiguous and is geographically variable. The truth is that in the Arctic, and in Alaska in general, we are well beyond the point of mitigation and have firmly moved into the realm of adaptation. From retrofitting existing infrastructure to moving entire communities, adaptation is incredibly expensive. Federal agencies should take a stronger initiative in partnering with our local communities to better understand the impacts of climate change and the viability of available renewable technologies that can be utilized in arctic conditions. All of our communities currently run off of hydrocarbons and we hear from those unfamiliar with our ecosystem that we should begin the switch to run our communities off of renewable resources, but we have yet to see a legitimate solution to our energy needs that is viable in the unique and challenging Arctic conditions.

APPLYING FOR AND ACCESSING TRIBAL DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

One way the process around discretionary grants for tribes that can be improved would be to set up additional offices and positions in regional offices like Tribal grant liaisons to assist tribes and help build a sustainable beneficial relationship. A regional grant liaison dedicated to tribes would also be able to help the department create more targeted communication grant campaigns and they could act as a point of contact for tribes navigating the grants process. Small tribes like those in our region often have a difficult time building relationships with the federal government and understanding the federal regulations around the grants they are applying for. As I mentioned the burdensome reporting process can create challenges with tribes that have low capacity or high turnover, leaving them ineligible for future grants. Federal agencies should take a stronger initiative in partnering with our local communities to better understand them before developing and awarding grants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on addressing equity in government policies. We hope that this conversation will be ongoing and that our comments will be useful as the United States Government decides how best to address this issue.

Quyanaq,

JOHN HOPSON, JR.,
President.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Here is one. It is from the president of the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat, John Hopson, Jr.

In terms of equity [racial equity] we understand that the Biden Administration has made promises domestically and internationally to curb this country's emissions and we, as Iñupiat people whose homelands are on the front lines of climate change, can understand the need to move in that direction when it comes to address government policies. What we cannot support, however, is that those efforts are [often] made on the backs of indigenous peoples in Alaska without even a conversation, that is not how more equity is achieved. The federal government must allow us time and resources for a thoughtful, deliberate, and sustainable transition of our economy but instead we have seen secretarial and executive actions [from this administration] that threaten our way of [life and] economic sustainability and therefore our [entire] way of life [in America's Arctic].

Another group: Apparently, consultation with all indigenous groups in the country, except for those in Alaska, is this administration's policy.

So, bottom line, I need commitments from the Fish and Wildlife Service on these issues: the Russian River land exchange, the King Cove land exchange. More broadly, I need the administration to end its war on Alaska and our working families.

I am happy to discuss with the Senator from Montana on these issues and maybe get his help, but for right now, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, could I just get a minute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Because I know there is a vote coming.

First of all, I would ask my friend from Alaska—I appreciate the fact you are standing up for your constituents to do what is right. I have no problem with that whatsoever. I have no problem with the concerns you brought up on the Russian River and the King Cove Road, although I don't know the issues nearly as well as you do. But my point is this: If you are able to put Ms. WILLIAMS in as Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, she has a track record of listening to people. You happen to have a ''U.S. Senator'' in front of your name; you will be at the top of the list. She is not somebody who shuts the door and says: Just because you are Republican, I don't want to listen to you. She is somebody who always brings in people, collaborates, and comes to a decision that will work. I wouldn't be up here advocating for her if I didn't believe that.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Well, to my colleague, I look forward to working with you on that and those amendments and look forward to moving her nomination forward in that light.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amy Gutmann, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

VOTE ON GUTMANN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gutmann nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 40 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Booker	Carper
Bennet	Brown	Casey
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Collins
Blunt	Cardin	Coons

Cortez Masto	Leahy	Schatz
Duckworth	Manchin	Schumer
Durbin	Markey	Shaheen
Gillibrand	Menendez	Sinema
Graham	Merkley	Smith
Hassan	Murphy	Stabenow
Heinrich	Murray	Tester
Hickenlooper	Ossoff	Toomey
Hirono	Padilla	Van Hollen
Kaine	Peters	Warner
Kelly	Reed	Warnock
Kennedy	Romney	Warren
King	Rosen	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Sanders	Wyden

NAYS—42

Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Portman
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Feinstein	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

VOTE ON CARTY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Carty nomination?

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 41 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rubio
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Sasse
Burr	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Sinema
Carper	Markey	Smith
Casey	McConnell	Stabenow
Collins	Menendez	Sullivan
Coons	Merkley	Tester
Cornyn	Moran	Thune
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Tillis
Crapo	Murphy	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warner
Durbin	Ossoff	Warnock
Fischer	Padilla	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Portman	Young
Grassley	Reed	

NAYS—27

Blackburn	Hagerty	Lummis
Boozman	Hawley	Marshall
Braun	Hoeven	Paul
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Johnson	Shelby
Cruz	Kennedy	Toomey
Daines	Lankford	Tuberville
Ernst	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Luján	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. today, the Senate vote on the confirmation of the Wong nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the Bush nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. REED. Mr. President, last week, I came to the floor to warn that we are moving closer to a yearlong continuing resolution, or a CR, that would have devastating implications for every Federal Agency—particularly the Department of Defense.

We are 5 months into the fiscal year. Soon, the House will send over another stop-gap measure so we can avoid a shutdown for a few more weeks. When the short-term funding bill expires, the fiscal year will be halfway over. We need to get this work done.

As outlined last week, Democrats put a deal on the table months ago that gave Republicans what they wanted—more funding for defense than the $22 billion increase that President Biden sought and less money for nondefense programs than he requested. This should have been an easy deal for them to accept. Indeed, the defense funding number that Democrats are willing to agree to is the number that Republicans on the Armed Services Committee proposed this summer and that was incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act. But even with that defense number in hand, our Republican colleagues continue to draw out negotiations, pushing us closer to a full-year continuing resolution that would fund defense at a level that is less than President Biden initially requested and about $37 billion lower than the level set out in the NDAA.

I think that is important. If the Republicans continue to reject a sensible agreement on an Omnibus appropriations bill, they will end up with a defense number that is less than what President Biden sent up, and what he sent up was harshly and vigorously criticized by the Republicans as being not only ineffectual but also somehow undermining our defense.

So it is very clear that we have to move quickly to make a full-year CR an impossibility and that we have to move and vote for an Omnibus appropriations bill. A CR for the full year will shortchange our military. It will disrupt the efficient operations of the Federal Government in the midst of international tension, the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, and a fragile economic recovery.

Let me focus on the Navy and Marine Corps for a moment. Like the other services, they would be hard hit. A full-year CR would lead to a shortfall of $4.4 billion from the level the President requested.

Even worse, the Navy estimates the impact could total more than $14 billion of misaligned funds because a CR prohibits any new starts and production rate increases. The military personnel accounts alone would be $1.6 billion below what the Navy needs, and that is the pay and benefits for our men and women in uniform. The Navy's Active-Duty end strength would be reduced by 23,000 sailors of its planned accessions. Almost half of the permanent change-of-station moves would be cut, and the Navy Reserves would also face a substantial reduction in its end strength.

A full-year CR could leave the training and readiness accounts for the Navy and Marine Corps about $2.5 billion short of what they need. This shortfall would reduce the services' flight operations by 10 to 20 percent for all units for 6 months. Reductions in ship operations will put training certifications for one carrier strike group and two expeditionary strike groups at risk, thereby impacting fiscal year 2023 deployments.

This shortfall would impact the scheduling of ship maintenance availabilities for five Virginia-class submarines and two aircraft carriers—

something that will ripple through the industrial base in future fiscal years.

For the Marines, maintenance availabilities for 12 of their landing craft would be deferred, including 6 landing craft air cushions and 6 landing craft utility. These deferrals would potentially impact their ability to support operational needs around the globe. If we don't keep our ships and amphibious vehicles maintained, they will not be ready nor reliable when they are needed in operations, thereby risking the safety of our servicemembers and impeding their ability to perform the mission.

These are just some of the operational impacts the Navy and Marine Corps would face under a yearlong CR.

A CR will also prevent the Navy from effectively modernizing and reinvesting in new programs. The Department of the Navy would not be able to execute 10 new procurement programs and 10 new research and development projects.

Additionally, 20 programs would not be able to increase their production rate as planned in the budget request. Perhaps most importantly, the CR would provide insufficient funding for the continued construction of SSBN–826, the first boat of the *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarine program, which is replacing the aging *Ohio*-class submarines.

The *Columbia*-class program is vitally important to maintaining our strategic nuclear deterrence. I have seen the boat currently under construction in Rhode Island, the state-of-the-art hull cylinders and missile tubes. It is a formidable vessel, and it needs to stay on track.

A yearlong CR would also affect the advance procurement funding for the second, third, fourth, and fifth of the submarines of this class. Effectively, we would be disrupting the unavoidable replacing of aging *Ohio*-class submarines with the new *Columbia* class. All this would mean down the road eventually is just more expensive submarines.

We are already on a tight schedule to deliver SSBN–826 to meet the requirements of Strategic Command. Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gilday has said that the *Columbia* class is the Navy's ''number one modernization priority'' and that it ''is a program with zero margin for delays.''

The impacts aren't limited to our undersea fleet. Under a yearlong CR, the Navy also wouldn't be able to purchase three additional surface ships—two of the TAGOS ocean surveillance ships and one ship to shore connector—and the Navy won't be able to start procuring materials in advance for the new frigate and the TAO fleet oiler.

The Marines will not be able to buy 7 more F35 Joint Strike Fighters, 20 more of the amphibious combat vehicle, nor additional quantities of the joint air-to-ground missile and Hellfire missiles. Instead of procuring six MQ–9A Reaper UAVS, the Marines will get zero.

There are many impacts to new research and development projects that cannot be started under a CR, and the Navy is very concerned about the shortfall in funding for the Conventional Prompt Strike Program. This missile, which is being jointly developed and produced with the Army, will provide Navy ships and *Virginia*-class submarines with a hypersonic weapon capability that is critical to our Nation's ability to deter conflict with China and with Russia. In order to make up this shortfall under a CR and keep this program on pace, the Navy would have to divert funding from other important R&D programs. It is one step forward and two steps back and in some cases may cause delays that are unrecoverable.

The Navy and Marine Corps also won't be able to start 17 military construction projects—new facilities that our sailors and marines need to do their jobs safely and effectively. This includes, among others, $321 million for two projects in North Carolina, $288 million for three projects in Virginia, $14 million for a project in Minnesota, $49 million for a project in Michigan, $558 million for eight projects in Guam, and $50 million for a project in Japan. This will clearly affect our ability to have a forward-operating presence in the Indo-Pacific region and to confront what the Secretary of Defense has called the pacing threat—China.

These are just some examples of the varied impacts and challenges the Navy and Marine Corps would face if there was a yearlong CR. I would encourage my colleagues to read the full testimony of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gilday, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Berger, which they submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

These statements can be found online on the House Committee on Appropriations website at https://appropriations.house.gov/events/hearings/impact-of-continuing-resolutions-on-the-department-of-defense-and-services.

In short, a yearlong CR will make us less competitive with our adversaries and less able to respond to the rapidly changing global landscape, and these are some things—these efforts are not something the Defense Department can do on its own. We need to fund our diplomats and our law enforcement and all Agencies of the Federal Government.

Indeed, we cannot afford to shortchange nondefense priorities. A CR will not adequately fund our Defense Department nor our domestic Agencies. Stating the obvious, we are still in the midst of the COVID–19 pandemic. Are we truly willing to fund the NIH and the CDC and other public health Agencies at last year's levels? Are we willing to tell school systems to make do with the same funding levels for critical programs like title I? Are we going to cut funding for housing rental assistance? Are we willing to shortchange law enforcement, including the Capitol Police?

We need to get our work done. That begins with reaching an agreement that provides the funding Americans need on both sides of the ledger. A full-year CR is not an acceptable solution. I am hopeful that agreement is near. But no one should believe those who claim to support our national defense while threatening a yearlong CR, and no one should claim that our domestic needs are somehow unworthy of support as well.

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.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nebraska.

2022 WINTER OLYMPICS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, it goes without saying that each of the American athletes competing in the Olympics this year is the best in their event. Many of them have dedicated their entire lives to their sports in the hope that they might have this opportunity to represent the United States at the Olympic Games. They have earned their spots on Team USA, and I wish them the best as they compete against other athletes from around the world.

But make no mistake, Beijing 2022 is no ordinary Olympics. Just a 4-hour flight from where the Games are being held, China has imprisoned more than a million Uighur Muslims in concentration camps. These Chinese citizens are prisoners—political prisoners—in their own country. Their crime? Maintaining a vibrant Muslim culture that doesn't fit the mold that Beijing wants to impose on China's more than 1.4 billion people. The very same government that is hosting the Olympics this week is putting these innocent people in labor camps and subjecting them to forced sterilization, forced labor, and physical and psychological torture.

One of the few things that President Trump and President Biden agree on is that what China is doing to its Uighur population amounts to genocide.

Last November, one of the most famous athletes in China, Peng Shuai, posted on social media that a high-ranking politician in the Chinese Communist Party had sexually assaulted her. This wasn't just any politician; he was a member of the Politburo Standing Committee and the face of China's successful effort to land the 2022 Olympics. He even met with the president of the International Olympic Committee at least once.

Speaking out about someone like this is dangerous in a country like China. Peng Shuai knew that, but I don't think she expected what came next. Less than 20 minutes after she

posted her accusation, her existence had been scrubbed from the internet. Any mention of her name was restricted. For a while, the Communist Party banned discussion of hundreds of other key words, even words as general as ''tennis.'' She disappeared from the public eye for months, and the only appearances that she has been allowed to make since have been scripted and supervised by the CCP.

If this is how China treats its own people, I think it is fair to ask: What kind of risks are our athletes facing as they participate in the Olympic Games?

To protest China's miserable human rights record, the United States instituted a diplomatic boycott, and American officials will not be present for these Games; neither will officials representing many of our allies, like Canada or the United Kingdom. That is the right decision. We shouldn't pretend that everything is fine in China just because the IOC chose them to host the Olympics.

As far as the committee is concerned, they have made it very clear that China's money is worth more to them than the rights of the world's athletes. They had years to plan for these Olympics, but they still chose not to adopt any rules to protect the human rights of Olympians while they are in China. Instead, competitors are required to follow local laws limiting free expression, privacy, and other basic freedoms.

Before they ever set foot in China, athletes and journalists were required to download an intrusive smartphone app, supposedly to track COVID–19 infections. Experts say that China and other malicious actors could exploit flaws in the app's design to go beyond that and spy on athletes in many other ways, both during the Olympics and long after they are over.

The CCP's app also contains a list of more than 400 illegal words that they could use to censor athletes' conversations.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee has gone as far as to tell American athletes to ''assume that every device and every communication, transaction, and online activity will be monitored.'' Many other nations have issued similar warnings.

This all could have been avoided. We didn't have to host a unifying event like the Olympics in a country that thinks the book ''1984'' is an instruction manual. The IOC chose to have China host the Olympics anyway. They chose to ignore these and many other shameless human rights abuses Beijing engages in every single day. They could have required China to respect the basic liberties athletes enjoy in the United States and other Western countries, but they didn't. The next time a host country is chosen, it is important that the IOC pick any of the dozens of democracies around the world.

The more than 200 athletes on Team USA earned their places at the Olympics with years of hard work and sacrifice. I do wish them the best, and I pray that they stay safe while they are away from home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, in an effort to make the internet healthy, happy, and peaceful, the Chinese Government recently clamped down on what it deems as online bad behavior.

Beijing knows all about bad behavior. In fact, if behaving badly were an Olympic sport, China would take the gold, silver, and bronze.

Speaking of the Olympics, last week the Olympic cauldron was lit in the Chinese capital by a Uighur torchbearer. It was a spectacular opening ceremony, with thousands of participants filling the Bird's Nest. Its choreography was innovative, its artistry unprecedented as China sought to portray itself to the world not as it is but as they want to be seen.

There was an LED floor below, brilliant fireworks overhead. Children danced, sang, and raised glowing doves. The theme was socially conscious and environmentally aware.

The Chinese flag was passed through the hands of people representing the diversity within China, and it was raised where it billowed proudly, even though there wasn't a breeze.

And not a single American Government official was present—not a single government official. You see, we sent our regrets to the Chinese Communist Party, refused to join in the Xi Jinping games. We let a few of the reasons why we didn't appear be submitted candidly to the world.

A million Uighurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz are locked away in gulags—raped, tortured with electric batons, sterilized, forced into abortions—all in an effort to eradicate these religious and ethnic minorities not just from Xinjiang but from the face of the Earth.

Taiwan's sovereignty is continually threatened with the Chinese flying aircraft, streaking across Taiwan's skies. Hong Kong's democracy is strangled.

There and across the CCP's domain, dissidents, whistleblowers, and protesters are apprehended, imprisoned, persecuted, and reeducated—free speech and expression stifled and censored, religious freedom denied.

A virus was recklessly unleashed on the world, upturning our lives, killing our most vulnerable, closing our businesses, damaging our economy, and dividing our people.

A nation is hosting a storied athletic competition, but that nation erases its own athletes for telling embarrassing truths about its government.

The history, distant and recent, of the communist Chinese Government is one of inhumanity, ruthless violation of the most basic human rights, and aggression toward America and its allies.

The Olympic Games in Beijing, spit and polished, even carbon-neutral, may present the face of a humane and caring world power, but we are not fooled.

We see through the charade—a slave state hosting the Olympics; its participants wearing uniforms made by Uighurs tortured and toiling in labor camps.

We see the authoritarian regime behind what the dissident artist Ai Weiwei calls China's fake smile. And we are leading by example. The CCP has the world stage, but we are not in the audience.

Our athletes are in Beijing, though. They are on the ice, in the snow, on the slopes, and in the arena, and they should be. They have worked their entire lives for this moment. They are seizing it, while we root them on. And I want America's Olympians to bring back every single gold medal.

But I also want our athletes to know what the Chinese Government might have in store for them. So here are a few hopefully helpful words for our American Olympians.

Keep an eye on your bank account. That is right. When you buy a meal or a souvenir in Beijing, you will be forced to pay for it with the CCP's digital yuan. The Chinese Government claims the system creates more efficient payments across its economy, but it is also a way of keeping tabs on your transactions and watching what you buy. Be aware. Think twice about what you buy in Beijing. You see, the International Olympic Committee made no effort to stop the sale of apparel made with forced labor.

Not only will China's Olympic team be wearing uniforms likely produced by slave labor, but official Olympic garments could be coming from the same oppressed source.

And don't be fooled by uncensoring. The CCP erases any unflattering but accurate portrayals of itself on the internet. With the world watching, it is now promising to lower the great firewall, allowing athletes and the press open access to the internet through SIM cards. China's own citizens are afforded no such privilege. Hopefully, you brought a burner phone and left your personal devices at home.

Keep an eye out for your fellow athletes. Now, this is important. Tennis star Peng Shuai disappeared in November after accusing a Chinese official of sexual assault. Her peers and the Women's Tennis Association called for action—an extraordinary showing of solidarity. But after Peng was seen in a video, the world moved on, much to China's delight.

We may never know how many Chinese athletes live under fear from their oppressive government.

Journalists, by the way, you should be on guard too. You see, there is no freedom of the press in China. Reporters are regularly harassed, censored, and surveilled. In fact, in 2021, China jailed 50 journalists—more than any other nation.

During the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, there were at least 30 cases of CCP officials interfering with reporting and assaulting journalists. And that

was when China was truly concerned about making a positive impression across the world.

Lastly, and most importantly, to all America's athletes, don't forget this: Your country is behind you. By boycotting the Olympics, our government is shining a light on the CCP's abuse of its citizens and its disregard for the rest of the world, but by competing in the Olympics, our athletes are showing what a free people from an open society are capable of. Now, remember, the Olympics have long been a forum for American victory at the expense of authoritarians' pride. They were an early front in the war against fascism.

Jesse Owens won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, while Hitler looked on, humiliated, his delusion of Aryan superiority burst. When Owens stood on the podium after winning the long jump, he was surrounded by Sieg Heils, but he stood taller and he stood higher than all of them, saluting Old Glory.

But it was Cornelius ''Corny'' Johnson who was the first Black American to earn gold in Berlin, winning the high jump. The silver went to Dave Albritton, another American, who was also Black. Delos Thurbur, yet another American, won the bronze. Hitler refused to meet with them or to congratulate any of them.

When they took the podium, all three offered their own protest to the dictator—the Bellamy salute; the palm-out salute of the American flag named for Francis Bellamy, the author of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Olympics were a battleground in the Cold War as well.

In 1980, the unheralded and ragtag American hockey team upset the four-time gold medal-winning Soviets. Two days later, they defeated Finland and won the gold.

Russia had just invaded Afghanistan. America's economy was in recession. The victory not only shocked the world, it lifted our Nation and sunk the Soviet's spirits. The Russian hockey players didn't even bother to have their silver medals engraved; they were so angry about losing to America.

Now, in 2022, another act in a global power competition will take place at the Olympics. We have seen it unfold in recent days. America and the free West against the communist Chinese Government. It is part of the contest that will define this century—show the CCP that the future belongs to the free; that authoritarian governments always fail the people trapped under them.

Win. Make Xi Jinping and the Chinese authorities hear the ''Star-Spangled Banner'' and see the Stars and Stripes again and again and again.

We are cheering you on and will be waiting for you when you come home decorated in gold. Good luck to Team USA, and God bless America.

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. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, we have a true crisis at our southern border. Those in Washington who refuse to use the word ''crisis'' to describe the humanitarian and security challenges must accept the disastrous consequences of an open-border policy.

Just look at the numbers from the Department of Homeland Security. More than 2 million illegal immigrants were caught attempting to cross the border last year, and if the Biden administration doesn't get serious about securing the border, we are on pace to repeat or exceed this troubling figure in 2022. In December, 178,840 illegal immigrants were apprehended attempting to cross along this stretch of the border, making it the highest total for that month in Department of Homeland Security history.

I have been here before describing this chaos, but the reality is, it continues to escalate while the administration refuses to take action to stop illegal immigration.

Unsurprisingly, we are seeing the tensions between the Biden administration and Border Patrol officials boil over. These men and women have answered the call to protect and serve. They put their lives at risk to enforce the law and arrest people illegally crossing the border, only to have the administration approve the release of the very criminals the officers locked up. This betrayal by the administration is creating low morale, with some Border Patrol officers choosing to leave the job rather than support this lawlessness and insanity.

Instead of preventing illegal drugs from entering our country, border agents are spending time processing paperwork for illegal immigrants.

Do you know who else is seeing this paperwork? TSA agents. The Department of Homeland Security is allowing these lawbreakers to board airplanes using their Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrest warrants as identification at TSA checkpoints. This is totally absurd. It is a reckless policy that threatens the safety of air travelers and all citizens. The administration must end this practice.

The message coming from the White House is: Our southern borders are open. All are welcome.

This has been a green light for immigrants since day one. It started with migrant numbers increasing along the southern border as they awaited Biden's immigration action, and now we see the result. We have experienced record border crossings, overflowing detention centers, and the release of single adult migrants into the United States, among many other many problems. That is how it is going.

It is not just citizens from Central America and Mexico who are taking advantage of this foolish generosity; people from Syria, Turkey, Russia, Pakistan, Cuba, Haiti, and India are illegally entering the United States along the southern border.

I have been here before on the Senate floor sounding the alarm about the threat this dangerous and indefensible approach to immigration and border security is having on our country. It is threatening our sovereignty and undermining the rule of law.

Instead of implementing commonsense steps to secure the border, the administration has prioritized ''border czar'' Vice President HARRIS's mission to discover the ''root causes'' of this crisis while the number of illegal immigrants entering our country is reaching historic levels.

The reality is, this truly is a crisis of the Biden administration's own making. The President reversed policies that were curbing illegal immigration, like the construction of a border wall and the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy.

We must provide Border Patrol agents with the tools and resources to successfully accomplish their job. That involves enforcing the laws and holding illegal immigrants accountable for their unlawful actions, not helping them board airplanes to travel around the country.

This is a matter of national security. My GOP colleagues and I are ready to get back to the effective strategies we had for controlling the border under President Trump, and it is time President Biden gets on board.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

VOTE ON WONG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wong nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 42 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Capito	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lummis	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Thune
Cornyn	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	Young

NAYS—31

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Daines	Lee	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Luján	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 705.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 705, Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Maria Cantwell, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Thomas R. Carper, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, February 8, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Financing being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Sam Bagenstos to be General Counsel to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to discharge be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, notwithstanding rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we have had so much good news in Ohio and across the country over the last few weeks—rising wages, record job growth, a million jobs in 2 months.

Intel is bringing 10,000 new good-paying manufacturing and trades jobs to Central Ohio. That facility will be built by union workers—electricians, carpenters, laborers, pipefitters, and other workers of the skilled trades.

Hyperion, a fuel manufacturer, is opening the largest factory built in Columbus in a decade, creating 700 jobs.

GE Aviation with Boeing signed a new deal exporting planes built with next-generation jet engines developed in Southwest Ohio, supporting thousands of Ohio jobs.

As I was flying into Columbus with Senator PORTMAN a couple of weeks ago to join Intel to announce those jobs, I was thinking: Today we are finally burying the term ''rust belt.''

For too long, corporate elites on the coast have used that outdated, offensive term—a term that demeans our workers and devalues our work. Now Ohio—the center of the country, the heart of the industrial Midwest—leads the way in the next generation of manufacturing.

The State that founded the auto industry and gave us the Wright Brothers is today making the most advanced chips that go into cars and phones and appliances.

All of this is made possible because we are putting American workers at the center of our economy. It is not a coincidence we are seeing this record job growth, when we finally have a President who understands what carrying a union card means, who centers workers, who cares about wages, who comes from the industrial heartland—a union card that means better wages, a union card that means better benefits, a union card that often means a more flexible work schedule that workers have a decision and input into forming.

And look at the results we are getting. Last year, for the first time in 20 years, our economy grew faster than China. Think about that. For the first time in two decades, the American economy grew faster than China's economy.

We know that China and other competitors aren't giving up. They are, every week, trying to find new ways to cheat, new ways to undermine American jobs.

We need every possible tool to compete. It is why last year in the Senate we passed the Innovation and Competition Act. We passed what we are now calling the Make it in America Act. It is a serious effort to invest in manufacturing research and development and bring and build supply chains back in the United States.

It is going to mean jobs. It is going to bring down prices. For too long, we have had a trade policy and a tax policy lobbied in this body by corporate interests that wanted to move overseas for cheap labor. We have had a trade and tax policy that essentially hollowed out manufacturing in Ohio and across the Midwest. Ohioans know what permanent normal trade relations with China 20 years ago when Congress passed it—to be asked of corporate America and pushed by people like Newt Gingrich—people know what that did to our economy. Almost everyone knows the devastation the North American Free Trade Agreement caused to industrial towns in Ohio and across the country.

PNTR and admitting China to the WTO hasn't gotten the same media attention, but Ohio steel companies and

other industries know how big a problem it has been. It is how we ended up with empty factories, lost dreams, supply chains that are too long, too fragile, and that stretch all over the world instead of made in America.

That is why I wrote the Leveling the Playing Field Act that was passed into law in 2015. It is why Senator PORTMAN and I are working to make sure that our bipartisan Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 is in the competition bill, the Made in America Act the House passed last week.

Leveling the Playing Field has been critical for Ohio companies, allowing them to file and win trade cases against foreign companies that cheat the rules. We know our competition hasn't stopped coming up with new ways to skirt these rules and distort the global market to benefit their own companies.

The Chinese Government still subsidizes steel. The Chinese Government engages in economic espionage to steal American trade secrets to prop up their own state-controlled companies.

Look at the most recent conviction of a Chinese spy trying to steal GE Aviation's pioneering jet engine designs to swipe them and take them back to China. We need our trade laws to keep up.

Both the Senate and the House bills include the CHIPS Act to invest in new semiconductor production in the United States, like the new Intel factory coming to Licking County, east and north of Columbus. Even though the United States started the semiconductor industry, today those vital chips are mostly made overseas.

Fewer than 10 percent of chips are made in this country. Right now, 75 percent of chip manufacturing is in Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and China. It has meant severe shortages and long waits for those chips that are critical inputs to so many of the products Americans rely on.

We need to bring the supply chain back home, starting with Intel in Ohio, by passing the CHIPS Act. We must invest in domestic manufacturing innovation. It is what Missouri Republican Senator BLUNT and I worked together to do with our provisions in the Senate bill to create more manufacturing hubs across the country.

The first one, as many in this body remember because they voted for it, was in Youngstown some years ago, something called America Makes. All of us in the Senate and the House need to get to work immediately to get these bills over the finish line.

If you want to get a sense of how important this is, how strong these bills are, just look at what China is doing. The Chinese Communist Party is lobbying furiously against this bill. That is right. The CCP and its cronies, the communist party in China, are lobbying against the bill that invests in American innovation, supports American manufacturing, takes on unfair and illegal trade practices. They are scared, pure and simple.

They know that pro-competition bills—the Make it in America Act—will have real consequences for their cheating and their trying to undermine American workers.

A Reuters headline from November: ''Beijing urges U.S. businesses to lobby against China-related bills in Congress.''

I will say it again: ''Beijing urges U.S. businesses to lobby against China-related bills in Congress.''

Unfortunately—I won't name them on the floor, maybe I should—but there are U.S. businesses that are lobbying against this because they do enough business in China, exploiting Chinese workers, evading any environmental laws or worker safety laws that may be in place.

The Chinese Government threatens these American companies, recruiting them to lobby against the interests of American workers. This time we are not rolling over. We are going to stand up for American innovation, stand up for American manufacturing, stand up especially for American workers.

As I said, we have a President now who puts workers at the center of our economic policy. We have a President who puts workers at the center of our economy. We have a President who is not afraid to talk about unions, knowing carrying a union card means a better life for workers.

We are going to get a strong bipartisan bill that increases our economic competitors. We know how to speed up our supply chain and lower prices and end our reliance on China: make more things in this country.

That is the solution to many of our economic problems: make it in Ohio. I urge my colleagues in both parties and both Chambers to go to work. Let's get this done for American workers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UKRAINE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, many Americans are watching the news, reading the newspaper, watching cable news, and they are seeing the Russian buildup of troops on the border of Ukraine.

So I thought what I would do is take just a few moments to speak about what is at stake in Ukraine. Why should Americans care, and what should we do in response?

Tensions along the border are high. Shuttle diplomacy is occurring and is the order of the day. But more than 100,000 Russian troops are in position should an invasion of Ukraine be ordered by Russian Federation President Putin.

Reports indicate that Russia has created a graphic propaganda video, something called a false flag operation, to serve as a pretext for invading and cyber attacks like those that might precede a planned invasion are already underway.

Not surprisingly, the Kremlin is engaging in a disinformation campaign, making every attempt to blame the United States—or any other country for that matter—for its own aggressive actions.

This kind of gaslighting might work in a totalitarian state, but in the rest of the world, where we have access to more complete and accurate information, we know better. There is no question that Russia and Russia alone is responsible for the military buildup on Ukraine's border and is also threatening peace in Europe.

As Frederick Kagan, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, has written:

> This isn't primarily a Ukraine crisis. It's a Russia crisis. More precisely, [it is] a Putin-created crisis aimed at destroying [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, otherwise known as] NATO.
>
> It's Putin's attempt to drive the [United States] and its West European allies to put ourselves in a time machine, [to] abdicate our alliance obligations, expose countries previously occupied, brutalized, and exploited by the Soviet Union to Putin's continued aggression, demonstrate our unreliability as partners, and show our unseriousness about defending our own vital national security interests. In return for a promise of nothing at all.

The United States has played no part in creating this crisis, but I do believe we have some responsibilities—not just a treaty obligation to our NATO allies—because Ukraine is not yet a member of NATO, so that obligation under article 5 does not apply to Ukraine, as I will discuss in a moment.

But I do believe that we have a responsibility to support the Ukrainian people as they fight to defend their own sovereignty, despite the fact that they are not members of NATO.

With so many challenges on the home front, though, and around the world, it is easy for folks in Texas or Massachusetts or anywhere else around the country to wonder, why should we care what is happening in Ukraine? Americans are experiencing the highest inflation in 40 years; there is growing concern about violent crime; we have a humanitarian crisis on our southern border; and let's not forget the ongoing fight against the pandemic. We know families are struggling to face the challenges right in front of them, let alone those on the other side of the globe.

Americans want to know, how does a conflict on the other side of the globe actually impact the United States and, importantly, why should we help? I think those are fair questions. The human and financial costs of armed conflicts are very high. And we have learned the painful lesson during many times in our Nation's history, twice in the last century in Europe alone, where there were World Wars centered.

But we also know how much the free world depends on the United States and its leadership and strength to provide stability and prevent wars and promote peace, if we can, while safeguarding freedom and democracy around the world.

The United States is a global power, but we are no longer the only one. That day has passed. Our leadership role and responsibilities in a rules-based international order were earned by the sacrifices of generations of Americans who defended our freedoms and our way of life and those of our allies.

Believing, as Ronald Reagan said, that peace comes through strength, America's role in the world has been achieved by our military might, by our strategic alliances, our commitment to free markets and trade around the world that have produced the economy that has allowed us to defend ourselves as well as an unwavering dedication to our values. And whether we like it or not, our unique role in the world brings with it certain responsibilities.

We can't give anyone—adversary or ally—a reason to doubt our commitment to freedom, peace, stability, and security. Unfortunately, our reputation for reliability has suffered some damage recently. The botched withdrawal from Afghanistan, for example, caused our NATO allies to doubt the future of American leadership and our commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty.

Our friends and adversaries alike are wondering if the Afghanistan debacle is a one-time misstep or the beginning of dwindling U.S. commitment and power. Of course, Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi will not miss an opportunity to disparage America's credibility as a reliable ally.

Our urgent task, by our actions as well as our words, should be to convince friend and foe that we will remain a credible friend and ally.

But either way, Putin is an opportunist, and today the eyes of the world are on the United States to see how we will respond to this threatened Russian aggression. Will we stand strong in support of Ukraine or will we sit passively on the sidelines?

Make no mistake, Russia is doing far more than just threatening Ukraine. President Putin told the world in a speech in 2005 that the collapse of the Soviet empire—the Soviet Union—was what he called ''the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century.'' That is his mindset.

Putting that empire back together was clearly on his mind when Russia invaded the nation of Georgia in 2008, formerly part of the Soviet Union, and when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, also part of the Soviet order.

And, of course, we can be confident this is foremost in his mind as he threatens to invade Ukraine, another country that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

So Putin is trying to get away with as much as he can, and it would be naive to think that he will stop at Ukraine.

If the United States fails to support Ukraine at this pivotal moment, other authoritarian governments, like those in China and Iran, will take note.

Today's New York Times had a story that said, ''Both Sides of the Taiwan Strait Are Closely Watching Ukraine's Crisis,'' in other words, the People's Republic of China—mainland China—as well as Taiwan, the independent democratic state right across that thin band of water known as the South China Sea.

Here is what one of the representatives of Taiwan said in this article. He said: ''If the Western powers fail to respond to Russia, they do embolden the Chinese thinking regarding action on Taiwan.''

So this is not just about Ukraine. This is not just about Europe. This is about America's credibility and that of our friends and allies around the world and our willingness to stand up for our values and defend our freedoms.

If our adversaries see that the United States responds merely with passivity or words, they too will inevitably see opportunities for them to exploit. That would risk further geopolitical instability and the cause of peace. It would inevitably diminish America's leadership position in the world, the global order of which we are what Elbridge Colby has termed the ''cornerstone balancer,'' a powerful country anchoring the coalition of freedom-loving nations.

So, yes, Ukraine is on the frontlines of the current crisis, but the security of Europe is also in question. The reach of Russia's aspirations for reestablished empire are, as well, and, as I said, there are global repercussions to however we choose to respond.

I am not suggesting that President Biden send American troops to Ukraine. I want to be clear on that point. I know of no one calling for American troops to be deployed to Ukraine.

There are, however, concrete steps we can take to help Ukraine defend itself without putting American lives on the line, and, fortunately, there is precedent for that.

In the early 1940s, Nazi Germany was making dramatic advances across Europe, and Great Britain was being pummeled by the blitz, a bombing campaign by the German air forces. While Britain was hanging on by a thread, Prime Minister Churchill asked President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for help from the United States.

This ultimately resulted in a very creative and successful solution known as the Lend-Lease Act. In the words of President Roosevelt, this legislation transformed the United States into the ''arsenal of democracy'' by supplying Great Britain with the materiel it needed to fend off German attacks.

He compared it to lending your neighbor a garden hose if his house was on fire. It wouldn't just protect the neighbor's home; it would protect your home as well.

Congress and the American people agreed with President Roosevelt's logic, and this legislation was signed into law in March 1941.

Soon after, American warships, aircraft, weaponry, oil, food, and other critical resources made their way across the Atlantic to Allied forces fighting against Germany.

I think this is part of the response we need to provide today to provide the Ukrainians with the ability to defend themselves under a modern version of the 1941 Lend-Lease Act.

With the inspiration of President Roosevelt in the 1941 act, I have worked with a number of my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats alike—to draft a 2022 version of that legislation, called, not surprisingly, the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, which will ensure that Ukrainian forces and the Ukrainian people will have what they need to deter and defend against Russian invasions.

As it stands today, the President of the United States has a menu of options to support our international friends in times of conflict. In some cases, such as the loan of equipment, the United States will eventually retain end use. In others, such as grants and emergency aid, we do not recover the funding or the assets sent to our friends.

This bill would provide an additional option to that menu, allowing the United States to provide assistance that may otherwise be unfeasible unless we could retain end use.

This legislation would authorize President Biden to enter into lend-lease agreements directly with Ukraine and provide military equipment necessary to protect the Ukrainian people.

In an ideal world, access to this materiel will help the Ukrainians defend themselves and deter Russia from mounting an invasion in the first place. Knowing that Ukraine has access to the ''arsenal of democracy'' could help prevent Putin from risking a deadly war. But if Putin makes a bad decision to move forward, Ukrainian forces will have the lethal weapons that they need to defend their sovereignty.

They will also have the support of the United States and our NATO allies.

In the Senate, there is clear support for this sovereignty of Ukraine, and I am glad to have worked with my colleagues on this legislation that includes this lend-lease component.

I want to thank Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member RISCH on the Foreign Relations Committee and a larger bipartisan group of our colleagues who have been working on a comprehensive approach to counter this threatened aggression by Russia. We have discussed my lend-lease bill, as well as additional security assistance and lethal aid for Ukraine. And, as we have read, Senator MENENDEZ and Senator RISCH are negotiating a limited but immediate sanctions response to this aggression, including cyber attacks, as well as the threat of additional sanctions in the event of an invasion.

As the chairman and the ranking member have said, negotiations are making some progress, and I hope we

can wrap things up quickly and bring the bill to the Senate floor without much more delay.

The fact is, we are racing against the clock. Putin could invade Ukraine at a moment's notice, and he is not going to wait on the U.S. Senate to act. That is why time is of the essence.

Ideally, the lend-lease agreement, military assistance, sanctions, and other provisions included in this package will cause Putin to think twice about invading. But that can only happen if we act before Putin acts.

So the clock is ticking, and we need to move. I am encouraged by the bipartisan support we have seen for Ukraine and for this effort, and I hope we can take action soon to reaffirm America's position as the lead defender of global peace and security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

JCPOA

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, the world was safer when the JCPOA, the Iran nuclear agreement negotiated by President Obama, was in place. The world became a much less safe place when President Trump tore up that agreement against the advice of his Secretary of State and his Secretary of Defense.

We have an opportunity right now to reconstruct that agreement—or the most important elements of it—so that Iran once again is as far as possible from being able to obtain a nuclear weapon. That would make the region safer. That would make the United States safer.

But time is of the essence. U.S. negotiators, European negotiators, the Russians, the Chinese, and the Iranians are right now entering what could be the last round of discussions, and it is absolutely imperative that the U.S. Senate provide this administration with the support it needs to effectuate an agreement.

I want to talk to my colleagues for a few minutes about how important it is for the United States and our European allies—for the world, indeed—to reconstruct a diplomatic agreement with Iran.

And I want to also talk for a moment about how disastrous the last 5 years have been—a period of time during which the United States has largely been out of compliance with that agreement.

The JCPOA was signed by the United States and European allies and was entered into, on behalf of a coalition that included Russia and China, with the Iranian Government. It was signed in July of 2015, and within about 6 months, the IAEA was able to verify that Iran had completed its obligations under the nuclear agreement.

This included commitments that would increase the amount of time that Iran needed to acquire enough material for a nuclear weapon from 2 to 3 months—that was the amount of time that it would have taken them prior to the nuclear agreement—to at least a year or more.

The agreement reduced Iran's stockpiles of enriched uranium by requiring it to ship 25,000 pounds of it out of the country. Iran committed to dismantling and removing two-thirds of its centrifuges. It modified its heavy water reactor at Arak and filled it with concrete so that it could never be used again, preventing Iran from producing weapons-grade plutonium. And, finally, Iran agreed to provide unprecedented access to its nuclear facilities and to its nuclear supply chain—not only the sites that we knew about, but it also agreed to adopt what are called the additional protocols which allow the IAEA to be able to request and get access to sites in which they might have some suspicion that there was new prohibited nuclear research activity happening.

Under this deal, Iran reduced its stockpile of uranium by 98 percent. It kept its level of uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent, significantly below the levels that you would need to make a bomb.

The JCPOA, as I said, got the Iranians to reduce their number of centrifuges from 20,000 to 6,000.

And so this was the world that President Trump inherited—the United States, Europe, Russia, and China united on Iran policy; Iran shutting down major elements of their nuclear research program, such that they were now more than a year out from getting a nuclear weapon if they made the decision to achieve a nuclear weapon. That is called the breakout time, the time from which a country decides it wants a nuclear weapon to the point at which it has a nuclear weapon. For Iran, that went from 2 to 3 months prior to the agreement to over a year after the agreement.

But it also lined up the United States, Europe, China, and Russia—this unlikely alliance of traditional adversaries, at least with respect to Russia and China—so that we could then move on to Iran's other malevolent behaviors.

Critics of the deal said it only pertains to the nuclear program, but that is not the only bad behavior that Iran is engaged in.

Well, President Trump inherited a united front of unlikely allies that then could be utilized to pressure Iran to make changes to its ballistic missile program, to reduce its support for terrorist organizations and proxy armies around the region. That is why Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Mattis and many other Trump advisers encouraged him to stay in the deal.

But he didn't. President Trump tore up the deal and announced to the country and the world that he was going to pursue a different strategy.

Critics of JCPOA said that President Obama shouldn't have entered into an agreement. Critics said that he should have held out and kept applying more and more sanctions, even if the Europeans walked away, as a means of getting Iran to come to the table on a broader agreement that would include its ballistic missile program and its support for terrorists.

President Obama believed it was important to get the nuclear question off the table. But to the extent there was any silver lining of President Trump's decision, it is that it allowed us for 4 years to test the theory of the opponents, the theory of the critics, because President Trump implemented the strategy that the critics of the JCPOA wanted President Obama to employ.

Donald Trump imposed greater sanctions. He did it without the Europeans, and he demanded that he would only talk to the Iranians if they came to the table on everything. In fact, he set it down on a piece of paper.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo gave Iran a list of 12 demands and said that we will come to the table and talk to you and we will consider releasing these sanctions if you talk to us about all of your dangerous behaviors in the region—your nuclear program, your ballistic missile program, your support for terrorists. So President Trump gave us the gift of testing the theory of the opponents. You know how the story goes. It was a spectacular failure.

It was a spectacular failure in multiple respects. First, let's just talk about what happened to Iran's nuclear program. In May 2019 Iran announces that it will no longer observe the JCPOA stockpile limit. And, as of November of last year, the stockpile of enriched uranium—enriched uranium gas—was roughly 11 times what it was during the agreement.

In July 2019, Iran began enriching uranium up to 4.5 percent, above 3.6 percent, as specified in the agreement. In January of 2021, it began enriching uranium to 20 percent; in April of 2021, up to 60 percent.

In September 2019, Iran announced it would no longer be bound by any research and development limitations on advanced centrifuges. They started that research again.

In November 2019, Iran announced that it would start enriching uranium at Fordow up to 4.5 percent. Under the JCPOA, enrichment at Fordow was prohibited for 15 years. By January of last year, Iran was enriching uranium to 20 percent at Fordow.

And in November of 2020, Iran's Parliament passed a bill requiring the country to build that new heavy water reactor at Arak that allows them a path to plutonium. Once built, that reactor will be capable of producing enough plutonium annually for two nuclear weapons.

And since February of this year, Iran has been restricting that IAEA access to its facilities. It no longer complies with the additional protocols. So if you ask for access to a site in which you think there is new nuclear research activity being undertaken, Iran no longer feels obligated to grant that access.

Iran went to a breakout time of 2 to 3 months to a breakout time under the agreement of more than a year, to, today, a breakout time of 2 months—arguably less than the breakout time prior to the deal.

But it is important to also note that during these last 4 years, none of Iran's other malevolent activities in the region have abated. In fact, arguably, they have gotten worse. Iran continues to support proxy armies in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon. In fact, their connection with Hezbollah in Lebanon and with the Houthis in Yemen is probably stronger today than it was during the JCPOA.

After President Trump backed out of the JCPOA, Iran restarted attacks on U.S. troops. Now, Iran has been engaged in permanent destabilizing activities in Iraq since the outset of that war, but during the period of time that we were in the JCPOA, they were not shooting directly at U.S. troops. Their proxy armies had stood down. Once we were outside of the JCPOA, those attacks started again. In fact, one rocket that was sent by a proxy army at a U.S. staff base in Iraq could have killed 100 U.S. troop members. It just narrowly missed.

The Iranians have undertaken attacks against the Saudis that they never would have contemplated while the JCPOA was in effect, taking action against Saudi oil facilities, including a high-profile attack against Saudi Aramco.

And their proxy armies, similarly, are firing at our friends in the Gulf. Just in the last few months, we have seen an increased level of drone attacks and missile attacks against Saudi Arabia and the UAE from inside Yemen.

One of my Republican colleagues here in this body claimed that Trump's Iran policy had ''restored deterrence.'' That is a laughable proposition because it did exactly the opposite. Once we got out of that agreement, Iran started their nuclear research program to the point that it is stronger than it was prior to the JCPOA in some ways. They didn't stop any of their other destabilizing activity. It got worse, and they didn't come back to the table.

The whole point of the critics of the Obama policy was that if we had just kept on applying sanctions, Iran would come to the table on everything. Trump tried it. It didn't work. Iran didn't come to the table on anything.

Their actions in the region, their actions against the United States, their nuclear research program just got more serious and worse.

Listen, diplomacy is not weakness. News flash: Occasionally there are diplomatic agreements that are in the best interests of the United States, and the JCPOA was inarguably one of them. The data tells a clear story.

Iran wasn't a good actor during the JCPOA. They were still engaged in all sorts of deleterious activity. But Donald Trump inherited the ability to use that coalition that was built to build the JCPOA to take on that other activity. He inherited a nuclear research program which was controlled, and he threw it all away.

What is interesting is that many of our allies who were very skeptical of the JCPOA when it was signed are now very supportive of the United States reentering it. It tells you that they see the same story that I am telling you.

Our Gulf allies, who were among the most vocal opponents of the JCPOA in 2014 and 2015, sent out a joint statement urging ''a mutual return to full compliance of the JCPOA.'' This was a deal that the Gulf nations opposed, and they now support the United States entering back into it.

And a cavalcade of Israeli officials—former intelligence and defense officials who can now feel freer to speak about their personal views—have been equally clear about the need to get back into this agreement.

Tamir Pardo was the former director of Mossad. For 5 years he directed the Mossad. He said:

> What happened in 2018 was a tragedy. It was an unforgiveable strategy, the fact that Israel pushed the United States to withdraw from the agreement 10 years early. It was a strategic mistake.

Amos Yadlin, the former chief of the IDF military intelligence unit, a job he held for 4 years, said: ''If we want to be honest, what postponed Iranian progress towards achieving nuclear weapons was the nuclear agreement—and not military action. . . . [Iran is] closer now than they have ever been before. And that is because of the very wrong policy . . .'' of withdrawing from the agreement.

Gadi Eisenkot, former IDF chief of staff said that ''the fact that the U.S. withdrew in 2018 from the . . . deal released Iran from all restrictions and inspections in the deal, even if there were holes [in the agreement], and brought Iran to the most advanced position today with regard to its nuclear program.''

And so, so many of our friends in the region see the need to get back into this agreement. The status quo is not acceptable.

Now, it is not going to be easy because there are elements of Iran's progress in nuclear research that are difficult, if not impossible, to undo given how much new research, how many advanced centrifuges they have built since President Trump left the agreement.

And, quite frankly, there are some sanctions that we have applied to Iran since the nuclear agreement that we aren't going to release, because we told the Iranians and the world that we were going to apply sanctions to Iran relevant to their ballistic missile program and their support for terrorist organizations, and we did that—some of them under President Trump. Those aren't going to go away.

But it is important for the Biden administration to see that many of the sanctions that Trump put in place during that period of time may have sounded good, but they had no impact on Iranian behavior.

I would put on that list the sanctioning of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the sanctioning of the Supreme Leader. These aren't good people, but those sanctions didn't change Iran's behavior for the better. In fact, during that period of time, their behavior got worse. Their nuclear research program became more advanced. And so, if releasing those designations or sanctions are required in order to make the world safer and get Iran back into the nuclear box, then I hope the administration will give serious consideration.

I hope the administration understands the vital importance of getting back into this agreement and being willing to do the tough things in order to achieve a new nuclear agreement with the Iranians.

The Iranians are going to have to make concessions as well. The Iranians are going to have to make some serious changes to their current scope of nuclear research. But it is the only way to unlock sanctions relief for a country that badly needs it. There is no way for the current President of Iran to make good on all the promises he made without the sanctions relief.

But time is of the essence. Time is of the essence. President Biden promised to restart diplomacy with Iran to make the world a safer place by getting back into a nuclear agreement. This is the moment to do it, and I would urge the administration to take all of the smart steps necessary in order to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, making the region and the world a safer place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Connecticut.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I yield back all time on the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Calendar No. 362, Homer L. Wilkes, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment; that the cloture motion be withdrawn; that the Senate vote on the nomination without any intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Homer L. Wilkes, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wilkes nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURPHY. 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.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FERRIERO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is appropriate to take a moment here in the Senate to recognize David Ferriero, the 10th Archivist of the United States. Mr. Ferriero has held the top position at the National Archives since 2009, overseeing the maintenance and preservation of critical documents like the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, along with 10 million maps, 13 million pages of text, and tens of millions of photographs. On January 13, 2022, Mr. Ferriero announced his intention to retire in April.

Prior to his nomination and confirmation to be Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero spent decades as a librarian and library administrator for some of the largest research institutions and public library networks. After service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war, Mr. Ferriero worked as a librarian at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for over three decades. In 1996, he moved to North Carolina, where he served as the vice provost for library affairs at Duke University, where he helped to develop the Triangle Research Library Network to facilitate greater access to research materials and collaboration across universities. Later, Mr. Ferriero was appointed the Andrew W. Mellon director and chief executive of the research libraries of the New York Public Library system.

David Ferriero was nominated by President Obama and confirmed to be Archivist of the United States by the Senate in November 2009. Throughout his tenure as the leader of the National Archives, Mr. Ferriero made it his goal to bring the Archives and its vast range of historical records into the 21st century. He focused on digitizing the Archives' materials and improving availability of these materials online so that more Americans could access and benefit from these primary source records. Under his leadership, the National Archives also embraced social media and worked hard to bring more Americans into the creation, organization, and maintenance of our Nation's history and records.

The documents and records maintained by the National Archives reflect the foundation and continuing story of our democracy and our Nation. They outline and define the evolution of the United States, documented throughout the pages of history, and preserved at the Archives as original source material. At this critical juncture in our endless march toward a more perfect union, our history becomes even more instructive.

Mr. Ferriero's commitment to making our Nation's archives more open and more available to all of us is to be commended and will be a hallmark of his tenure as the Archivist of the United States. I wish Mr. Ferriero and his wife, Gail, all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

I ask unanimous consent that a profile of Mr. Ferriero, appearing in The Washington Post on January 13, 2022, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 13, 2022]

DAVID S. FERRIERO, ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES, IS RETIRING

(By Michael E. Ruane)

David S. Ferriero, who has been the archivist of the United States for more than a decade under three presidents, is planning to retire in April.

Ferriero, 76, has been head of the National Archives and Records Administration since he was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate in 2009.

''It has been the honor of a lifetime,'' Ferriero wrote in a note to his staff Wednesday. ''My time here has been filled with opportunities, challenges, and awesome responsibilities. . . . I am humbled and awestruck and so deeply grateful—grateful to all of you.''

In addition to housing national treasures such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the National Archives holds 13 billion pages of text, 10 million maps, charts and drawings, as well as tens of millions of photographs, films and other records.

The archives is also responsible for the nation's 13 brick-and-mortar presidential libraries.

Before coming to the agency, Ferriero was director of the New York Public Libraries and served in top positions at the libraries of the Massachusetts Institution of Technology and Duke University. A native of Beverly, Mass., he served as a Navy hospital corpsman during the Vietnam War.

A self-described introvert, he is reserved and has a dry sense of humor. On his watch in 2014, the National Archives held its first sleepover.

He has pushed the digitization of the archives, and he embraced social media. In November, he noted in a blog post, ''We know that not everyone can come to our facilities [for research] and providing these records online democratizes access.''

He has also promoted the role of ''citizen archivists'' who volunteer to transcribe and review historic documents online.

''I have met or known half of all Archivists of the United States . . . and none has done better'' than Ferriero, historian Michael Beschloss tweeted.

One of the items framed in Ferriero's office is a copy of a letter he wrote to President John F. Kennedy when he was in high school. The letter had been found at the Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

The future archivist asked about the Peace Corps and requested a photo of JFK.

Later, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library found two letters Ferriero had written to President Eisenhower as a youngster, and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library found one he had written to President Johnson. Ferriero had them framed in his office, too.

In 2020, the National Archives faced criticism when it posted in its headquarters building an exhibit with a picture that had been altered to blur out words suggesting criticism of President Donald Trump.

The large color photograph, designed to celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage, showed a massive protest crowd on Pennsylvania Avenue during the Women's March on Jan. 21, 2017, the day after Trump's inauguration. The original photo had been altered to obscure some words on signs held by marchers.

A placard that proclaimed ''God Hates Trump'' had ''Trump'' blotted out so that it read ''God Hates.'' A sign that read ''Trump & GOP—Hands Off Women'' had the word ''Trump'' blurred out.

Less than 24 hours after Washington Post reporter Joe Heim pointed out the alterations, the National Archives apologized.

''We made a mistake,'' it said in a statement. ''As the National Archives of the United States, we are and have always been completely committed to preserving our archival holdings, without alteration.

''We were wrong to alter the image,'' it said. ''We apologize, and will immediately start a thorough review of our exhibit policies and procedures so that this does not happen again.''

The altered picture was removed and replaced with an unaltered one.

''Our credibility, so important to our mission, understandably has been questioned.'' Ferriero wrote on his blog. ''I take full responsibility for this decision and the broader concerns it has raised . . . [and] pledge to restore public confidence in this great institution.''

The National Archives is headquartered in a massive 84-year-old granite and limestone landmark on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington's Federal Triangle. A ''temple to American history.'' Ferriero called it.

The agency also has a large, more modern complex in College Park, Md.

Deputy Archivist Debra Steidel Wall will serve as acting archivist until the president nominates and the Senate confirms a successor.

''It is not easy to leave you with our important work continuing, especially initiatives to foster equity and enhance the employee and customer experiences,'' Ferriero told his staff. ''However, our profession is one of stewardship, where despite our enduring responsibilities, we are here for what amounts to a brief period of time.

RECOGNIZING LANDMARK MAPLE WOODCRAFT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the holiday season having just passed is a wonderful reminder that the products of many small, local businesses often make the best gifts. I would like to take some time today to highlight Maple Landmark Woodcraft, a

Vermont business that I have turned to year after year for gifts for our children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Today, Maple Landmark is one of the most prominent handmade wooden toy manufacturers in the United States. However, like many businesses, it started small, in Mike Rainville's family woodshop in rural Vermont in the 1980s. Mike's business began with building and selling mostly cribbage boards and tic-tac-toe games, but quickly grew to encompass a wide range of toys, games, puzzles, and home decorations. Among Maple Landmark's most famous products are the wooden letter train sets that have graced the bedrooms of millions of children across the country. They are also in the Leahy homes.

Over the past 40 years, due to its beautiful craftsmanship and joyful products, Maple Landmark has been able to expand its sales operation to toy stores and distributors throughout the United States and abroad. All the while, it has maintained all manufacturing and sourcing operations in Vermont, at their facility in Middlebury. Mike and his team's devotion to their craft has allowed for the development of a strong homegrown business in Vermont that has helped to show the world all that our State has to offer.

In March 2020, as much of the world shut down and many families and children began learning, working, and spending more time at home, the popularity of Maple Landmark's toys and games exploded. Facing an unprecedented increase in orders from across the United States, Maple Landmark has been firing on all cylinders. This past holiday season was its busiest yet.

Unfortunately, Landmark Maple has not been immune to the labor shortages that continue to strain businesses nationwide. While labor shortages are nothing new for many businesses across rural communities in Vermont, those brought on by the COVID–19 pandemic have been particularly challenging. The inability to find a sustainable workforce coupled with the greater effort necessary to recruit and train new workers has made it more difficult for Landmark Maple to take advantage of rising demand that would otherwise be a boon for the business.

The story of Landmark Maple is far from unique, and it reaffirms that we need to do all we can to control the pandemic, vaccinate the population, and fully restore the economy. Everyone who can get vaccinated must get vaccinated. Everyone who is eligible for a booster shot, must get their booster shot. If we make these responsible choices and continue to prioritize the collective health and safety of our families and communities, more Americans will be willing and able to enter, reenter, and remain in the workforce. In doing so, we will be able to ensure that businesses like Maple Landmark Woodcraft can continue to operate and contribute to their communities for years to come.

Maple Landmark was profiled in a November 10, 2021, article published in the Washington Post. I ask unanimous consent that the article titled, ''Ho, ho, no: For maker of wooden toys, the struggle ahead of Christmas is not finding supplies, but finding workers'' be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 10, 2021]

HO, HO, NO; FOR MAKER OF WOODEN TOYS, THE STRUGGLE AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS IS NOT FINDING SUPPLIES, BUT FINDING WORKERS

(By Jeanne Whalen)

With eight weeks to go until Christmas, tensions were running high at one of Vermont's oldest toymakers. As hammers fell on hardwood and machine tools cut train engines, managers gathered around a table to confront a daunting list of unfilled orders.

''We need 32 sets of chess pieces. I don't have 32 sets,'' assembly supervisor Anne Cummings told half a dozen colleagues, sparking a quick discussion of when the items might appear.

''Umm, hobby horses? We'll want at least three to get finished by tomorrow at the latest,'' process engineer Adam Rainville told the workshop foreman.

Unlike much of the toy industry, Maple Landmark isn't suffering from a lack of imported materials as global supply lines buckle. The maker of wooden toys gets nearly all its lumber from nearby mills and has little trouble buying lacquer, paint and sandpaper from its Vermont suppliers.

As it fields an unprecedented crush of orders, the main factor holding it back is a shortage of workers.

''We're just really, really busy and hiring workforce is a challenge,'' said Mike Rainville, who founded the business 40 years ago. ''We could use more in assembly. We can use more in the shop. I mean, really, any production position we can probably use help in.

Rainville has been trying for weeks to hire three or four workers to add to his crew of 46, but competition is fierce. The cheese factory up the road has eight open positions. The cidery next door and the teddy bear factory on Route 7 have large ''Help Wanted'' signs outside. Maple Landmark has raised its average wage rate by more than 7 percent over the last year, Rainville said—the average production worker earns over $15 an hour—but some local companies with deeper pockets are offering signing bonuses, a perk Rainville said he can't afford to match.

With an unemployment rate of only 2.9 percent, Vermont is an extreme example of a problem plaguing employers across the country. In some regions, a shortage of workers is more challenging to Christmas preparations than the global scarcity of semiconductors or the cargo deluge overwhelming ports.

A nationwide shopping spree is exacerbating the strain on companies like Maple Landmark. Flush with cash from nearly two years of forgoing restaurant meals and travel, Americans are bingeing on products—electronics, clothes, gifts and anything else they can click into an online shopping cart.

In September, household spending on goods was 14 percent higher than it was as the pandemic was beginning in February 2020, according to David Wilcox, an economist with the Peterson Institute for International Economics. If normal pre-pandemic trends had continued, demand for goods would be only 5 percent higher now, he said.

Maple Landmark felt the surge as soon as it began. In early 2020, Rainville was grumbling to his staff about the surplus of Chinese checkers sets gathering dust in inventory. But by April and May, as Americans were trapped indoors under lockdown, ''we sold hundreds of them,'' he said.

A rush of online orders last year nearly made up for the collapse in Maple Landmark's sales to shuttered retailers. Now, with many shops having reopened, ''we're getting hit from all sides,'' Rainville said. ''Every week we are falling further behind our incoming orders.''

Recently, the company stopped taking Christmas orders from new retailers so it could focus on its existing retail clients.

Maple Landmark has searched for workers the conventional way—with posts on the employment website Indeed.com—and the quirky Vermont way, with a sign near its kindling pile behind the shop.

The company leaves wood scraps there for anyone to take. This summer, Rainville tacked a piece of paper to the shed: ''Help Wanted. Employees get dibs on scrap wood! Apply inside.''

That brought in a few candidates, leading to one hire. But other interviews led nowhere, perhaps because workers have so many choices, Rainville said.

''People come in thinking that, gosh, making toys, that sounds like fun,'' he said. ''Once they take a tour through the shop or something, they say, 'Okay, this is work.' And then, maybe if we had interest, we'd call them in for a second interview and they don't respond.''

It's also hard to find people good at working with their hands, Rainville said, a phenomenon he attributes to the decline in farming life, which taught people to fix and build things.

Vermont demographics—an aging population and a shrinking workforce—were already working against employers before the pandemic. With the new consumption surge, competition for workers has become extreme.

A few months ago, Rainville found himself vying with the local school bus company for one employee.

''We almost came close to getting her on full-time in the summer, and then the bus company called her up and said, 'We need you in the fall and we're going to pay you anything to have you.' ''

Signs of the problem are everywhere. In nearby Burlington, several long shelves at a CVS Pharmacy were bare, including large sections missing school supplies and ibuprofen. An employee said the pharmacy couldn't find enough workers to stock the shelves, while a sign on the door said the store was trimming its opening hours due to staffing shortages.

Shopping at the CVS was Devlin Cahill-Garcia, a 20-year-old community college student who earns $13 an hour working at a shop on the other side of town. ''I do have a job at the moment, but I'm trying to find a better one, which is easier than ever now,'' he said.

When covid hit, some of Cahill-Garcia's friends at the University of Vermont quit their part-time jobs in Burlington. Many haven't returned, possibly because their parents can support them, he said. ''After being unemployed so long, I don't think a lot of people want to go back to work,'' he said

Down the road, Lake Champlain Chocolates has asked its administrative staff, including marketing director Allyson Myers, to take shifts in the factory to keep up with holiday demand that is 20 percent higher than in 2019.

''This has been a kind of organization-wide call of, 'Okay, administrative team, we need you to step up and help us because we are

short,'" said Myers, who has pitched in bagging Hanukkah gelt and peppermint patties.

The family-owned company also held its first job fair this month to try to fill about 20 openings and has raised its manufacturing starting wage by about 10 percent since last year, said Myers, who called the labor shortage a bigger problem than supply-chain issues.

Matt Parker, head of sales at Danforth Pewter, a workshop and retail business that sells ornaments and home decor, agreed with that assessment. The company has had no trouble getting pewter from its Rhode Island supplier but has struggled to fill about eight openings in production, customer service and retail, Parker said.

The company has raised wages this year—by 5 to 10 percent, he estimated—and is offering bonuses to new and existing employees. Parker said he doesn't know why it has been so hard to hire, but guessed that the pandemic "obviously threw a lot of people off entering the workforce" and made them worry about getting infected.

At Maple Landmark, soaring demand and a lack of workers this summer stripped the company of its inventory, leaving it with little to fill the holiday rush. As a result, the woodworkers are making things to order as purchases roll in.

One of the company's biggest sellers is the "name train"—a chain of brightly colored letters on wheels that spell a child's name, between an engine and a caboose. Letters are everywhere in the workshop—an automated machine cutting a tray of O's, a worker putting wheels on a carton of red H's.

At the morning meeting, Cummings raised an urgent problem: They had run out of the letter E.

"Yellow E," clarified Rainville's mother, Pat Rainville, who works in production. The customer has specifically requested that color for that letter, so more would have to be made.

At her station downstairs, Pat Rainville motioned toward a wall of shelves that should have been stuffed with boxes holding every letter in a variety of hues. But many of the shelves were empty.

Things got so bad over one recent weekend that even the letter Q was in short supply, Mike Rainville said. "We know we're low when even Q's run out."

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, S. Con. Res. 14, the fiscal year 2022 congressional budget resolution, included authority in section 4009 to allow the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust budget aggregates and committee allocations after the enactment of bipartisan infrastructure legislation. Similarly, the reserve fund in section 3003 allows the chairman to revise these levels as well as make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger for legislation that would not increase the deficit over the period of 2022 to 2031.

H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was enacted on November 15, 2021, meets the conditions of being bipartisan infrastructure legislation. As a result, I am revising the budget spending aggregates and the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by $3,230 million in outlays resulting from the increase in contract authority included in that bill.

Furthermore, the combined budgetary impact of the direct spending and revenue provisions in that bill reduce the deficit over 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 3684 will decrease nonemergency mandatory outlays by $3.7 billion in 2022 and by almost $90 billion over the period 2022 through 2031. Revenues will increase by more than $8 billion in 2022 and more than $50 billion over the period 2022 through 2031. As such, I am revising the spending and revenue aggregates and the allocation to the Committee on Environment and Public Works by the relevant amounts. I am also revising the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also increased discretionary spending; that spending is designated as an emergency and is therefore excluded from enforceable budgetary spending levels and committee allocations.

Finally, section 4004 of the budget resolution allows the chairman to adjust budgetary levels for legislation containing disaster relief funding. I am increasing the outlay allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by $89 million as a result of passage of H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which was enacted on September 30, 2021.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE

[Revisions Pursuant to Section 3003 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022]

[$ in billions]

	Balances
Current Balances:	
Fiscal Year 2022	7.144
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	7.079
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	0
Revisions:	
Fiscal Year 2022	−15.506
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	−82.969
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	−138.704
Revised Balances:	
Fiscal Year 2022	−8.362
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	−75.890
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	−138.704

Note: Adjustment reflects the direct spending and revenue implications of H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes $21 billion over ten years of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

(Pursuant to Sections 4004 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14)

($ in billions)

	2022
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,145.465
Outlays	4,504.246
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	−2.226
Outlays	−3.692
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,143.239
Outlays	4,500.554

Note: The adjustment represents an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4009 of S. Con. Res 14 for a bipartisan infrastructure agreement that reduced direct spending budget authority and outlays but increased discretionary outlays, as well as an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4004 for additional disaster-related outlays from H.R. 5305. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes $2.9 billion of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO BUDGET REVENUE AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Sections 3003 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)

($ in billions)

	2022	2022–2026	2026–2031
Current Revenue Aggregates	3,401.380	17,795.693	38,957.446
Adjustments	8.495	21.319	50.085
Revised Revenue Aggregates	3,409.875	17,817.012	39,007.531

Note: Adjustment includes additional revenue enacted in H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

REVISIONS TO ALLOCATION TO SENATE COMMITTEES

(Pursuant to Sections 3003 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)

($ in billions)

	2022	2022–2026	2026–2031
Environment and Public Works:			
Budget Authority	48.743	243.930	492.473
Outlays	14.326	39.006	63.219
Revisions			
Budget Authority	−2.226	14.580	72.681
Outlays	−7.011	−61.650	−88.619
Revised Environment & Public Works:			
Budget Authority	46.517	258.510	565.154
Outlays	7.315	−22.644	−25.400

Note: Adjustment includes additional direct spending budget authority and net outlay reductions enacted in H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes $21 billion over ten years of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO THE OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

(Pursuant to Sections 4004 & 4009 of S. Con. Res 14)

($ in billions)

	Current Allocation	Adjustments	Revised Allocation
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,676.447	3.319	1,679.766

Note: The adjustment for outlays represents an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14 for a bipartisan infrastructure agreement for $3,230 million of additional outlays from the increased level of contract authority in H.R. 3684 and an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4004 for $89 million of additional disaster-related outlays from H.R. 5305.

REMEMBERING DR. LESTER CARTER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Lester Carter, who passed away on January 31, 2022, at the age of 90. Dr. Carter was a pharmacist who founded one of Milwaukee's first Black-owned pharmacies and worked there for over five decades.

Dr. Carter enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean war. He was sent to the Hospital Corpsman School in Portsmouth, VA, for training in healthcare and was later assigned to the USS *Tortuga* for 2 and a half years. After being discharged in 1954, he attended pharmacy school at Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and became the school's first African-American graduate in 1958. Dr. Carter worked at a "Whites only" pharmacy in Omaha for 6 years, only being allowed to work in the backroom out of public view.

After filling in at a pharmacy in Milwaukee, WI, Dr. Carter was offered a position at the store and moved to the city. He then began looking for his own store and found out about a pharmacy located on North 24th and West Burleigh where the owners wanted to retire. Dr. Carter purchased the pharmacy and set up shop in what at the time was a majority White and German neighborhood. Dr. Carter learned German phrases and quickly earned a great deal of respect and trust from his customers.

During his career on Burleigh Street, Dr. Carter always welcomed everyone with a smile. He touched thousands of lives in positive ways, making time to talk and get to know his customers well. Dr. Carter saw many children grow up and become adults during his career, and some went on to become pharmacists due to his influence.

Dr. Carter never retired after his pharmacy merged with Hayat, working part-time as the pharmacy's herbal specialist. Recognizing people's concern for medication side effects he developed 12 herbal formulas to resolve health issues his customers were having. He always listened to customer concerns and invested himself into the care of the community.

Dr. Carter served as an example for Milwaukee on how to break down barriers. He treated everyone with dignity and respect. A common consensus was that once you left his store, you were already feeling better just by being in his presence. In 2018, North 24th Street was named in his honor. While Dr. Carter will be missed, he will be remembered by the generations of families he helped take care of and by the community he helped shape.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PATTI ANNE LODGE

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleague Senator Jim Risch, we honor Idaho State Senator Patti Anne Lodge for her 22 years of service in the Idaho State Senate.

Senator Lodge, an educator for 35 years and agribusiness owner, is a dedicated servant of the community. Her determination and patience are hallmarks of her attentive problem solving. The list of committees, councils, task forces and boards she has led and devoted her time and talents to is extensive and diverse. They include her chairmanship of three senate committees: State affairs; judiciary and rules; and health and welfare. She has also cochaired the joint millennium fund committee and criminal justice reinvestment oversight committee, to name some of her many other leadership roles.

Her service stretches far beyond the State senate and well into the communities she represents, as she has served on the Boys & Girls Club Advisory Committee, Idaho Meth Project Advisory Board, Nampa Chamber of Commerce, Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, and so much more. She has led local Republicans with distinction, serving as precinct chairman, Canyon County GOP chairman, president of the Idaho Federation of Republican Women, on the board of the National Republican Women, and more.

It is no surprise she has earned many awards and recognitions for her committed service. They include her recognition as the Idaho Republican Senator of the Year in 2010 and Idaho Fraternal Order of Police Legislator of the Year in 2014, her induction into the Idaho Republican Hall of Fame and so many more honors.

Throughout, Senator Lodge has worked hard to be a good steward of tax dollars, promoted jobs and educational opportunities, backed personal accountability and responsibility, and, overall, she has been a thoughtful, steadfast advocate for Canyon County residents, including the small family farmers and ranchers who call this wonderful part of our State home.

Thank you, Senator Lodge, for you decades of service on behalf of Idahoans. In addition, thank you to your friends and loved ones, especially your husband Edward J. Lodge; children Mary-Jeanne, Edward R. and Anne-Marie; and grandchildren, who have shared your time with our great State all these years. We congratulate you on your extraordinary career and wish you well.•

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4445. An act to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

At 11:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 583. An act to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies, and for other purposes.

At 5:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3076. An act to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6617. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4445. An act to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3076. An act to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6617. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

S. 3600. A bill to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3080. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes; Amendment 39–21828'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–1008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3081. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–21765'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0273)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3082. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–21792'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0661)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3083. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–21827'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–1009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3084. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–21791'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0545)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3085. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–21797'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0382)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3086. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–21796'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (FAA–2021–0262)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3087. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0613)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3088. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class C Airspace; Columbus, OH'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0807)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3089. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Tacoma Narrows Airport, WA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0925)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3090. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Oil Pipeline Repairs; San Pedro Bay, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA11) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0911)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3091. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Frantic Inc Chase Center Fireworks, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0865)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3092. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Potomac River, Between Charles County, MD and King George County, VA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0906)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3093. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Tchefuncte River, Madisonville, LA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0808)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3094. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Houston Ship Channel, Houston, TX'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0883)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3095. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Ohio River, Olmsted, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0495)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3096. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX'' ((RIN1625–AA87) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0876)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3097. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Oil Pipeline Repairs; San Pedro Bay, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA11) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0784)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3098. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulated Navigation Area; Biscayne Bay Causeway Island Slip, Miami Beach, FL'' ((RIN1625–AA11) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0077)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3099. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; San Juan Bay for Jurakan Triathlon, San Juan, PR.'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0775)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3100. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0768)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3101. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Potomac River, Between Charles County, MD and King George County, VA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0745)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3102. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation: Ogeechee River, Richmond Hill, GA'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0596)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3103. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulations; Recurring Marine Events within the Fifth Coast Guard District'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0332)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3104. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Munitions Transfer; Alameda, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0801)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3105. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; Atlantic Ocean, Key West, FL'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0582)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3106. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Local Regulation; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA08) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0804)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3107. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation: Indiana Harbor Canal. East Chicago, IN'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0332)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3108. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualifications of Drivers; Vision Standard'' (RIN2126–AC17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3109. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3110. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3111. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary

for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3112. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3113. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3114. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3115. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3116. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3117. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3118. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3119. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3120. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3121. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3122. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3123. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3124. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3125. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3126. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Portland, OR'' (MB Docket No. 21–130) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3127. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Henderson, Nevada'' (MB Docket No. 21–124) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3128. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Fort Bragg, California'' (MB Docket No. 21–123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3129. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Monroe, Louisiana'' (MB Docket No. 21–126) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3130. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcasting Services; Hazard, Kentucky'' (MB Docket No. 21–125) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3131. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to Political Programming and Record-Keeping Rules'' ((MB Docket No. 21–293) (FCC 22–5)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3132. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nitrapyrin; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9419–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3133. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Alcohols, C10–16, ethoxylated, sulfates, mono(hydroxyethyl)ammonium salts (CAS No. 157627–92–4); Tolerance Exemption'' (FRL No. 9326–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3134. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cyprodinil; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9301–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3135. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thiabendazole; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction'' (FRL No. 9352–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3136. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ethaboxam; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9331–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3137. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9086–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3138. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Acetic acid ethenyl ester, polymer with ethene, N-

(hydroxymethyl)-2-propenamide, and 2-propenamide; (AM–E-NMA–VA); Tolerance Exemption'' (FRL No. 9231–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3139. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in Burma that was declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3140. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3141. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3142. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3143. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House'' (RIN1530–AA26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3144. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Reinvestment Act Regulations'' (RIN3064–AF79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3145. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments'' (12 CFR Part 1083) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3146. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3147. A communication from the Acting Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Iraq; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3148. A communication from the Congressional Affairs Director, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3149. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Strategic Plan for the period of 2022 through 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3150. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3151. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Definition of Showerhead'' (RIN1904–AE85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3152. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Commercial Water Heaters'' (RIN1904–AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3153. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Test Procedure Interim Waiver Process'' (RIN1904–AE24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3154. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Procedures, Interpretations, and Policies for Consideration in New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards and Test Procedures for Consumer Products and Commercial/Industrial Equipment'' (RIN1904–AF13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3155. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Product Classes for Residential Dishwashers, Residential Clothes Washers, and Consumer Clothes Dryers'' (RIN1904–AF14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3156. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Final Determination of Fans and Blowers as Covered Equipment'' (RIN1905–AC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3157. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Clothes Dryers'' (RIN1904–AD46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3158. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Metal Halide Lamp Fixtures'' (RIN1904–AD89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3159. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Distribution Transformers'' (RIN1904–AE19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3160. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Refrigeration Products'' (RIN1904–AD84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 497, A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–68).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3541. A bill to improve health care and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

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. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3593. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth services covered by Medicare and to evaluate the impact of telehealth services on Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3594. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to hold violent criminals and child predators accountable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3595. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3596. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to disregard State expenditures on health services initiatives to increase access to behavioral health services for children in schools for purposes of the reimbursement limitation on expenditures under the Children's Health Insurance Program that are not related to Medicaid or health insurance assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3597. A bill to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3598. A bill to require issuers filing annual reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission to disclose whether the issuers have connections with the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3599. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from requiring taxpayers to provide biometric information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3600. A bill to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3601. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to include breast pumps and other lactation supplies and equipment in disaster relief and emergency response; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3602. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to prohibit the use of certain identification documents at airport security checkpoints, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 3603. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 506. A resolution supporting the goals of National Catholic Schools Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 507. A resolution designating February 1, 2022, as ''Blue Star Mother's Day''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 407

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to provide redress to the employees of Air America.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 564, a bill to prohibit Members of Congress from purchasing or selling certain investments, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to increase opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes.

S. 2081

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2081, a bill to improve the structure of the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2342

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2342, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

S. 2405

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2405, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2410

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2410, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 2424

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to make available $250,000,000 from the Travel Promotion Fund for the Corporation for Travel Promotion.

S. 2786

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2786, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address the inappropriate or unlawful denial by the Department of Veterans Affairs of benefits and services for former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service under conditions characterized as neither dishonorable nor honorable, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 3103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3103, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title.

S. 3208

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3208, a bill to establish the Office of Supply Chain Resiliency within the Department of Commerce to provide expansion support to companies and supply chains in the United States that are vulnerable to shortages and price increases, and for other purposes.

S. 3213

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3213, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 3281

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3281, a bill to amend the Bill

Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to clarify and expand food donation, and for other purposes.

S. 3282

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3282, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to authorize grants for smart water infrastructure technology, and for other purposes.

S. 3447

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3447, a bill to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 3494

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3494, a bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, and for other purposes.

S. 3523

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3523, a bill to amend the STOCK Act to require the public availability of financial disclosure forms of certain special consultants and information relating to certain confidential filers, and for other purposes.

S. 3538

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3538, a bill to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3546, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 3554

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3554, a bill to establish an alternative use of certain Federal education funds when in-person instruction is not available.

S. 3573

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3573, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the ''Taiwan Representative Office'', and for other purposes.

S. 3580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 334

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 334, a resolution memorializing those impacted by and lost to the COVID–19 virus.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3596. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to disregard State expenditures on health services initiatives to increase access to behavioral health services for children in schools for purposes of the reimbursement limitation on expenditures under the Children's Health Insurance Program that are not related to Medicaid or health insurance assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3596

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 ''CHIP School Behavioral Health Incentive Act''.

SEC. 2. DISREGARD OF STATE EXPENDITURES ON HEALTH SERVICES INITIATIVES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS FOR PURPOSES OF THE CHIP REIMBURSEMENT LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES NOT USED FOR MEDICAID OR HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE.

Section 2105(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) DISREGARD OF EXPENDITURES FOR HEALTH SERVICES INITIATIVE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this subparagraph (or, if earlier, the fiscal year in which guidance issued by the Secretary to implement this subparagraph takes effect), the amount of any expenditures described in clause (ii) for a fiscal year shall be disregarded for purposes of applying the limitation under subparagraph (A) for such fiscal year, except that in no case shall the amount of payment that may be made under subsection (a) for a fiscal year for expenditures subject to such limitation (including expenditures described in clause (ii)) exceed 15 percent.

''(ii) EXPENDITURES DESCRIBED.—Expenditures described in this clause are expenditures by a State to implement or operate a health services initiative under the State child health plan under this title that would improve the health of children by increasing access to behavioral health services in schools.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 506—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S.RES. 506

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than just an exceptional education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the United States by providing a strong academic and moral foundation to a diverse student population from all regions of the country and all socioeconomic backgrounds, and of that student population—

(1) 21.4 percent of students are from racial minority backgrounds;

(2) 18.6 percent of students are of Hispanic heritage; and

(3) 20.1 percent of students are from non-Catholic families;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold ''helping others'' as a core value;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2021–2022 academic year was more than 1,680,000 and the student-teacher ratio was 11.5 to 1;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate is 98 percent, with 85.2 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges;

Whereas the week of January 30, 2022, to February 5, 2022, has been designated as ''National Catholic Schools Week'' by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;

Whereas National Catholic Schools Week was first established in 1974 and has been

celebrated annually for the past 48 years; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2022 is ''Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.'' and reflects Catholic schools' purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor, and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event—

(A) cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

(B) established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all people can celebrate; and

(3) supports—

(A) the dedication of Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States to academic excellence; and

(B) the key role that Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 507—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 1, 2022, AS ''BLUE STAR MOTHER'S DAY''

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 507

Whereas, on January 22, 1942, in the midst of the Second World War, United States Army Captain George Maines ran an advertisement in the Flint News Observer calling for mothers of members of the Armed Forces to meet;

Whereas, on February 1, 1942, 300 mothers of members of the Armed Forces held their first meeting at the Durant Hotel in Flint, Michigan, and February 1, 2022, is the 80th anniversary of that meeting;

Whereas, on July 14, 1960, the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., received its charter from Congress;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers make enormous sacrifices while their sons and daughters are providing for the defense of the United States;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers pack and ship thousands of care packages every year to members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas, volunteer to help homeless veterans, provide support for wounded warriors, visit with hospitalized veterans, honor fallen heroes during funeral services, and offer a compassionate community for the mothers of men and women of the Armed Forces serving in harm's way;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers promote the values of the United States, demonstrate a patriotic spirit, and advance a national sense of pride and appreciation for the men and women of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas there are 208 active chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., throughout the United States representing thousands of military families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 1, 2022, as ''Blue Star Mother's Day'';

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.; and

(B) the important role Blue Star Mothers play in supporting each other and members and veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to observe Blue Star Mother's Day; and

(B) to support the work of local chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a staff briefing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 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 Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL COURTS, OVERSIGHT, AGENCY ACTION, AND FEDERAL RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 506, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 506) supporting the goals of National Catholic Schools Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 506) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022) under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

BLUE STAR MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 507, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 507) designating February 1, 2022, as ''Blue Star Mother's Day''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 507) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution n, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022) under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3600, H.R. 3076, AND H.R. 6617

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3600) to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purpose.

A bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. MURPHY. I would now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

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. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 424.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 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.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 424) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 20, 2021 under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, February 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bush nomination; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Nathan nomination and that following disposition of the Nathan nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bush nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Bush nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY. 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 Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening to urge that Congress speak with one voice, at a critical time, on an urgent matter.

The fight for freedom is being waged in Ukraine right now, and the outcome is going to have profound effects not just in Eastern Europe but around the globe.

Russia has invaded Ukraine twice in the last 8 years, illegally annexing Crimea, inserting troops and offensive military equipment into the Donbas region in the east. They have initiated cyber attacks against public and private entities in Ukraine, and they continue to use disinformation to try to destabilize the democratically elected government in Kyiv.

Now, the Russians have gone further by amassing more than 100,000 troops under the command of 100 tactical groups on Russia's Ukrainian border. This Russian deployment includes rockets, tanks, and artillery, and it is no longer just on the eastern border of Ukraine but now on the northern border, where Russian combat troops and heavy equipment have moved into Belarus and in Crimea in the Black Sea area.

Let me give a little history as to how we got here. Eight years ago, Ukraine made a choice. The people of Ukraine stood up to a corrupt Russian-backed government in 2014 and made a conscious decision to turn to the West—to the European Union, to the United States.

I was in Ukraine in 2014 shortly after what is called the Euromaidan or the Revolution of Dignity. When I was there in 2014, the Revolution of Dignity barricades were still up, and in the center of town, the Maidan was still occupied by Ukrainian patriots who were determined that their country not go backwards.

The Ukrainian people at that time rejected authoritarianism. They said instead they were choosing democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom to gather, respect for the rule of law and free markets—turning to us.

Despite Russia's unrelenting efforts at destabilization over the past 8 years, the Ukrainian people are more committed than ever to an independent, sovereign, and democratic nation. And Ukrainians today are increasingly patriotic and opposed to the Russian efforts to destabilize their country. They don't want state control, repression, and fear; they choose liberty and prosperity.

Moscow would have the world believe that somehow this massive, unwarranted Russian buildup is about trying to shore up its border against threats from Ukraine and NATO. This is, of course, patently false. Ukraine's military posture has always been purely defensive, and, unlike Russia, Ukraine has up held its commitments under the Minsk agreements, which were designed to ensure a ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine in the Donbas region.

NATO, of course, is a defensive alliance and is no threat to Russian territorial integrity. NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg recently told reporters that the ''significant movement'' of Russian troops into Ukraine's neighbor, Belarus, is the ''biggest Russian deployment there since the Cold War.'' And Russian troop numbers in Belarus are likely to climb to 30,000, with the backing of special forces, advanced fighter jets, short-range ballistic missiles, and S–400 ground-to-air missile defense systems. This is new.

By the way, Ukraine is not asking for us to fight these wars for them. They have been in a war with Russia over the past 8 years. They have lost over 14,000 Ukrainians to this battle, including at the line of contact, where there has been a hot conflict. I have been to the line of contact. I have seen it. I have seen where the Russian snipers have killed Ukrainian soldiers. I have talked to the soldiers from Ukraine, who are determined, committed, and patriotic.

Fourteen thousand people—if you compare the population of Ukraine to our population here in the United States of America, that would be the equivalent of us losing about 120,000 Americans over the past 8 years to an enemy. That is more people than we lost in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined. Think how we would feel. This is how the Ukrainians feel.

Ukraine is not asking, again, for us to fight their war for them, but they are asking for increased lethal military assistance to help defend themselves should Russia make a big mistake and decide to invade further into Ukraine.

When it comes to our allies, I have been pleased that most have really stepped up to help Ukraine during this crisis. The British have provided anti-tank missiles. When I was in Ukraine recently with the congressional delegation, as we left the airport—this was about 3 weeks ago—a cargo plane arrived—an American-made cargo plane—with weapons from the U.K. The United Kingdom was providing anti-tank weapons to Ukraine. I saw them being unloaded, and I saw the smiles on the faces of the Ukrainians knowing that this will give them a better chance to defend themselves. We appreciate the Brits.

The Canadians have helped, specifically recently providing important training on some of the new equipment they are getting. The Danes have helped with additional funding, and the Baltics have transferred weapons as well. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have all been strongly supportive. Poland has been so supportive—and so many others.

We need all of our allies to step up like that—certainly all of our NATO allies but, really, all freedom-loving countries around the world. This is where the cause of freedom is being fought right now.

My hope is that Congress can come together and speak with one voice—Republicans and Democrats alike—pass bipartisan sanctions legislation and an aid package that sends a strong message of support to the Ukrainian people, a message that we stand with them in their fight for freedom but also sends a strong message to Russia that, if they choose to invade further, the armed conflict will carry a heavy cost, the sanctions will be devastating—and, finally, legislation that sends a strong message to the world that the United States stands with its allies in Eastern Europe and throughout freedom-loving countries across the world.

The time to speak is now, with one voice. The world is listening and watching.

JOHN H. LEAHR AND HERBERT M. HEILBRUN POST OFFICE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the Senate floor today to speak in support of a bill sponsored by the entire Ohio delegation naming the post office in Avondale—of Cincinnati, OH—for two World War II aviators: John Leahr and Herbert Heilbrun.

These two remarkable men—one Black and one White—grew up in Avondale, which is a neighborhood which is part of Cincinnati, OH. They dreamed of flying and signed up for the Army Air Corps after Pearl Harbor. John Leahr flew the P–51 Mustang with the Tuskegee Airmen, and Herb Heilbrun flew the B–17 bomber.

The Tuskegee fighters were assigned to protect the bombers in the European theater. John and Herb worked together on some of the same missions, but as World War II airmen, they were segregated and did not interact. They didn't get to know each other until more than 50 years after the war ended.

In 1997, Herb Heilbrun discovered that an event for the Tuskegee Airmen was going to be held in downtown Cincinnati. He decided to stop by and thank the fighter pilots who helped protect him and his bomber and his bomber squad in Europe.

There, Herb met John Leahr, and the two men hit it off and discovered how much they had in common. They found out they had both grown up in Avondale and both spent time waiting for training working at the same engine plant: Wright Aeronautical in Lockland, OH. They realized they had been in the same third grade class at North Avondale Elementary School. Luckily, Herb had saved the class picture; and there, you can see them standing right next to each other, John and Herb.

Their friendship was obviously meant to be. John Leahr had long wanted to make sure people knew about the Tuskegee Airmen and their contributions during the war. Together, John and Herb shared their story with schoolchildren and adults, talking about how things were different in the past and promoting racial understanding and the rejection of bigotry today.

Here they are with a group of young people, Herb and John, with models of the airplanes that they flew.

The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations honored them for their work in 2003, and in 2007, there was a book—''Black and White Airmen: Their True History''—and it recounts their story.

John died in 2015 at the age of 94. Herb died in 2020 at 100 years old.

I believe naming this post office in their neighborhood for John Leahr and Herb Heilbrun is a fitting way to honor the memory of this team, who served our country with bravery and distinction in World War II but then continued an important part of their public service long after their military service ended.

My hope is that this legislation will be passed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis and we can name this post office after these two remarkable men.

(Ms. HASSAN assumed the Chair.)

TRIBUTE TO ANGIE YOUNGEN

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, finally, I want to acknowledge someone who is in the Chamber tonight. I want to acknowledge her dedicated service. This is one of my senior staff members, who is moving to Richmond, VA, to join the new Virginia Governor's administration.

Angie Youngen is an Ohio native and an Ashland University graduate—who is very proud of that—and who was the scheduler for my predecessor, Senator George Voinovich. I have had the good fortune of having her on my team. Her loyalty, hard work, and judgment over the past 8 years is deeply appreciated.

So, Angie Youngen, we will miss you here on Capitol Hill, but best of luck in your new adventure.

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 6:57 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 8, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HOMER L. WILKES, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN P. HOWARD III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

LOREN L. ALIKHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

CHANTALE YOKMIN WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMY GUTMANN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

LISA A. CARTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nominations were placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to S.Res. 116, 112th Congress:

*PARISA SALEHI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, EXPORT–IMPORT BANK.

*BRIAN MICHAEL TOMNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK, 2022

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important and irreplaceable work done by our court reporters and the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week February 5–12, 2022.

As guardians of the Record, Court reporters hold the great responsibility of capturing our history for posterity. Throughout our Nation's 250 years of existence, court reporters have been the cornerstone of our American justice system. From the great speeches of our Founding Fathers to the eloquently orated speeches of Lincoln and Kennedy, these noble servants have transcribed some of the most important pieces of American history.

Currently, the NCRA provides a free course to introduce real-time writing to all Americans. This course allows high schoolers, career changers, college redirects, and military veterans to see if a profession in real-time writing is the right career choice for them.

It has always been an honor and a privilege to support the NCRA. Last year, I was proud to co-sponsor H.R. 4652, the Training for Realtime Writers Act. This bill will establish a grant program that will support and increase training for court reporters and closed captioners, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I look forward to continuing to work to get this bill passed.

I want to thank real-time writers everywhere and the NCRA for all the hard work they do.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF LARRY K. DEASON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th birthday of my good friend, Larry K. Deason.

Larry was born on February 9, 1952. He graduated from Jacksonville State University and later from LSU School of Banking.

As a longtime banker, Larry has served in many capacities, but most recently as President of F&M Bank until 2017 and now as President Emeritus.

Larry recently completed his work as Chairman of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce and was named Anniston Star's Citizen of the Year.

Larry serves as Trustee Emeritus of Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center (RMC), Past Chairman of RMC Board, Chairman of the Economic Development Council of Calhoun County, Founding Member of Anniston Surgery Center, Founding Member of The Empty Stocking Gala, Elected Delegate for the Alabama Independent Community Bankers of America, Past Chairman of Alabama Banker's Association, Co-Chair of Core-4, Past Vice Chairman of The Anniston Museum of Natural History and Member of the Airport Authority for the East Alabama Metropolitan Airport.

Larry is married to Betty and has one daughter, Maryann and two precious grandchildren.

Friends and family will gather to celebrate his 70th birthday at the 19th Hole at the Anniston Country Club on February 9th.

Larry is a devoted servant to Calhoun County and is known in the community for his hard work.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Larry a very happy birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 16, On Ordering the Previous Question, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3485) Global Respect Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4445) Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4521) Bioeconomy Research and Development Act I would have voted Nay.

Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 17, On Agreeing to the Resolution, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3485) Global Respect Act; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4445) Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4521) Bioeconomy Research and Development Act I would have voted Nay.

A RUSH TO GREATNESS, IN MEMORY OF RUSH LIMBAUGH

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and pioneer from The Show Me State our beloved Missouri, who changed the world of radio broadcasting In His Rush To Greatness. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell be included in the RECORD.

A RUSH TO GREATNESS

By Albert Carey Caswell

When our last days are done and seen our final suns
What have we left behind begun?
Is it light or darkness our true sum?
Did we make a difference with it all?
Did we take the path less traveled answering the call?
Few will etch the sands of time,
up to the heights of Mount Rushmore climb
Like Mark Twain creating a new paradigm
When, all seemed lost came rushing in,
for the forgotten all in his magnificent rhymes
His golden voice touching hearts and minds
Schooling us from your Limbaugh institute The Voice of Truth
Building a case none could refute
With Mr. Snerdly in awe at his magic produced
Visions of the future,
from the past brick by brick a wall of proof
Coming out of the darkness to bring his light
Use your talent on loan from God to shine your light
At an early age a normal path to success disobeyed
Deep down inside his heart cried out the course to stay
Dropping out of college his parents couldn't dissuade
In Rock and Roll he dug the beat,
his soul longing for something much more deep
Filling American's void creating a GOLD RUSH in hearts to keep
America began to fade as you Rushed in with the answers to save
The bedrock principals our framers The Constitution and Bill of Rights made
Things like God, Mom, County, The Flag,
be proud to be an American don't ask why
Mega Dittos, ''It's The American Way''
Bringing your QUANTUM FORCE to socialism slay
To look to America's heroes like King, Washington, Kennedy, Lincoln, Dole, Bush, Reagan, Parks, MacArthur for a better day
Like ''The Gift of Hope'' Bob,
and The Measure Of The Man Bob Dole his character on display
When children called in you felt his heart blush in every way
For your bravado on their air,
off one of the most humble men standing there
When no one was looking for his fellow human being so cared
So many stories of helping others with our Lord will share
America has lost a greatest champion of freedom here
The fourth column of truth is weaken for freedoms everywhere
Who to slay socialism dared
Tonight as your loved ones lay their heads down to rest
Comes a gentle rain across Missouri, Florida our Nation to bless
Our Lord's tears up in Heaven to help you rest
Until, your lovely wife Catherine and family meet again when they crest
And you won't have to cry no more
Rush's is an angel now,
You will hear him on the wind
When, you wake feel you'll feel him where he's been
Watching over you time and again
Rush there are talk shows in heaven my friend

Now we lay your body down to rest
Heaven holds a place,
for men who've rushed to greatness but still loved with grace
Giving back far more than they'd take
Amen.

HONORING THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MS. BEATRICE BYRD

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life achievements of Ms. Beatrice Byrd, in celebration of her 80th Birthday. Born February 3, 1942, Ms. Byrd, has served as a selfless and celebrated advocate to her community of Red Hook, Brooklyn.

As a public servant, Ms. Byrd ran for City Council to represent her community and the surrounding area in 1991. She has also been elected to serve as the Resident Association President of Red Hook Houses West. In her appointment as a NYCHA Board member, she was an outspoken voice for tenant rights and ensured that her neighbors received equal opportunities, resources, and access to upward mobility.

In her tenure as an educator, Ms. Byrd was a well-respected NYC Public School teacher during the most formative years of a child. She continues to remain a recognized role model in and around the community of Red Hook.

In her role of extended community service, she held the prestigious honor as the President to the Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was a member to the Lions Club of Red Hook and served on Area Policy Board 6. Currently Ms. Byrd continues to represent Red Hook as a board member to the Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center.

As displayed by her decades of community service, Ms. Beatrice Byrd remains a solid pillar of the Red Hook community. She is well respected by generations of her students, neighbors, community professionals and the local clergy. Through her life-long actions she has instilled the core values of ethics, public service and civic pride.

I thank Ms. Byrd for her public service and Happy 80th Birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AL LIBASCI

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Al Libasci of York, Pennsylvania, a World War II veteran who will be turning 102 years old on February 25, 2022. Al's life has been one of service to our country. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942, Al served in the Pacific Theater during World War II with the Jolly Rogers, 90th Heavy Bomb Group, 5th Air Force. Al flew over thirty combat missions in a B–24 Liberator, bravely serving our country overseas. After the War, Al went on to work as a civilian employee for the government, helping the military to acquire land for some of its installations, including the land on which the United States Air Force Academy now sits. Al's life has been marked by so much more than his career and service, however. He is a father, a husband, a bowling enthusiast, and a friend to many who has touched the lives of people around him with his positivity and enthusiasm.

Al's life has been an extraordinary one and I wish him, his family, and his wife, Rosina, the happiest of birthdays as he celebrates his 102nd.

IN RECOGNITION OF BETSY LAWRENCE AND HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with ZOE LOFGREN, Chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, to thank Betsy Lawrence for her service to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Betsy came to the Committee as part of a distinguished career working to advance the rights of immigrants and their families. She had previously worked for more than a decade at the American Immigration Lawyers Association, where she held several different positions, including Associate Director of Education, Associate Director of Liaison, and Director of Government Relations. Before joining AILA, Betsy was an associate attorney at Van Der Hout LLP. She earned her B.S. from Northeastern University and her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Betsy joined the Committee on the Judiciary as Counsel to our Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship in February 2019—an especially busy time as we prepared to advance a robust immigration reform agenda and conduct meaningful oversight of the Trump Administration's anti-immigrant policies. Betsy quickly proved herself to be an invaluable member of our immigration team, and we were pleased to promote her to Chief Counsel of our Immigration Subcommittee at the beginning of this Congress.

During her tenure here, Betsy played a pivotal role in ensuring House passage of numerous bills to provide for a more humane and just immigration system, including the American Dream and Promise Act, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants (NO BAN) Act, and the Access to Counsel Act. She was also heavily involved in our investigation into the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" or family separation policy, our efforts to include meaningful immigration reform in the reconciliation process, and our work to ensure immigration provisions were included in the America COMPETES Act of 2022. Despite our polarized political climate, Betsy and her team successfully worked to pass several bills into law, including the Citizenship for Children of Military Members and Civil Servants Act and the HOPE (Honoring Our Promises through Expedition) for Afghan SIVs Act of 2021. The Committee is deeply proud of her record of accomplishment.

The country has been fortunate to have Betsy working hard within the halls of Congress to reform our broken immigration system, undo the harms caused by the last administration, and ensure the expedient issuance of special immigrant visas to those who served side by side with American troops in Afghanistan. Although we will miss her greatly, we know she will continue to make her country proud as she transitions to her new role in the Biden-Harris Administration.

We thank Betsy for her service to the Committee and wish her the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CACHAVIOUS ''CHAY'' ENGLISH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Cachavious ''Chay'' English, my beloved former Chief of Staff, and key advisors; Chay joined our staff as a legislative assistant in January of 2011 and served his home district with distinction for almost ten years. In November of last year, Chay took on a new role at BGR Group, a primer bipartisan lobbying, and public relations firm, as a vice president where he will be focusing on financial services, tax, and health care policies.

Chay received his education from the University of Michigan, where he served as a residential advisor before receiving his Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies. At the University of Michigan, Chay became a member of his esteemed fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a brotherhood that has provided him an invaluable network for years to come. He then continued his education at the University of Alabama School of Law, where he graduated with a 3.0. It was here where he began setting the foundation for his promising career in politics as a member of the Trial Advocacy Competition Team that would go on to become national champions in 2009 through 2010. As an active student at the University of Alabama, Chay was also a member of the Order of Barristers Honors Society and the National Black Law Students Association.

Professionally while working as a legal intern for the National Labor Board Field Office and former Alabama 7th Congressional District Representative Congressman Artur David in 2009 and 2010, Chay continued to expand his knowledge of politics by performing statutory research and analysis on proposed legislation concerning Displaced Citizens' Voting Rights, the Elder Justice Act, Military Internet Voting, and Gulf Coast Reconstruction. Chay joined our office in 2011 and served as a Legislative Assistant serving as an interim primary policy advisor for all proposed legislative initiatives, policy recommendations, and recorded votes. Devoting his considerable talents to ensuring the progression of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, he quickly became the primary counsel for legislative initiatives and policy recommendations pertaining to financial services, small business, agriculture, housing, workforce development, and labor issues.

In 2013, Chay then became one of the lead lobbyists for the American Association for Justice as a part of the Federal Relations Counsel. Here, he led and managed advocacy efforts, managed complex legislative projects, and directly advocated civil justice issues including, intellectual property rights, national security, transportation safety, and consumer protection.

Returning to serve his home district in 2015, Chay returned to our office, where he served as Legislative Director, then a dynamic Chief of Staff until 2020. Here he brought his same hardworking attitude and political astuteness to expand and uplift Alabama's 7th Congressional District. He was not only a valued member of my staff but as a fellow native of Selma, Alabama Chay's success continues to be celebrated throughout my district. Chay serves as the embodiment of what residents from the Black Belt can accomplish when given the opportunity.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of Cachavious English, a true servant leader whose achievements have inspired a generation of future trailblazers from across the Black Belt.

BACK THE BLUE

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for our law enforcement officers.

The men and women in blue who keep our streets safe are heroes. Every day when they put on their uniform, they do so mindful that they may be called upon to put themselves in harm's way. By stepping forward and selflessly protecting us, they make everything else possible. The recent violence against our police officers is a stark reminder of the dangers of the job.

On May 31, 2021, Sergeant Dominic Vaca of the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Department was killed in the line of duty. Sgt. Vaca spent 17 years protecting the Inland Empire and died a hero. He is just one of 346 officers who was shot in the line of duty in 2021.

Homicide rates in California rose 17 percent last year—on top of a 31 percent rise in 2020. I believe these increases can be in large part attributed to radical calls to defund our police and Democrats' soft on crime rhetoric.

Thankfully, most Americans see our officers for the agents of good that they are. In left-leaning states, however, like California, Democrats have enacted laws that actually make it more difficult for our law enforcement officers to do their job. This is wrong. This is dangerous.

I specifically would like to thank those that keep my community safe. Sheriff Chad Bianco; the Riverside County Sheriffs Department who serve our county and contract cities; as well as the officers of the Corona, Menifee, and Murrieta Police Departments; and all those who serve Riverside County and across the Inland Empire. I thank them for the selfless and heroic work they do.

I stand fully behind our law enforcement officers and will continue to vote for policies that support public safety. We can never repay the men and women who wear the uniform and keep our loved ones safe. But we can—and we should—always have their back.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Mentoring Month.

January 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual campaign to focus attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people.

Mentoring programs across the country make our communities stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks.

During the COVID–19 pandemic, mentoring programs have stepped up to fill gaps for young people and families, connecting them with resources and ensuring that mentoring relationships continue virtually to ensure that physical distancing does not mean social disconnection.

Mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and drives positive outcomes for young people and businesses. Quality mentoring promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of a young person and their relationships with other adults.

Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52 percent less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and youth who face an opportunity gap, but have a mentor, are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using drugs and 27 percent less likely to start drinking.

National Mentoring Month is the time of year to celebrate, elevate, and encourage mentoring across our country and recruit caring adult mentors. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in this celebration and thank those individuals who are willing to step up and help shape the next generation of young Americans.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HYATTSVILLE MAYOR KEVIN WARD

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mayor Kevin Ward. The Hyattsville community lost a trusted leader and a strong advocate when Kevin tragically lost his life to suicide on January 22. He was just forty-four years old and left behind a husband, two sons, and a grandson. His loss is deeply felt across the community and throughout Prince George's County in my district, and the outpouring of grief is a testament to the impact he left on so many. There was no one more willing to lend an ear to a neighbor or to do whatever it took to change someone's life for the better in the community to which he gave so much of his energy, talent, and love.

Kevin saw Hyattsville as 'the jewel in the crown of Prince George's County,' and he dedicated himself to making that jewel shine brighter. In 2015, Kevin was elected to the Hyattsville City Council, and during his tenure as a Council member and later as Council President, he promoted an inclusive agenda to help Hyattsville residents thrive and get ahead. He cosponsored legislation aimed at making Hyattsville more welcoming to and inclusive of immigrants and voted to expand the municipal franchise to include non-citizen residents. Under his leadership, Hyattsville experienced unprecedented economic growth with the expansion of the Gateway Arts District and creation of new housing.

In 2020, Kevin became Interim Mayor and was elected to a full term last May. As Hyattsville's first openly gay and second Black mayor, Kevin was a trailblazer not only in representation but in the boldness of his vision. During his time in office, he was a champion for youth, affordable housing, and sustainability efforts. He worked zealously to help residents throughout the pandemic, partnering with the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville to set up vaccination clinics and food distribution for those in need.

Kevin was more than an exemplary public servant: he was a devoted father, grandfather, and husband. His love for his husband Chad, his sons Sydney and Norman, and his grandson Elijah inspired him to work for a better future for them and all who shared their community. I offer my deepest condolences to Kevin's family, friends, and neighbors, who will surely be reflecting on his legacy for a long time to come and who have already been an enormous support to Chad, their sons, and their grandson during this very difficult time. Through the darkness of this moment, surely Kevin's memory will be the inspiring light to guide the community forward into brighter days to come. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in remembering Kevin Ward and his life of service, passion, and love for his community.

The rise in suicide among Black Americans is a challenge we as a nation cannot ignore. The pandemic has exacerbated mental health struggles for millions of Americans, and it is essential that we all do our part to reach out and help others who may be in need of assistance. I urge anyone struggling with grief or mental health challenges to reach out and seek support from the many resources available, including the National Suicide Hotline at (800) 273–8255.

HONORING DAVE LENTELL AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dave Lentell as Iowan of the Week. Dave is the Lead Lender Relations Specialist at the Small Business Administration (SBA) Iowa District office. Dave lives in Waukee, and through his almost 29 years with the Iowa SBA he held countless conversations connecting with small business owners throughout Iowa and across the 3rd District. I'm glad to take this opportunity to recognize Dave for his dedicated public service for Iowa's small businesses over the course of his career.

Dave first joined the Iowa SBA in 1993 for an internship while studying at Drake University. Quickly after starting his work, the Great Flood of 1993 happened, and Dave stepped up and took an outsized role in facilitating disaster relief information. Dave was offered full-time work after graduating college and has remained with the Iowa SBA since then. Over that period, Dave has helped other businesses and homeowners through periodic disaster events—while also offering technical support and advice to businesses seeking to breakthrough. Dave most appreciates the ability to connect with business owners and lenders to identify paths forward for Iowa's small business economy—which includes over 273,000 small businesses.

Since COVID–19 began, Dave has once again stepped up as he did in 1993—but in this case, the pandemic affected every small business in Iowa. With SBA charged to administer disaster relief programs such as Economic Impact Disaster Loans (EIDL) and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Dave's engagement with the business and lending community increased. Through collaboration with businesses directly, and associated organizations and groups, Dave worked hard to ensure that information was distributed throughout the Iowa community and has earned the respect of his SBA colleagues, who nominated him to my office for recognition.

While we all seek a general return to normalcy, Dave relates that business models have changed during the pandemic—and in many cases that change is here to stay. While the role of SBA may see changes in the future, Dave's service over the past 28 years has certainly been welcome help for our District. I am glad to honor Dave Lentell as Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF OXFORD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 170th Anniversary of the City of Oxford.

A part of Alabama's Third Congressional District, Oxford, is located in Calhoun County. The Muscogee Creek Nation called Choccolocco Valley home for 12,000 years. In 1540, Hernando DeSoto crossed the region on behalf of Spain in search of riches. France claimed the lands in 1699 after successfully establishing settlements at Mobile, New Orleans and Biloxi. Even though France controlled the area that would later become Oxford, it was still inhabited by the Creek Nation. England gained possession after the signing of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the Seven Years War. In 1789, the entire northern portion of Alabama was owned by Georgia. The lands were given to the federal government in 1802 as part of the Mississippi Territory.

Alabama was admitted to the Union on December 14, 1819. Benton County was incorporated on December 18, 1832, and included present-day Calhoun, Cleburne and portions of Cherokee and Talladega Counties. At the time of incorporation, the only incorporated towns in Benton County were Jacksonville and White Plains. In the early 1830s, the Snow and Simmons families were two of the first European descent families to settle among the Creek natives. Snow owned the land south of present-day Choccolocco Street, and Simmons owned the land north. An early legend recalls the area south was called ''Skace Grease'' and the area north ''Lick Skillet.'' Local folklore says a traveler was passing through and needed a place for rest and food. As he was visiting, he was directed to ''lick the skillet'' because they were ''skace of grease.''

Oxford was established on February 7, 1852, the bill proposed by Representative Matthew Allen of Benton County. The limits of the town included one square mile from the center at the male academy on Second Street. Elisha S. Simmons, Edmund P. Gains, John A. Turnipseed, Stephen C. Williams, and Woodson Seay were authorized to run on a ballot for the election of three council members and an intendant (mayor). It was decided that on the first Saturday of each March, annual municipal elections would be held for offices of council and mayor.

On February 21, 1860, Oxford was chartered for the second time due to redrawing of boundary lines and the changing of the name of Benton County to Calhoun County. The limits of the town included a half-mile in each direction from the railroad culvert at Spring Street. Elections were to be held on the first Monday of each March annually. In this incorporation, the law called for the election of seven councilmembers and an intendant. The councilmembers and intendant were given the power to elect a marshal, clerk and treasurer. Those who have served as mayor of Oxford, respectively, include Elisha S. Simmons, Dr. Stephen C. Williams, Samuel C. Kelly, James S. Kelly, Edgar H. Hanna, Charles T. Hilton, William J. Borden, John B. McCain, Dr. Thomas C. Hill, Robert P. Thomason, William H. Griffin, John N. Gunnels, Thomas A. Howle, Maj. William A. Orr, George W. Eichelberger, William C. Gray, Dreadzil P. Haynes, Asa C. Allen, William R. Norton, Davis C. Cooper, Robert R. Pope, Dr. Thomas B. Howle, Carl D. Pace, Hemphill G. Whiteside, Alvis A. Hamric, Bester A. Adams, Earl R. Martin, Therman E. Whitmore, Leon Smith, and Alton Craft.

The Oxford Police Department was established at the time of the first incorporation. However, the earliest police force only included one town marshal. The first recorded marshal for Oxford was Francis M. Gardner, who served in the early 1880s. The Oxford Fire Department was organized on May 18, 1884, as a volunteer department. Major William A. Orr served as the first chief.

In 1904, the citizens of Oxford were convinced that the town needed a permanent city hall for the purposes of conducting municipal business. In September of that year, it was decided city hall would be located in a building on Main Street and the fire department would share the building. An armory was established adjacent to the building for the Calhoun Rifles. The calaboose was located several yards south on Spring Street.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Oxford a happy 170th anniversary.

BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I want to commend the authors of the America COMPETES Act of 2022 for including $52 billion to incentivize private-sector investments and continued American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing to help address supply chain disruptions and ensure that more semiconductors are produced here at home.

Within my central Florida district is the NeoCity technology campus which is recognized as an emerging microelectronics and advanced manufacturing hub, that has already made synergies with institutions of higher education across Florida and key partnerships with the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Commerce. NeoCity is home to BRIDG, a not-for-profit, public-private partnership specializing in domestic semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing. Imec, a world-renowned international research and development organization active in semiconductor design and architecture. SUSS MicroTec, a leading supplier of equipment and process solutions for the semiconductor industry. And SkyWater Technology, the only U.S. owned and operated pure play trusted foundry, that works on leading-edge advanced packaging technology. They all work in collaboration out of the Center for Neovation, one of the most state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing facilities in the western hemisphere. As envisioned by this important legislation, the facilities, and experts at BRIDG, imec, SUSS MicroTec, and SkyWaterTechnology offer immediate capability to accelerate U.S. production of critical semiconductor chips, strengthen the domestic supply chain so chips are made in America, and turbocharge our research capacity. Equally as important, the NeoCity Academy, a public STEM magnet high school, is training the leaders of tomorrow's science and technology workforce.

I am proud of the work being undertaken in my district to support domestic semiconductor manufacturing technology development as they work to address the supply chain. I look forward to working with the Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce on implementation of the American Competes Act and the CHIPS for America Fund.

I appreciate the inclusion of three amendments for consideration in the final passage of the COMPETES Act:

CHIPS Funding to Non-Profits: Adds nonprofits to the definition of ''covered entities'' to expand the semiconductor incentive program to include nonprofit entities. This clarifies that non-profit entities like the 501(c) facilities in NeoCity are also eligible for funding under the semiconductor incentive program.

AI JOBS Amendment (H.R. 6553): Directs the Department of Labor to create a report analyzing the future of artificial intelligence and its impact on the American Workforce. Specifically, the report would collect data to analyze which industries are protected to have the most growth through artificial intelligence, and the demographics which may experience expanded career opportunities and those most vulnerable to job displacement. This is an inclusion of the standalone bill H.R. 6553, the AI JOBS Act.

Blockchain & Crypto Specialist w/in OSTP: Requires the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish a blockchain and cryptocurrencies advisory specialist position within the Office to advise the President on matters related to blockchain and cryptocurrencies. OSTP advises the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the scientific, engineering, and technological aspects of the economy, national security, homeland security, health, foreign relations, and the environment. it is critical to create such a position within OSTP to ensure there is a policy expert capable of advising the President and others within the Executive Office on these issues of growing national importance.

The Restoring Resilient Reefs Act (RRRA) reauthorizes the Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA), which expired nearly fifteen years ago. It maintains the NOAA Coral Reef program, while also introducing overdue improvements to coral management and restoration efforts and giving innovative new tools to partners who are closest to this crisis: states, territories, tribes, communities, and universities.

KEY PROVISIONS.

A 5-year authorization with an explicit focus on restoration activities where natural disasters and human actives have degraded reef ecosystems. This program is currently funded at $33M for 2021 but without further direction by Congress.

Creates a block grant program where states and territories can receive federal ''matching funds'' for the prior year's coral expenditures, provided they have an action plan in place, which will incentivize increased state and local investment of in coral reef management capacity.

Intergovernmental partnerships are key for water infrastructure upgrades, pollution mitigation efforts and regrowing reefs,

Allows for the formation of a public-private partnerships for coral management, called ''Coral Stewardship Partnerships.''

Public-Private partnerships are critical for sharing researching.

Authorizes the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, to ensure states, territories, and other stakeholders continue to have a voice in U.S coral reef management. Public feedback is essential.

Establishes of a single streamlined set of guidelines for ''action plans'' to implement the national strategy, with maximum flexibility given to state and local authorities. These action plans will focus restoration efforts more effectively.

Allows for emergency grants and emergency funds for coral disasters. This will assist with Hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis, as well as oil spills and other major pollution events.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERT AARON

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bertram Donald Aaron. Known by friends and loved ones as Bert, Mr. Aaron was a staple in the Hampton Roads area and leaves a long-lasting impact on our community.

Born in 1922 in Newport News, Bert was the eldest son of Harry and Lillian Aaron. He attained the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army in the Pacific theater during World War II. Following the war, Bert worked as an Aeronautical Research Scientist at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, now NASA. He then worked as an engineer for the U.S. Army Signal Corps where he received the Commanders Medal for his service to national defense.

Named Daily Press Citizen of the Year for his support of local charities and the Virginia Symphony, Bert's lasting contributions to our community are a testament to his enduring passion for the performing arts. He worked tirelessly to maintain the Greater Williamsburg Virginia Symphony Society, serving on the Board of the Symphony for 25 years and chairing the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission. Additionally, Bert was a fierce advocate for breast cancer research, organizing and chairing the first Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation Symposium on state-of-the-art medicine for breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

I am grateful for Bert's philanthropic spirit and his outstanding contributions to our community. It saddens me to hear of Bert's passing, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDGAR STUART CAHN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Edgar Stuart Cahn, who passed away at 86 years of age on January 23, 2022, in Bethesda, Maryland.

Edgar Stuart Cahn was born on March 23, 1935, and was raised in an activist household in New York. While earning his undergraduate degree at Swarthmore College, Edgar met and fell in love with fellow student Jean Camper, forming a partnership that would eventually spur substantial social, political and legal change for the benefit of our country's most vulnerable. They married in New York, because, at the time, interracial marriage was illegal in Jean's home state of Maryland.

Edgar and Jean both attended Yale Law School, where I met them as a fellow student. Following graduation, they moved to the District of Columbia in 1963, with Jean working as a legal advisor at the Department of State and Edgar as Special Assistant to and speechwriter for Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. They would later work together in the Office of Economic Opportunity, where they, along with Sargent Shriver, established a first-of-its-kind federally funded program that provided legal aid to low-income Americans. This groundbreaking initiative, the predecessor to the Legal Services Corporation, is widely acknowledged as setting a blueprint for legal services and catalyzing what was then the burgeoning field of public interest law.

Edgar next undertook a two-year campaign organizing Native American leaders in an effort that led to the end of the official federal policy of terminating Native American tribes, and, with his book Our Brother's Keeper: The Indian in White America, a classic indictment of America's treatment of Native Americans, to enactment of Public Law 93–638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Edgar and Jean founded the Antioch School of Law, the predecessor to the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. He served as a member of the UDC law faculty until near the end of his life.

Edgar was a visionary in strategies to alleviate poverty, a pioneer in clinical legal education and a dear friend. He led with an unwavering focus to help the most vulnerable among us. He was equally beloved for his kindness, and he will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Dr. Edgar Stuart Cahn.

RECOGNIZING TRICIA STEVER BLATTLER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Tricia Stever Blattler on her 15th anniversary with the Tulare County Farm Bureau and for her service to the Tulare, agriculture community.

Mrs. Blattler is an Exeter native and grew up on farms owned by the Pinkham family. She attended Exeter High School and participated in Mock Trial, 4–H, and FFA. After graduating high school, she went on to receive degrees in Agriculture Science and secondary teaching credentials from California Polytechnic State University. She received scholarships from the Tulare County and California Farm Bureaus.

In her first year with the Tulare County Farm Bureau, she was awarded a ''Top 5'' 40 under 40 Rising Stars business leader award by the Tulare Economic Development Corporation and Visalia Chamber of Commerce. She is a graduate of the distinguished California Ag Leadership Class 34 and the Dale Carnegie Public Speaking Institute. In addition to her role as Executive Director at the Tulare County Farm Bureau, Mrs. Blattler has served on the boards and advisory committees of the

FFA Foundation, Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County, Tulare County Ag, Farmland Mitigation Guidebook, Farmersville High School Ag, and Tulare County Animal Services.

She is viewed as a leader in the community for her communication to policymakers and time spent advising regulatory boards on issues such as air, water, ag crime, and land use. She has also volunteered time to Common Threads, the World Ag Expo, Ag Ventures, and many other community events.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Tricia Stever Blattler for her contributions to the agriculture industry and the Central Valley.

RECOGNIZING PAUL WILLIAM BEATTY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding constituent from my district, Paul William Beatty, who has served as a volunteer firefighter at the Goodwill Hose Co. No. 3 Station in Bristol, Pennsylvania for nearly four decades. Following in the footsteps of his father and brothers, Paul became a volunteer firefighter and fought over 500 fires, helping save countless lives and giving comfort to those who had lost everything.

I am proud to honor Paul as an exceptional member of our community and celebrate his retirement. Whether at noon or midnight, the dead of winter or the heat of summer, Paul has always answered the call for help when it was needed. He has demonstrated extraordinary bravery and leadership over the past 39 years and his hard work has contributed to the safety of our community.

I am incredibly grateful for the positive impact Paul has had on others throughout his long career of service, and I wish him countless blessings during his retirement.

CONGRATULATING RICHARD LINEBERRY ON HIS ELECTION

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard Lineberry of Hamilton for his service as State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Indiana.

Richard joined VFW Post 2457 in 2011 and has been a leader since. He has served as the 4th District Commander, the Indiana Department Junior Vice Commander and the Indiana Department Senior Vice Commander.

Richard has served his community, state and country in several capacities beyond that of the VFW, as well. For nearly 34 years, he served in the United States Air Force Reserve/National Guard. For twenty years, Richard served as a law enforcement officer in New Haven, where he held positions including deputy coroner, Sergeant, SCUBA Recovery, accident reconstructionist, and firearms instructor. For 12 years, he worked at the VA hospital in Fort Wayne both as a police officer and as a Means Test Officer where he presided over initial enrollments for veterans seeking benefits.

Richard is also a proud board member of Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, which helps bring Hoosier veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Remarkably, he has registered over 100 veterans for these honor flights, including many who served in World War II.

Few men are as deserving of State Commander as Richard. That's why I'm proud to honor him for all the remarkable things he has done and the lives he has changed. This position as State Commander has been a crowning achievement of a record of service for which our community is most grateful.

THREAT FROM FENTANYL FLOWING OVER OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a catastrophic mass death in our country because of our open borders—all due to fentanyl.

Fentanyl is freely flowing across our southern border as seizures increased by nearly 135 percent in 2021 under Joe Biden's laxed immigration enforcement.

In FY 2021, Customs and Border Protection seized 11,201 pounds of fentanyl, a historic rate that is more than all that was seized in 2018 and 2019 combined. This amounts to enough fentanyl to cause 2,540,341,996 deaths, or more than 7 times the U.S. population.

The free flow of this deadly drug across our border is a direct result of the Biden administration's open border policies. The fact is, Joe Biden continues to ignore and fails to address the record high overdose deaths caused from deadly fentanyl-related substances crossing our border.

As a result, the scourge of fentanyl is destroying our communities, killing our children and devastating our families.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. overdose deaths reached a devastating new height in 2021, claiming a new victim every five minutes.

There is a direct link between fentanyl-related overdose deaths and criminal drug cartels in Mexico. The ease in which the drug cartels operate is shocking. The cartels control the borders and are taking full advantage of Joe Biden's weak immigration policies.

Last December, in my home state of Arizona, the Scottsdale Police Department and the Arizona Attorney General's Office seized a record 1.7 million fentanyl pills and 10 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

During a recent two-month public safety surge, the DEA Phoenix Field Division announced total seizures of over three million fentanyl pills and 45 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

Just one fentanyl pill can kill. Yet our open borders remain a fentanyl pipeline.

Instead of securing our southern border to stop the flow of fentanyl, Mr. Biden has doubled down on his open-border policies that will only worsen the ongoing border crisis and destroy more communities and lives.

Just because Joe Biden ignores the fentanyl crisis doesn't mean Congress should. Congress must address the crisis at the border.

Congress must also take action and permanently place fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The emergency class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances is set to expire on February 18, 2022.

Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats are wrong to allow this order to expire.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Southern Union State Community College.

Southern Union State Community College is the second oldest two-year college in Alabama, and is currently under the leadership of President Todd Shackett.

Southern Union has compiled a rich history throughout the years. Originally chartered by the Southern Christian Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, SUSCC was planned as a feeder school for Elon College in North Carolina. In 1922, 51 students stepped into a single building in Wadley, Alabama, that was then known as Bethlehem College; and the dream of a college in east Alabama was realized.

Southern Union remained church related until 1964, operating as Piedmont Junior College, Southern Union College and The Southern Union College. On October 1, 1964, the college was the first to be deeded to the State of Alabama to become part of the newly-created system of two-year colleges. The name of the college became Southern Union State Junior College, and it achieved accreditation in 1970 from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In response to requests from business and industry, Southern Union expanded its reach to an even wider area in the late 1960s and early 1970s, offering higher education opportunities in Lee and Chambers counties by holding classes at local high schools. The college continued its commitment to the citizens of the area with the construction of campuses in the cities of Opelika and Valley. In 1974, the Valley Campus was completed. And, in 1982, the college purchased land in Opelika and offered a full-range of course offerings at its Opelika Campus. On August 12, 1993, the college merged with the local technical college, thus expanding its technical education offerings. Upon merging, the college became Southern Union State Community College.

Today, Southern Union has three campus locations in Wadley, Opelika and Valley and boasts an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students. SUSCC serves residents of an eight county area of East and Central Alabama as

well as neighboring Georgia counties. A three-faceted educational emphasis is on academic programs for transferability, technical programs for specialized career competencies and health sciences programs for specialized training in the health field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Southern Union a happy 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN WILLIAMS AND HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank John Williams for his service to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

John came to the Committee as merely the last step in a distinguished career in public service. He previously worked for various offices on Capitol Hill, including for former Representative Baron Hill of Indiana, the House Committee on Rules, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. He has also held positions at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the IMPAC 2000 redistricting project, and, most recently-before rejoining us on the Hill-at the Federal Communications Commission. John received his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

John joined the Committee on the Judiciary as Senior Counsel and Parliamentarian in November 2019, as the House was in the midst of its first impeachment inquiry into then-President Trump. His knowledge of House procedure and parliamentary rules were critical as we navigated the first Presidential impeachment in two decades—and again a year later as we conducted the second impeachment of that same president.

John has played an integral role advising me, our subcommittee chairs, and staff over the course of more than 75 committee hearings and more than 100 bill votes in committee and on the House floor. John also worked especially closely with our subcommittees as we participated in several reconciliation processes this Congress.

John's knowledge and counsel have been invaluable as we have worked to deliver tangible results for the American people over the past two years. His guidance has helped us move dozens of bills through both chambers of Congress and to the President's desk. We will miss John's work ethic and counsel as he takes the next step in his career.

We thank John for his service to the Committee and wish him the best of luck with this new chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LULA MARIE EDWARDS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Lula Marie Edwards, an entrepreneur, exemplary community leader, and pioneering nurse during the Civil Rights Movement who passed at age 92 on February 1, 2022.

Mrs. Edwards was born one of six children on September 6, 1929, in Orville, AL, to the late James and Mary Scott-Harris. Valuing education even as a child, Mrs. Edwards was the first person in her family to graduate from high school at the top of the 1948 Keith High School inaugural graduating class. She continued her education at Selma University, where she studied to become an educator. However, after caring for her ailing brother Robert, Mrs. Edwards gained the attention of the nuns at Good Samaritan Hospital, and they encouraged her to become a nurse. Upon completing her LPN training at Good Samaritan School of Nursing in 1953, she served as a pioneering African American nurse treating the Foot Soldiers who were bludgeoned during "Bloody Sunday" in 1965, as they peacefully demonstrated for the equal right to vote.

During her time at Good Samaritan Hospital, Mrs. Edwards served dutifully, working in every area of the hospital from 1953 until the hospital's closure. Continuing to serve her community as a healthcare professional, she went on to work at Vaughan Regional Hospital and Dr. Ernest Okeke Family Medicine before ultimately retiring from nursing in 1995 at 42. Upon her retirement, she was honored by Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Inc. for her extraordinary contributions to the nursing profession.

Spending much of her childhood in Siloam Baptist Church, Mrs. Edwards devoted her life to Christ at an early age. She was a member of the Queen of Peace Catholic Church before joining the Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church, where she faithfully served in various capacities including, the Mother of the church, a member of the Missionary Society, and an active Sunday school member. Mrs. Edwards was also an ardent fundraiser for the church and consistently encouraged the youth and supported all church activities.

Dedicating her life to helping others, Mrs. Edwards exuded a sense of community, continuing, to help people outside of the hospital setting by opening her home to provide healthcare to people who otherwise would not have had access to it earning her the title "neighborhood doctor." As an enterprising woman, she also served as a landlord opening homes on her property once again, to those in need providing affordable housing for her tenants and creating a safe haven for the entire community.

Mrs. Edwards was preceded in death by her parents James and Mary Harris, loving husband Amos Edwards, son James "Ebo" Ervin, sister Nellie B. Jackson, brothers Andrew Jackon (A.J.) Harris, James "Lil Buddy" Harris, Jr., and grandson Kenneth "Ken Bear" Edwards Sr. She is survived by her children, Brenda (Steven) Brazzell, Anthony Edwards, Amy (Roosevelt) Marzette, Stephanie Menifee, Louis (Lisa) Edwards, Bonita (Calvin) Andrews, and Derrick (Adrein) Edwards, sixty-two grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, seven great-great grandchildren, brothers Robert Harris, Sr. and Lovie Lee Harris, faithful God daughter Nancy Clark Jackson, and a host of additional relatives, members of her church family, friends, and community children.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Lula Marie Edwards and her contributions to the Selma community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID E. RIVERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a committed educator and public servant, who lived by the Biblical teaching to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly." He also happened to be a very dear friend for more than 40 years, Dr. David E. Rivers transitioned from this life on February 4, 2022, and he will be sorely missed by all who had the honor of knowing him.

Dr. Rivers was born on June 7, 1943, in Fayetteville, Georgia. He was the second of five children born to Joseph and Lorine Rivers. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in urban affairs, political science and public administration at Georgia State University. He went on to graduate from the National Urban Fellows Program in Public Administration at Yale University and the Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program at Furman University. He was also a charter member of Georgia State University's first Black Greek organization, Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Incorporated, which was chartered in 1968.

Before beginning his professional career, Dr. Rivers, served three years in the U.S. Army. He became Atlanta's first African American Commissioner of Budget and Planning under Mayor Maynard Jackson. He held leadership positions on the Atlanta Regional Commission, at Georgia State University, the U.S. Department off Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Energy and headed the Public Health Department in the District of Columbia Government under Mayor Marion Barry.

All of these experiences were a precursor to his extraordinary career at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He joined MUSC's faculty in 1995, and served in many distinguished capacities, promoting partnerships between academic institutions, government agencies, elected officials, business industry, faith-based groups, and community activists to build healthier communities. At the time of his death, Dr. Rivers was the Director of the Public Information and Community Outreach Initiative (PICO) at MUSC, a program he founded.

Dr. Rivers served as Principal Investigator, administering over $20 million in sponsored funding during his career, and was a collaborator in securing funding for over $100 million in national, state, and local programs during his career. Under his leadership, the PICO Initiative conducted nationwide Community Leaders Institutes to address the impact of health disparities and environmental justice issues in low-income, ethnic minority communities and other underserved populations.

South Carolina Educational Television produced his award-winning Community Leaders Institute programs, which were televised to national audiences. In recognition of his work on climate change and its impact across the United States, Dr. Rivers received multiple

nominations and won a Bronze Telly Award and the highest viewership of a televised program produced by Educational Television.

Dr. Rivers led the planning and execution of the National Conference on Health Disparities for nearly two decades, which provided a national dialogue to share progress in building healthy communities from 2007 through 2021. He also organized and led the Environmental Justice Braintrust at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.'s Annual Legislative Conference. The Braintrust recommended strategies to help policy makers address environmental issues by fostering a relationship between environmental protection, human health, environmental justice, and economic development.

In 2009, Dr. Rivers became the first African American to hold a citywide elected office in Charleston, SC. He served as a Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Charleston since 2009, where he also served as Vice Chairman and Chairman, He was re-elected unopposed in 2015 and 2021.

Dr. Rivers served as Chairman of the National Urban Fellows and the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation boards. He was President of the Jonathan Green Foundation, and he was Vice Chairman of the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Corporation. He was a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, American Water Works Association, and Water Environment Federation.

He also served on the Boards of the South Carolina Aquarium, My Brother's Keeper, and the 100 Black Men of Charleston, SC. He was also a member of the National Council of La Raza, California State University Center for Latino Community Health in Monterey Bay, California; Allen University Board of Trustees; the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century Council, Executive Committee; the Advisory Board of Charleston's First Reliance Bank, and the Trident Urban League. He also served as a Board Member of Trident Unban League, the Community Foundation, and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. David Rivers. His impact can be felt across this country in so many communities that are addressing environmental justice and health disparities, and his work will continue through the initiatives he developed and nurtured throughout his career. Dr. Rivers led a life of purpose driven by passion. May he rest in power.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF BARRY VIRTS

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Sheriff Barry Virts, who retired December 31, 2021 after 44 years with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. A dedicated public servant, Sheriff Virts demonstrated a profound commitment to public safety throughout his career.

Sherriff Virts is a lifelong resident of the Town of Rose in Wayne County, New York and graduate of North Rose-Wolcott High School. He earned an Associate's degree from Erie Community College and began his career in law enforcement in 1977 as a corrections officer for the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Sherriff Virts was quickly promoted to road patrol deputy a year later, sergeant in 1985, and criminal investigations lieutenant in 1988. In 1999, he began overseeing the Wayne County jail as Chief Deputy.

Following ten years with the jail division, in 2009 Sherriff Virts was elected Sheriff of Wayne County. At the outset of his term, Sheriff Virts placed a significant emphasis on improving support for victims and collaboration between various police departments. For his work, Sheriff Virts has received local honors and served on over thirteen community and advisory boards including the Wayne County Criminal Justice Council, Wayne County Jail Advisory, Victim Resource Center, Wayne County Diversity Task Force, Wayne County Pretrial Youth and Adult Diversion. He also served on the Council on Alcoholism & Other Addictions, Wayne County Fire Chief's Association, and the Wayne County Housing Consortium.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the career of Sheriff Barry Virts and his commitment to public safety. I wish Sheriff Virts the best in his retirement.

REMEMBERING CHESTER ALAN BARTOL

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Chester ''Chet'' Bartol of Fort Wayne who passed away last month.

Chet was a hard-working, intelligent man who served our country and his community with joy. He graduated Warsaw High School in 1945 and attended Purdue University, where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. For nearly fifty years, he worked in orthopedics as a distributor and was the owner of Zimmer-Bartol Associates.

In addition to his academic and career pedigree, Chet was a veteran of the United States Army, having served in the Electrical Warfare Division of the Signal Corps. Northeast Indiana, and our country, is grateful to him for his service.

He is remembered as having been particularly active, sociable and selfless. A lifelong fan of Purdue sports, Chet ran high school and college track, and into old age remained a golfer and avid cardplayer. He is also remembered as having been a loving husband, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, five children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In the wake of his passing, I wish Chet's family peace, comfort and joy in knowing he lived a long and happy life. Though he is no longer alive, his spirit lives on in the minds and souls of those whom he knew and loved most.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOHN BREHM

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of Scotts Bluff County Veteran's Service Officer John Brehm. For nearly 50 years John has devoted his life to honoring and meeting the needs of American veterans and their families. Prior to this John served for three years in the United States Army, stationed near the 38th parallel in South Korea as well as Fort Carson, CO. His recent retirement marks a legacy of faithful service to others who sacrificed for our nation.

Despite his reluctance to assume credit for himself, the significance of John's impact is widely recognized. His accomplishments include restoring annual commencement of the local Veterans Day parade, partnering with the American Legion to organize County Government Day visits for high school students, and spearheading the establishment of Avenue of Flags displays as well as Veterans Memorial Park which now bears his name in my own hometown of Gering.

John has showed personal concern for each veteran he served, knowing full well the importance of going the extra mile. In addition to facilitating disability claims, his efforts fundraising for Disabled American Veterans vans have meant a great deal to veterans in need of transportation to health facilities in our sprawling, rural region.

John Brehm's dedication and patriotism are rare. His expertise will be missed, but we are grateful for his ongoing engagement as a citizen. Countless Nebraskans have been blessed by his care, and generations to come are indebted to his example.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S549–S579

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3593–3603, and S. Res. 506–507. **Pages S574–75**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 497, to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants. (S. Rept. No. 117–68)

S. 3541, to improve health care and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances. **Page S574**

Measures Passed:

National Catholic Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 506, supporting the goals of National Catholic Schools Week. **Page S577**

Blue Star Mother's Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 507, designating February 1, 2022, as "Blue Star Mother's Day". **Page S577**

Sheppard Air Force Base and Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program Anniversaries: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 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, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S578**

Bush Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army. **Pages S549–54, S559–62**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, February 9, 2022; provided further that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Scott A. Nathan, of Massachusetts, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation; that following disposition of the nomination of Scott A. Nathan, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Douglas R. Bush; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. **Page S578**

Vekich Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner. **Page S563**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, February 10, 2022. **Page S563**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S563**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S563**

Motion to Discharge Bagenstos Nomination—Agreement: Pursuant to S. Res. 27, Committee on Finance being tied on the question of reporting, the Majority Leader made the motion to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services; under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order. **Pages S563–67**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the vote on the motion to discharge the nomination from the Committee on Finance, be at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, notwithstanding Rule XXII. **Page S563**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 62 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 38), John P. Howard III, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years. **Pages S554–55**

By 55 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 39), Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be an

Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for a term of fifteen years. **Page S555**

By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 40), Amy Gutmann, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. **Pages S558–59**

By 68 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 41), Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S559**

By 66 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 42), Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S562–63**

Homer L. Wilkes, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, be withdrawn. **Pages S567–68**

Messages from the House: **Page S571**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S571**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S571**

Executive Communications: **Pages S571–74**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S575–76**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S576–77**

Additional Statements: **Page S571**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S577**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—42) **Page S555, S558–59, S563**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S578.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General Michael E. Kurilla, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Central Command, Department of Defense, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Maria Duaime Robinson, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary (Office of Electricity), and Joseph F. DeCarolis, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, both of the Department of Energy, and Laura Daniel-Davis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PROTECTING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine protecting youth mental health, focusing on an advisory and call to action, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Randi Charno Levine, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, and N. Nickolas Perry, of New York, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, who were both introduced by Senator Schumer, Laura Farnsworth Dogu, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, and Deborah E. Lipstadt, of Georgia, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senator Rosen, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

LOG4SHELL VULNERABILITY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine responding to and learning from the Log4Shell vulnerability, after receiving testimony from David Nalley, Apache Software Foundation, Wilmington, Delaware; Brad Arkin, Cisco Systems, San Jose, California; Jen Miller-Osborn, Palo Alto Networks, Santa Clara, California; and Trey Herr, Atlantic Council, Washington, D.C.

COVID–19

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine lessons learned from COVID–19, focusing on highlighting innovations, maximizing inclusive practices, and overcoming barriers to employment for people with disabilities, after receiving testimony from Lisa Schur, Rutgers University Program for Disability Research, New Brunswick, New Jersey; Jenny Lay-Flurrie, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington; Brian S. Dennis, Iowa Workforce Development, Des Moines; and Frank Kineavy, Sea Girt, New Jersey.

CHAPTER 11

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights concluded a hearing to examine abusing Chapter 11, focusing on corporate efforts to side-step accountability through bankruptcy, after receiving testimony from Judith Klaswick Fitzgerald, Tucker Arensberg, P.C., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; David A. Skeel, Jr., University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia; Paul H. Zumbro, Cravath, Swaine and Moore LLP, New York, New York; Kevin C. Maclay, Caplin and Drysdale, Washington, D.C.; and Kimberly A. Naranjo, Sandy, Utah.

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: 15 public bills, H.R. 6637–6651; 1 private bill, H.R. 6652; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 71; H. Con. Res. 71; and H. Res. 914 were introduced. **Pages H1073–74**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1074–75**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 5616, to require reporting regarding accreditation of basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–244, Part 1). **Page H1073**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Lee (CA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1015**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:11 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H1022**

Suspensions-Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, February 1st.

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office": S. 566, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the "Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Post Office", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 432 yeas with one answering "present", Roll No. 37; **Page H1056**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "D. Edwina Stephens Post Office": H.R. 2324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "D. Edwina Stephens Post Office", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 428 yeas to 1 nay with one answering "present", Roll No. 40; and **Pages H1058–59**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the "Arthur Luis Ibleto Post Office Building": H.R. 735, amended, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the "Arthur Luis Ibleto Post Office Building", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 422 yeas to 4 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 41; **Pages H1059–60**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the 'Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building'.". **Page H1060**

Postal Service Reform Act: The House passed H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, by a yea-and-nay vote of 342 yeas to 92 nays, Roll No. 38. **Pages H1032–51, H1056–57**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–32 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Reform now printed in the bill. **Pages H1032–39**

Agreed to:

Carolyn B. Maloney (NY) amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 117–243) that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Personnel Management, the Social Security Administration, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services regarding the information postal employees will need

to enroll in Medicare Part B; specifies that performance standards must be submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission for each product; and makes other technical and conforming changes to the bill. **Page H1051**

H. Res. 912, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3076) and (H.R. 6617) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 36, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 35. Pursuant to Sec. 3(a) of H. Res. 912, House Concurrent Resolution 69 is hereby adopted. **Pages H1024–32**

Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022: The House passed H.R. 6617, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, by a yea-and-nay vote of 272 yeas to 162 nays, Roll No. 39. **Pages H1051–56, H1057–58**

H. Res. 912, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3076) and (H.R. 6617) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 36, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 35. Pursuant to Sec. 3(a) of H. Res. 912, House Concurrent Resolution 69 is hereby adopted. **Pages H1024–32**

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Representative Gallagher. **Page H1060**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1031–32, H1032, H1056, H1056–57, H1057–58, H1058–59, and H1059–60..

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Committee Meetings

A HEARING TO REVIEW FARM POLICY WITH UNDERSECRETARY ROBERT BONNIE

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing entitled "A Hearing to Review Farm Policy with Undersecretary Robert Bonnie". Testimony was heard from Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary, Farm Production and Conservation, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

MILITARY PERSONNEL TALENT MANAGEMENT MODERNIZATION AND THE EFFECTS OF LEGACY POLICIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled "Military Personnel Talent Management Modernization and the Effects of Legacy Policies". Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Gary M. Brito, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1, U.S. Army; Vice Admiral John B. Nowell, Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel, U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Brian T. Kelly, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel, and Services, U.S. Air Force; Lieutenant General David Ottignon, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps: and Patricia Mulcahy, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Personnel, U.S. Space Force.

ARPA-H: THE NEXT FRONTIER OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "ARPA-H: The Next Frontier of Biomedical Research". Testimony was heard from Admiral Brett P. Giroir, Former Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

DIGITAL ASSETS AND THE FUTURE OF FINANCE: THE PRESIDENT'S WORKING GROUP ON FINANCIAL MARKETS' REPORT ON STABLECOINS

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Digital Assets and the Future of Finance: The President's Working Group on Financial Markets' Report on Stablecoins". Testimony was heard from Nellie Liang, Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, Department of the Treasury.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights held a hearing entitled "Improving Access to Quality Public Education in Africa". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee began a markup on H. Res. 896, the "Condemning the Burmese military for perpetrating gross violations of human rights as part of its brutal campaign to suppress the democratic aspirations of the people of Burma, a year after the coup d'état on February 1, 2021"; H.R. 4821, the "Combatting the Persecution of Christians in China Act"; H.R. 6600, the "Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act"; H.

Res. 892, calling on the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to release Paul Rusesabagina on humanitarian grounds; H. Res. 895, strongly condemning the abuses committed in Cameroon's Anglophone regions by the Government of Cameroon security forces and armed group; H. Res. 907, reaffirming our commitment to support progress toward transparency, accountable institutions, and other tenets of good governance in the Republic of Liberia as it approaches the Bicentennial of the Arrival of the First Free Black Americans to Providence Island, Liberia; and H.R. 6552, the ''Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022''.

THE NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AND PROTECTING HOUSES OF WORSHIP: A VIEW FROM THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery; and Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism held a joint hearing entitled ''The Nonprofit Security Grant Program and Protecting Houses of Worship: A View from the American Jewish Community''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MAKING: THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GRANTMAKING FOUNDATIONS

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Environmental Policy Making: The Role of Environmental Organizations and Grantmaking Foundations''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FUELING THE CLIMATE CRISIS: EXAMINING BIG OIL'S CLIMATE PLEDGES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Fueling the Climate Crisis: Examining Big Oil's Climate Pledges''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DATA CHALLENGES IMPACTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Data Challenges Impacting Human Trafficking Research and Development of Anti-Trafficking Technological Tools''. Testimony was heard from Gretta Goodwin, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

PROPOSALS FOR A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022: STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2022: Stakeholder Priorities''. Testimony was heard from Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency; and public witnesses.

HONORING OUR PROMISE: REVIEWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled ''Honoring our Promise: Reviewing the Effectiveness of Services for Survivors and Dependents''. Testimony was heard from Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Office of Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

HEARING WITH THE NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE ON CHALLENGES FACING TAXPAYERS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled ''Hearing with the National Taxpayer Advocate on Challenges Facing Taxpayers''. Testimony was heard from Erin M. Collins, National Taxpayer Advocate, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT TO THE DOD'S AUGUST 29, 2021, STRIKE IN KABUL

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Warfighter Support held a hearing entitled ''Intelligence Support to the DoD's August 29, 2021, Strike in Kabul''. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine digital assets, focusing on risks, regulation, and innovation, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine the role that community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions serve in supporting communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to consider the nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget, Time to be announced, S–120, Capitol.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gigi B. Sohn, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Space and Science, to hold hearings to examine NASA accountability and oversight, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine S. 2373, to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and S. 1290, to assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Michael Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, and Rebecca E. Jones Gaston, of Oregon, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, all of the Department of Health and Human Services, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on Iran, focusing on an update on Vienna discussions, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine Afghanistan, focusing on the humanitarian crisis and U.S. response, 2:30 p.m., SD–106/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Glenna Laureen Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, Christopher John Williamson, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Timothy Baker, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget, and Dimitri Kusnezov, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security, 3 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine ''targeted killing'' and the rule of law, focusing on the legal and human costs of 20 years of U.S. drone strikes, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

House

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, continue markup on H. Res. 896, the ''Condemning the Burmese military for perpetrating gross violations of human rights as part of its brutal campaign to suppress the democratic aspirations of the people of Burma, a year after the coup d'etat on February 1, 2021''; H.R. 4821, the ''Combatting the Persecution of Christians in China Act''; H.R. 6600, the ''Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act''; H. Res. 892, calling on the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to release Paul Rusesabagina on humanitarian grounds; H. Res. 895, strongly condemning the abuses committed in Cameroon's Anglophone regions by the Government of Cameroon security forces and armed group; H. Res. 907, reaffirming our commitment to support progress toward transparency, accountable institutions, and other tenets of good governance in the Republic of Liberia as it approaches the Bicentennial of the Arrival of the First Free Black Americans to Providence Island, Liberia; and H.R. 6552, the ''Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022'', 8 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''Revitalizing WMATA: Getting to a Culture of Excellence'', 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, joint hearing entitled ''IT Infrastructure Modernization: Addressing Ongoing Challenges and the Path Forward'', 10 a.m., Zoom.

Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Connecting Americans to Prosperity: How Infrastructure can Bolster Inclusive Economic Growth'', 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine building a better labor market, focusing on empowering older workers for a stronger economy, 2:30 p.m., VTC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, February 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Scott A. Nathan, of Massachusetts, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Douglas R. Bush.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Wednesday, February 9

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 3485—Global Respect Act.

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