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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 16, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LAUREN UNDERWOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 623. An act to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 117–81, the Chair, on behalf of the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States:

The Honorable Jon Kyl of Arizona.

The Honorable Lisa Gordon-Hagerty of Florida.

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.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF STEVEN SPICKELMIER

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Steven Spickelmier who passed away at the age of 77 after a long battle with COVID–19.

Steve was a U.S. Navy and Air National Guard veteran, retiring as a master sergeant after 26 years of military service. His unmatched energy and positive impact on servicemen, veterans, and their families throughout northeast Florida displayed his incredible servant's heart.

Among Steve's many local roles, he served as chairman of the Veterans Council of Duval County and chairman of the Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery, Madam Speaker, where he championed the annual Wreaths Across America program and the Memorial Day service. He was president of the Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 559, and field operations director for Florida's Missing in America project.

Steve attended Mandarin United Methodist Church and, among many other roles, he served as a church van driver for residents of a nearby retirement home to ensure all could worship together each Sunday.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I offer condolences to all who knew and loved Steve, especially his wife Glenda, the love of his life, for over 33 years.

CONGRATULATING MR. CHARLES DARWIN MAGDALUYO, DUVAL COUNTY'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Charles Darwin Magdaluyo for being named Duval County's Teacher of the Year. Charles received this honor for his work teaching ninth and twelfth grade human anatomy and physiology at Jean Ribault High School.

Serving as a teacher for 7 years, Mr. Magdaluyo is dedicated to helping students understand and succeed, even in difficult circumstances. Charles works with students to overcome the challenges and struggles they face, helping them to grow as individuals and develop skills that will help them long after they graduate.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I thank Charles for his dedication to educating the students of northeast Florida and for his commitment to the success of his students and peers alike.

CONGRATULATING MS. SHELBY GOODWIN, NASSAU COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Shelby Goodwin for being named Nassau County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Goodwin received this honor for her work teaching AP language and AP literature at Yulee High School.

Serving as a teacher for 6 years, Ms. Goodwin aims to help students learn lifelong lessons through an engaging classroom experience. Ms. Goodwin supports her students' development by working with them in class, coaching them in athletics, sponsoring student clubs, and co-directing a musical theater production.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I thank Ms. Goodwin for her dedication to educating the students of northeast Florida and for her commitment to the success of her students and peers alike.

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PLANES FOR UKRAINE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise today with a very simple message: Those who believe that if we leave the world alone, the world will leave us alone are entirely wrong.

Madam Speaker, the world would find its way to our door as it has done so now with Ukraine.

I had the honor of hearing the President of Ukraine speak this morning, and if there is something I came away with without question it is this: It is that this war is about more than Ukraine. It is about freedom-loving people wherever they may be. It is about people who will not tolerate seeing women and babies being killed live on television. It is about a belief that if you can do something to end an injustice, you have to do it.

This is why I rise today to say, Madam Speaker, that if there is a vote for planes for Ukraine, I will vote to support planes for Ukraine. And I will do so because I believe that this is needed for their defense.

While some would say: But the defense currently would not be planes because they don't have to fight planes—that they are using long-range projectiles to bomb Ukraine—my point is this: Let's not wait until the skies over Ukraine have been darkened with Russian planes before we send the help that they need.

I don't mind the world knowing that we are part of this. I don't think we can allow a standard to be set such that in the future the precedent is if you send in planes you are escalating. I think if we send in planes, we are meeting the challenge that is necessary to defend Ukraine.

Again, those who believe that if we leave the world alone it will leave us alone are entirely wrong. This is about liberty and justice for all; government of the people, by the people, and for the people of Ukraine and the rest of us as well. This is about freedom-loving people wherever they may be.

If there is a vote for planes, then I will vote for planes for Ukraine.

THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, when I travel around the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia, folks regularly share their struggles with me in the face of President Biden's inflation crisis, economic crisis, and energy crisis.

They tell me that their hearts sink when they check out at the grocery store and see the price on the screen tick well past what they used to pay to feed their families. They tell me they dread going to the gas station because every time they drive by, they see prices getting higher and higher. They pray their car doesn't break down because they can't afford to fix it or replace it given the rise in the cost of car parts.

They worry about their kids hitting a growth spurt because new clothes are just getting too expensive. And they tell me the disappointment they felt when they let their kids know that the vacation they had been looking forward to had to be canceled or scaled back because the rising cost of flying and lodging made it nearly impossible.

Madam Speaker, folks in rural parts of this country are struggling, and 40-year high inflation rates serve as a tax on all Americans. It is unacceptable that the soaring price of goods cost the average family $3,500 last year.

If Members of Congress truly want to provide relief to their constituents, then they must rein in spending and cut taxes to get our country's economy back on track.

CAVE SPRING BASKETBALL

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cave Spring High School boys' basketball team from Roanoke, Virginia, for winning this year's class 3 State championship. Following a near perfect season, the Cave Spring Knights were crowned sole State champions this year after being named co-winners with Lakeland in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

From the moment last week's final tipped off against the Petersburg Crimson Wave, it was a great showing from both teams.

After an impressive second-half comeback by Petersburg, Cave Spring was down by 2 with only 1 minute and 45 seconds left on the clock. A quick Knight's basket tied the game, and the Crimson Wave took possession as the seconds passed by. But a timely steal by Cave Spring's senior guard, Owyn Dawyot, gave the Knights one last chance.

As Dawyot headed toward the basket, he was fouled sending him to the free-throw line with just 3 seconds left. After missing the first shot, the pressure was on, but he kept his cool and made the second shot for the final score of the game.

The Knights prevailed, winning 76–75, marking the program's fifth State title and the second under Coach Jacob Gruse.

Congratulations to Cave Spring on this hard-fought win. It was well-earned.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME SEARS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, we recognize the list of women who have contributed to moving the United States forward over the past 244 years.

I rise today to recognize one trailblazer in particular, Virginia's current Lieutenant Governor, Winsome Sears. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Lieutenant Governor Sears moved to the United States at the age of 6 and has since dedicated her life to serving others and her country.

Outside of politics, she ran a homeless shelter, provided ministry to prisoners, and spent 3 years wearing our Nation's uniform in the Marine Corps. It was also an honor to serve with Lieutenant Governor Sears in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Since entering public office, Lieutenant Governor Sears has served as a Presidential appointee to the United States Census Bureau, as a distinguished member of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans to the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as the vice president of the Virginia State Board of Education, and, as I mentioned, as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly.

Upon her swearing-in on January 15 of this year, she became the first female veteran to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and the first Black woman to hold statewide office in the Commonwealth.

We applaud the Lieutenant Governor's lifelong accomplishments and thank her for her service to her community, her Commonwealth, and her country.

HONORING ROSA LUCAS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local leader in public health, an exceptional community advocate, my constituent, and my friend, Rosa Lucas.

I first met Rosa during my freshman year at UCLA in 1991 while I was working at a farmworker health clinic. Ever since, I have admired her integrity, humility, selflessness, and passion for justice.

Rosa's story begins in Los Angeles, California, December 7, 1945. She spent her childhood in Beverly Hills before studying at UCLA-Berkeley and UCLA. In 1968, she graduated UCLA with her bachelor's in Spanish languages and literature. Shortly after, Rosa launched her career as a charge nurse of neurosurgical intensive care at the UCLA Health Sciences Center, eventually leading her to become a certified nurse practitioner in 1975.

Ten years later, she settled in our desert and began her work in the Coachella Valley.

Throughout her career, Rosa has worked to serve the poor, the marginalized, and the underserved. She has provided care to those most in need at rural and farmworker clinics like El Progreso del Desierto, Santa Rosa Del Valle Medical Group, Desert Hot Springs Arthritis and Medical Clinic, and the Borrego Springs Community Health Foundation. Now she works for Eisenhower Health Urgent Care Centers.

Rosa truly embodies what it means to think globally and act locally. She has devoted her life to addressing health disparities in our valley and has made it her goal to expand access to healthcare for our most vulnerable.

As a physician, I have seen her dedication to this mission firsthand. In the summer of 1996 during a summer fellowship as a medical student, Rosa taught me the well-child exam. I will never forget her passion to care for at-risk newborns, and I knew then that she would be a great partner in the fight for health and social justice.

Sure enough, in 2007 when I returned home from medical school, we saw patients together and provided free medical care to the poorest farmworker communities with the Flying Doctors.

Together, we joined the founding board of directors for a new nonprofit called Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine which is the only free clinic in the Coachella Valley that provides free healthcare to the medically underserved. In fact, we started the street medicine program and launched that in order to take care to the people and to the homeless under bridges, at the parks, and in the homeless camps. Wherever they find themselves, we took care to them, and she still does that.

□ 1015

In fact, Volunteers in Medicine was the first in the valley to implement the street medicine model during the pandemic. We took tests directly to our most vulnerable populations, including farmworkers and the homeless. This model later grew into a collaborative approach to vaccinating at-risk populations at work sites, schools, churches, and local trailer parks.

On top of that, Rosa feeds the hungry. She battled food insecurity throughout the pandemic, partnering with local organizations to coordinate food delivery for the hungry and the food insecure, partnering with local promotora organizations.

Rosa's compassion and incredible service have touched every corner of our communities. She has transformed care delivery in our desert and opened doors for many.

As a member of the clinical faculty at CSU San Bernardino, Palm Desert, and the UCR School of Medicine, Rosa has helped shape a new generation of healthcare providers. She has inspired our communities' young people on the advisory boards for the Head Start programs at Desert Sands Unified School District and Coachella Valley Unified School District.

For her outstanding service, Rosa has received numerous accolades, including the 2019 Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County, and most recently, the 2021 Hometown Heroes Award from the city of Coachella.

Rosa is relentless in her advocacy and never takes no for an answer when advocating for the medically underserved and her patients.

Rosa has been an incredible adviser to me and has had a profound impact on the entire Coachella Valley. In fact, I respect Rosa because she delivers. She delivers her heart, she delivers her mind, and she delivers food. She delivers tests, she delivers vaccines, and she delivers healthcare with every inch of her soul and body. Rosa delivers herself for the people.

We are all indebted to Rosa because she is the person who has led the charge for so many years and has been a consistent voice. When there was none, there was Rosa. When there was none, she provided care and delivery.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I thank Rosa for her incredible service. I am so privileged to have her in my life, and I am honored to call her a friend.

HOLDING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACCOUNTABLE

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 on behalf of the American taxpayer to clarify that the Federal workforce exists to serve them, not the other way around.

During the COVID pandemic, Americans faced uncertainties as businesses literally struggled to survive. While these Americans wondered whether or not they would receive the next paycheck, there was one group, Federal employees, who did not face these type of concerns. To the contrary, since President Biden took office, there has been a nonstop effort to ensure that Federal workers are treated like a protected, privileged class.

Democrats like to talk about the need to rehabilitate Federal workers after the Trump administration's so-called war on civil servants. That is absolutely ridiculous. The Democrats' road to recovery apparently includes shielding government workers, workers whose positions exist to serve the American people. The Democrats want to shield government workers from accountability; from any concern of discipline; from the obligation to actually perform the duties that they were hired to do; and from their duty to serve the elected Representatives of the people.

But guess what? Despite the claims of trauma during the Trump administration, Federal workers were happier during his time in office. Why? Simply because the Federal workers were held accountable.

Let's face it: No one likes working in a situation where you can't do anything about poor performers, where you can't do anything regarding people who simply refuse to actually do their jobs. The consequences of that type of environment is that the actual conscientious workers have to pick up the slack, which only adds to their own workloads and creates an extremely toxic work environment.

Nevertheless, Democrats want to continue the false narrative of an abused Federal workforce. They want to curry favor with the core union constituency by looking for as many ways as possible to increase pay and benefits, all under the name of making the Federal Government a model employer.

But model employers hold their workforce accountable. Model employers put the customer first. In this case, that is the American taxpayer. We don't hear any of this from the Democrats, but you do from the Republicans.

Today, along with a number of my Republican colleagues, I am introducing the Accountable Federal Employees Act, which codifies a suite of executive orders that President Trump issued, but, unfortunately, President Biden has repealed.

This bill includes a number of commonsense provisions, such as making sure Federal employees actually do their jobs rather than spend time on union activities. It makes sure that poor performers are held accountable. That is something even Federal employees say is sorely lacking in the workplace. It creates a process to ensure collective bargaining agreements are negotiated in a timely manner and in a way that looks out for the best interests of the American taxpayer. It makes sure that Federal employees in policy-making roles actually work to help implement the policies of the people who were actually elected to office.

This bill represents a platform of sanity and fairness in civil service policy and in the workforce of the Federal Government. Frankly, any serious effort to modernize the Federal workforce has to start with ensuring the best possible level of service for the American people. That is what this bill does. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

MAKING HEALTHCARE MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate our Nation's actions to make healthcare more affordable. Together, we provided more resources for the CDC and State and local health departments to ensure they are prepared and equipped, implementing lessons learned from the pandemic.

We confronted our most urgent health crises while taking strides to reduce unacceptable health disparities. We invested in our veterans, focusing on the mental health needs of those who served our Nation.

We strengthened biomedical research, providing more funding for the National Institutes of Health and establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health to cure the previously uncurable. We protected the safety of our food and medicine by funding the FDA.

The pandemic taught us that no one is safe unless everyone is safe. That is why we increased funding for global health, to work to prevent the next pandemic.

With this budget, Democrats are not only making healthcare more affordable for all Americans; we are building a healthier and safer Nation.

HELPING WORKING FAMILIES WITH THE COST OF LIVING

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the significant investments we enacted to help working families with the cost of living.

In a time of great uncertainty and change, people are living paycheck to paycheck or on fixed incomes. Many are struggling just to pay basic bills.

Our investments represent a lifeline for working families. By increasing funding for childcare, public schools, and providing high-quality job training, this bill gives more tools to help Americans succeed.

Government must serve the people, not the biggest corporations. We provided resources to small businesses and entrepreneurs as they pursue the American Dream. We invested to connect communities to the internet and expand access to affordable housing and homeownership. We strengthened our core services and tackled the root causes of rising prices.

One example is by providing $158 million to support the production and delivery of small- to medium-size manufacturers, helping detangle the supply chain and lower costs to consumers. We paid for it by cracking down on big corporations and the wealthiest who are not paying their fair share. This government funding legislation truly delivers for the people.

OUR SENIORS NEED HELP NOW

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, Martin Luther King famously said in a speech in Memphis that there is always a need to act, but especially, as he noted there at the time, with the fierce urgency of now.

The fierce urgency of now, as it relates to Social Security, has been underscored by a global pandemic, a global pandemic that has hit the world and our country especially hard.

More than 940,000 Americans have lost their lives. Of those who have perished, over 700,000 of them are over age 65. I bring this to the attention of the body because COVID has specifically underscored a problem that existed amongst our elderly before the outbreak of this international pandemic. Over 700,000 over the age of 65 have died. This is the same group that is worse hit by the effects of inflation.

As you know, Madam Speaker, everybody who is on a fixed income and has to marshal their resources understands how inflation can be crippling. All the more reason that we need to provide relief, and relief is on the way. Relief is on the way with the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act, currently in the process of being marked up in the Ways and Means Committee.

Our seniors need our help now, as they struggle both with COVID and as they struggle being on a fixed income.

The last time that the United States Congress did anything to enhance Social Security was more than 51 years ago. Richard Nixon was the President of the United States, and the cost of a gallon of milk was 72 cents.

A lot has transpired since then, but what hasn't taken place is Congress and its responsibility to make sure that Social Security keeps pace with the changes that are needed. The last time Congress did anything substantial with Social Security was 39 years ago, in 1983. It increased the solvency, but it did so by cutting benefits and taxing the elderly.

Social Security 2100 seeks to enhance benefits, that hasn't been done in more than 50 years, and eliminate a burdensome tax on people who have to work after they have retired in order to make ends meet.

I want to especially commend the Congressional Black Caucus and Mr. CLYBURN for their efforts in this area, underscoring, again, and knowing what happens to people of color.

As Mr. CLYBURN so eloquently says: Not only is it people of color, but people in rural America. All across the South and all across this country, rural Americans are forced to live on fixed incomes that haven't been adjusted in more than 50 years. In the midst of COVID and this inflation, they are the ones who are hurt the most.

Congress can no longer afford to kick the can down the road and, once again, not address the preeminent program that prevents the elderly from living in poverty and the preeminent program that prevents children from living in poverty. It is time for Congress to act. It is our responsibility to do so.

As the chair of the Subcommittee on Social Security on the Ways and Means Committee, I am proud that Chairman NEAL and our membership are moving this legislation forward and onto the floor. It wouldn't happen without the best efforts put forward by Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I commend JOYCE BEATTY for her efforts as well.

□ 1030

FARM BILL

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

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

If America is going to thrive, the people who feed, fuel, and clothe America must thrive.

The farm bill strengthens our country's national security because it strengthens our food security by supporting the tireless efforts of farmers, ranchers, and our agricultural producers.

Agriculture is a risky business, and Mother Nature can be a tough business partner. Almost no other American industry faces such volatility from forces like pests, disease, wind, drought, and fires like the ones in Reno County, Kansas, and Paradise, Kansas, over the last few months.

Natural disasters are make-or-break situations for the people who ensure that America remains the most food secure country in the world. That is why emergency programs within the farm bill are so critical.

The Livestock Indemnity Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish provide benefits to producers for livestock deaths caused by disease and adverse weather.

A veterinarian from Ashland, Kansas, told me that during the Starbuck fire back in 2017, to which he was an emergency responder, Clark County, Kansas, alone lost 6,000 to 9,000 head of cattle right at the beginning of calving season.

One producer suffered $1.8 million in cattle losses during this disaster. The Livestock Indemnity Program helped producers who lost cattle in this disaster put their livelihoods back together.

However, LIP only covered cattle mortality at the time, not severely injured cattle. Rather than watch badly injured cattle get euthanized just to trigger LIP program payments, this veterinarian helped make changes to the program that are still in place today which provide better protection for producers and their livestock.

These programs, and many more, are investments in the future of our country, and they must remain strong in the 2023 farm bill if America is going to remain food secure and self-determining as a Nation.

Natural disasters, diseases, and weather emergencies, unfortunately, do happen, and America cannot afford to have these factors cripple the businesses of the men and women who keep us fed, fueled, and clothed.

That is why we need to think carefully and critically about the degrees to which we support emergency programs within the 2023 farm bill.

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 Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America.

FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL PROJECTS IN ILLINOIS

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the bipartisan fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill becoming law, I am proud to have secured over $10 million to fund 10 projects in communities across northern Illinois.

These essential projects will reduce wait times for mental healthcare, upgrade infrastructure to ensure clean water, make college more affordable and accessible, support foster youth and families, and strengthen local emergency response and community safety.

Last summer, I visited many of the organizations that sponsor these projects to learn more about how these funds will impact Illinoisans. Independence Health & Therapy will receive $60,000 to expand tele-psychiatry hours and reduce wait times for mental health services in McHenry County.

The DeKalb County Regional Office of Education will receive $150,000 to expand the work of the DeKalb County Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative and provide quality early learning opportunities to residents of Sandwich, Sycamore, and Hinckley.

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission will receive nearly $1.4 million to prevent impending dam failure of the Sylvan Lake Dam and protect nearly 500 homes from flooding and damage.

The Kendall County CASA Program will receive $200,000 to establish a CASA clubhouse which will serve the growing foster youth population by providing a free, safe location for families to meet during court-ordered visitation.

McHenry County College will receive $825,000 to expand dual credit and dual degree programs, offering low-cost college credits to high schoolers across McHenry County.

The Wauconda Fire Protection District will receive $36,000 to replace a 28-year-old natural gas emergency backup generator to power the fire station's emergency operations center, which provides essential services to the 40,000 residents in Lake and McHenry Counties.

And over $7.5 million is being directed to critical water infrastructure projects to ensure safe, clean, and sustainable drinking water for residents of Joliet, Pingree Grove, and Richmond.

From day one, I have worked hard to bring the voices of the 14th District to Congress. And as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, I will continue to ensure that our communities' priorities are reflected within Federal funding.

These projects will create jobs and improve the well-being of our communities, and I am so proud to deliver this $10.5 million investment to my constituents.

This month, the House passed the bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act which would expand healthcare for 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and an original co-sponsor of the bill, I am proud to champion this historic legislation.

Simply put, the Honoring our PACT Act is a full accounting for the true cost of war. When our servicemembers signed up to defend our country and our freedoms, we made a promise to care for them when they returned home. For too long, we failed to keep that promise.

By passing this bill, we are upholding our end of the pact and ensuring every veteran has access to the care they deserve.

The Senate must pass this comprehensive toxic exposure legislation swiftly. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

PROCEEDINGS OF ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY OF UKRAINE

The following proceedings were held in the Capitol Visitor Center before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY OF UKRAINE

The SPEAKER. Good morning. Good morning, Mr. President. Good morning, Madam Ambassador, who is with us this morning, Madam Ambassador Markarova.

Mr. President, it is my honor to present to you the Congress of the United States, which has great respect and admiration and appreciation for your courageous leadership.

Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and distinct honor of presenting to you the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

My colleagues, Slava Ukraini. Glory to Heroes.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President ZELENSKYY (Speaking in Ukrainian). Thank you very much. Madam Speaker, Members of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen, Americans, friends, I am proud to greet you from Ukraine, from our capital city of Kyiv, a city that is under missile and airstrikes from Russian troops every day, but it doesn't give up. And we have not even thought about it for a second, just like many other cities and communities in our beautiful country which found themselves in the worst war since World War II.

I have the honor to greet you on behalf of the Ukrainian people, brave and freedom-loving people who, for 8 years, have been resisting the Russian aggression; those who give their best sons and daughters to stop this full-scale Russian invasion.

Right now, the destiny of our country is being decided, the destiny of our people, whether Ukrainians will be free, whether they will be able to preserve their democracy.

Russia has attacked not just us, not just our land, not just our cities. It went on a brutal offensive against our values, basic human values.

It threw tanks and planes against our freedom, against our right to live freely in our own country, choosing our own future; against our desire for happiness; against our national dreams, just like the same dreams you have, you, Americans, just like anyone else in the United States.

I remember your national memorial at Mount Rushmore, the faces of your prominent Presidents, those who laid the foundation of the United States of America as it is today: democracy; independence; freedom; and care for everyone, for every person, for everyone who works diligently, who lives honestly, who respects the law. We in Ukraine want the same for our people. All that is a normal part of your own life.

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Americans: In your great history, you have pages that would allow you to understand Ukrainians. Understand us now, when we need you right now.

Remember Pearl Harbor, the terrible morning of December 7, 1941, when your sky was black from the planes attacking you. Just remember it.

Remember September 11, a terrible day in 2001 when evil tried to turn your cities and independent territories into battlefields, when innocent people were attacked from the air, yes. Just like nobody else expected it, you could not stop it.

Our country experiences the same every day. Right now, at this moment, every night for 3 weeks now, in various Ukrainian cities: Odessa, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsya, Mariupol, and Dnipro. Russia has turned the Ukrainian sky into a source of death for thousands of people.

Russian troops have already fired nearly 1,000 missiles at Ukraine, countless bombs. They use drones to kill us with precision. This is a terror that Europe has not seen for 80 years, and we are asking for a reply, for an answer to this terror from the whole world.

Is this a lot to ask for, to create a no-fly zone over Ukraine to save people? Is this too much to ask, a humanitarian no-fly zone, something that Russia would not be able to terrorize our free cities?

If this is too much to ask, we offer an alternative. You know what kind of defense systems we need, S–300 and other similar systems. You know how much depends on the battlefield, on the ability to use aircraft, powerful, strong aviation to protect our people, our freedom, our land, aircraft that can help Ukraine help Europe. And you know that they exist, and you have them, but they are on Earth, not in the Ukrainian sky. They do not defend our people.

''I have a dream.'' These words are known to each of you. Today, I can say, I have a need. I need to protect our sky. I need your decision, your help, which means exactly the same, the same you feel when you hear the words, ''I have a dream.''

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, Ukraine is grateful to the United States for its overwhelming support for everything that your government and your people have done for us: for weapons and ammunition; for training; for finances; for leadership in the free world, which helps us to pressure the aggressor economically.

I am grateful to President Biden for his personal involvement, for his sincere commitment to the defense of Ukraine and democracy all over the world. I am grateful to you for the resolution which recognizes all those who commit crimes against Ukraine, against the Ukrainian people, as war criminals.

However, now, it is true, in the darkest time for our country, for the whole Europe, I call on you to do more. New packages of sanctions are needed constantly, every week until the Russian military machine stops.

Restrictions are needed for everyone on whom this unjust regime is based. We propose that the United States sanction all politicians in the Russian Federation who remain in their offices and do not cut ties with those who are responsible for the aggression against Ukraine, from State Duma members to the last official who has the lack of morals to break the state terror.

All American companies must leave Russia from their market. Leave their market immediately because it is flooded with our blood.

Ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, please take the lead. If you have companies in your districts who finance the Russian military machine leaving business in Russia, you should put pressure. I am asking to make sure that the Russians do not receive a single penny that they use to destroy people in Ukraine, the destruction of our country, the destruction of Europe.

All American ports should be closed for Russian goods. Peace is more important than income, and we have to defend this principle in the whole world.

We already became part of the antiwar coalition, the big antiwar coalition that unites many countries, dozens of countries, those who reacted in principle to President Putin's decision to invade our country. But we need to move on and do more.

We need to create new tools to respond quickly and stop the war, the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24. And it would be fair if it ended in a day, in 24 hours, that evil would be punished immediately.

Today, the world does not have such tools. The wars of the past have prompted our predecessors to create institutions that should protect us from war, but they, unfortunately, don't work. We see it; you see it. So, we need new ones, new institutions, new alliances, and we offer them.

We propose to create an association. U24, United for Peace, a union of responsible countries that have the strength and consciousness to stop conflicts immediately, to provide all the necessary assistance in 24 hours: if necessary, even weapons; if necessary, sanctions, humanitarian support, political support, finances, everything you need to keep the peace and quickly save the world to save lives.

In addition, such an association, such a union, could provide assistance to those who are experiencing natural disasters, man-made disasters, who fall victim to humanitarian crises or epidemics. Remember how difficult it was for the world to do the simplest thing just to give vaccines, vaccines against COVID, to save lives, to prevent new strains. The world spent months, years, doing things like that much faster to make sure there are no human losses, no victims.

Ladies and gentlemen, Americans, if such an alliance would exist today—that is, U24—we would be able to save thousands of lives in our country, in many countries of the world, those who need peace, those who suffer inhumane destruction.

I ask you to watch one video, a video of what the Russian troops did in our country, in our land. We have to stop it. We must prevent it, preemptively destroy every single aggressor who seeks to subjugate other nations. Please watch the video.

(Video Presentation.)

President ZELENSKYY. And in the end, to sum it up, today it is not enough to be the leader of the nation. Today it takes to be the leader of the world. Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace. Peace in your country doesn't depend anymore only on you and your people. It depends on those next to you and those who are strong.

Strong doesn't mean big. Strong is brave and ready to fight for the lives of his citizens and citizens of the world; for human rights, for freedom, for the right to live decently and to die when your time comes and not when it is wanted by someone else, by your neighbor.

Today, the Ukrainian people are defending not only Ukraine. We are fighting for the values of Europe and the world, sacrificing our lives in the name of the future.

That is why, today, the American people are helping not just Ukraine but Europe and the world to keep the planet alive, to keep justice in history.

Now, I am almost 45 years old. Today, my age stopped when the hearts of more than 100 children stopped beating.

I see no sense in life if it cannot stop the deaths, and this is my main mission as the leader of my people, the great Ukrainians. And as the leader of my nation, I am addressing President Biden: You are the leader of the Nation, of your great Nation. I wish you to be the leader of the world. Being the leader of the world means to be the leader of peace. Thank you.

Slava Ukraini. Glory to Ukraine.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

□ 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:

In You, O Lord our God, we take refuge. Give shelter to those who are pursued this day and deliver them. Rescue those whose cities are being torn apart, those men, women, and children who are being torn away from home and hearth, family and security.

As we consider the adversities of the people around the globe, sights of which are in such contrast to anything we could have possibly imagined or considered, call us to arms.

In addition to the policies we craft, the decisions we make, and the negotiations we attempt, we wield the most powerful weapon You have given every lawmaker and every citizen: our prayers.

So, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. Rise up, O Lord, in Your anger. Lift Yourself up against the fury of the enemies. Exact Your judgment on those who conceive evil, who give birth to disillusionment. Let the evil of the wicked come to an end.

Then by Your grace, establish the righteous. Provide deep resolve and faithfulness in the hearts of the persecuted that they would remain strong in You.

Be their shield. Save the upright in heart and preserve the innocent from harm.

O Lord most high, we depend on Your righteousness. And in the strength of Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the 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.

CREATE A RESPECTFUL AND OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL HAIR

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the CROWN Act, Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, H.R. 2116, which I urge this body to pass this Friday in the House.

I stand in support for all the girls and women who need the freedom to be who God made them, to be their beautiful selves from the tips of their toes to every twist, wave, and coil of their beautiful hair.

Fifty-three percent of Black mothers, whose daughters have experienced hair discrimination, say their daughters experienced the discrimination as early as 5 years old.

Eighty-six percent of Black teens who have experienced hair discrimination state that they experienced it by the age of 12. Trauma means that teenage girls are missing a week of school per year due to their hair dissatisfaction.

As a small girl, I remember after school telling my mother about a man joking about my perfectly coifed, round Afro. Her lioness reaction gave me the strength to endure microaggressions I received when I wore my hair in locs, then cornrows or braids as an adult.

These biases continue to perpetuate unfair scrutiny, and I stand and ask you all to stand with me for my daughter and for others like her to be their most glorious selves.

PRESIDENT ZELENSKYY IS A WAR HERO

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was grateful to attend the joint session of Congress today to hear directly from the valiant Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He is a world hero for freedom and democracy.

Courageous Ukrainians will always be cherished as they protect rule of law over rule by gun by authoritarians in a worldwide conflict.

On Tuesday, President Zelenskyy clarified the war is not against Russian citizens. Putin is the mass murderer. President Zelenskyy called for Russian soldiers to surrender, and I have offered a bipartisan bill in Congress to reward Russian defectors with expedited refugee status to the United States, with up to $100,000 for Russian equipment turned over to Ukraine.

In the congressional address today, President Zelenskyy cited Mount Rushmore for its busts of American Founders, and I have a bipartisan bill in Congress for a bust of President Zelenskyy to be placed in the U.S. Capitol, in the tradition of Churchill, Havel, and Kossuth.

God bless Ukraine. God save Ukraine. Long live President Zelenskyy.

SALUTING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, this morning, Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, had the high privilege and distinct honor of hearing directly from the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In the face of Russia's cruel and unprovoked invasion, the President's fearless, heroic leadership has rallied his Nation and inspired the entire world.

Our Members were very moved by his powerful remarks today, as well as the heart-wrenching footage he shared showing Putin's inhumane terror, brutally committing war crimes against children.

As President Zelenskyy said: ''Right now, the destiny of our country is being decided . . . Russia has attacked not just us, not just our land, not just our cities. It went on a brutal offensive against our values—basic human values.''

Indeed, all are in awe of the extraordinary courage and determination of the Ukrainian people as they defend democracy, not only at home but democracy around the world.

It is with great respect for the Ukrainian people, and in recognition of the grave threat that Russian aggression poses to the free world, that Congress secured $13.6 billion in humanitarian, security, and economic assistance for Ukraine in the government funding law that President Biden signed yesterday.

But more needs to be done for the refugees and for the protection of the people. I hope that all of this can be done in a bipartisan way.

So I join my colleague in saluting the people of Ukraine. Slava Ukraini. That means ''Glory to Ukraine.'' Glory to the heroes of Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, and in coordination with the Administration and our Allies, we have taken strong, bipartisan action to cripple and isolate the Russian economy:

Strangling its banks and taking on the oligarchs funding this war;

Banning the import of oil and energy products into the United States, cutting off the lifeblood of the Russian economy;

Taking first steps to remove Russia from the WTO; and

Reauthorizing Global Magnitsky so we can impose further sanctions.

This week, the House will take our latest, most intense action yet: revoking the privilege of permanent normal trade relations from Russia.

It is my hope that, when it comes to the floor, this legislation receives overwhelming bipartisan support, worthy of the valor and heroism of the Ukrainian people.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY OF UKRAINE

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that proceedings during the address by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, held in the Capitol Visitor Center Congressional Auditorium on March 16, 2022, be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE LUMPKIN COUNTY LADY INDIANS BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2022 Georgia High School Association 3A State champions, the Lumpkin County Lady Indians girls' basketball team.

After trailing behind in the third quarter, the Lady Indians defeated the Greater Atlanta Spartans girls' basketball team 51–47, winning their 28th consecutive game and securing their first championship title in school history.

These talented young women, led by head coach David Dowse, fought till the very end, showing incredible athleticism, strength, and determination.

Congratulations to the Lumpkin County Lady Indians girls' basketball team on a spectacular win and an exciting new title. Georgia's Ninth District is proud of them.

SUPPORTING STARBUCKS WORKERS

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I am back once again to talk about the people who brought you the $8 cup of coffee, Starbucks.

Since I last spoke on the floor, a couple things have changed. The $20 million man, Kevin Johnson, has resigned. I think that is a good thing. Now, Howard Schultz is back, the former CEO and chairman.

But plenty hasn't changed. They still send those corporate representatives to the stores to intimidate the young workers. They subject the workers to

captive listening sessions. When that doesn't work, they fire their employees. Five hundred bucks an hour for an antiunion lawyer to go in and fire a $13-an-hour worker. Wow. After what they did in the pandemic, this is what we are seeing.

Howard, do the right thing. Respect your workers. Give them a voice in the workplace. Let them vote on the union.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Small Business Development Center Day. SBDC Day unites nearly 1,000 Small Business Development Centers across the country and the hundreds of thousands of clients they serve.

Pennsylvania is lucky to have 16 SBDCs across our Commonwealth, and they are ready to assist entrepreneurs and small business owners with the knowledge and tools needed to make smart decisions and prosper.

The Pennsylvania SBDCs are a public-private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and 16 universities and colleges.

Small Business Development Centers are there to provide resources for entrepreneurs of all ages and backgrounds, from underserved communities to veterans.

Madam Speaker, I grew up working for my family's small sporting goods business. I know firsthand the drive, dedication, and determination it takes to succeed.

If you are a small business owner, entrepreneur, or are looking to get started, be sure to check out a Small Business Development Center near you.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, last week marked the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the American Rescue Plan.

The American Rescue Plan was the bold and necessary action we needed to take to put us on the path of economic recovery. This was the boost our country needed to get shots in arms, Americans back to work, and money back in the pockets of working families.

Despite unprecedented challenges, the Biden administration has led our Nation to record economic growth, including the largest job creation in American history. In President Biden's first year, over 7.4 million jobs were added to the economy. Also, growth is up, wages are up, and unemployment is down. But we know we still face inflationary times.

President Biden and Democrats are also acting to fix supply chains and taking strong steps to boost competition, strengthen U.S. manufacturing, create good-paying jobs, and lower everyday costs. We are working towards building a better America and delivering for America's working families.

□ 1215

BAN HAIR DISCRIMINATION THROUGH THE CROWN ACT

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

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the CROWN Act. This long-overdue legislation would finally ban hair discrimination in schools, in the workplace, and in other public spaces.

No worker should be denied employment because of their natural hair. No child should be sent home from school because they choose to wear protective hairstyles like Bantu knots or braids.

Discrimination against Black hair has been and always will be a form of racism. Every person deserves to be their true, authentic self, and crowns of all types should be embraced.

I was proud to wear braids on the day of my swearing-in, just as I am proud to wear braids as I speak on the House floor today.

It is time to end hair discrimination in America. It is time to pass the CROWN Act.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 963, FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT OF 2022, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2116, CREATING A RESPECTFUL AND OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL HAIR ACT OF 2021

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 979 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 979

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 963) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration. 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 the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-34 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 the Judiciary 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. 2116) to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair. 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 the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–36 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), 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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, the Rules Committee met on and reported a rule, House Resolution 979, providing for consideration of H.R. 963, the FAIR Act, under a structured rule. It provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It makes in order one amendment and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 2116, the CROWN Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary and provides one motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, the bills we discuss today have to do with fundamental American values.

The first bill under this rule, the FAIR Act, simply restores the right of individuals to have their day in court.

It prevents the use of forced arbitration clauses in consumer and employment contracts.

Most likely, all of us have signed a contract with a forced arbitration clause, and many may not even know it. How many Americans have read their cell phone contract? How many have read their credit card contract?

Too many consumer contracts are written to protect the pockets of corporations, leaving consumers at the mercy of a system created by, paid by, and focused on minimizing liabilities of corporate companies.

These documents are dozens of pages long, and most contain clauses that require arbitration in case of a legal dispute and prevent the consumer from going to court as an alternative. There is no negotiation or choice.

Ask yourselves, if you saw something that you objected to in a contract for your cell phone, what option do you have to change it? The answer is no choice at all.

That is why this is called forced arbitration, and these requirements game the system in favor of one party, large corporations. If there is a dispute, corporations get to pick the location of arbitration, and in many cases, it is out of State; pick the arbitrator; and pay for them. Yes, the impartial arbitrator, who depends on corporate contractors, is paid for by the corporation. And corporations get to shield the results from the public. Imagine that.

The FAIR Act stops this harmful and abusive behavior. It bans forced arbitration clauses in employment, civil rights, and consumer disputes.

Congress just passed legislation that changed this process for disputes involving sexual harassment. However, there are tens of millions of Americans who are still affected by forced arbitration in other contexts, and this legislation provides those same protections to them as well.

Ensuring fairness under the law is at the center of the second bill being considered under this rule, the CROWN Act. This bill would ensure that discrimination based on race is not masked as discrimination about hairstyles.

This is legislation that we passed by a voice vote last Congress with no objection from the other side. But this year, Republicans decided that something had changed—not with the legislation, but with their Conference—since they objected to the consideration of this bill under suspension.

The CROWN Act simply clarifies what studies have shown, that oftentimes women, particularly Black women, are discriminated against based on their natural hair.

Courts have rejected previous guidance finding that discrimination on the basis of hairstyle or hair texture is a violation of the Civil Rights Act. So, this legislation simply makes these protections clear, that you cannot discriminate on the basis of a person's hair texture or hairstyle if that style or texture is commonly associated with a particular race or national origin.

I believe that both of these bills will help to make our legal system more fair for every single one of us. I urge passage of the rule and these bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I thank the Representative from California for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are here to discuss H.R. 2116, which would clarify that it is a Federal crime to discriminate based on an individual's hair. But we are also here to discuss H.R. 963, the FAIR Act, which bans arbitration clauses in private contracts.

H.R. 963 makes it clear: The intention is to remove arbitration as a legal tool for the American people while preserving arbitration with an exemption for labor unions. The belief is that the American people need Washington watching over their private contracts. I assure you, those in Minnesota's Seventh District do not need them.

The bill purports to ban forced arbitration. This is misleading rhetoric. Forced or involuntary agreements are already illegal. So, what would this bill really do?

It would insert the Federal Government into the private contracts of citizens and remove their ability to settle disputes outside of the courtroom through predispute arbitration agreements.

This bill pretends to empower plaintiffs, but by voiding arbitration clauses in the context outlined in the bill, it would effectively end most arbitration entirely, even when that arbitration would benefit those most impacted.

Because the bill fundamentally changes an arbitration clause from a mutual commitment to use an alternative dispute resolution method into a one-sided election for an injured party, contracts will be far less likely to include the option to arbitrate.

If parties cannot agree in advance to arbitrate, the plaintiff may never have access to arbitration. These unintended consequences will have real-life implications, especially for those who lack deep pockets and do not have the possibility of a high-dollar settlement that some of the more affluent individuals do.

Democrats are also ignoring how arbitration is generally a good way to resolve disputes. They seem to assume that all arbitration is secret, that arbitration automatically keeps individuals from going to the authorities or publicizing their experiences. But agreeing to resolve a case outside of court is different than agreeing to silence.

That distinction matters here because much of the push for this bill comes from concern about secrecy rather than whether justice can be served in the arbitration context. And despite that emphasis, the bill does not actually address confidentiality or nondisclosure agreements.

□ 1230

Additionally, arbitration is often less expensive and more efficient than litigation. It tends to be less adversarial, which allows parties to continue doing business together after the dispute is resolved. That is why so many Americans choose to enter into contracts with arbitration clauses in them.

Voting for this rule is a vote for a bill empowering Washington to micromanage the business life of Americans. Voting for this rule is to take away freedoms from Americans. Congress should stand ready to improve the legal system, and we must make sure that whatever we do will actually be an improvement for the American people.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the rule and the underlying bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am going to share three stories from hardworking Americans.

Connie Nagrampa, a California resident, started working as a franchisee for a marketing company. The company cheated her out of her investments, her life investments. When she tried to seek accountability, they forced her into arbitration.

The company, conveniently enough for them, chose to move the arbitration process across the country to the city of Boston. A California resident was expected to fly herself and pay for all of her expenses to Boston to seek justice. It was too expensive, obviously, for somebody who has just lost her life savings. She lost the arbitration as a result, and the arbitrator said she had to pay more money to the company. Connie spent years attempting to overturn that unjust cause.

Now let me tell you about a brave American Navy reservist, Lieutenant Commander Kevin Ziober, whose employer fired him the same day he was deployed to Afghanistan. This is blatantly illegal under Federal law. But because the employer had forced all of their employees to sign a forced arbitration clause, he was unable to make his claim in Federal court and get his job back.

That is what they are defending.

Let me tell you about another brave military servicemember, Charles Beard, whose rights under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, SCRA, were violated by his bank.

SCRA is a bipartisan law which provides financial and legal protections to servicemembers and their families when they are on Active Duty. This is especially important given how vulnerable Active Duty servicemembers can be to predatory lending schemes, identity theft, or other unfair financial practices when they are deployed or on Active Duty.

Mr. Beard is a former sergeant in the Army National Guard, now 100 percent VA disabled. When he was on tour in Iraq, his wife at the time and their five children relied on one vehicle. One day the bank decided to repossess that vehicle. It was no longer convenient to keep that loan open for somebody risking their life for us, our country.

This, too, was a violation of the Federal law SCRA because he was deployed. When he tried to hold the bank publicly accountable in court, he was forced into arbitration because of a forced arbitration clause buried in the fine print.

These are just three stories of hardworking Americans. These are the stories of real people that we need to stand up for and protect.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS' and Congressman WESTERMAN's American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

I ask unanimous consent to include the text of my amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous materials immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, while the majority is continuing their agenda of misguided woke policies, constituents in my district continue to send me photos of their energy bills and prices they are paying at the pump.

Since President Biden took office, gasoline prices are up more than 50 percent, natural gas is up more than 25 percent, and diesel fuel is up more than 47 percent. These price increases are on top of crippling, unprecedented inflation. They are attacks on Americans of every stripe, class, and creed.

When adjusted for these factors, wages and salaries are actually below prepandemic levels. My constituents are pleading with the majority to focus on this issue rather than the idealism filled with Green New Deal pipe dreams.

To further explain the amendment, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the previous question so that we can amend the rule to immediately consider H.R. 6858, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

We are on the House floor today because House Democrats have decided to bring up yet another bill to benefit their special interests instead of dealing with the number one pocketbook issue facing the American people. That is energy affordability and reliability.

The world is at the brink of war, and Americans are suffering from higher prices not only at the gas pump, but in every part of American life because when energy becomes more expensive, everything else does as well.

Recent news reports show that Democrat Members of this body are asking the President to declare a climate emergency and halt energy production on Federal lands entirely.

The Transportation Secretary—this is hard to believe—tells Americans to stop complaining about high gas prices and buy electric vehicles that cost nearly twice as much as the median wage in this country. He might as well have yelled, ''Let them eat cake.''

Energy security is national security and increasing our energy security should be the number one priority in Congress today instead of finding new ways to enrich trial lawyers.

Representative CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS' bill, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act, of which I am an original cosponsor, is a critical step we must take to reverse President Biden's anti-American energy policies that have emboldened Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine. As he fought to keep American energy in the ground, our reliance on foreign oil grew, and here we are, more reliant on foreign sources today.

Last year, I stood on the floor of this House and talked about the flawed decision by President Joe Biden to lift sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, further tying European nations to Russian sources of energy; primarily natural gas, which burns dirtier than American gas.

In addition, given the resources we have here in the United States, we should never buy oil and gas from Russia. That puts American consumer dollars right in the pocket of one of the richest men in the world, Vladimir Putin. He is laughing all the way to the bank and now, sadly, all the way to Ukraine.

Russian oil imports reached an 11-year high last year in the United States, which cost American consumers $17.5 billion.

The McMorris Rodgers' bill would immediately approve the Keystone XL pipeline, remove all restrictions on LNG exports, restart oil and gas leasing on Federal lands and waters, and require the Biden administration to submit to this Congress an energy security plan to reduce energy and gas prices for all Americans.

Despite President Biden's deflection, this isn't Putin's price hike. Gas prices were already up 55 percent from the day Biden took office, and this was before Russia invaded Ukraine.

If you Democrats are going to keep telling lies about American energy using TikTok actors to push these lies, I am going to keep telling the truth about what policies are failing American families.

This attack on American energy started during President Biden's campaign for President. Putin watched as Biden vowed to eliminate fossil fuel production in the U.S. during the 2019 Presidential debate, canceled the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office, and halted all new oil and gas leases on Federal lands.

Biden's war on American energy knows no limits. This does not have to be our reality, folks. The President and the Democrat majority could take immediate steps both to strengthen our energy security and reduce prices at the pump for American families.

And hear this: America, the United States, has led the world in emissions reductions. You all don't want to acknowledge that. The President has completely sold out the environmental left, whose Green New Deal policies have caused consumers to pay an average of nearly $4.50 per gallon at the pump, the highest cost in United States history, and still these costs are rising.

Further, many of these environmental NGOs pushing the Green New Deal policies are funded by Vladimir Putin himself to ensure our dependence on Russian energy and kill American energy development.

The United States is blessed with abundant natural resources, but we are cursed with liberal politicians who refuse to allow Americans to benefit from them. They also refuse to let our allies benefit. There are currently six, Madam Speaker, six LNG export terminal permit requests at the Department of Energy. Zero have been approved. Even during President Obama's time, more LNG export terminals were approved.

If Democrats really were interested in cutting Putin's leverage, they would be focused on increasing U.S. exports to Europe because European nations have 40 percent of Europe's energy supply coming from Russia. The reality is, they would rather sell their Green New Deal ideology while lining the pockets of tyrants in the Kremlin, Iran, and Venezuela. American consumers are paying these tyrants.

Europe and the rest of the world needs American energy leadership at this time. Drill more. Export now. Cut off that money pipeline to Vladimir Putin.

Let's flip the switch and vote on the American Energy Independence from Russia Act to unleash American energy production and security.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question so the House can immediately consider this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we are supposed to be debating two very important bills to help Americans continue to thrive in this great country, but instead my colleagues across the aisle want to debate

about something that they know is incorrect.

There are over 9,000 approved drilling permits the oil industry is not using. And the truth is that changes in domestic energy policy often take years to impact global energy markets. They know that.

But instead, what is happening here is oil companies are using Putin's war as an excuse to jack up prices at the pump even more, and then they argue for looser regulations, cheaper drilling, and more pollution.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a March 4, 2022, opinion article from The Guardian written by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA entitled ''Oil and Gas Lobbyists are Using Ukraine to Push for a Drilling Free-for-All in the U.S.''

[From the Guardian, Mar. 4, 2022]

OIL AND GAS LOBBYISTS ARE USING UKRAINE TO PUSH FOR A DRILLING FREE-FOR-ALL IN THE US

(By Raúl M. Grijalva)

Last week, we all watched in horror as Vladimir Putin launched a deadly, catastrophic attack on Ukraine, violating international treaties across the board. Most of us swiftly condemned his actions and pledged support for the Ukrainian people whose country, homes and lives are under attack.

But the fossil-fuel industry had a different take. They saw an opportunity—and a shameless one at that—to turn violence and bloodshed into an oil and gas propaganda-generating scheme. Within hours, industry-led talking points were oozing into press releases, social media and opinion pieces, telling us the key to ending this crisis is to immediately hand US public lands and waters over to fossil-fuel companies and quickly loosen the regulatory strings.

Our top priority must be ending Putin's hostilities, but as chair of the US House committee on natural resources, I feel duty-bound to set the record straight. We can't let the fossil-fuel industry scare us into a domestic drilling free-for-all that is neither economically warranted nor environmentally sound.

Despite industry's claims to the contrary, President Biden has not hobbled US oil and gas development. In fact, much to my deep disappointment and protest, this administration actually approved more US drilling permits per month in 2021 than President Trump did during each of the first three years of his presidency. Before the pandemic, oil and gas production from public lands and waters reached an all-time high, and the current administration has done little to change that trajectory over the last 13 months.

Fossil-fuel companies and their backers in Congress also profess that more drilling on public lands and waters would lower gas prices for Americans. But if that's true, why hasn't record oil extraction from both federal and non-federal lands over the last decade done anything to consistently lower, or at least stabilize, prices at the pump?

The fact is that crude oil is a volatile global commodity. Worldwide supply, demand, and unpredictable events—like wars—influence the price of gas, not the current administration's decision to approve a few new leases or permits.

Even if we take industry's claims at face value, nothing is keeping fossil-fuel companies from more drilling on public lands right now. The oil industry already controls at least 26m acres of public land and is sitting on more than 9,000 approved drilling permits they're not using.

They have a similarly gratuitous surplus offshore, where nearly 75% of their active federal oil and gas leases, covering over 8m acres, have yet to produce a single drop. Any new leases issued today wouldn't produce anything of value for years, or even decades in some cases.

If industry did start to ramp up production from federal leases, the overall increase to the total US supply would likely be marginal. In 2020, public lands and waters only accounted for 22% and 11% of oil and gas production, respectively. The vast majority of oil and gas resources are beneath state and private lands—not public lands or federal waters.

With the facts laid bare, we see the fossil-fuel industry's crocodile tears for what they are—the same old demands for cheaper leases and looser regulations they've been peddling for decades. These pleas have nothing to do with countering Putin's invasion or stabilizing gas prices, and everything to do with making oil and gas development as easy and profitable as possible.

The US is the world's top oil and gas producer. Doubling down on fossil fuels is a false solution that only perpetuates the problems that got us here in the first place.

And quite frankly, we can't afford to maintain the status quo. In its newest report the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its most dire warning yet on the rapidly accelerating climate crisis. If we fail to enact major mitigation efforts, like curbing fossil-fuel development, both quickly and substantially, we will ''miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all''.

Fortunately, there is a path forward that simultaneously cuts the lifeline to fossil-fuel despots like Putin, stabilizes energy prices here at home, and creates a safer, more sustainable planet. We must wean ourselves off our oil and gas dependence and make transformational investments in cleaner renewable energy technologies, like those in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Build Back Better Act and the Competes Act, and we must do it now.

The fossil-fuel industry has had hold of the microphone for far too long. It's time we let the facts speak for themselves.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, if my colleagues were so concerned about oil prices or the welfare and security of humanity in the crisis that is happening in Ukraine, maybe they should have stepped up and inquired about the five meetings that the previous administration held in secret without staff, only a translator, with Vladimir Putin.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, under the Trump administration, the U.S. became a net exporter of petroleum for the first time since 1958.

Under President Biden's leadership, starting with the revocation of the Keystone XL pipeline, the U.S. is back to being a net importer of petroleum and is expected to continue through this year. This is unacceptable, and our constituents are paying dearly for it.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I oppose the previous question so that we can, instead, consider the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

In recent weeks, we have all seen Europe struggle to navigate its dependence on Russian energy. It is terrible to be beholden to, to be dependent on an adversary. And so, like so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I pushed to ban Russian energy imports into this country, and I am grateful that we have done that.

But rather than look to other countries to fill that gap, we should be looking here at home. The resources that we need for energy security are already located right here. Now, yes, of course, renewables will play an important role, but so will North American oil and gas.

The President made a terrible decision on day one to cancel the Keystone XL project. But this bill will move us back in the right direction by, once again, allowing the permitting and the leasing of oil, gas, and mineral development on Federal lands and waters.

Developing a plan for that energy security, which this bill would also do, to better utilize North American oil and gas, it would reduce prices; it would increase energy security; and it would increase national security as a result.

Now, of course my colleague on the other side of the aisle is right. Passing this bill would not reduce energy prices overnight. But the reality is, the second best time to plant a tree is today. The second best time to make this kind of an investment in energy security would be right now.

We did miss too much time. We lost too much time during the first year of the Biden administration, but we can get it right now. And doing that doesn't just bear security benefits, it is also cleaner.

Giving the world an opportunity to displace dirty Russian oil with 23 percent cleaner North American oil would save the equivalent of 100 million cars' worth of emissions. We can do that. Our stuff is cleaner.

And so, Madam Speaker, we know that we can build a cleaner, a better, a safer energy future, and we can do it by focusing right here at home, and that is what H.R. 6858 would do.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, every action the Biden administration has taken since Keystone's cancelation has increased our foreign dependency on oil. June 2021, 5 months after canceling Keystone, the Biden administration suspends leasing of ANWR. Three months later, the White House calls on OPEC to boost oil production. Two months after that, the Biden administration stopped efforts to modernize the NEPA permitting process for domestic extraction.

Every action this majority has taken is directly responsible for the prices

consumers are seeing today. Fortunately, the solution to this problem is very simple.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, for my colleagues to continue to advance this narrative that there are some 9,000 permits out there waiting to be drilled demonstrates the naivete of the oil and gas industry and it is just, frankly, disingenuous.

And to make the statement that Vladimir Putin is responsible for the skyrocketing cost of gasoline, what a joke. Gasoline was going up before Russia ever invaded Ukraine because of President Biden's policies.

Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question so we can immediately consider H.R. 6858, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act. I was proud to work on this legislation with Ranking Member RODGERS and the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Madam Speaker, we all saw it today, President Zelenskyy pleading with the United States and the West to do more to punish Russia for these atrocities and halt Putin's assault on innocent Ukrainians.

It is obvious that the United States and Europe need to do more. But sadly, more, much more, could have been done before this invasion, and I believe it could have all been avoided.

Madam Speaker, you will hear a lot today that energy security is national security. Well, ain't that the truth.

Our European allies, after years of rushing to green, weather-dependent, unreliable energy, and shutting down their own energy resources, have come to learn this the hard way. Their green priorities led them to greater and greater dependence on Russia, to the point that they could do virtually nothing as Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine.

Let's not make the same mistake here in America. We can't make our energy supply and the energy supply of our allies dependent on some of the worst people in the world.

This legislation would put us on a better path. It would restart the Keystone XL pipeline; reopen our Federal lands and waters to access our abundant natural resources; and it also includes a provision, legislation that I authored, to cut the red tape and unleash American liquefied natural gas exports, which our allies in Europe are currently clamoring for; ultimately, to get out from under the boot of Putin's energy dominance.

There is still time to make things right, Madam Speaker, so I am urging this Chamber to consider H.R. 6858 immediately.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, the prices American consumers are paying at the pump is directly affected by how much oil is produced domestically. Canceling American oil production jobs, while seeking it from dictators, is not only nonsensical, but it also is against our national interest.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOODEN).

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the previous question so we can immediately consider legislation to force President Biden to restore our energy independence.

The United States was the largest producer of oil and gas in the world under President Trump. In less than a year, President Biden has destroyed our energy sector, created the highest gas prices in American history, and crippled our economy in the process.

There is no logic to this administration's refusal to unleash our full energy potential. It is time to ask if this administration is holding the reins of power, or if radical environmentalist groups are calling the shots at the White House.

For 2 years, I have been demanding an investigation into foreign funding of these environmental organizations. Vladimir Putin has a long history of spreading misinformation and using activist groups to deter domestic energy production. In just 10 years, the European Union went from producing more natural gas than Russia to relying on them for 40 percent of their natural gas consumption. Russian dark money is to blame, and we have to prevent the same thing from happening here at home.

Russia will use every tool at their disposal to undermine our national security. And by listening to these radical groups, the Biden administration has allowed them to succeed.

Madam Speaker, we are relying on foreign adversaries and authoritarian regimes when we have the resources here at home to bring down gas prices and help our allies in Europe. Instead of calling Venezuela and Iran, the President should be calling Texas.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, how long will the House continue to attack the basic freedoms of the American people? It is not for Congress in Washington or some bureaucrat to tell the American people what they can and cannot do when revolving disputes. That is, frankly, none of their business.

If they want to agree to an arbitration clause before a dispute arises, that is for the American people to decide and not Washington, who think they know better than the American people.

It is not our job to micromanage the lives of our constituents. It is our job to safeguard their freedom.

We need to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. There are many policies in this well-intentioned bill, but if it becomes law, contracts will be far less likely to include the option to arbitrate. This may not be an issue for people with deeper pockets and the ability to hire attorneys, but it will be a concern for those who do not have the option of a high-dollar settlement.

We must also keep in mind that sometimes arbitration is the best way to solve disputes. This is just one of the many aspects of this bill that needs to be reconsidered before we can move forward.

I oppose this bill, and encourage my colleagues to do the same. Everyone has the best intentions.

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, the rule allows for consideration of these two bills, which will ensure that we are providing better protections for consumers and employees.

The FAIR Act stops large corporations from gaming the system in their favor, and allows consumers the opportunity to have their day in court.

And the CROWN Act ensures that we do not allow discrimination in any way, shape, or form. These are commonsense bills that help the American people.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. FISCHBACH is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 979

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 6858) to strengthen United States energy security, encourage domestic production of crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas, 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 Energy and Commerce; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 6858.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule and the previous question. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. 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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1515

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANGEVIN) at 3 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 963, FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT OF 2022, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2116, CREATING A RESPECTFUL AND OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL HAIR ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 979) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 963) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2116) to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 204, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 73]

YEAS—219

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
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
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
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—204

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
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
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
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 (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
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—9

Budd
Costa
Diaz-Balart
Emmer
Huffman
Kinzinger
Miller (IL)
Mullin
Sherrill

□ 1553

Messrs. KUSTOFF, GALLAGHER, CALVERT, and GONZALEZ of Ohio changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. NORCROSS changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call No. 73.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Baird (Walorski)
Bourdeaux (Correa)
Bowman (Meng)
Brown (OH) (Jeffries)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Carter (GA) (Cammack)
Carter (TX) (Nehls)
Connolly (Wexton)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Dean (Scanlon)
DeLauro (Courtney)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)
Fortenberry (Moolenaar)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Waltz)
Golden (Courtney)
Harder (CA) (Beyer)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kaptur (Lawrence)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lesko (Joyce (PA))
Lofgren (Jeffries)
McHenry (Cammack)
Neguse (Perlmutter)
Norman (Wilson (SC))
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Salazar (Fallon)
Schrier (Jeffries)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Taylor (Fallon)
Titus (Cicilline)
Trone (Beyer)
Upton (Katko)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (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.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 207, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 74]

YEAS—219

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
Sires
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—207

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
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
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
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
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
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
Slotkin
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—6

Hartzler
Hudson
Kinzinger
Mast
Mullin
Sherrill

□ 1618

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 (Walorski)
Bourdeaux (Correa)
Bowman (Meng)
Brown (OH) (Jeffries)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Carter (GA) (Cammack)
Carter (TX) (Nehls)
Connolly (Wexton)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Dean (Scanlon)
DeLauro (Courtney)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)
Fortenberry (Moolenaar)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Waltz)
Golden (Courtney)
Harder (CA) (Beyer)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kaptur (Lawrence)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lesko (Joyce (PA))
Lofgren (Jeffries)
McHenry (Cammack)
Neguse (Perlmutter)
Norman (Wilson (SC))
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Salazar (Fallon)
Schrier (Jeffries)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Taylor (Fallon)
Titus (Cicilline)
Trone (Beyer)
Upton (Katko)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

SAVE THE LIBERTY THEATRE ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). 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. 3197) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain Federal land in Louisiana, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 4, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 75]

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
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
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
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)
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
Harder (CA)
Harris
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
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 (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
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
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
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

Casten
Escobar
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)

NOT VOTING—6

Cammack
Hartzler
Kinzinger
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Sherrill

□ 1637

Mr. SMITH of Missouri changed his 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

Baird (Walorski)
Bourdeaux (Correa)
Bowman (Meng)
Brown (OH) (Jeffries)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Carter (GA) (Cammack)
Carter (TX) (Nehls)
Connolly (Wexton)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Dean (Scanlon)
DeLauro (Courtney)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)
Fortenberry (Moolenaar)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Waltz)
Golden (Courtney)
Harder (CA) (Beyer)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kaptur (Lawrence)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lesko (Joyce (PA))
Lofgren (Jeffries)
McHenry (Cammack)
Neguse (Perlmutter)
Norman (Wilson (SC))
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Salazar (Fallon)
Schrier (Jeffries)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Taylor (Fallon)
Titus (Cicilline)
Trone (Beyer)
Upton (Katko)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

DESIGNATION OF EL PASO COMMUNITY HEALING GARDEN NATIONAL MEMORIAL

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. 4380) to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 25, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 76]

YEAS—403

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
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
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
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
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)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—25

Allen
Arrington
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Buck
Cammack
Cloud
Clyde
Davidson
Ferguson
Gaetz
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Harris
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Massie
Mast
Miller (IL)
Perry
Roy
Webster (FL)

NOT VOTING—4

Hartzler
Kinzinger
Mullin
Yarmuth

□ 1656

Mr. MAST, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania changed their 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

Baird (Walorski)
Bourdeaux (Correa)
Bowman (Meng)
Brown (OH) (Jeffries)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Carter (GA) (Cammack)
Carter (TX) (Nehls)
Connolly (Wexton)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Dean (Scanlon)
DeLauro (Courtney)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)
Fortenberry (Moolenaar)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Waltz)
Golden (Courtney)
Harder (CA) (Beyer)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kaptur (Lawrence)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lesko (Joyce (PA))
Lofgren (Jeffries)
McHenry (Cammack)
Neguse (Perlmutter)
Norman (Wilson (SC))
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Salazar (Fallon)
Schrier (Jeffries)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Taylor (Fallon)
Titus (Cicilline)
Trone (Beyer)
Upton (Katko)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

JAPANESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HISTORY NETWORK ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6434) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 16, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 77]

YEAS—406

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
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
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
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
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
García (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—16

Boebert
Brooks
Cloud
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Harris
Higgins (LA)
Hollingsworth
LaMalfa
Massie
Miller (IL)
Norman
Rosendale
Roy
Taylor

NOT VOTING—10

Ellzey
Gonzalez (OH)
Hartzler
Kinzinger
Mullin
Rouzer
Scalise
Veasey
Waters
Yarmuth

□ 1714

Mr. NORMAN 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

Baird (Walorski)
Bourdeaux (Correa)
Bowman (Meng)
Brown (OH) (Jeffries)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Carter (GA) (Cammack)
Carter (TX) (Nehls)
Connolly (Wexton)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)
Dean (Scanlon)
DeLauro (Courtney)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)
Fortenberry (Moolenaar)
Garamendi (Correa)
Gimenez (Waltz)
Golden (Courtney)
Harder (CA) (Beyer)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kaptur (Lawrence)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lesko (Joyce (PA))
Lofgren (Jeffries)
McHenry (Cammack)
Neguse (Perlmutter)
Norman (Wilson (SC))
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Salazar (Fallon)
Schrier (Jeffries)
Scott, David (Jeffries)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Beyer)
Taylor (Fallon)
Titus (Cicilline)
Trone (Beyer)
Upton (Katko)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)

RECOGNIZING KEIRA D'AMATO

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I stand here to recognize the incredible achievement of Midlothian resident Keira D'Amato.

Earlier this year, Keira broke the American record for the women's marathon, winning the Chevron Houston Marathon with a 2-hour, 19-minute, and 12-second finish. For those of you keeping score, that is 24 seconds faster than the previous record set back in 2006.

This new record demonstrates Keira's remarkable resiliency, it shows her undeniable passion, and it highlights her proven ability to overcome injuries and adversity.

As a mother of two, Keira is not just a winner, she is an ambassador for her

sport. Her enthusiasm is already inspiring the next generation of Virginia marathon runners.

Today, on behalf of Virginia's Seventh District, I want to congratulate Keira for making Chesterfield County, central Virginia, and our entire Commonwealth proud. We are honored to be the home of a true American champion.

HONORING ROY AND WILMA BROWN

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Roy and Wilma Brown, who celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary this Monday.

Married on March 14, 1942, at the Cumberland County Courthouse, Roy and Wilma have remained at each other's side ever since.

Through the ups and downs of raising five children on a family farm in middle Tennessee, in the early days with no running water or electricity, the Browns have been no stranger to hardship but have always leaned on the Lord. On their 69th anniversary, Wilma said: ''God has blessed us so much, and we are so thankful.''

Madam Speaker, today, I thank Roy and Wilma Brown for serving as a reminder to all of us, both young and old, of the power and longevity of true love. May both Roy and Wilma have a blessed 80th anniversary, and may this day serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

INCREASING EtO AWARENESS

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

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today for Matt Haller. Matt Haller was an Illinois resident who passed away in 2019 from stomach cancer that is believed to have been linked to the local EtO sterilization plant near his home.

These same EtO cancerous chemicals are used today to sterilize an assortment of foods in the United States. While the chemical is clearly banned for food sterilization in other countries around the globe, it continues to be used in America for everyday food products like spices, dried herbs, dried vegetables, and much more. Food sterilized with EtO does not even require food labeling in the U.S.

I am introducing the Matt Haller EtO Awareness Act to finally change that. This commonsense legislation would provide Americans the right to know if food has been treated by known carcinogenic substances through accurate labeling.

Let's increase transparency around EtO, let's bring awareness to cases like Matt Haller's, and let's pass this bill.

HONORING JASMINE MORAN

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

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Mrs. Jasmine Moran, an admirable Oklahoma Fifth District philanthropist.

After surviving World War II in England, she uprooted her life to move to Seminole after meeting her husband, an oil man from Oklahoma.

Inspired by a children's museum in Michigan, Mrs. Moran decided to start her own in Seminole in hopes of reigniting the city. Eventually, her idea came to life, and she created a world-class children's museum that attracts 70,000 visitors a year.

But she didn't stop there. Almost single-handedly, Mrs. Moran created an animal shelter that adopts out 75 animals a month.

Mrs. Moran's generosity, resilience, and commitment to the betterment of her community and everyone around her is truly inspiring.

Though she will be deeply missed, there is no doubt that through her selfless endeavors, her legacy will live on forever. Mrs. Moran's story and the way she lived her life should stand as an inspiration to all Oklahomans.

RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to indicate that finally we have passed and signed into law the Violence Against Women Act.

After years of introducing it and passing it in the United States House of Representatives, we came together, and today at the White House, relief has been given to the millions of victims of domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault.

We provided the opportunity for enhanced police efforts for trying to stop the most dangerous calls of police officers: domestic violence; dealing with cultural groups that respond to this in a different way; and once and for all, stopping the dastardly act of raping Indian women and escaping prosecution. Now we allow the courts on Indian reservations to be able to bring people to justice.

We have provided a place for abused persons to live. We have given more money to area shelters, like the Houston Area Women's Shelter, and we responded to the advocates across America.

I am glad to have written and authored H.R. 1620. I thank all of those who ultimately brought that bill to law. Now, the President has done what he has always wanted to do, to have the Violence Against Women Act reauthorized.

STOP THE ASSAULT ON AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. CARL. Madam Speaker, over the past few weeks, we have made it very clear how important it is for the United States to produce its own energy rather than rely on other countries for our supplies.

The President and his allies have made things very clear that this is the thing that they want to do, shutting down American energy production, but the reality truly is that we can produce energy cleaner and more efficiently than any other nation on the planet.

This administration decided to shut down American pipelines and shut down American energy production, which has done nothing but drive up the energy costs while threatening our national security and strengthening our adversaries around the globe. We simply cannot allow this to continue.

President Trump's hard work to increase energy production and his leadership actually made us energy independent instead of energy dependent during his time.

America has the resources and the ability to meet our supply needs, and I encourage the President to end his assault on American energy.

BRING BACK AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACOBS of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, we have another crisis, yet another crisis, created by the policy choices of this White House.

The national average price for a gallon of gas reached $4.32 on Sunday; and, yes, that is the highest price in U.S. history.

Last Thursday, we also learned that U.S. inflation soared 7.9 percent over the past 12 months. That is the largest spike in consumer prices in 40 years.

Now, the Washington Democrats' blame game is in full swing. Just to get this straight, at first, according to Democrats, they said inflation ''wasn't happening.'' Then inflation was ''merely transitory,'' they tried to convince us. Then inflation somehow only hurt

rich folks; that was the only line of reasoning.

But Washington Democrats' latest fiction might be their greatest yet: That the past year of steady, unrelenting price increases for gas and consumer goods is actually Vladimir Putin's fault.

Yes, that is right, Madam Speaker, Vladimir Putin. He didn't kill the Keystone pipeline. Joe Biden did. Vladimir Putin didn't ban drilling for oil on Federal lands. Joe Biden did that. Vladimir Putin didn't pass trillions upon trillions in unnecessary government spending in a single year. Joe Biden and the Washington Democrats did that.

Madam Speaker, what is so hard about just being honest with the American people? President Biden should accept responsibility for the past year of rising prices and pledge to correct course. He had better, or we are in for more and more pain.

The President should do everything in his power to make it easier, not harder, for America to produce more oil and gas. This would lower prices for the American people. It would make our country and Europe less dependent on foreign energy. But instead, President Biden says he actually ''can't do much right now'' about the skyrocketing gas prices.

The Democratic Caucus leader said the issue of gas prices ''hasn't come up'' during his party's caucus meetings. Really? You haven't made time to discuss any solutions to the number one issue facing Americans right now?

Now that the Biden administration and Congressional Democrats know they are in a tight spot, here is the thing: They are trying to convince the American people that an American President can't control gas prices in the United States but Russians can. Good luck with that.

I thank my colleagues for being here tonight for my Special Order hour this evening.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

□ 1730

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, we have a very, very serious energy crisis here on our home shores. As fuel continues to rise, the Biden administration continues to point fingers at anybody but themselves—they have done it many times before—for this self-inflicted crisis.

There are statements such as this is Putin's fault. The fact is, though, that the numbers truly tell a different story, and they do, in fact, tell the truth.

This situation cannot be denied by many of our colleagues here in the House, that we are issuing virtual propaganda about the realities of a national crisis.

On January 20 of last year, a gallon of gas cost $2.39. After a year with the Biden administration, and with much of the House leadership supporting, we shut down the Keystone pipeline; paused leases for energy development; failed to approve even one permit for drilling, not one; imposed new regulations on the energy industry; threatened higher taxes on energy companies; and, yes, actually warned banks and financial institutions not to make investments in our domestic energy industries.

Yet, what is coming from the White House, and many in this House, is to blame Putin for the gas prices. It is just horrible propaganda.

Last week, the President actually told the American people that he ''can't do much right now'' to lower gas prices. Yes, you can. Yes, it can be done.

Meanwhile, they are looking at Iran, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and, up until recently, Russia. So why don't we look at central Pennsylvania, west Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana?

Create American energy and American jobs. We need to reverse the policies that have depressed production, throttled back investment, and led to higher gas prices at the pump and for heating people's homes nationwide.

Madam Speaker, energy security is national security. I think we have all heard that. It has never been more important to be reminded of it than today. We must reverse these damaging policies now and safeguard our Nation's security for today and tomorrow.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, from energy States like ours—Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and the others—we have been saying this for a long, long time: Energy security is national security. Now, everybody recognizes it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), another gentleman who knows quite a bit about this issue.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, we were here and heard about how President Biden was going to use every tool at his disposal, every tool, to combat skyrocketing energy costs.

Now, this is the same administration that told us the border was secure. That was about a year ago, a little less than a year ago. The border was secure. And we just saw in the last month, once again, record numbers of people coming in illegally to our country across the southern border.

Of course, as the gentleman from Louisiana just said, inflation was ''transitory,'' and we are starting to hear that his chief economic adviser is saying maybe it is not so transitory. We are seeing record numbers now, this month, in regard to inflation.

Well, it all started January 20, 2021, with the shutdown of the Keystone pipeline and all the other actions that were taken to limit production here in America.

We saw what is turning out to be a foreign policy disaster, the okay of the Nord Stream pipeline that is delivering natural gas to Western Europe, something the previous administration would never do.

This is all part of the green fantasy here in America that has become America's nightmare.

Back home in my district, it is $2.85 a gallon to heat your home with propane right now. Propane is used by about a third of the homeowners in the district that I live in. They paid $1.50 in August 2021. They paid $0.80 a gallon in August 2020. That is what they are facing.

President Biden came to my district right after the State of the Union speech, came to Superior, Wisconsin. Once again, we were anxious to hear how he is going to use every tool, every tool possible, to provide energy for America.

But we didn't hear a thing about rerouting the pipeline through northern Wisconsin that is held up because a permit is not issued by the Governor of Wisconsin and his Department of Natural Resources.

We didn't hear a single thing about Line 5 that goes through the Straits of Mackinac—the Governor of Michigan shut down that permit last year—a major throughput to Canada and the entire Midwest.

We didn't hear a word about rebuilding the refinery in Superior, which we hope is complete soon. He was there on an infrastructure tour. That refinery produces all kinds of asphalt. Don't you think that would be a really good time—infrastructure, asphalt—to talk about rebuilding that refinery?

Finally, he didn't say a thing about a natural gas plant that is proposed for Superior, Wisconsin, nearly a billion-dollar investment to produce clean electricity with natural gas.

We didn't hear a word about producing more fertilizer for those farmers to grow our crops. We didn't hear a word about that.

This President does not understand security. Job security, thousands of jobs—two of the major pipeline manufacturers in the United States are right in Wisconsin. We didn't hear a thing about economic security, the inflation that is, in part, a result of these increased energy costs. We didn't hear a thing about national security, and that is what is at stake.

The Biden administration has let us down on all three fronts, job security, economic security, and national security.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, when we think about energy States, of course, we probably think about Texas first. I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who represents that State so well.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend across the Sabine River from me, Mr. JOHNSON, for having this Special Order.

President Biden and the Democrats hate the facts because the facts are not

on their side. If we are being honest, the facts haven't been on their side for a very long time. Nevertheless, they continue perpetuating the lie that domestic energy is somehow bad, and foreign energy is somehow good.

So, join me. Let's take a look at the facts here. The refineries, petrochemical plants, and American businesses in and around my district, the 36th Congressional District of the State of Texas, are unmatched worldwide.

For years, they have showcased what our country does best, and that is producing superior, high-quality petroleum products by leading in technological innovation.

The best and brightest Americans are constantly discovering new ways to enhance safety, lower emissions, and provide the world with affordable and reliable energy.

But the left, the leftist Democrats, they don't seem to care. They would rather lambaste the American public for not buying a $60,000-plus electric vehicle. In fact, they would rather help tyrants and communist countries become energy powerhouses than to spend even one cent supporting U.S. oil and gas jobs, American ingenuity, or our state-of-the-art facilities.

And in the name of what, eliminating greenhouse gases? Give me a break.

Here is a reality check. When we increase our dependency on foreign nations for our energy needs, we increase our carbon footprint. Simple.

America makes the cleanest energy on the planet—fact. Foreign oil and gas are not produced using the stringent environmental regulations that we have here in America, not to mention foreign oil must travel farther on less safe and less environmentally friendly modes of transportation to get that product here.

If Biden and my Democrat colleagues want to talk about cleaner energy, they must first accept the fact that we, America, lead in reducing harmful pollution worldwide.

Americans are sick of suffering from Biden's anti-oil and gas agenda that supports dirtier energy, funds corrupt governments, kills their jobs, weakens our national security, and raises the cost of everything.

I spent $125 filling up my Ford F–150 pickup truck this past Monday, just as an example.

But here is the bottom line: If Biden and the left honestly believe that foreign energy is the best option, then they really do not care about the environment or the security of our own Nation, the United States of America.

Acknowledge the facts. Put America first. Unleash our energy sector. Help the environment. End our dangerous dependence on foreign adversaries.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Babin. That is Texas strong, as we expected.

Madam Speaker, one of the strongest Republican delegations in our Congress comes from another State, Tennessee. I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), one of the hardest working men in Congress.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time tonight.

Madam Speaker, despite what President Biden and congressional Democrats have to say, higher prices at the fuel pump are not because of a Putin price increase.

The price of a gallon of gas increased from $2.31 a gallon since President Biden's inauguration to $3.48 the week before Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That is a 50 percent increase before the invasion of Ukraine even began.

But make no mistake, the Biden administration is doing everything they can to blame the increase on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They have turned to their allies in the mainstream media to carry their talking points.

But I urge all Americans not to let the headlines or TikTok influencers fool you. This is a crisis caused by President Biden and congressional Democrats' anti-energy policies, not Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, we all knew this was coming when President Biden said on the campaign trail that he would ''transition away from the oil industry.''

During his first days in office, President Biden declared war against American energy. He moved his plan into action by canceling the Keystone pipeline and other projects, imposing new regulations on the oil and gas industry, and stalling new leases on oil and gas projects on Federal lands.

If the President has a legitimate plan to lower energy prices and fight inflation, we, the American people, would love to see it.

But until we do, I can only guess the President's plan is what he has done since taking office: spend trillions of dollars and hope Americans purchase expensive electric vehicles. That is not a plan. It is a pipe dream.

The truth is that this is not the America President Biden inherited. Under President Trump, America was energy independent, even a net oil exporter. Inflation was well under control. Gas was less than $2.50 a gallon, and our enemies were our enemies, not potential trade partners.

But the price of a gallon of gas, along with inflation, has increased every single month since President Biden was inaugurated. The resulting harm to our country has been mostly self-inflicted and largely driven by Democrats' massive deficit spending and by the fact that the President has declared war on the U.S. oil and gas industry from his first day in office.

Every step he has taken to hinder the oil and gas industry diminishes capitalism, the very engine of our economy and our relatively high standard of living.

Whether it is in our schools or with our healthcare decisions, President Biden's administration wants you to do what they say instead of trusting what has made us the most prosperous country in the history of the world.

Republicans in Congress stand ready to implement policies to make America energy independent again. It is time for the President to reverse the war against American energy and recognize that the solution to his energy crisis exists right under our feet. Still, the President refuses to pull his head out of the sand to tap into it.

He will stop at nothing to satisfy his leftwing base, even if it is at the expense of everyday, hardworking Americans, who I am proud to represent in middle Tennessee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, a lot of comments there from the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), and we will stay on that theme for the great State of Tennessee.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield Mr. BURCHETT, another gentleman from that great State, for more common sense.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate Chairman JOHNSON for heading this up day after day.

I just wonder, have the Democrats been to the gas pumps lately? I used to love to go to the gas pumps and talk to folks to see what was going on. Now, honestly, I am afraid to even make eye contact with somebody because they are going to light you up, Madam Speaker.

I know we see a lot of these little, cute stickers. That is not my thing. I don't want to cause any vandalism with our President pointing at the pump saying, ''I did that,'' but the truth is, he did do this.

If they would listen to what is going on, they would know that America is ticked, and they should be. The national gas average today is $4.30 a gallon. The average a year ago was $2.87.

In 2020, gasoline or oil was around $17 a barrel, and today, I believe it has dropped to $95. I heard someone from the White House earlier bragging about how oil has dropped. I mean, that is the Washington way, to not talk about how it was at $17 a couple of years ago, but talk about how it has dropped from over $110 down to $95.

Madam Speaker, we need to turn the spigots back on. We need to get back into the oil business. The oil and gas companies, we have been told that they have the permits, and then they boast about that, that they are not drilling because of it.

□ 1745

The truth is, Madam Speaker, not enough pipelines have been permitted to move the product. If they get it, there is nowhere for it to go. There is no storage capacity. There is no way to move the product. The pipelines have to be completed, and that is part of the master plan here.

As has been stated by Members on this floor and other times, I have heard, $7 a gallon and electric vehicles are in. That is no way to drive innovation, Madam Speaker. Innovation is

driven through creativity, through capitalism, not by crooked politicians and evil folks trying to change the American agenda.

Electric cars are not affordable yet. Over $50,000 a car. That is ridiculous. You have got over eight adapters on the plugs. It takes several hours to charge. I don't know if you have ever driven across country or not with a family but stopping 8 hours at a truck stop is not my idea of a vacation.

Renewables aren't reliable sources for our power grids. Democrats seem to double down, though, on these crazy woke environmental agenda issues. It just creates higher energy bills for Americans, Madam Speaker, and increases costs for business. That is why everything is up.

If you look at the price of fuel, I filled up my daughter's Dodge diesel the other day, and it cost me over $100. Why are we doing this to ourselves? We can turn the spigots back on. We can put Americans back to work. We can increase our economy. We can show the world that we are leaders.

As the Ukrainian President stated so eloquently this morning, our President needs to lead the world. It is a shame when a country that small has to call on a power as great as America and tell its leaders to lead once again. Until things change, though, Madam Speaker, Biden's economy is a bust.

I appreciate Chairman JOHNSON and his truculent behavior. He has raised this from more than lackluster, and I want to praise him for that.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my friend. He has been a faithful participant in the Special Order hours, getting the message to the American people, and it is so important right now.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), another gentleman who has been very faithful to deliver this message to the American people week in and week out.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for faithfully helping us get the message out, facilitating that because what is really important is that we are talking to the American public about this situation that we don't have to be in.

Indeed, we have seen with the fairly new Biden administration that inflation has risen tremendously. Now, I don't get pleasure out of bagging on the President or anybody else in this, but we just have to go to the core of the issue. The policies that have been put into place have harmed the U.S. economy, harmed regular families.

The cost of fuel has been an especially noticeable part of this. In my home State of California, we always enjoy—enjoy—extra costs because of the way things are done there. If it is $4 for a gallon of gas in the rest of the country, it is $5.50 in my home State because of the dumb things we do out there.

So this recent surge, indeed, is affecting everybody, but it is an even greater burden on rural residents that have to drive longer distances. Maybe their jobs in agriculture or timber or mining are more based on the usage of fuel and other inputs that are fuel related. So that means that there are fewer exports of things that are produced in rural America, fewer services, there is going to be less employment as a result of this, too, because of the high cost of everything.

We are talking to some truckers. We are seeing there is a point where they can't deliver anymore because they can't afford the fuel and that will be soon. Imagine that, when you go to the retail level, and you can't get the normal things off the shelf you are used to. We are already seeing that. There are fewer food choices, fewer choices. You are waiting longer for parts to come to repair vehicles or do anything else.

When rural residents, especially, have to drive longer to do anything, whether it is to take kids to school, get to health services, pick up goods they need to do their job, it is just that much greater of a burden at these prices.

Take law enforcement, for example. Now, cops, especially rural ones, they have got a lot of driving to do to cover those rural areas, and their costs are going through the roof. That means counties, small cities are bearing a greater burden just to try and keep patrols out there. So that is indeed a detrimental effect on basic public safety.

Farmers, too. We are getting ready to plant our crop on our farm here. I don't even want to know what the fuel price is to top off my tanks, but I have to because it is so high. That is going to be passed on to the shelves for people to buy food all across the country or the farmer is going to go out of business if he can't get the price he needs to at the store.

Rural jobs are extremely important for our economy. They are producing things that people eat, the fiber they use to make clothes that people wear, the wood and paper products we use for our homes and our business.

It is really, really high time we take action and produce energy in this country because we can, we should, and we can affect the world market and make it where Russia is not making a killing off their energy because it is a supply-and-demand issue. If we fill the marketplace with low-cost energy, it will bring all this back in line. We will be in a better position as a Nation to help our colleagues, our neighbors in the western part of Europe, and cripple Putin's ability to make a killing off what he is doing.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments. There are so many consequences to these bad policy choices, and I appreciate his illuminating many of those tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), another faithful messenger for the truth in America.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, while the devastating war in Ukraine is heartbreaking, we cannot turn a blind eye to the crises that President Biden has created here at home, especially when the American people are paying for his failed policies.

Last week, inflation hit another new, 40-year high of 7.9 percent in February, continuing to impose a hidden tax on every solitary American.

Prices at the pump, utility bills, and costs in the grocery store checkout line just keep getting worse.

Yet, instead of reversing his disastrous policies and reducing government spending in order to alleviate the pain inflicted on Americans' wallets, President Biden pivots to offer deceptive excuses.

First, we were told inflation was just transitory, that is it, but when price hikes continued, the new spin comically became that inflation is a good thing.

A good thing, really? Struggling Americans would beg to differ, Mr. President.

When that messaging failed, the talking points quickly evolved to blame higher prices on corporate greed. It appears the Biden administration enjoys pointing fingers at others instead of admitting the truth.

Now, in light of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration's convenient scapegoat is Russian President Vladimir Putin, disingenuously labeling the ongoing inflation as Putin's price hike.

Make no mistake, inflation was skyrocketing long before Putin's troops set one foot into Ukraine. These are most certainly President Biden's price hikes. He is responsible, and no amount of dishonesty can hide the truth from the American people.

In fact, Americans simply can't afford to buy any more of Biden's deceptive excuses. Instead of playing the blame game while workers, families, and small businesses suffer, the Biden administration and congressional Democrats must reverse course on their wasteful spending and failed economic policies. We must return to the America-first principles that truly helped the American people thrive.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. He has a way of putting it so clearly, and I am grateful for his voice. It is so consistent.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN), who came to Congress after 26 years of distinguished service as a naval aviator and knows of what he speaks.

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I always appreciate my colleague from Louisiana's leadership on these important issues and I appreciate the time he is yielding me.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues have shared, the Biden administration

has been defined by a series of self-inflicted crises. These include failed leadership on the world stage, runaway inflation, and a deliberate failure to secure our borders. In fact, you could say they are having a record year, record high inflation, record violent crime, record gas prices, record numbers of illegal immigrants, seizures of illegal drugs all at our southern border. The common denominator in each of these disasters is the President himself.

The President listened to the State Department over the recommendation of his generals, which led to last year's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

He shut down American energy production, which led to skyrocketing gas prices long before Russia invaded Ukraine.

He catered to the radicals, flooding our economy with trillions in free money, and that has created the rampant inflation that we are experiencing today.

On the border, his reversal of President Trump's policies has led to nearly two million migrants pouring across our southern border since he took office. That is more than the population of 15 of our States. Think about that, the equivalent of creating a State or two every single year with the number of people crossing the border.

These disasters were completely self-inflicted, and American families are paying the price.

Despite our political differences, I take no joy in watching this administration fail. When our President fails, America fails.

Madam Speaker, the American people need and deserve a true leader. If the President is incapable of leading, he has a duty to surround himself with smart people willing to give him good counsel in the best interests of our Nation. Listen to the smart ones and not those with a track record of failure, and then act on it.

The President should focus on American energy independence, which will bring down gas prices here at home and help our allies abroad. He should not be talking to a Venezuelan dictator when we have reliable, affordable energy right here at home. He also needs to stop the out-of-control spending and reinstate tough border policies to protect our communities.

For the sake of our country, this administration must stop administrating and implementing the worst ideas of the D.C. political class and lead decisively.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for bringing that wisdom to the floor tonight. There has been a theme here this evening with all of my colleagues who have participated in this Special Order hour. We have an energy crisis, the latest crisis that has beset the American people because of terrible policy choices from this White House and the Democrats in Congress. It is just plain and simple, those are the objective facts.

It seems like almost a decade ago now, but just a little over a year ago, if you rewind to the Trump years, you can recall, and everyone will know again more objective truth, objective facts, how well we were doing in all of these areas.

President Biden came in and did exactly the opposite. I mean, when President Trump took office, he came in—I remember very vividly the first time he came and spoke with the House Republicans in our conference, and he told us, among the first commitments he made to us—I mean, this is January of 2017. He was just taking office. We had just begun that Congress, and he came and spoke to us and said, ''I don't want to talk about energy independence anymore. I want to talk about energy dominance.'' Dominance, he said.

Of course, from an energy State like mine in Louisiana, the Louisiana delegation was delighted to hear that because we know what it means not only for our State's economy but for the stability, the security of our entire country.

I will tell you what, more objective fact, President Trump delivered on that promise. In a very short period of time, we became not only energy independent again, but energy dominant, just as he said. We became a net exporter. All boats were rising. The economy was doing well. In fact, we had the best economic numbers in the history of the world, not just the history of the United States. Prior to COVID, we had the best economy because of the policy choices that were made. We advanced those policies through the Congress; President Trump led on them, and his administration did a fantastic job. Because of that, our energy stability, our energy security, all of that was well in place.

And then President Biden comes in, and he does instinctively, I guess, exactly the opposite. Again, in very short order, he reversed all of those great trends. As has been articulated so many times tonight, among the first executive orders he issued—I mean immediately upon taking office in January 2020—was an executive order that killed the Keystone pipeline. There were more than 42,000 jobs related to that project just killed overnight; as well as all the energy independence and energy dominance that that would have meant for us.

And then he issues the moratorium on Federal production on Federal lands. Well, that killed a State like Louisiana. Not just on the land, but right offshore as well. Of course, that is a big part of our economy and in the other energy States. It was just devastating.

At the same time, while he is killing the Keystone pipeline, he is ending Federal production on Federal lands, he green lights the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. That was Putin's project. So he empowers Russia, he fuels the war machine for Putin because, of course, he can supply oil all over Western Europe, and that filled his coffers.

Listen, it was mentioned tonight these stickers that are on the gas pumps all over the country, these ''I did that'' stickers that have President Biden's picture. It is funny. We don't support vandalism, right? But, I mean, I see them all over Louisiana, and it is devastating.

□ 1800

President Biden is pointing to the sticker shock, the cost that it is taking everyone to fill their tanks, and it is exactly right. That is very telling. A picture is worth 1,000 words. He is responsible. These are the results of policy choices.

And as Mr. FRANKLIN of Florida said a few moments ago, these problems are completely self-inflicted. And because of that, let's always remember, they can be easily reversed. The President could just do the opposite of what he has done since he took office; reverse course and fix this dilemma for the American people.

But you know what? He won't do that. I don't know if it is because he is beholden to the radical left environmentalist agenda, the climate agenda, or if he has some sort of ulterior motive. I am not sure.

But I will tell you what: My constituents are asking that question openly right now, and millions upon millions of the American people who are suffering because of these policies are beginning to ask that as well.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL), who has a few more things to say about this issue.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I am sorry I am just a little late because, actually, the Education and Labor Committee, we are doing markups right now.

I rise to address the ongoing energy crisis and the impact it is having on families in Orange County. The picture you see here is a snapshot of what gas prices looked like for my constituents in the past week. But I heard—actually, this is in Orange County.

Last week, same time—this isn't my district, but in Sacramento that we have actually hit over $9 per gallon. These prices have increased 30 percent in the last year.

Gas prices in Orange County, and across the country, are rising every single day. One reason for these skyrocketing costs is policies enacted by this administration that have weakened our energy independence and made us dependent on foreign oil.

With the President taking the necessary step of banning Russian oil, it is even more important that we return to our former energy independence. We cannot turn from one foreign dictator to another to meet our energy needs. We have the resources right here to bring down costs and produce the cleanest energy on Earth.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in pursuing policies to secure our energy independence.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I am so grateful the gentlewoman came to participate. We know she is very busy. It has been a long day in the Education and Labor Committee. We are grateful she is doing that great work.

Madam Speaker, I know that the time is winding up for our Special Order hour. There was a lot going on on Capitol Hill today. I am grateful to my Republican colleagues for coming in and participating and helping to share this very, very important message with the American people.

There is a lot of spin going on in the country right now, from TikTok influencers, to media types who are engaging in the spin for the White House at their request, and the American people see through it. They are making and being made to make difficult choices for their families.

Hardworking Americans are suffering right now because of these policy choices. There is crisis after crisis after crisis everywhere we look because of, frankly put, poor leadership in the White House.

I believe that we will have a change in all of this come November in the next election cycle, and with the presidential election that will follow 2 years later. And it can't happen soon enough because the White House has shown no intention, no indication that they will reverse policies, as they should, as we mentioned a moment ago could be easily done to alleviate the pain for all these Americans. But for whatever reason, they will not do it.

Madam Speaker, I will wind down this evening. I want to thank my colleagues for being here, participating in this really important Special Order hour, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, this month is Women's History Month. I think you are making history, Madam Speaker, today, one of the youngest women ever to be elected from California and, actually, in the country. Women are making history.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be here. Hopefully, we are going to have a few more speakers here today, but I do want to start.

I am going to take a page out of the book of our great First Lady, Jill Biden. I attended a ceremony over at the White House where she and the President celebrated Women's History Month. And she started out with a salute, I think, to—if you could think of anybody who you want to give a shout out to, she gave it to her own mother. And I am going to start with that too because, you know, most of our mothers, they are not very famous, and it is not like they made history.

But the fact of the matter is, moms are probably the most influential people in the world. In fact, if you ever go to an event where someone is being honored, who is the first person they thank? It is their mother.

So I am going to start this Women's History Month with my remarks by thanking my mother, Dorothy Frankel—and let me just say this—who has inspired me in every way, and now, at 96 years old, with—I would say with a mind better than mine—maybe that is not saying much, but with her full faculties and the energy to live.

I want to say thank you, mom, like all the other moms who give us the unconditional love and the support, whether the sun is shining or the rain is raining.

So today, I think we have some other people here. Before I continue my remarks, I want to yield to a very special friend.

We talk about making history. I am going to yield to one of the most dynamic Members of the House of Representatives. She is from Texas. She has got her hands full. I mean, I will tell you what: I don't know whether it is more difficult today being from Texas or from Florida, I think our Governors are in some kind of contest with each other. But I am going to yield to the amazing gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Florida for, first of all, all of her leadership in leading the Women's Caucus for a very sizable period of time; and to give us the opportunity to speak about women today; and to remind us that we really started out with a very important woman, and that is, of course, our mothers.

So why don't I, as well, acknowledge, Ivalita Jackson, who served her community; but, more importantly, her profession, and she was proud of that, in nursing. And at the time, she was a vocational nurse, and she wore the uniform with pride.

She was a mother with pride. She was a wife with pride. She was really our rock, and she did things that showed her sacrifice. She loved her profession. She loved nursing. She was our at-home doctor, probably the doctor for the neighborhood.

But in order to ensure that she was home during the day, she made sure she took the night shift. And the night shift in a hospital is a challenging shift.

We can see all of the great and wonderful things that nursing has generated, the heroes of today, the sheroes of today, as we went through 2 years of the pandemic. But my mother was a shero many, many decades ago.

And I came to love the uniform, came to love those white sparking shoes that she wore so proudly, came to love and honor her sacrifice; and how much she gave to her family, her job, her profession, her church.

Ivalita Jackson is one to be honored; along with her mother, my grandmother, Vannie Bennett; my other grandmother, Olive Jackson; and then my aunt, Valerie Bennett, Vickie and Audrey, all wonderful women, and Sybil.

So today, I come to join my colleagues to be able to talk about women and to celebrate, as the President did in Women's History Month, just 24 hours ago; but then to celebrate again, as I mentioned, now, in law, now the law, and that is the Violence Against Women Act, that almost a decade, it seems—even though we went back as far as 2013, that would have been 8 years—it seems that I have been doing this for a decade.

But I remember standing next to Vice President Joe Biden on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which was in 1996. I call the image, me in short stature and Joe Biden, tall stature, but yet, one of great compassion.

And I loved hearing him speak today, how culturally out of step men were, or the community was, or the Nation was, in trying to understand why he would be engaged in fighting against domestic violence. I remember him today saying, they asked me whether or not he had come from a family of domestic violence, or he had abused his wife or he had known someone in his family who had experienced that. And he looked at them incredulously and said no.

It is something to care about. Domestic violence kills. Sexual assault can kill. Rape kills, and it destroys lives. From very little girls and very little children, boys or girls, to adulthood.

We loved him for saying that. And out of that passion came the first Violence Against Women Act centered around domestic violence. Then it grew to focus on the wide breadth of sexual assault in this Nation.

In speaking to the head of the major chiefs at the White House, she reaffirmed the fact, as a chief of police of a major city, that domestic violence calls are the most deadly for law enforcement officers, and don't end well, in many instances, for our families.

It is appropriate in this month of women's history, that we also have a

curative response by putting into law, after so many years of trying, introducing over and over again this legislation, and finally, H.R. 1620 became law as the Senate passed that bill with an enhancement of what we had included, which was the work dealing with Native Americans, the work dealing with providing for housing, the amount of money, $1 billion, to cover the many new issues dealing with women, dealing with cultural organizations, different women from different ethnicities, language; we were responding to the needs that they have, religious groups. We have cultural training for young men and boys.

We wanted to make sure that we did not, in any way, undermine what the President had dreamed about when he first introduced this legislation, I believe, in 1994.

So I wanted this to be part of Women's History Month because it was a long journey. And let me thank all of the advocates who, year after year, month after month, day after day, second after second, minute after minute, hour after hour, met with all of us to try to work to enhance and to be assured of the best kind of legislation that we could secure.

Today was a celebratory day. But I really focus on it for saving lives. And I just imagine, somewhere in America today is a woman being abused, a woman suffering. And we now have a law that her State and Federal Government law enforcement can maybe intervene, and her days of being abused will be ended.

□ 1815

I do want to also acknowledge, as I move toward the historic women, the kind of work women do. I want to make sure that we talk about daycare owners.

This is The Gingerbread School, and I thank the owner for taking the children of mothers who work day-in and day-out, hourly wages, night shifts. I remember my mom, as I said, working night shifts.

She is there for them. These are the kind of women in Women's History Month that deserve honor and respect, and I thank her for it.

Madam Speaker, then I acknowledge the fact that women are in the medical profession. We used to take them for granted. There are a rising number of women becoming doctors. We did not take them for granted in the horrors of the pandemic of COVID–19 because we were desperate for those who were testing when the vaccines came or vaccinating. But most importantly, it was those nurses at our bedside, for those on ventilators, those in hallways, those who were suffering.

COVID–19 was devastating and deadly, and it was the nurses and the medical professionals, the many women who provided the kind of support that maybe got us through.

I thank those late-night shifts. I thank those tears, those collapsing on sidewalks outside of hospitals saying, ''How much more can I take?'' They took more, and they kept going on and on and on.

I pay tribute to the millions of medical professionals who are women. I support all of them, but I particularly support those who are women.

Madam Speaker, today, we had a hearing in the Budget Committee on the question of how the pandemic impacted women, and I want to make one point about that. It was unanimity. Certainly, it was recognized by one of our witnesses that the idea of childcare being only 7 percent of your income under the Build Back Better Act would be transformative; that childcare keeps women out of the workforce, but most importantly, it takes 25 or 50 percent, even, of their income. Remember, they still are the lowest paid.

We realize, in this Women's History Month, there are many things that we need to do to improve the lives of women. With that in mind, I now cite some of the women who should be honored who have done great things.

First, I do acknowledge the paycheck fairness bill that we did this year; the child tax credit, driven by women, joined by great men, but driven by women and really saving the lives of families all over America.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge Vice President KAMALA HARRIS—historically, the first woman of color to serve in the highest offices of the land as Vice President of the United States, a woman of Indian descent and African descent.

It is important to take note of the fact that an estimated 10 million people in this country, as I spoke earlier, experienced domestic violence, and that is why, again, we celebrate this month with the passing of that bill.

But I just want to give a roll call of the many pioneering women who should be recognized today:

Shirley Chisholm; Barbara Jordan; and as well those early pioneers, Harriet Tubman, who led the Underground Railroad and slaves to freedom; Sojourner Truth, an abolitionist as well a suffragette who said the words, ''Ain't I a Woman''; Rosa Parks, who refused to get up so that she could sit so that others might walk and others might run toward justice.

Astronaut Mae C. Jemison, my dear friend, a Houston resident, the first African-American woman to go into space.

Mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, those mathematicians who helped NASA in the early days by pencil and hand, calculating major calculations needed for space exploration.

Authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks, all enormous authors with enormous missions and all fighters for justice.

All of these persons, in their own way, provided a pathway for women.

I am very pleased to have brought the first African-American statue into the United States Congress—designed and sculpted by a woman, and as well raised the dollars to bring her here. She now sits in Emancipation Hall, and her next journey is going to be in the rotunda or Statuary Hall, where she belongs with the other suffragettes.

We know that Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to ever serve in the United States House of Representatives and the first woman to ever run for President of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I want to take note of my hometown heroes, such as Nellye Joyce Punch, Ramona Toliver, Beulah Shepard, Christia Adair. These are women who have since gone on, but they were pioneers in their time, fighting for what was right.

I remember Beulah Shepard saying, ''It just takes one vote.''

Nellye Joyce Punch led on hunger and trying to stamp out hunger, as she was a great teacher.

Ramona Toliver was an activist in Frenchtown in the Fifth Ward and always fought to ensure that the people of that community were responded to and not ignored.

Madam Speaker, I think it is important to realize that as we honor women, we must recognize they find themselves in many different careers. Coming from Houston, I want to acknowledge Sally Christian Ride, the first woman sent into space; Eileen Marie Collin, the first space shuttle pilot; and, of course, numbers of other unsung heroes in the space program.

I mentioned Vice President KAMALA D. HARRIS, and I want to emphasize, as I close my remarks, that we have yet another journey to take. That is the final confirmation after hearings of the next person to ascend to the Supreme Court, and that is a Justice Brown Jackson, who by all accounts is an outstanding—without question—legal scholar and jurist. I hope for her, in this time of newness and difference, that she will be greeted by those who will look to her credentials, her firstness, and, of course, the constant excellence that she has shown.

Women have always been challenged as to whether or not they could do the job. I leave you with the names of Golda Meir of Israel, Indira Gandhi of India, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, Angela Merkel of Germany, and Portia Simpson-Miller of Jamaica, among many others.

I know that there are millions of women who we have left out, but today, we come to celebrate under the leadership of LOIS FRANKEL, as well as the Democratic Women's Caucus, to be able to once and for all put a mark in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to say that we paused to say thank you to women, that we paused to say thank you to the new and many Members of the United States House of Representatives who have grown and grown, Members who happen to be women.

The few women who were here when I came in 1995, we have exponentially

grown in excellence, and we have brought a new face, a new perspective. I remember those days, sitting lonely on the Committee on the Judiciary with Pat Schroeder as, day after day, our friends on the other side of the aisle brought up partial-birth abortion. Over and over again, Pat and I tried to explain that these are decisions that are health decisions that should be left to the mother, her faith leader, and her doctor.

It is sad that the State of Texas has failed to remember such and continues to abuse women in that State as it relates to choice and the ability to seek a lawful abortion as they may desire with their church, their doctor, and themselves.

Madam Speaker, the last point that I want to make, that mothers have to deal with, are the horrible actions of Governor Abbott dealing with transgender children. I want to say on this floor today that this is part of women's history because it was the parents but the mothers leading to protect their children from the abuse of this governmental agency, suggesting that you could not have trans medical care, trans-affirming medical care; that you, as a mother, could not protect your child.

Thank you to the mothers who have stood up. Thank you to the court that indicated that you, Governor Abbott, are wrong yesterday, wrong today, and wrong tomorrow.

These are our precious children. These are precious lives. These are precious families. These are precious mothers.

My tribute to women today includes my tribute to the fighters that have always stood up for what is right, what is conscience, and what is just, either in fighting for democracy; fighting against the terror of January 6; fighting for women's rights in the Violence Against Women Act; fighting against abuse; fighting to stamp out hunger; fighting to stamp out anger; and fighting in Ukraine to be able to stand against a despot called Putin, who is violent and is a war criminal killing children.

The mothers in my State who are standing for their trans children, I offer them my greatest respect and dignity as we salute Women's History Month.

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, this Representative is going to go down in history as one of the most articulate fighters for justice we have ever seen. I give her a special congratulations for all the work she did on the Violence Against Women Act that was celebrated today.

Madam Speaker, I recognize another historic woman who is very prolific. I will highlight just a couple of things.

She brought to this venue the #MeToo movement. She has been the champion in changing military law to protect people from sexual violence. And she is my co-chair of the Women's Caucus. And I could go on and on.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the State of California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida and my friend and co-lead on the Democratic Women's Caucus. I must say, she is always the shining light when it comes to finding purpose and the opportunity for women to succeed. She has proven herself over and over again as we have seen our numbers of women grow here in the Congress of the United States.

To my good friend Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, today was a great day of celebration as VAWA was reauthorized. I know you concurred with me when President Biden said, Why don't we make this permanent? That is precisely what we should be doing. But somehow, it is a law that has to be reauthorized every 5 years. It used to be almost something that we did in a bipartisan fashion, and reauthorization was almost automatic. But recently, that wasn't the case.

So to Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, thank you for the very complete and comprehensive review of women in America that you just provided us.

As we celebrate national Women's History Month, we were all asked to talk about someone that we wanted to pay special attention to. I decided that I was going to speak about a particular group of women who represent what the essence of womanhood is, which is that they are tenacious, that they are courageous, that they are gritty, and that they will go wherever they need to go to achieve their goal.

There was what was called the Night of Terror in November 1917. During that whole period of time, women would march every day here in Washington, D.C., thousands of them. For the first time, they went and picketed outside the White House. It had never been done before. They chained themselves to the cyclone fence at the White House.

On this night in November 1917, there were 35 of these women who were arrested. They were beaten, and they were spat upon. They had rotten eggs thrown in their faces. The food they were given in jail was so bad that many of them went on a hunger strike, and then they had tubes put in their noses to force-feed them. One woman was struck between the eyes and lost one of her eyes.

What were they doing this for? So women could get the right to vote in the United States.

□ 1830

Because up until that time women were, for all intents and purposes, chattel. There were people like George Bernard Shaw who said: If women got the right to vote there would be a crushing tax on bachelors in America. Another one from the Seneca Falls Review that said: If women got the right to vote they would become thin-lipped, fat-handed, and flat-chested. Oh, my God.

Those were the kinds of thoughts that somehow women did not have the mental capacity to vote because in their skull they only had puppies and chocolate and babies that were in their brains; that somehow that was the kind of political cartoon that was represented.

Certainly, women who were menopausal couldn't vote because they were near extinction. Women who were pregnant or having children couldn't vote because they were lactating. You name it, they came up with it. Having said all that, there were true sheroes of that generation.

Madam Speaker, I want to speak tonight about a different group of women who are fighting for the lives of their countrymen and -women, and that is the strength of the Ukrainian women.

Here is a Ukrainian woman. Here is someone bloodied by Putin's weapon systems: she is still standing; she is still alive. We can't say that about all the women in Ukraine. The world looked on in absolute horror as images of injured and murdered Ukrainian women and children have spread around the globe.

When the hospital in Mariupol was bombed, we saw pregnant women holding their bellies, climbing down stairs. Then we saw a stretcher of a women on a towel—it looked like it was a colorful towel that she brought with her to the hospital. The photo of this pregnant woman who was rushed out of the maternity hospital in Mariupol last week made my blood run cold. The news yesterday that she and her baby had died outraged me.

She was taken to another hospital in Mariupol and when she realized she was losing her baby, medics said that she cried out: Kill me now. Her pelvis was crushed. Her hip detached. The baby was delivered by C-section, but showed no signs of life. She died shortly thereafter.

That is an imprint on my mind that will never leave me and should never leave any of us because what is happening to women in Ukraine is sinful, it is immoral. It is in fact a crime against humanity.

Putin's forces also killed Tetiana, her son Mykyta, 18, and her daughter Alisa, 9, as they tried to flee Kyiv with a church volunteer. She worked for a Silicon Valley software company and was married to her husband of 23 years. He said, ''I have lost everyone and lost the meaning of life.''

Women in Russia are suffering, too, and they are showing lots of guts. They are speaking out against Putin. Here you see a woman, her name is Marina Ovsyannikova. She ran on to the live TV set on a Russian TV station, the most-watched news program in all of Russia, to protest the war. Her sign, which is written both in English and in Russian, reads: No war. Stop the war. Don't believe the propaganda, they are lying to you.

After she was taken into custody, she was questioned for 14 hours. She wasn't

allowed to sleep, to access her family, her lawyers, and she refused to recant her message. Somewhere in Russia right now is Marina, another courageous woman who is speaking truth to power. Russian mothers are angrily demanding Putin to be held accountable for using their sons, as many as 6,000 of whom have already been killed in Ukraine, using them as cannon fodder for his egotistical legacy project.

I am also in awe of the brave Ukrainian women literally leading the fight to protect their country. Nearly 22 percent of Ukraine's armed forces are female—22 percent. Here you see them in their camouflage. The 22 percent is one of the highest percentages of females serving in the military in the world. In the United States it is only something like 18 percent. And more women are joining the fight every day.

Even women members of Ukraine's parliament have taken up arms to defend their homeland. I think about that and I think how many of us women parliamentarians in Congress would do the same? It is a good opportunity for us to do some soul-searching.

We must have the backs of all Ukrainian women. I am proud that the United States has imposed unprecedented sanctions and export controls on the Russian economy. Just last week we stood on this floor and passed the bipartisan $13 billion aid package for Ukraine to assist the military and provide for the humanitarian needs.

Today, the President announced another package of weapons that are going to be sent to Ukraine, including Javelins and switchblades and body armor and helmets and drones, all in an effort to try and provide more protection for the people of Ukraine.

We must hold Putin accountable for the immeasurable death and suffering he has wrought. In doing so, I hope we can show a fraction of the grit and perseverance of the Ukrainian people, and especially the women of Ukraine.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SPEIER. I will tell you what, it is really hard to follow those remarks. I think all of us—all Americans—really all people around the world who have been following the brutality of Putin's war, our hearts are breaking. I thank the gentlewoman for highlighting the special plight of the women.

As I said, it is almost hard to talk about anything after that, but I do want to say this. For about 200 years women have been fighting for rights, for rights that White men and then eventually Black men had, but we are still fighting for them.

I was just thinking back to my own childhood—and probably your childhood, too. They had limits on how many girls could get into law school or medical school; there were no sport scholarships available. If you were a married woman, you could only get credit in your husband's name. Abortion was illegal. Equal pay was not even a concept. We did finally get the right to vote after women were arrested and chained themselves to the White House.

So if you look back in history, we have been fighting very hard to get our rights. I want to thank Representative JACKSON LEE, she has highlighted some of the victories over the years and some of the women who led the way, whether it was with Title IX or Roe v. Wade, or the bill that was just celebrated today by the President, the Equal Pay Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act. A lot has been done, but, wait, they are all in jeopardy.

It is just shocking that after all these years of fighting, every one of these rights are in jeopardy, including the right to vote, which is why—and I know my colleagues here would agree—we must have an equal rights amendment. We must have inscribed in the U.S. Constitution equality for men and women that cannot be changed at the whim of a political body.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, allow me to again express my appreciation to the growth and bounty of the Women's Democratic Caucus. It is amazing, the coming together of now generational women, freshmen classes, sophomore classes, and some of us who have had the privilege of serving for a period of time. What an amazing power base that you and we have created.

Madam Speaker, I thank LOIS FRANKEL for her leadership. I thank BRENDA LAWRENCE and JACKIE SPEIER for the way they have guarded and guided this privilege with this power. I do think it is important to put in the RECORD her singular work. She will not say singular work, but we were all glad to join her.

Obviously, this particular young soldier came out of the breadth and depth of Houston and out of Texas—but to be able to honor the life of a young woman that simply wanted all her life to join the United States Army. JACKIE SPEIER had been working on the issue of sexual assault in the military, along with our good friend, Senator GILLIBRAND, and the lack of justice that we were seeing all the time. This had been going on for a very long time.

It is important in this Women's History Month to say that we together made history with your legislation that responded to the heinous crime of the killing of Officer Guillen, a precious young women, who, growing up as a little girl wanted to be in the United States military.

I think this is the point that should be made. Only in this recent time can young girls want to grow up to be generals, astronauts, presidents, scientists, and others. As Ms. FRANKEL and Ms. SPEIER indicated, the abuse that was laid upon women for even thinking about equality or justice or voting. And then, of course, I must say that African American women found themselves at the lowest wrung of the ladder and suffered the continuing lingering history of slavery, the rape that was put upon them, the tending to whatever child was born, and then, of course, tending to the fields.

Here we are today with a little bright light—and I am going to say little bright light because Ms. FRANKEL laid out all the things we need to do: the ERA, and we hope to get this new Justice.

I wanted to take a moment just to respond and build upon this vile war criminal who seems to have Ukraine—God bless the soldiers, the men, the men that stayed behind to fight, but the toll has been so brutal on the women of Ukraine.

Even in the last 24 hours, women are leaving safe places in Poland and Romania and they are coming back to Ukraine demanding that they fight, that they stand with the people of Ukraine for the democracy that they love. The death toll is brutal. The way they are dying is brutal. To be running with your child thinking you are protecting them. And to have the greatest moment of your life, the birth of a new baby, and you die and the baby dies, and your whole innards are crushed.

Besides the women that are left behind in pools of blood—then the women who are escaping with their children who have nothing. This has been found around the world in Sudan when we were fighting against genocide. The victims were women who were trying to hold on to families in Rwanda. Places in South and Central America; the missing Mexican women that we have been working on for years.

□ 1845

My previous Member from California had led us in this fight, and we are still fighting. In the United States missing girls and human trafficking is a scourge today, and the dominant population of human trafficking are girls and girls who were tending to their daily duties of going to high school and, all of a sudden, they walked away, and they are in human trafficking, or they are being trafficked.

So we have a lot to fight. We have a lot to put on the RECORD today and this month. We have got a lot of grandmothers to thank, a lot of moms to thank, and a lot of firsts to thank. We have got a lot of poets who have described our lives and a lot of writers who have described our lives. We have got a lot of children who simply say thank you.

I guess I don't want to leave the podium.

I must thank the teachers because if ever people were elevated to know how much you appreciate women, this 2-year, 3-year period of the pandemic really laid it out. You were either sacrificing as a mother because you were wearing 25 hats, Madam Speaker, and a lot of them dealing with homeschooling and trying to make do. You were a nurse; you were a teacher. You were simply in the fight.

Madam Speaker, you were a doctor, you were a hospital administrator, you were an EMS, you were a fire person, a police person, and you were in here dealing with just the pit of COVID–19 and what it was doing to our families. You could have been in the funeral home business as a woman, and you were dealing with these circumstances.

So let me just give a big thank you in this month, and I hope that if I have not called your name, I am giving a big, overall thank you to all of you women. We recognize all of our gentlemen. But today, all of you have stood in the gap during a time in America's history that no one ever expected.

So I say thank you to Congresswoman FRANKEL, to Congresswoman SPEIER, and to all the women. We count them as being on the floor today to be able to honor Women's History Month and then, of course, International Women's History Month to be able to say thank you to all of them.

I must say thank you to the Pakistani women. I was at the Pakistani Embassy last night. I don't want to leave the floor without saying I met a lot of Pakistani Americans who were there celebrating Women's History Month and to honor Pakistani-American women.

First, I would like to thank the Democratic Women's Caucus for hosting this Special Order to celebrate Women's History Month.

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the generations of trailblazing women who, in the face of daily hardship and systemic discrimination, have paved a path toward gender justice.

It also serves as a global call to action, calling on us to advance the rights and dignities of women at home, at work and in all aspects of life.

Women have always led the effort to create a more fair, more resilient, more prosperous, and more equal America.

It brings me great pride that in 2022, women are not only working tirelessly to meet the needs of this unique moment, women are taking the lead.

With Vice President KAMALA HARRIS making history for our nation, with more women than ever before serving in Congress and taking on leadership roles in the President's cabinet, with the first Black woman nominated to the Supreme Court, with women leading some of America's largest and most innovative businesses, and with women continuing to break ground as scientists and researchers, America is stronger because of women.

I am proud that House Democrats are leading efforts to expand on opportunities for women and to combat gender discrimination.

In addition to our work to close the gender wage gap by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, a major part of that effort includes addressing the challenges posed to American women by the COVID–19 pandemic.

It is important to recognize that the burden of caring for children, the elderly, and the sick still falls to women unevenly in our society, and the pandemic forced many women to sacrifice their careers to care for loved ones.

Last year, Democrats and President Biden enacted the American Rescue Plan, which extended the expanded Child Tax Credit to help families make ends meet and help women stay in the workforce and return to their jobs.

It is now year 3 of the Coronavirus pandemic, which means that women have been leading the COVID–19 response, combatting the virus in America and around the world.

During Women's History Month, we honor the female frontline health care workers.

From health care to home care, restaurants to grocery stores, women workers, low-paid workers, and women of color are on the front lines of the COVID–19 pandemic.

According to a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics survey, nearly 80% of healthcare workers and 83% of workers who provide social assistance, including child care and emergency services, are women.

Additionally, women-dominated occupations, such as nurses, flight attendants, and personal care aides, are among the most vulnerable to getting sick and spreading it to others.

Women are also in the position to suffer the most in an economic recession.

Women are the most economically vulnerable, comprising nearly 60% of workers in low-wage occupations.

Low-paid women workers have very little in the way of savings, which means it is much harder for them to weather economic shocks, especially when they are likely to be supporting a number of dependents.

Just this week, my bill, VAWA, was reauthorized as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, which President Joe Biden signed into law.

We must continue to do more to ensure that law enforcement has all the tools it needs to protect Americans from domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault and that survivors have the resources to heal.

VAWA is life-saving legislation.

This legislation was enacted in response to the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, and the significant impact of such violence on the lives of women.

Statistics have revealed that these forms of violence impact us all.

In the United States, an estimated 10 million people experience domestic violence every year, and more than 15 million children are exposed to this violence annually.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, about 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner.

About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence, and/or partner stalking with injury.

Today, in Texas, 35.10 percent of women and 34.5 percent of men are subjected to domestic violence.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us reflect on the women who shaped our history and on those today who are leading our nation forward.

We must work toward a future with equal access to economic opportunities, health care, and safety for all Americans.

It brings me great pride to say that more than 120 women House Members proudly follow in her footsteps—including a record number of committee and subcommittee chairs, myself included.

Driven by these women's devoted service and guided by their leadership, the Democratic House continues to lead the way in building a more just future—whether strengthening the rights of women in the workplace through the Paycheck Fairness Act and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, defending reproductive health freedoms with the Women's Health Protection Act or advancing the Build Back Better Act's historic investments in maternal care, paid family and medical leave, childcare and more.

Last month we celebrated the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and paid tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland; Mae C. Jemison; activists, intellectuals, authors, and artists like Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks, to name just a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a Member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Women's History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural or intellectual contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress, when she was elected to represent the New York's Twelfth Congressional District in 1968 running on the slogan, ''Fighting Shirley Chisholm: Unbought and Unbossed.''

She reflected that spirit well during her 14 years in Congress.

Before Shirley Chisolm, no black woman had ever served in the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate but following in her footsteps are 51 black women Members of Congress, two black women U.S. Senators, including the president of that body and Vice-President of the United States; 23 Hispanic members; and 15 Asian-Pacific members, along with the first woman Speaker of the House, and mayors of several of the largest cities in the nation, including the District of Columbia, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans, Baltimore, Hartford, Minneapolis, San Antonio, and St. Louis.

Shirley Chisolm had an understanding that during those turbulent times the nation required a determined leader to represent the voice of so many Americans who felt dismay at their treatment.

She took an extremely active role in changing the way women were to be judged from that point on.

She remarked that, ''Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes.''

This is a sentiment that I myself take to heart, women in this nation are now told they have a right to determine the kind of life they want to lead; Shirley Chisholm was at the core of this movement.

This past August 26, 2021, we commemorated the 101st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted women the right to vote.

This momentous achievement did not come easy or without struggle, for as the great abolitionist and orator, Fredrick Douglas stated: ''If there is no struggle, there is no progress . . . . Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.''

The fight for women's suffrage was waged over a 72-year period, beginning in Seneca Falls, New York at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, and exemplifies the prophetic and timeless saying of Margaret Mead that one should:

''Never doubt the ability of handful of committed persons to change the world. It is the only thing that ever has.''

The Seneca Falls Conference was organized by Lucretia Mott, with others including Mary McClintock and Sojourner Truth, who went on to establish herself not only as a great advocate for women's suffrage but also as a great abolitionist.

Among the courageous suffragists who spearheaded the movement were Alice Paul, who fearlessly executed the National Women's Party picketing protests, and conceived the hunger-strike in prison; Carrie Chapman Catt, who devised the ''winning plan'' at the Atlantic City Convention; and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, whose political activism and criticism of the suffrage leadership for excluding black women led to a more inclusive and effective movement.

In 1916, four years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Jeannette Rankin was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Montana, the first woman elected to federal office in American history.

A little over a century later, a record number of women serve in the House of Representatives, comprising 23.4% of the chamber's voting members, and presided over by NANCY PELOSI, the first and only woman elected Speaker of the House.

In the 117th Congress, about 37% of women are women of color, and since 1964, more than 70 women of color have been elected to Congress.

Although there remains much work to do to ensure that women enjoy full blessings of liberty and equality, that should not detract from the achievements and contributions to the greatness of our country made by American women, including Sally Kristen Ride, the first woman sent into space; Eileen Marie Collins, the first woman space shuttle pilot; Grace Murray Hopper, an American computer scientist and United States Navy rear admiral; and Katherine Johnson, one of the unsung heroes of the NASA Space Program, whose mathematical calculations helped the United States win the Space Race.

Nor should we forget that the current Vice-President of the United States is KAMALA D. HARRIS, Vice President HARRIS is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected as Vice President.

Similarly, we should remember that just five short years ago, Hillary Clinton shattered one glass ceiling when she became the first woman nominated as the presidential candidate of a major political party and came within 80,000 votes of winning the presidency and thus shattering the ultimate glass ceiling.

American women will break this ceiling in the not distant future, drawing inspiration from trailblazers in other nations such as Golda Meir of Israel, Indira Ghandi of India, Ellen Sirleaf of Liberia, Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, Angela Merkel of Germany, and Portia Simpson-Miller of Jamaica, among many others.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous men and women who are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said:

''Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.''

One barrier left to fall, however, is one of the most important, and that is membership on the Supreme Court of the United States.

For most of our national history, presidents and senators have turned a deaf ear to Abigail Adams' plea to her husband ''to remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors.''

Since Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's 1981 appointment, only a small handful of women have been nominated to the High Court during this time, despite the fact that women constitute a majority of the general population, 37% of all attorneys in America, a number that will soon exceed the majority since a substantial majority (54%) of all law students in America are women.

With Associate Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement announcement, President Biden and the U.S. Senate, now have been presented and should move quickly to capitalize on this opportunity to begin to rectify the High Court's gender and racial imbalance and to diversify its composition by confirming a member of the most underrepresented, disadvantaged, marginalized, longest suffering, and most patient demographic in America: black women.

Longer than any other racial or ethnic group, black women have been subjected to the coercive powers of the law while being excluded from the opportunities to make the laws citizens are to live under.

President Biden has made a nomination for the ages in selecting U.S. Circuit Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice.

Not only does Judge Jackson possess one of the finest legal minds of her generation, her commitment to equal justice, the rule of law, and Constitution is unsurpassed.

Judge Jackson will be a great Justice and a role model to women and girls everywhere, especially little black girls, that in America all things are possible with hard work and determination.

With this nomination, we are taking a massive step towards having a government whose institutions, including and especially the Supreme Court, are comprised of persons that look like the American people.

I applaud President Biden for making this historic nomination and urge the Senate to conduct a fair, impartial, and expeditious confirmation proceeding and confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson—who has already been confirmed on a bipartisan basis three times.

As we celebrated Black History Month and now Women's History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of equal opportunity for all.

And it is crucial that as we reflect on how far women have come, we also not lose sight of how far we have to go and what must be done to achieve true gender and racial equality so every girl everywhere can pursue her dreams and realize her potential.

As we progress through Women's History Month, let us summon the extraordinary courage and resilience of the many women who came before us.

Democrats will never relent as we carry on the fight for full equality—not only for our nation's daughters, but for women and girls all over the world.

As the legendary Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm said, ''If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.''

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, and on the Budget, and the Congressional Women's Caucus, I am pleased to join this Women's Caucus Special Order with my colleagues, to discuss the bravery of Ukrainian women and girls in the face of Russia's war against Ukraine.

I thank the Co-Chairs of the CWC, Representatives DEAN and GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for their leadership of the Bipartisan Congressional Women's Caucus.

Firstly, I would like to commend all Ukrainians for their outstanding bravery. It is truly inspirational for Americans, and for people around the world. America stands with you.

Russia's launch of a premeditated war against Ukraine is an attack on democracy and a grave violation of international law, global peace, and security.

The fighting has sparked massive displacement and has forced over two million Ukrainians to flee their homes to neighboring states and has put women and girls at heightened risk of violence.

Although many people have fled, millions have stayed behind to help fight the Russian invaders and defend Ukrainian sovereignty.

Thousands of Ukrainian women have taken up arms and are playing a vital role in Ukraine's national defense. Today they make up 22.8% of the Ukrainian army, not including the thousands who have volunteered as civilian soldiers.

Life in the military is not easy for women. While women have been serving in the Ukrainian military since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, they did not win the right to officially fight alongside their male counterparts until 2017.

When Russian-backed forces seized part of the Donbas region and conflict ensued in 2014, thousands of women volunteered to help the Ukrainian military. They served as assault troops, medics, and snipers.

But the sacrifices made by these women went largely unrecognized. Official documents issued by the Ukrainian military, listed these soldiers as seamstresses, cooks, and janitors.

The women who volunteered ''often found themselves outside legal protection,'' according to the Invisible Battalion, an advocacy group for Ukrainian servicewomen, that studied women's roles in the war against Russia.

Although these women have not always been adequately supported by their government because of soviet era laws forbidding them from enlisting, they have persisted.

In 2017 a group of women veterans got together and lobbied for their rights, which brought about a much-needed change in the culture in the Ukrainian military.

Just last year the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense determined that female soldiers marching in a military parade celebrating independence from the Soviet Union would wear high heels, not boots.

Regardless of the numerous hurdles and mockeries Ukrainian women have faced and continue to face today, there are thousands who are putting their lives at risk to protect and defend their homeland.

Among them have been a 79-year-old woman who recently learned how to fire a gun, a former beauty queen Anastasia Lenna, who represented Ukraine at the 2015 Miss Grand International pageant—and Kristina, a former wedding singer.

Kristina was living in Italy last summer when tensions between Ukraine and Russia rose. While knowing the security risks, Kristina returned to her country to become a soldier.

She told a VICE news reporter that "The risk of saying goodbye to life is always there, [and she is] not afraid of death; [she] is afraid to [become a slave]." Words that will forever stick with me.

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society, and there is no better example of this than those women fighting in Ukraine today.

So, on this day, March 9, 2022, I would like to publicly commend the women fighting in Ukraine for their boundless courage and bravery. The world stands with you and will continue to fight alongside you to put an end to Putin's cruel parade.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would just say that it is a joy to be on the floor with Representative JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman very, very much. She makes my job very easy.

Madam Speaker, I yield again to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank the leader of our caucus, Ms. FRANKEL.

Madam Speaker, I am just going to close with some expectations. I am leaving Congress this year, and I want to convey to you, Madam Speaker, to the leadership of the Democratic Women's Caucus, and to all of my colleagues how important I think that you are as guardians of womanhood. Our job is never done.

So while we may celebrate these small victories from time to time, the ERA is not part of our Constitution. Of the 193 countries in the world, 165 have the ERA in their Constitutions. The United States does not. It is 24 little words. Thirty-eight States have passed it. We have this deadline that we have struck from the legislation in the House. The Senate has not taken it up.

Femicide is a huge problem in Latin America. The Democratic Women's Caucus will have a presentation this Friday on that. The 5,000 missing Native-American women in this country that really we had no cognizance of until we had a Native-American woman in the Congress to talk about it.

Finally, a new issue—probably not a new issue—is one that has just percolated to the surface, and that is female inmates in Federal prisons who are raped by the wardens, the chaplains, and the guards. Congresswoman BASS, Congressman SWALWELL, and I went to the Federal correctional institution in Dublin this week.

Now, at that one prison, the warden had raped inmates, the chaplain had raped inmates, and two of the guards that we know of had raped inmates.

It is profound that we change the culture in these prisons to prevent that from happening and from the training of guards and leadership at those facilities to treat these women with a certain amount of dignity that you would just provide to another human being.

What we heard about the kinds of things that are said about them—they are called hos and called just horrible things that make us realize that we still have a lot of work to do.

So as I conclude, let me just say, Madam Speaker, that we are the guardians of womanhood for the future, and I will look on with fondness and great appreciation.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership. She will be missed. I know she will go on to bigger and better things. She has made her mark in the history of this country for sure.

I want to thank my colleagues, SHEILA JACKSON LEE and JACKIE SPEIER, for coming to the floor. They gave us a great education tonight, and I appreciate that.

I will conclude, Madam Speaker, the way I started, which is I thank all those millions and millions of unknown women who lift us up every day, who dry our tears, and who share our happiness with that unconditional love, and those are our mothers who are probably, as I said, the most influential part of the history of the world.

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

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 55. An act to amend section 249 of title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a hate crime act.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, March 17, 2022, for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–3643. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Kenneth F. McKenzie, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of 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–3644. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report, pursuant to Public Law 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3645. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3646. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3647. A letter from the Secretary and Treasury, Resolution Funding Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2021 management reports and financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–3648. A letter from the Senior Congressional Official, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2021 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–3649. A letter from the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2021 Ginnie Mae Annual Management Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–3650. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a notification of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in an acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–3651. A letter from the National Adjutant and Chief Executive Officer, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the reports and proceedings of the 2021 National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, held

in Tampa, Florida, July 31-August 3, 2021 (H. Doc. No. 117—102); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC–3652. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's legislative proposal, ''To authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

EC–3653. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''Report to Congress on the Administration, Cost, and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year 2019'', pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320c-10; Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, Sec. 1161 (as amended by Public Law 97-248, Sec. 143); (96 Stat. 392); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. NORMAN, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 7095. A bill to enhance accountability and efficiency in the Federal civil service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 7096. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to enhance the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to share information with respect to merchandise suspected of violating intellectual property rights with rights holders and other interested parties; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAWTHORN (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 7097. A bill to facilitate the provision of telehealth services through interstate recognition of health care professionals' licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 7098. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to expand the Magnet Schools Assistance Program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mr. JONES, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 7099. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a windfall profits excise tax on crude oil and to rebate the tax collected back to individual taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HERRELL (for herself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. MACE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 7100. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for certain minimal levels of educational assistance to the dependents of public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and 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. JONES (for himself, Ms. BUSH, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 7101. A bill to prohibit certain anticompetitive mergers, to amend the Clayton Act to permit the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice to reject proposed acquisitions, to implement procedures for retrospective reviews and breaking up anticompetitive consummated acquisitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 7102. A bill to prohibit the export of crude oil and finished motor gasoline produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 7103. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on the profits of oil companies and distribute them as a dividend to taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KATKO, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 7104. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the semiconductor manufacturing investment credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 7105. A bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 7106. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a fund to provide support services for individuals participating in certain training activities under such Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 7107. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the use of retirement plan funds to obtain long-term care insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas (for himself, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BARR, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MAST, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. GUEST, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LONG, Mr. ESTES, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CARL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CLINE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. BOST):

H.J. Res. 76. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to ''Ensuring Access to Equitable, Affordable, Client-Centered, Quality Family Planning Services''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H. Res. 986. A resolution celebrating the centennial of United States Navy aircraft carriers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H. Res. 987. A resolution expressing gratitude on behalf of the people of the United States to the journalists and news staff who are risking injury and death, are subject to grave threat, and have sacrificed their lives, to chronicle and report on the ongoing war in Ukraine resulting from Putin's invasion; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. WILD, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. MENG, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ROSE, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. TRONE, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MAST, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LONG, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. MANNING, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. FALLON):

H. Res. 988. A resolution calling for justice and accountability for the perpetrators of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-147. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, relative to House Joint Resolution 22-1012, concerning reaffirming Colorado to be the permanent location for the United States Space Command, and, in connection therewith, urging the Department of Defense to Keep the United States Space Command in Colorado; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

ML-148. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, relative to House Joint Resolution 22-1013, concerning the Fifty-Fourth Anniversary of the Capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo by North Korea; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ML-149. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska, relative to Legislative Resolution 14, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ML-150. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Memorial 1003, urging the United States Congress to implement legislation to strengthen the United States and Arizona electrical grids; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 7095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution, in that the legislation ''is necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the . . . Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 7096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 7097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 7098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 7099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. HERRELL:

H.R. 7100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution which states that Congress has the power ''to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the 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.'' [Page H1190]

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 7101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 7102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 7103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 7104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 7105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 7106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 7107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.J. Res. 76.

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. 19: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 69: Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. MOONEY, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 82: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 140: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 310: Mr. STANTON, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Mr. GARCIA of California.

H.R. 475: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 614: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 783: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 858: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 863: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 890: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 911: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 923: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 955: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 1055: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 1179: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1285: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1334: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 1351: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 1575: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 1577: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1643: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1676: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1696: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1735: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1753: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1819: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 1984: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2023: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 2067: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.

H.R. 2127: Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 2192: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 2373: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 2453: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 2483: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2513: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 2549: Mrs. TORRES of California and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2718: Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. BOST, and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 2773: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2814: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 2820: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 2840: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 2916: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2924: Mr. TONKO and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 2954: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 3134: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 3160: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 3215: Mr. LIEU, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3294: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 3342: Mr. VEASEY and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 3575: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 3577: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 3662: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 3693: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 3816: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 3843: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 3867: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 3932: Mr. LIEU and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3962: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 3990: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4003: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 4110: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 4148: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4315: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 4390: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 4395: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 4402: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 4450: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 4472: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 4687: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 4779: Mr. DELGADO, Ms. WILD, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4785: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 4892: Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4934: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 5089: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 5141: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. JONES, Ms. TITUS, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 5232: Ms. CHENEY and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 5245: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 5247: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 5413: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 5428: Ms. MENG and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 5444: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 5526: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 5533: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5537: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 5602: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. Barragán, and Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 5605: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 5666: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5757: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 5769: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5799: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 5801: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5818: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 5828: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 5852: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 5869: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5893: Ms. WEXTON.
H.R. 5931: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 5975: Mr. LAMB.
H.R. 5981: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 6015: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 6026: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 6145: Mr. MEIJER, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 6161: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MEIJER, and Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 6202: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 6219: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 6287: Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 6323: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 6338: Mr. DELGADO, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 6394: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 6395: Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 6397: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 6398: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 6421: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 6433: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 6479: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 6527: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 6536: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 6537: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 6538: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 6571: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 6583: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 6613: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 6629: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 6630: Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 6631: Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 6636: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 6641: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 6659: Mr. DUNN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 6660: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RYAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 6661: Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 6671: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 6678: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 6703: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 6704: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 6706: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 6720: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 6725: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 6730: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 6783: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 6816: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 6821: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 6828: Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 6830: Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 6835: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 6860: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 6862: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 6872: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 6886: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 6887: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 6891: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 6894: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MEIJER, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 6899: Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. STEIL, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BARR, Mr. SESSIONS,
Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. ROSE, Mr. EMMER, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTHK, AND MR. SHERMAN.
H.R. 6913: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HUDSON, and Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 6921: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6945: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.
H.R. 6949: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6954: Mr. MEIJER and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 6963: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 6967: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 6972: Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 6975: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 7012: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 7023: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. ROSENDALE.
H.R. 7061: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 7062: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. REED, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 7066: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 7075: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. KIND, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 7077: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. DEAN, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 7084: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 7088: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 7094: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.J. Res. 46: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. ROSE.
H.J. Res. 48: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.J. Res. 53: Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MCEACHIN, and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.J. Res. 72: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Mr. LAMALFA.
H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. STAUBER.
H. Con. Res. 60: Mr. MORELLE.
H. Con. Res. 72: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Con. Res. 78: Mrs. HAYES.
H. Res. 69: Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 214: Mr. DONALDS.
H. Res. 237: Mr. TRONE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MEIJER, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.
H. Res. 306: Ms. SCANLON.
H. Res. 404: Ms. WILD.
H. Res. 515: Mr. ELLZEY and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H. Res. 888: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 928: Mr. STEIL.
H. Res. 963: Mr. BOST.
H. Res. 966: Ms. TITUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MEUSER, and Ms. WILD.
H. Res. 981: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. STEVENS.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-106. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Ambassador, the Russian Federation, relative to a letter on the U.S. response to the Russian draft ''Bilateral Treaty on Security Guarantees''; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose might can save us, we trust You to deliver the Ukrainian people. Save them from those who shoot from the shadows.

Lord, we have trusted You in the past, when everything seemed to be falling apart. We continue to look to Your throne in Heaven for courage to face the worst that sin can do.

Lord, give our lawmakers wisdom to be strong and courageous in these dangerous times. Remind them that You have not given us a spirit of fear but power, love, and self-discipline.

Help us, Lord. We trust Your promises that cannot fail. Continue to hear our prayers and bring peace to our world.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, moments ago, speaking through a video feed from Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed Members of both the House and the Senate as the war in Ukraine enters its 21st awful day.

It is one of the highest honors of any Congress to welcome remarks by a foreign head of state, but it is unheard of to hear from a leader fighting for his life, fighting for his country's future, and fighting to preserve the very idea of democracy.

I cannot remember the last time a foreign leader united a room full of Members from both sides so quickly and so intensely. He spoke not just to American ears but to America's very soul. In one sense, his speech was reminiscent of the stirring feeling all of us had in the aftermath of 9/11: equal parts resolve and unity and determination to save democracy from an hour of darkness.

As we have said from the start of the war, the Senate, the Congress, and the American people stand unequivocally behind the people of Ukraine. America will continue to strengthen our NATO allies and reassure our friends in Europe that we will remain a steady ally. It is why, last week, Congress approved nearly $14 billion for food, shelter, money for Javelins and Stingers and anti-aircraft weapons and refugee help. Every last penny that the United States sends to Ukraine is money well spent.

This morning, it is reported that President Biden will also announce another $800 million in military assistance. This means even more anti-tank, anti-aircraft missiles and other weapons that have been the most effective on the battlefield for the Ukrainians.

Last night, the Senate also unanimously passed legislation supporting investigations by the International Criminal Court into potential war crimes by Putin and his regime. I thank Senator GRAHAM and the many, many others who backed this bill. The Senate also confirmed the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, our lead advocate in making sure this investigation is robust and it is swift.

These steps are all necessary. Over the last 2 weeks, we have seen Putin attack the largest nuclear plant in Europe, attack the Chernobyl containment site, attack a children's hospital, and attack designated humanitarian convoys. Putin, so far, is not winning militarily so now this evil man is trying to win by massacring civilians; massacring babies; parents, the elderly; and targeting apartments, just as he did in Syria, just as he did in Chechnya. If this doesn't equal a war crime, I don't know what does.

If it wasn't clear before, it should be clear now that President Putin and his

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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band of cronies are not going to stop. But in his monomaniacal hubris, Putin has severely—severely—underestimated the Ukrainian people. Every time an innocent Ukrainian is killed, the resolve of the people grows stronger, and we stand with them. I join my colleagues in one voice to say this: ''Slava Ukraini,'' glory to Ukraine.

And, Mr. President, just seeing the video that the President showed us is heartbreaking and strengthens our resolve. Putin, by being such a villain, by being such a brutal, evil man, is not going to deter the Ukrainians, for sure, and not the American people from helping Ukraine. It strengthens our resolve when we see how vicious, how brutal he is.

COSTS

Mr. President, now, on another issue, this morning I want to highlight two steps Senate Democrats are taking to maintain our laser focus on lowering costs for American families.

First, today the Senate Finance Committee is holding a hearing examining one of the most vexing issues facing Americans everywhere: the alarming rise in prescription drug costs. Few things are as frustrating and debilitating as going to the pharmacy and seeing the price on your receipt go up and up and up for essential medications.

For families struggling to make ends meet, drug costs present a harrowing Sophie's choice. Do I buy groceries and diapers and take care of my kids, or do I pay for my medications? It is a decision no American should make, but millions have to make it every day.

Insulin is a particularly flummoxing example. According to some sources, a 40-day supply can now climb north of $600 a month. For millions of Americans who rely on insulin to manage their diabetes, this is a crisis that should compel the Senate to act. I expect that we will consider next steps soon on proposals already presented to my colleagues.

And besides rising prescription drug costs, Senate Democrats are zeroing in on the alarming state of energy prices. In the coming weeks, I expect that Congress will be calling on CEOs from the oil and gas companies to testify on the alarming spike in energy prices.

Over the past few weeks, as war in Ukraine began, the price of a barrel of oil rose precipitously. That immediately translated to oil and gas companies raising the price for Americans at the pump. But something is happening that Americans shouldn't overlook. Over the past few days, oil prices have actually been decreasing, but the price of gas at the pump has not.

Some of the economists call this stickiness. When the costs go up, the price to the consumer goes up; when the costs go down, the price to the consumer stays high. Stickiness does not come close to describing the outrage that Americans feel about this.

The last time that the price of a barrel of oil was at $96, gas was $3.62 a gallon. Oil prices have now come down to $96 again. Yet the price of gas continues to rise. It is now at $4.31. The bewildering incongruity between falling oil prices and rising gas prices smacks of price-gouging and is deeply damaging to working Americans.

The Senate is going to get answers, and that is why we will be calling on the CEOs of major oil companies to come testify before the Congress.

Meanwhile, as Americans pay more at the pump, the biggest oil companies in America are making a killing. Twenty-five of the top oil and gas companies reported a combined $205 billion in profits. That is an astounding figure, blowing prepandemic figures out of the water. But instead of lowering gas prices, oil companies are using these soaring profits to reward their shareholders through stock buybacks. It is outrageous to me. Stock buybacks—they benefit the CEOs because they can tell the shareholders, ''See, the price went up.'' But it is not because they sold more product, became more efficient, hired more workers, used productivity. It is simply decreasing the number of shares so the price goes up. That, to me, is so wrong. It is one of the disturbing signs of American capitalism.

These disturbing trends demand answers, and the CEOs of large oil and gas companies should be advised they will have to provide answers before the Senate very soon: Why stock buybacks instead of lowering prices or increasing productivity or moving to green energy, which we know we all have to do?

And finally, in conclusion, another issue on prices. The Senate will also take action on the bottlenecks and supply chain crisis crippling our shipping lines. Senator CANTWELL and the Commerce Committee will be holding a markup on March 22 on bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators KLOBUCHAR and THUNE that will target this issue—one of the many, many ways that Democrats are continuing our focus on lowering costs for American families.

So these are some concrete steps we are taking. We are going to hear about many more as Democrats focus keenly—laser-like—on the higher costs for the American people, which we know must, must come down.

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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, Members of Congress received an update on the situation in Ukraine directly from President Zelenskyy. His presentation was powerful and heart-wrenching. It reinforced our sympathy, our outrage, and our resolve.

President Zelenskyy's courage and leadership have earned the attention and the admiration of the entire free world. He has marshaled Ukraine's brave and defiant resistance against Russian invasion. He has steeled the resolve of his people beyond what anybody expected and offered the entire world a master class in leadership.

This morning, President Zelenskyy didn't mince words about what Ukraine needs urgently to keep up the fight: more lethal capabilities and heavier sanctions against Russia and especially the air defense systems that we should have helped Ukraine get weeks ago. His people face a long and difficult road ahead, and the entire world knows what they are up against.

The scale of Russia's aggression wasn't just foreseeable; it was foreseen. For 30 years, every step toward democracy and sovereignty in Eastern Europe has tempted the wrath of revanchist autocrats like Putin. That is why I have asked the Biden administration early and often to demonstrate America's commitment to our allies and partners most squarely in Russia's crosshairs.

Last June, 8 months before the Russian invasion, I urged the President to ''provide serious, lethal support to Ukraine and other vulnerable states on the front lines of Putin's aggressions''—8 months ago. In December, I specifically called on President Biden to deploy extra U.S. forces to reinforce NATO's eastern flank—last December. I urged his administration to expedite and expand shipments of lethal aid like anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons. But, as we know, a security assistance package for Ukraine sat down at the White House for months before being approved. Once approved, efforts to transfer the weapons moved at the speed of bureaucracy. And the President waited until February to order U.S. personnel to the frontlines.

The Biden administration had over a year to get this right. They had a year to translate rhetorical support for NATO into leading real, collective defense. But they took 5 months to even nominate an ambassador to the alliance.

On the campaign trail, President Biden called Putin a ''KGB thug.'' He was right about that. But after 1 week in office, he announced an agreement with the Kremlin to extend the New START treaty for up to 5 years, reducing our leverage to get a better deal that caps Putin's nuclear ambitions.

As the threats to Ukraine gathered, whenever an opportunity to act has presented itself, the Biden administration has hesitated until political pressure became overwhelming or balked outright.

Since Russia's invasion began, the administration has publicly shot down efforts from a NATO ally to get working aircraft to Ukrainian pilots. Last

Monday, the White House scuttled a bipartisan congressional bill to end normal trade relations with Russia, only to make a public show on Friday of calling for exactly the same action.

At every step of the way—every step of the way—the self-deterred White House has insisted its hesitation and restraint was aimed at avoiding escalation, but at every step, Putin has escalated.

Now, 3 weeks into Putin's invasion, the reality on the ground is evolving. It is harder now than it would have been a few months ago to keep the pipeline of weapons and supplies and intelligence for Ukraine's brave resistance open. Russia's air offensive in particular is hitting a deadlier, more aggressive stride. But, as I have been saying literally for months, it is not too late for the Biden administration to do the right thing. So here is what President Biden should be doing right now:

No. 1, he should use the money and authorities we have just provided him to expand the scope of our lethal aid to Ukraine to include more effective, longer range air defense capabilities. That means working with NATO allies with urgency to get Ukrainian pilots more aircraft and munitions and facilitating the transfer of weapons Ukraine's forces are most familiar with, like air defense systems from countries with stockpiles of Soviet legacy systems. President Zelenskyy specifically pleaded for these air defense systems this morning—this morning.

No. 2, President Biden should deploy more U.S. forces to reinforce NATO's eastern flank and use the new drawdown and loan guarantee authorities to help harden the defenses of our frontline allies and partners. Many of these partners are generously helping Ukraine, and we should help them backfill their inventories with more modern American capabilities that will improve NATO's interoperability and bolster deterrence at the same time.

No. 3, on a trip to Europe next week, President Biden should go beyond Brussels. He should go to countries like Poland, Romania, or Lithuania to meet with NATO eastern flank allies. He should look beyond NATO to deepen our diplomatic security cooperation with important American partners like Finland and Sweden.

Finally, if President Biden wants the United States to lead our allies by example and to keep pace with adversaries like Russia and China, the place to start is with robust investments in our own defense capabilities. The coming year's appropriations process is an opportunity to finally—finally—show we are serious.

Vladimir Putin has proven to the world that he is willing to stoop low in pursuit of power, and he has shown us exactly—exactly—how he responds to weakness. We cannot afford to stay behind the curve. America must lead and lead with strength.

A few minutes ago, President Zelenskyy reminded us that the United States is, indeed, the leader of the free world, so it is time we acted like it.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, on another matter, last week marked 1 year since Democrats rammed $2 trillion of runaway liberal spending through the Senate on a party-line vote. Working families were certainly not celebrating this particular anniversary; they were too busy contending with the worst inflation in modern American history, unleashed in large part by that very bill.

Democrats' policies have conjured up the worst inflation in 40 years. Consumer prices rose 0.8 percent in the month of February alone. Annual inflation hit 7.9 percent. It is still getting worse. We just learned yesterday that the Producer Price Index, which measures inflation upstream at the wholesale level, is up 10 percent—10 percent—since last year.

This is hammering American families. Experts estimate that inflation alone is costing the average household more than $296 every single month—the equivalent of an extra $300 monthly bill courtesy of Democratic policies. No wonder almost 60 percent of Americans say inflation is causing them personal financial pain and the Democrats' approval ratings on the economy are way underwater. Even with a literal land war in Europe, the Democrats' inflation is so painful that inflation and not Ukraine still tops the American people's biggest list of concerns.

From the gas pump to the grocery store, to clothes, diapers, and baby formula, to furniture and home essentials, to car repairs and car replacements, Democrats' policies have put working families on a treadmill where they have to run faster and faster every month just to stay in place. Rent prices are spiking faster than they have since 1991. Grocery prices are soaring faster than they have since 1981. New cars and truck prices are climbing at their fastest rates ever. Forget about getting ahead and saving—households are lucky if they are even able to tread water.

Lately, Democrats have launched a shameless campaign to blame 12 months of inflation not on 12 months of their bad policies but instead on the last 3 weeks' crisis in Europe. The White House informs us that ''Putin's price hike'' is the culprit. Of course, that is utter nonsense. Even liberal experts are rejecting their shameless spin.

A former top economist for President Obama directly responded to the Biden administration's attempt to shift the blame. He said:

> Well—

This is what he said—

> Well, no. These are February numbers and only include [a] small Russia effect. This is Biden's inflation and he needs to own it.

The White House spin has not even persuaded former Democratic officials.

Here is another quote:

> This is Biden's inflation and he needs to own it.

Working Americans understand it just as well as the experts. Everybody knows where the buck stops. One retired mechanic who lives in Los Angeles recently explained to a reporter that he is facing $6 gasoline and rising food prices. He is a registered Democrat, but he knows where this inflation came from. Here is how he described it.

He said:

> Uncle Joe has put us on a diet. I like to have a steak once or twice a month. I can't do it now.

This is exactly what Republicans said would happen when Democrats dumped trillions of dollars into printing and spending on a partisan basis last year. Even top liberal economists said Democrats' reckless spending spree would bring about inflationary pressures like we have not seen for a generation.

Ah, but Democrats didn't listen. They pushed ahead, and, for 12 months and counting, working families have been paying a heavy price.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Republican leader referred to the American Rescue Plan, which did not receive a single Republican vote in support. He referred to it as runaway Federal spending.

What did we buy with the American Rescue Plan?

We bought vaccines, and we bought an administration and management of delivering those vaccines to the American people in the midst of a pandemic that was claiming American lives every day.

Runaway Federal spending—how much stronger would this Nation be if we were still in the depths of this pandemic?

We are emerging from it, thank God. But it wasn't for lack of effort on our part on this side of the aisle.

Yes, we spent the money. We administered the shots, and people across America are now protected from hospitalizations and death because of it. No apologies here to my colleague from Kentucky. It was money well spent, not just for that—and that was the number one public health purpose—but, secondly, to keep businesses afloat so they can reopen their doors as the pandemic ebbed.

That investment in the capital of America, in the businesses of America, paid off for business owners who otherwise would have lost their life savings and family investments and for their workers who finally returned to work.

I think it helped the small businesses, and I think it helped the families. The child tax credit, which cut in half child poverty in America—that child tax credit, according to the Senator from Kentucky, was runaway Federal spending. Tell that to the family who lives paycheck to paycheck and tries to provide the basics in life for their children. No apologies here for the American Rescue Plan.

And when you ask the American people, ''What about this inflation,'' it is a problem. Of course, it is. We see it as they do. And we see it all across the world. Inflation isn't confined to the United States. It is reflected in a world that is emerging from COVID–19, where economies—local economies—were strangled and choked and restricted. Now, they are expanding. People are expanding their needs and spending on that side of it. If the supply doesn't keep up with it, then inflation results. We have a battle ahead of us and many plans here to try to address it with a number of items to reduce the cost of living for families.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, the second item I would like to mention refers to a moving, historic presentation this morning by the President of Ukraine to a joint session of Congress.

He did it virtually by remote because he is literally in Kyiv, risking his life every single day for his nation.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy may have started his life as a standup comedian, but at this moment in life, he is a standup President of Ukraine, who is confronting the monster of Moscow who has unleashed this invasion on his country. He begged us to continue to help, and we will.

Last week, we added almost $14 billion to the effort to support the Ukrainian defense and resistance. We need to do that and more.

Many of the suggestions by the Republican Senator are consistent with that goal, and I would endorse it. But I want to leave it to President Biden to make the critical decisions as our Commander in Chief who is really tasked with America's national security as his highest priority.

I take exception to this notion that Joe Biden didn't understand the timing of this crisis. He understood it better than anyone. He knew that if he pushed too far and too fast, two things might occur: first, that the Russians would move because we had precipitated it with an action we had taken. He was hoping, as we all did, that this could be ended bloodlessly and that an innocent people would be saved from what we see, the devastation that is happening in Ukraine today. So he was careful to make those moves in a way that Putin couldn't use them as an excuse for starting the invasion.

Second, and more important, he needed to move at a pace consistent with building the NATO alliance. President Joe Biden succeeded in that effort. The NATO alliance today is stronger than it has ever been. Don't believe the last President of the United States had anything to do with that, just the opposite was true.

Joe Biden picked up that alliance from the mat and brought them up to fighting trim, to be ready, if needed, to ''defend every square inch,'' as he says, ''of NATO territory.'' That timing was crucial. And decisions which seem so easy and obvious in America were much more complex on the continent of Europe. Joe Biden knew that, and he paced himself accordingly. And because of that today, we have the strongest alliance in the face of Vladimir Putin that he has ever seen and that we have ever seen.

The last point I want to make to this, you could not watch the graphic video presented by President Zelenskyy without breaking your heart. Every parent and grandparent in America watching that video saw a member of his family, a child, a lifeless corpse because of a man named Vladimir Putin and what he is doing to that poor country. Unprovoked, he has invaded them and kills innocent people every single day.

Last night, unanimously, the Senate decided, as they should, that the conduct of Vladimir Putin was nothing short of a war crime. I can't think of any other way to describe it and certainly never excuse it.

Zelenskyy touched our hearts too. His people are fighting a valiant effort, and the United States and allies and countries that share our values stand behind him and will continue to.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues Senators MURKOWSKI and ERNST and, of course, my friend and colleague Senator FEINSTEIN to celebrate the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, more commonly known as VAWA. Yesterday, President Biden signed it into law. This is a monumental achievement for the survivors of domestic sexual violence and those who stand by them.

It is an achievement that wouldn't have been possible without bipartisan cooperation. It, literally, would not have been possible. I have been proud to work with my three colleagues whom I mentioned.

With this strengthened version of VAWA, we have helped to ensure that every survivor in America, no matter where they live, will be able to reach for a lifeline in a moment of crisis. We have expanded and authorized services for rural survivors, survivors who need culturally specific services, and LGBTQ survivors. We have reauthorized programs that ensure survivors and their families can access housing, healthcare, and essential support services. We have improved rape prevention and education, as well as services and protections for young survivors. We have enhanced critical protections for Native American women and children who experience violence at the hands of non-Native perpetrators.

It doesn't include everything we had hoped for. That is the nature of legislation and compromise. I wish there had been stronger protections for housing and economic assistance, but we had to find an agreement, and we did.

The bill contains several important provisions to help boost enforcement of our gun laws. I wish it would have finally closed the so-called ''boyfriend loophole,'' but that was beyond our reach in this effort.

The lack of those provisions could not attract enough bipartisan support in the Senate to pass on their own. They will be saved for another day.

For nearly 30 years, VAWA has transformed the way we address domestic and sexual violence in America and saved countless lives. At a moment when nearly one in three women—one in three—have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence, a crisis that has grown worse during the pandemic, VAWA is going to help save lives.

Let me tell you a story. My office received a letter from a woman named Kesha, who works with Connections for Abused Women and their Children in Chicago. Kesha told me that VAWA provides funding for domestic violence services at Chicago's Haymarket Center, an amazing agency I know full well.

She shared the story of Cassandra, who was receiving treatment at the Center for Substance Abuse and disclosed to a counselor that she was the victim of abusive treatment. Her counselor referred her to VAWA, and that program gave her an opportunity to ''open up about the emotional, financial, and physical abuse she had suffered for years at the hands of [an] abusive husband.''

Kesha wrote:

> After weeks of domestic violence psychoeducation, a supportive network encouraging her, and her own personal resilience, Cassandra decided that if she wanted to remain in recovery and not relapse, [she had to find a new home, away from her abuser.] With the help of her domestic violence counselor, Cassandra was able to break free and transition into temporary housing.

She has been able to gain financial independence and find a job. She has remained on her path to recovery, a success story, and a reminder that VAWA doesn't just help save lives, it gives survivors the power to rebuild their own lives.

VAWA also provides funding for educational programming, and it has done it so well.

I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator ERNST, and Senator MURKOWSKI for their partnership and tireless leadership in getting this bill addressed, introduced, and across the finish line.

I want to thank their staff: Jessica Jensen, Senator FEINSTEIN's chief counsel, as well as Nick Xenakis, her former chief counsel; Corey Becker and Kristina Sesek, Senator ERNST's legislative director and general counsel; and Anna Dietderich, Senator MURKOWSKI's legislative assistant.

On my Judiciary Committee staff, I would like to give thanks especially to Stephanie Trifone and Nicole McClain Walton and Chastidy Burns.

I want to thank the other members of the committees of jurisdiction and their staffs, along with Ranking Member MURKOWSKI and the minority staff on the Indian Affairs Committee,

chaired by BRIAN SCHATZ. They have done an extraordinarily good job, a bipartisan job, when it comes to Native Americans.

Chair MURRAY and the staff of the HELP Committee, Chair BROWN and the staff of the Banking Committee, Chair WYDEN and the staff of the Finance Committee were part of this victory.

As you can see, this was a multicommittee team effort on both sides of the aisle, and that is the only reason we can stand here today and say we will continue to give hope to those who are struggling with domestic violence and abuse.

I ask unanimous consent that Senators ERNST, MURKOWSKI, and FEINSTEIN be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each prior to the cloture vote on the Corely nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues Senator DURBIN, Senator FEINSTEIN, and Senator MURKOWSKI for joining me on the floor this morning to talk about a very important topic and one that we can finally celebrate, which is the passage and the signing of the Violence Against Women Act.

Nine years—it has been 9 years since the Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized, but, finally, the Senate reauthorized and modernized this very important bill.

Last week, the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 passed the House and the Senate, and yesterday, at long last, it was signed into law.

I have been a proud champion of this bill over the last 3 years. And while no bill is perfect, I am extremely grateful for the bipartisan work to get it over the finish line.

This bill is personal. Many of you know my story. I am the one out of three women who has experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.

Similarly, one in four men have had the same experience. This means nearly 20 people per minute, more than 10 million women and men in the United States every single year have suffered this horrific personal abuse.

I am not a victim. I am a survivor. It took me a long time to say those words out loud. And my hope is that with this bill some women will never have to, and those who do will have the necessary support and resources in a moment of crisis to cope with and ultimately overcome their trauma.

The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is a bright light in our current troubling reality.

The bill includes so many critical resources, especially in our rural communities, that have been drastically overlooked.

Specifically, the bill doubles the support for both the rural domestic violence assistance program and the Rape Prevention and Education Program, both of which are of great importance to my home State of Iowa.

And my sincere hope is that the resources contained in this new law will finally help truly move the needle on domestic violence around the country and that some of our Nation's most vulnerable will have access to the support that they so desperately need.

To my colleagues, thank you, especially to Senators FEINSTEIN, DURBIN, and MURKOWSKI for your diligent work on domestic violence-related issues over the years.

I also want to thank Republican Senators CORNYN, COLLINS, CAPITO, PORTMAN, CRAMER, TILLIS, MORAN, BURR, and BLUNT for supporting this vital bill at introduction.

The negotiations were, at times—my colleagues will recognize this—very tough, and there were several doubts along the way as to whether the bill would actually ever happen. But with a little bit of tenacity and good-faith negotiating, we got there.

To those who work every day around this great country to help domestic violence survivors, including our law enforcement officers who are answering those domestic violence calls, thank you.

While working at a victim's shelter answering the hotline in college, I heard the heartbreaking stories of abuse. I understand this is your daily reality. Please know your work is not going unnoticed and is making a difference in the lives of those around you.

To all of the advocates, I greatly appreciate and respect your passion for the causes you support. Your persistence made this bill possible, and it made this bill better.

While the end result isn't perfect, it modernizes the resources necessary to meet the evolving needs of our survivors.

This bill is proof that bipartisanship is not dead and Congress can tackle these tough issues.

Finally, for my fellow Americans who can say they are survivors, for those who have not come to terms with their abuse and for those who feel trapped in their situation and for those who have lost their battle, please know that you are not and will never be forgotten. The Violence Against Women Act is for you.

Today, I join my fellow survivors, my colleagues, and our strong and wonderful advocates across this country in celebrating VAWA's reauthorization and its modernization.

Thank you to my dear colleagues for their wonderful work in helping us get this over the finish line.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I so appreciate the leadership, the heart of Senator ERNST and the ability to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—Senator DURBIN, Senator FEINSTEIN—in this effort towards reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Thanks to the very open, very inclusive, and, really, a very transparent process that we followed, the bipartisan support that was built with this, we were able to include the VAWA reauthorization in the Omnibus appropriations bill that passed the Senate last week with 68 votes.

That wasn't necessarily the path that we had set on. But we had work to do, again, with extraordinary leadership from Senator ERNST, Senator DURBIN, Senator FEINSTEIN, myself, who have been working on this for years, but trying to build that collaborative effort, that negotiated effort that would result in not a partisan bill but a bill that is designed to help those survivors, designed to help the most vulnerable at their time of need.

So there is great thanks that is due this afternoon as we recognize the dedication, the leadership of, again, the cosponsors, the Members that led this, but we all know we are backed by incredible men and women who work very hard to get these initiatives built and across the finish line.

Senator DURBIN has named many of the staffs and general counsels, our legislative assistants that made this happen.

I also want to recognize all those who were named, in addition to those who are working on the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to help us with that Tribal title. It was a collaborative effort that was really, really tireless.

And I want to acknowledge Senator ERNST particularly. She worked tirelessly over these last 3 years, working to ensure that women and their safety—and, really, all those who are most vulnerable—their safety is put first.

But to Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator DURBIN—invaluable partners putting the politics aside, saying: We have to figure out how we are going to make this happen, and they did so.

But we and our staff can't do near the job that needs to be done without the advocacy and, again, this passionate grassroots advocacy that we have all felt.

I want to recognize women like Tami Jerue from the Alaskan Native Women's Resource Center; Michelle Demmert, Brenda Stanfield from the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence. There were so many who urged us along—in fact, so many who have flown 4,000 miles to come from Alaska to be at a ceremony at the White House in recognition of this.

So Senator ERNST has said how personal this issue of domestic violence is, and it is for so many. Half the women—half the women—in the State of Alaska have experienced intimate partner, sexual violence, or both.

The advocates know, I know, we know how imperative it is for Congress to take action to reauthorize and to modernize this almost three-decades-old law.

Again, we don't want to talk about statistics because these are people—these are friends, these are mothers, daughters—but the statistics are just so in your face.

Alaska Native women suffer the highest rate of forcible sexual assault and have reported rates of domestic violence up to 10 times higher than the national average.

In so many of the Native villages in my State in rural Alaska, they have no law enforcement presence; so trying to prevent violence, trying to protect or ensure justice for survivors is hard.

And so I really am very, very thankful for the work that Senator SCHATZ committed to within the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to put together a strong Tribal title in VAWA that would continue to empower Tribal courts to help combat this major public safety issue affecting Native people and children.

We have got a pretty complex jurisdictional landscape as the result of our Native Claims Settlement Act, and the last time that VAWA was reauthorized in 2013, Alaska was effectively left out. But today, we have an Alaska solution to this jurisdictional maze. We call it the Alaska Public Safety Empowerment pilot project that was included in the Tribal title, and it is the product of years of work with Tribal advocates, with the Department of Justice—some pretty smart lawyers out there—and then good, strong work in the committee.

And what this pilot program will do is supplement the work that the State of Alaska is doing with regard to public safety. It doesn't create Indian Country in the State, it doesn't take away any jurisdiction, but it will empower a limited number of Alaska Tribes to exercise this special criminal jurisdiction over defendants who commit certain crimes that we outline in the law that occur in Native villages in the State.

Tribes selected to participate are going to have to meet specific criteria that are set by the Department of Justice. They will have to include a Tribal justice system that can adequately safeguard the right of all defendants.

So I am optimistic. I believe that our Alaska Tribes are up to this job. They are going to be good partners with the State, and they will make a difference. They will make a difference, and they will provide hope to so many in these communities that have felt without hope.

We are celebrating, again, passage of this law—the reauthorization, the modernization. But for so many who have shown the bravery, the strength, the resilience in the wake of unspeakable trauma—we know that so many, again, of our friends have endured domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking. Many have survived, but so many have not.

These women have endured physical, mental, emotional abuse. The impacts don't necessarily fade away because the calendar moves on; but on their journeys to recovery and healing, many have developed an extraordinary inner strength to stand up and be advocates for themselves and others, and they have spoken about their abuse, they have sought the changes to VAWA to prevent the future tragedies and hold perpetrators accountable, and we have heard them and their pleas to improve access to essential support services, whether healthcare, safe housing for victims—but we have also heard the cries of parents and loved ones who lost those that they love so very much.

I am thinking of Butch and Cindy Moore right now. Butch and Cindy are from Wasilla. They have spent—I swear, they have spent every moment of their lives since they lost their beautiful daughter Bree, 20 years old. They have been advocating for prevention efforts to ensure that no parent experiences the loss of their child to teen dating violence.

Butch and Cindy have said:

> As parents who have experienced the devastation of losing our daughter, Bree Moore, to dating violence, we know prevention is the key to keeping future generations safe from interpersonal violence.

I know that Butch and Cindy are looking at this day and feeling that, again, there is some hope. There is some hope.

This is a legislative win, but I think it is also a victory—a victory for women everywhere—and we mark its passage in memory of both those that we have lost and those that have survived.

This is the day where we recognize that this Congress can act in a bipartisan manner to address the crisis of violence in our communities by passing this reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which is now law, now helping to protect women in Alaska and across the country, and we thank all who helped us get here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today also in recognition of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022.

I am delighted President Biden signed it into law yesterday as part of the omnibus spending bill.

It is important to know that this bill reauthorizes critical programs that help respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It is long overdue, but today, this bill will become law.

Last month, I introduced this reauthorization bill alongside Senators ERNST, DURBIN—both of whom are on the floor today—MURKOWSKI, who is also here today, and additional cosponsors.

A number of advocates joined us, including Angelina Jolie, to speak about the importance of the legislation.

The bill we introduced and the bill we are passing today has really strong bipartisan support, including that of 11 Republican cosponsors.

In addition to reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act through 2027, the law includes bringing it up to date, and that is important. It means that existing programs will be able to do an even better job protecting and supporting survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

It is the result of a truly bipartisan effort, and I want to thank Senators ERNST, DURBIN—both are on the floor—particularly Senator MURKOWSKI, for working with me to prepare this important piece of legislation. I am very appreciative of the partnership because the law will become a reality. We also had help from a number of our Senate colleagues on both side of the aisle who made important contributions to the effort.

This act plays a critical role supporting law enforcement in their efforts to stop these perpetrators before it is too late. It reauthorizes important programs and provides the necessary updates to strengthen them.

So what does it do?

First, it enhances and expands services for survivors, including survivors in rural communities, LGBT survivors, survivors with disabilities, and survivors who experience abuse later in life. Older people get a lot of violence.

It strengthens the criminal justice response to domestic violence, including by improving the Justice Department's STOP grant program and strengthening the ability of Tribal courts to address instances of domestic violence on Tribal lands.

It also establishes a pilot program that focuses on addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through community-based, victim-initiated efforts to seek accountability.

And the law invests in prevention education efforts that will improve the healthcare system's response to sexual violence—we hope.

And these changes can have a real impact. Here is one example: The International Association of Forensic Nurses reports that only one in four U.S. hospitals has a sexual assault forensic nurse on duty—not a special place but even one nurse on duty. Our bipartisan law remedies this problem by providing additional funding and training to increase access to forensic nurses, particularly in rural areas, where, strangely enough, a lot of this violence takes place.

Through this bipartisan law, we will make significant improvements to our Nation's response to domestic violence, but I want to caution everybody, it isn't perfect.

I really regret that certain provisions were unable to be included in this bill. In particular, I had hoped we could include a provision to close the boyfriend loophole. Most people don't know that while individuals convicted of domestic violence against a spouse are prevented from purchasing a firearm, that is not the case for those convicted of domestic violence against a dating partner.

We tried to get that part passed, and it is very disappointing that there was not sufficient bipartisan support for this provision to close what will remain a dangerous loophole.

So, clearly, we still have work to do. There are those of us who follow these assaults carefully and make a determination where this bill works and where it might need improvement, and I have just suggested one. So we will watch those figures carefully.

I would like to thank the many advocates who provided valuable input and support. This bill was written in close consultation with the people who are on the frontlines helping survivors of domestic violence every day.

For nearly 30 years, the Violence Against Women Act has played a vital role in the Federal response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As Katie Ray-Jones, the CEO of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, noted, the Violence Against Women Act provides services with ''a variety of options to meet their evolving and complex needs for services and support.'' For example, according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in a single day in 2020, there were 76,525 survivors, in 1 day 75,000 women were affected by domestic violence who received assistance thanks to programs funded and supported by the Violence Against Women Act.

So despite the progress made over the last three decades, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse are still painful realities for far too many Americans. We need to say this over and over again. We need to change minds and change actions.

More than one in three women and more than one in four men will experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in my home State of California, approximately 35 percent of California women and 31 percent of California men will experience violence from intimate partners in their lifetimes. That is an amazing figure, if you think about it.

In conclusion, let me end with this: All too often, these instances of domestic violence have fatal consequences. Every day, people are killed by a current or former intimate partner. This law is long overdue.

And I want to thank the Members who have spoken on the floor and all those who voted for this law. We are glad to get it signed into law and hope to put an end to some of this.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 656, Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tammy Duckworth, Tim Kaine, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Tester, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 82 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Rounds
Burr	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Capito	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lee	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cornyn	McConnell	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—35

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—2

Menendez	Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 35.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 738, Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''aye.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 83 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Hagerty	Portman
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Cornyn	Menendez	Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

BOLIVAR ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as the Federal Government rightfully continues to levy devastating sanctions on Russia and punish Putin and his thugs for their horrific and unlawful invasion of Ukraine, we cannot, as the Biden administration has signaled it will, choose to empower one dictator so we can punish another.

Nicoles Maduro is the illegitimate, ruthless dictator in Venezuela. I traveled to the Colombia-Venezuela border and saw the suffering of the Venezuelan people at the hand of Maduro's regime. I met with Venezuelan refugees and got updates from Colombian officials on just how bad Venezuelans were being treated by Maduro's tyranny.

Venezuelan children walk for hours through dense forests, across rivers, and over terrorist-controlled territory just to get to a school in Colombia for an education and a meal. Mothers with young children came to Cucuta to get the only meal they would eat for 3 days. I met a pregnant woman who was forced to sleep on the streets of Venezuela because she was homeless. Think about that. I am a father and a grandfather. Imagine having to look at your 3-year-old child or grandchild in the eyes and tell them that they are not going to eat today because there is no food.

The pain, the hunger, the devastation—I cannot believe any human being would do this to young children. It was heartbreaking, and it was evil. And there is one man responsible for it: Nicoles Maduro.

Since my visit, things have only gotten worse. In what is one of the worst humanitarian crises in Latin American history, more than 6 million Venezuelans have fled Maduro's oppression in Venezuela since 2014.

In 2020, a factfinding mission for the United Nations determined that Maduro's regime has engaged in crimes against humanity, including unlawful executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and torture. The regime has imprisoned hundreds of its political opponents and forced countless more into exile. They have used the guise of the COVID–19 pandemic to further crack down on journalists and dissenters.

We know that what has been happening at the direction of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela is horrific. That is why, in 2019, the previous administration signed an Executive order issuing a complete economic embargo on Venezuela.

We can all agree that the United States should not be bolstering such a disgusting socialist regime, and we cannot forget that any lifting of sanctions or show of appeasement toward Maduro's Venezuela will only further the suffering there and help its evil allies, like Russia, Cuba, communist China, and Iran, which actively support Maduro's abuses. So I and many others were deeply disturbed last week when we learned that President Biden secretly sent a team to Venezuela—secretly sent a team to Venezuela—and began negotiations on the potential purchase of Venezuelan oil and the easing of sanctions.

High gas prices caused by President Biden's war on American energy and Putin's invasion of Ukraine doesn't mean we can turn a blind eye to Maduro's genocide and oppression. We know that funds going to Maduro are used for terrorism in our hemisphere, and we know that Venezuela and Russia are aligned. If we support one, we support the other. That is why, just days after the American team left, the Russian Foreign Minister traveled to meet with the Venezuelan Vice President.

Now, I am glad the administration finally made the decision to stop buying Russian oil—I think it came too late—but I am glad the Biden administration reluctantly agreed not to purchase oil from Venezuela. We shouldn't be supporting Maduro or Putin. It would be foolish if we made the mistake of supporting one dictator so we could punish another dictator. Maduro has decided to be our enemy, and so is Putin. Neither of them deserves our money.

The Biden administration needs to realize that our enemies are not the world's only source of oil and natural gas. America has huge supplies of oil and natural gas, and we would have access to those resources right now if the Biden administration hadn't spent the past year relentlessly trying to destroy the U.S. oil industry.

On day 1, Biden killed the Keystone Pipeline, and 10,000—10,000—jobs alongside it were lost. Then he cut off new drilling contracts on public lands. The Biden EPA has added one ridiculous regulation after another to make it more expensive and harder for American oil manufacturers to do business. We went from being nearly energy independent and a net exporter in 2019 to begging cartels and ruthless dictators for oil. This is not American leadership, and it is not American independence.

It is long past time for the administration to admit that its ridiculous Green New Deal policies put our security at risk and hurt American families. Prices at the pump are at an all-time high across the Nation.

We should be solving this problem with our own resources and with our own workers, not with Maduro and his thugs. That is why I have introduced the Banning Operations and Leases with the Illegitimate Venezuelan Authoritarian Regime Act, or the BOLIVAR Act. This bill would prohibit Federal Agencies from doing business with the oppressive Maduro regime. We can't stand by and let Maduro continue to commit genocide against his people, and we have to do everything possible to restrict the money Maduro uses to hold on to power and destabilize the region.

When I was Governor of Florida, I signed a bill that prevented State agencies from investing in companies doing business with the Government of Venezuela.

In 2019, my amendment to cut off funds to the Maduro regime was included in the National Defense Authorization Act.

In March of last year, my colleagues on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee agreed with me, and we unanimously passed the BOLIVAR Act through our committee.

I am thankful for Senators JACKY ROSEN, MARCO RUBIO, and THOM TILLIS, who have cosponsored this legislation and helped bring this legislation this far. I also want to thank Congressman MICHAEL WALTZ for introducing the companion bipartisan bill in the House of Representatives.

But we didn't introduce the bill only to have the Biden administration begin working with Maduro's thugs and bolstering the corrupt Venezuelan oil industry. We are trying to stop that, and no one should want to be on the side of Maduro's genocide.

I am grateful for the bipartisan support this bill has received, and I hope that the entire Senate will take a stand to support the fight for freedom and the people of Venezuela.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATION

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of a few Federal judge nominees from the State of California.

In recognizing that, right now, many Americans are certainly following the news and the potential news of the Federal judiciary and are focusing on a nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I certainly look forward to hearing more from Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson next week as we conduct her confirmation hearing.

The choices for the Supreme Court are certainly critical for the future of our democracy, but the fact of the matter is—and the Presiding Officer knows I like numbers and knows I like data. So the important data point here is that it is only a tiny percentage of cases in our Federal court system that actually reach the U.S. Supreme Court. In fact, more than 90 percent of the Federal cases are decided at the district court level. That means the vast majority of people who interface with the Federal judiciary will only ever meet a district court judge, sitting on the other side of the bench, whether

they are witnesses to a crime, whether they are parties to a lawsuit or defendants in a criminal case.

That is one of the primary reasons I have worked so closely with the Biden administration in helping to identify and recommend and support talented nominees for California's district courts.

Today, I rise to highlight three nominees to serve as Federal judges whose confirmation processes we are beginning today.

NOMINATION OF RUTH BERMUDEZ MONTENEGRO

Mr. President, Judge Ruth Montenegro is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

She is a proud daughter of Mexican immigrants who came to this country with only elementary school educations—just like my parents. Judge Montenegro understood early on—because of her parents' experience and their journey—the value of getting a good education and of public service, starting at a very young age. She was born and raised in the Imperial Valley, where she returned after graduating from UCLA Law School.

Like so many of us, you are trying to fulfill your parents' dreams, so you go on to college and get a good education. You graduate and have options all over and choose to come home to make a difference.

Judge Montenegro built a career in representing public agencies. She could have made a lot of money in the private sector. She chose to represent public agencies, ranging from the Imperial Valley Housing Authority to the El Centro Elementary School District. She has served for nearly 10 years now as a State superior court and Federal magistrate judge.

Judge Montenegro's extensive judicial experience and lifelong dedication to her community, I have no doubt, will strengthen the Southern District's bench.

NOMINATION OF FRED W. SLAUGHTER

Mr. President, next, I would like to highlight Judge Fred Slaughter, who is nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Slaughter received his undergraduate and his law degree from UCLA, going on to a distinguished career as a prosecutor. For more than a decade, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in Arizona, Oregon, and California, where he oversaw and tried hundreds of cases, including cases involving human trafficking, bank robberies, and the prosecuting of members of White supremacist groups.

Judge Slaughter has spent the past 8 years serving in the Orange County Superior Court. There, he is known for his compassion and leadership in juvenile justice. Judge Slaughter's long career demonstrates his legal excellence as well as his commitment to providing justice for all.

NOMINATION OF JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY

Mr. President, finally, Judge Jacqueline Corley is nominated to serve for the Northern District of California.

She is a native of Long Beach. She earned her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Judge Corley's nontraditional path to the bench displays her commitment to public service. After spending some time in private practice, she spent more than 10 years as a career law clerk for the Northern District of California. Based on her outstanding work in that role and the expertise that she built in private practice prior, Judge Corley was selected to serve as a magistrate judge for the Northern District. She has served there for the past decade and is known for her mentorship of current law clerks.

I celebrate each of these highly qualified nominees who will help Californians access justice throughout our State. When people enter a Federal court, they should feel confident in the promise of equal justice—equal justice that I know these three nominees will help deliver. The oversight and judgment of a thoughtful and fair judge is paramount.

Our democracy depends on the public's faith in the judiciary. That is why I am committed to building a bench of judges who will better reflect and understand the districts, the States, and the country that they serve. I am proud to take another step toward that goal by supporting the confirmations of these three judges, and I urge all of our colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGIA SHOOTINGS

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on a dark day in Georgia's recent history.

One year ago today, a hateful act of violence shook Metropolitan Atlanta and reverberated across our State, our country, and indeed the world. In the span of just a few hours, our sense of safety and sanctuary was pierced by bullets of hate and fear. Eight precious people lost their lives—eight people who were loved by their families, their friends, their children; eight people with their own successes and struggles, hopes, and dreams.

We speak their names: Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng.

My heart aches for these Georgians and their families for whom I am sure the wounds are still fresh. They were the victims of unconscionable, senseless hate.

As a pastor, I believe in the sacred worth of every human being—that we are a strange admixture of dust and divinity, of sod and sky, of beauty and possibility.

So I will ask now for all of my colleagues and everyone who can to join me in taking a moment of silence to remember these eight Georgians and to pray, each in our own way, for their families.

(Moment of silence.)

Thank you.

VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Mr. President, importantly, I must mention that this unspeakable violence was visited largely upon Georgia's Asian-American community and especially on women of Asian descent. Unfortunately, this hateful act that horrified Atlanta is not isolated; it is part of a larger trend.

Last year, anti-Asian hate crimes increased 339 percent. Think about that—in 1 year, a 339-percent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes. It is a sobering statistic, and it should remind all of us of our shared duty in our democracy to stay committed to peace, an active peace, that recognizes that we are in this together.

It was Martin Niemoller, the pastor during Hitler's Third Reich, who said:

> First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak . . . because I was not a Communist.
>
> Then they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak . . . because I was not a Socialist.
>
> Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak . . . because I was not a Trade Unionist.
>
> Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak . . . because I was not a Jew.
>
> Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak. . . .

So this is a tragedy, in a real sense, visited upon all of us.

As a student of history and a voice for our State and the Senate, I know Georgians understand all too well how hate and misplaced anger can hurt our communities and how certain parts of our community are so easily scapegoated and lose their sense of sanctuary. And then when that happens, all of us lose a piece of ourselves. So I want to say to my AAPI sisters, brothers, and neighbors that I see you, and, more importantly, I will continue to stand with you against hate and violence wherever it rears its ugly head.

That is why I cosponsored and fought to pass the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act and to get it signed into law, directing more resources to ensure our communities have what they need to seek justice whenever and wherever hate and crime rear their ugly heads.

I am especially proud that my colleagues worked with me to include a provision in this legislation that names and acknowledges the pain and experiences of Georgia's AAPI community specifically and makes sure we never forget the names attached to the lives and the families we lost in the horrific shootings in Atlanta 1 year ago today.

And that is why I am pushing here in the Senate to confirm a U.S. attorney for the northern district of our State, a post that is integral to helping Georgians stop crime and pursue justice.

The terrible act of violence and hate we witnessed on March 16, 2021, ought

to remind us all that we all have a stake in each other's well-being.

Georgia's greatest son, that great American, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said it best: We are tied in a single garment of destiny, caught up in ''an inescapable network of mutuality.'' ''Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.'' ''I cannot be all that I ought to be until you are all that you ought to be, and you cannot be all that you ought to be until I am all that I ought to be.''

And so let us continue working together to stop Asian hate, to stop the scapegoating, and to create what Dr. King called the beloved community—a community where everybody, no matter their skin color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious background, can live a life of fulfillment and joy without fear of facing hate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Oklahoma.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, there are a lot of things going on in the world right now—a lot. What is happening in Ukraine; Russian aggression; continuing talk about the continual challenges of communist China; dealing with COVID–19 and its effects still worldwide, still here in the United States; still lots of people very frustrated on transportation mandates—on the masks, I should say; other vaccine mandates that are still out there; we have a 7—almost 8—percent now inflation rate that is in the country; cost of living is going up; all the energy issues—there are so many things that we are dealing with around this body of late.

I want to bring something to the middle of this conversation that I don't want us to forget about because the media seemed to have pushed it all to the back burner. And I have even had people recently catch me and say, Apparently, things are going much better on our southern border because I don't hear about it anymore. Well, it has not gotten better. And I want to bring a couple of issues and one in particular that I am very concerned about of where things are going right now, on our enforcement on the southern border.

This chart walks through the last 10 years of illegal crossings that had been actually apprehended, engaged—the new term is ''encountered'' that the Biden administration is using. This is over the last 10 years, and this is quarter by quarter of what has actually occurred.

You will see the rise and fall over multiple times. You will see spikes that have happened. But right there, that spot, is when President Biden was elected. That is that date. His election is there, and this is what has occurred since that time period.

Instead of seeing a big dropoff just in the last couple of months, we have only seen it go down, but not even close to the highest peaks in the past.

To give you a point of reference on that, since January of 2021, we have had 2,355,000 people whom we have ''encountered'' on the southwest border—folks who have illegally crossed our border. These are not just record numbers; these are alltime high numbers—nothing even close to the number of people who are illegally crossing the border.

Now, this is on the southern border. And there are two facts I want to be able to add to this, the first of which is what is happening inside the country: That would be ICE removals.

This is since 2015, the ICE removals that have been done every year during the Obama administration, during the Trump administration, and then during the first year of the Biden administration. So not only do we have 2.3 million people who have illegally come to our border and crossed it that we have encountered, but it is an alltime low of actual deportations that are happening right now as well.

So not only on our southern border are we seeing record numbers of high coming in inside the country, it is record-low numbers actually being deported out.

This is by design. This is not accidental. The policies that have been put in place on our southern border were put in place to encourage people, quite frankly, to be able to cross the border, knowing full well that when you get inside, you won't actually be deported.

There is only one policy that is set out there that has been in the middle of this that has changed the dynamic at all, and it is a policy most Americans never even heard of. It is called title 42 expulsions. Quite frankly, probably most of the folks in this room have never heard of title 42 expulsions. It is a new term, so I want to be able to walk through it a little bit.

Starting in March of 2020—just 2 years ago—when COVID started to accelerate worldwide, the Surgeon General made a recommendation through the CDC, through HHS, to the President to be able to say we have a worldwide pandemic that is occurring. Here is title 42 of the Public Health Service Act. It says:

> Whenever the Surgeon General determines that by reason of the existence of any communicable disease in a foreign country, there is serious danger of the introduction of such disease into the United States, and that . . . danger is so increased by the introduction of persons or property from [that] country that a suspension of the right to introduce such persons and property is required in the interest of the public health, the Surgeon General, in accordance with regulations approved by the President, shall have the power to prohibit . . . the introduction of persons and property from such countries or places [that they] shall designate . . . to [avoid] such danger.

In March of 2020, the Trump administration said: We have got a concern dealing with individuals crossing our border illegally. They are coming from all over the world. There is COVID all over the world. There are some authorities that you go through that you can actually say some of these folks can be turned around immediately.

The Surgeon General, HHS, and the President agreed that we are going to turn people around at the border immediately. So the Trump administration did that.

And, by the way, right there is President Biden's inauguration. His HHS also agreed with this same policy of title 42 to say: We have a serious risk from COVID, so we should also turn people around in numbers at the border and send them back home.

This is the number under the Biden administration of individuals who have been turned around.

Let me give you a perspective. Of the 2.3 million people who have been encountered at our border since the beginning of the Biden administration, 56 percent of those folks have been literally turned around at the border and told, You cannot enter under title 42 authority—56 percent of the people. So 44 percent of the people have been allowed to be able to come into our country.

Let me set this in context because I am throwing a lot of numbers out at everybody. I want you to remember all the news reports from last year, all of the overcrowding in the Donna, TX, facility that we saw, all of the people crammed underneath the bridge in the Rio Grande Valley, all of those folks who piled across the border in massive numbers that we saw coming into the United States—that represented only 44 percent of the people illegally crossing our border because they were allowed in.

I bring this up because as of right now, we have heard that DHS, the President, and HHS are considering canceling title 42. If that occurs, we won't have 1 million people illegally crossing our border and released into the United States; within months, we will have 2 million. And all that you saw last summer of the flood of people—that 44 percent—imagine what that looks like more than doubled this summer.

The conversation is we are getting toward the backside of COVID. Ironically enough, while the President just extended the transportation requirement for masks—again—while the President just asked for billions of dollars of additional money because we need vaccines worldwide to be able to distribute more vaccines worldwide to be able to fight COVID, while we are still dealing with all the additional surge rise and falls in other countries—in fact, just within the last couple of days, China has gone back into lockdown based on new COVID cases in China—while all of that is occurring worldwide, apparently, the President is looking to cancel title 42.

And when I have asked what will replace that policy, the answer has come back to me: We are not sure yet. That tells me nothing is actually the plan to replace this. That is a problem.

What happens when title 42 goes away? An extra million people come into the country illegally, remembering that when all of those folks come into the country, apparently, the Biden administration also has no plan to deport them.

Where are we right now with the number of people that have illegally crossed our border, and where are they from? Let me give you a quick map.

This is a map of all the countries in the past year—just in the past year—who have illegally crossed our border. In the white there is the United States. In the red are the countries that we have seen people illegally cross our border. If you want to squint at that map, let me just give you shorthand for it. It is every country in the world.

Last year, we had individuals from literally every country in the world illegally cross our southern border. Yes, that includes China; that includes North Korea; that includes Iran. It includes them all.

Interestingly enough, just in the last—well, not the last 3 months but the last 4 months that we have had records on it—that would be October, November, December, and January—just in those last 4 months that we have those records, we have 6,400 Russian citizens who illegally crossed our southern border. Just in the last 4 months we have records, there were 6,400 Russian citizens.

We have people from all over the world who are illegally crossing our southern border because people know, if you get across the border, you are in. When title 42 goes away, this accelerates even more. It is an open invitation because 56 percent of the people were turned around, 44 percent of the people were released into the country—by the way, that is over a million so far—that goes away. Then they all get in.

What happens at that point? Those individuals are told that they can make a request for asylum, even though our statistics show 91 percent of the people who request asylum are actually coming for economic reasons, not actually true asylum—91 percent.

Those individuals are released into the country. They are told to be able to sign up for a hearing date, and they can do their hearing anywhere they want in the United States. They are given a hearing date, currently, 6 years in the future—6 years. So they will be traveling in our country anywhere they want to go for the next 6 years waiting on their hearing.

By the way, if they don't show up for their hearing, apparently there is no plan to be able to actually go get them, if they don't show up for their hearing, because, right now, ICE is not removing people. So they are just released, and when they are released into the country, they can immediately text friends back home and say: I am in. Here is what I said. Here is where I crossed. Here is the cartel member whom I paid on the southern border to be able to get me through. I am in. Follow my same path; you will have the same result.

What can be done about this? Well, let me just highlight a couple of things, and then I want to talk about this more.

First things first—don't end title 42. We still have a worldwide pandemic. Until there is a plan of what is actually going to occur next on our southern border, don't end title 42.

This is the time for the President and Ali Mayorkas and all the leadership to put up a pause and to say: The chaos that happened last year was only 44 percent of the people crossing our southern border. We do not have, physically, the capability to be able to handle that many people. Do not cancel title 42.

The second thing is the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy. The ''Remain in Mexico'' policy that actually started under President Trump, President Biden set aside, and Federal courts stepped back in and told this administration: You have to put back in place the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy. So they chose to do it.

I have talked to this body before about what they did. The Biden administration said: OK. We will follow the court order. We will reinstate the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy.

They have reinstated that policy the last 3 months. They have put up three different facilities. Actually, now there are four total facilities. I visited one of them in Brownsville, TX. That facility has six courtrooms. Each courtroom is set up to handle 22 people at a time, plus their attorneys, plus all the ancillary services. Six of those they have got set up. They have individual meeting spaces set up for 120 people to meet individually with their attorney. So 120 rooms, 6 courtrooms that are all set up, and all the ancillary everything around it as well, and we have now got 4 different locations for that.

Of the half a million people who have illegally crossed our border in the time that they have set up the new MPP courtrooms—of the half a million people who have crossed illegally during that time period, so far, the Biden administration has pulled out 1,569 of them to evaluate if they would go into the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy. Of those, 893 they actually put in the system. Of those, they have actually had 494 of those who at some point came back and said: We have changed our mind. We talked to attorneys. We have a new way to be able to get out of it.

We are trying to get the actual number of people who have actually gone through the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy and who have actually qualified for it, while we have 4 different locations, each of them with 6 courtrooms, 120 meeting spaces. But what we are finding is, really, a handful of people actually have ''qualified'' for the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy out of half a million people during that time period.

The simple answer is that the Biden administration is spending millions and millions of taxpayer dollars setting up the MPP Program that the court has required them to do, but they have made so many exceptions to it, no one actually qualifies. So they are trying to please the court by saying ''We are following your order,'' waste American tax dollars, while we continue to see record numbers of people crossing the border. That is a waste.

If we are going to stop this, keep title 42 in place until you have a response to what you are going to do instead. Actually run the MPP Program as the court has instructed you to do rather than playing games with American tax dollars and with the system here.

I would also encourage you to put the ''Safe Third Country'' policy back in place. The previous administration had actually created a relationship with multiple other countries so that as individuals traveled through other countries to get to the United States, they could make asylum requests in those locations, because we understand—because we know the law in this body—the law is very clear on the international standards on this.

If you are going to request asylum, you go to the next safe country, and you request asylum. If they are traveling through five countries or they are traveling literally across the globe to get to the United States from everywhere else so they can request asylum, that is not asylum; that is economic opportunity.

By the way, don't blame them for coming to the greatest country in the world to get economic opportunity—except that is not asylum, and we all know it. So why don't we actually treat it exactly as we all see it?

If you would like to come to the greatest country in the world, wonderful. Go through the legal process of that. We allow a million people a year to legally become citizens of the United States, going through the legal process. Do that. But for the billions of people who wake up every day wishing they were in the United States, I don't blame you. But we welcome people when they come through legally in this process, and we do with open arms welcome people who come through legally.

There are ways to be able to address this, but my first concern today is to be able to speak to this administration and to be able to say: The title 42 piece is essential to maintain. Do not let go of this until you have a solution to what is happening at the border, or the chaos at the border will be even worse this summer than it was last summer, and it is on you for not enforcing the border.

I want to keep this conversation going in the days ahead, but as of now, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SUNSHINE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to celebrate what we say annually is Sunshine

Week, a very important week in our system of self-government. For the last 17 years, advocacy groups, good-government watchdogs, media organizations, and many Members of this body have joined forces to observe the importance of transparency in government and freedom of information. As a longtime champion for open, accessible government, I speak today in support of what we all ought to consider enduring principles.

Sunshine Week coincides each year with March 16. That is the day one of our Nation's Founding Fathers and fourth President of the United States James Madison was born. Madison is widely known as the father of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. From his writings, particularly in the Federalist Papers, you might say he was the architect who framed our system of checks and balances. Madison believed all powers of the government are derived of, by, and for the people, and that is what brings me to the floor today.

The public has a right to know what their government is doing and how it is spending tax dollars. There are very few things in government that should be kept secret: national security, so we don't tell our enemies what we are going to do; the privacy of American citizens; and some intelligence-gathering information. I will bet that is 1 percent of everything the government is involved in. Yet there are some people who think that a lot more ought to be classified or secret, et cetera, et cetera.

So we have the Freedom of Information Act that is to protect the public's right to know. Through Freedom of Information Act requests, everyday Americans can ask a Federal Agency for information. Unfortunately, now—and it is a growing problem—Federal Agencies seem to have the unstated goal of releasing as little information as possible to the public.

Agencies rely on exemptions to FOIA, the Freedom of Information Act, to withhold information. A 2021 Government Accountability Office study found this: that Federal Agencies use FOIA exemptions to avoid disclosing documents. That problem has doubled between 2012 and 2019.

Most Americans may not be familiar with the section of the code that we call the (b)(3) FOIA exemption, and, of course, they don't have to be aware of this, but they should know that it is the most used justification by the Federal Government to withhold information from the public.

The increase in the use of this FOIA exemption to withhold information from the public is unacceptable to me, and it ought to be unacceptable to anybody who believes that we should not have secrecy in government.

In another recent report, the Government Accountability Office found that FOIA request backlogs increased by nearly 20 percent in just the 1 year of 2019 to 2020. In fact, backlogged FOIA requests are up 97 percent since 2012. Sixteen Federal Agencies had more than 1,000 backlogged FOIA requests. They account for 94 percent of backlogged requests across the entire government.

Federal Agencies ought to do better—must do better—and we must all work to ensure that they are responding appropriately and within a reasonable time for FOIA requests.

Congressional oversight is part of our constitutional assignment: to protect the power of the purse and ensure laws are faithfully enforced.

Finally, we must acknowledge the important role that citizens play who bravely come forward, often at great professional risk, to report wrongdoing in our efforts to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. I have often said that whistleblowers are the best line of defense against government waste. No one shines a brighter light on waste, fraud, and abuse than whistleblowers. And why might that be? Because they are down in the bowels of the government where maybe the heads of the Agencies don't know something wrong is going on, and they are able to point it out—the whistleblowers are.

That is why I introduced legislation this Congress to strengthen the False Claims Act. I got the False Claims Act passed in 1986. Since then, that act has helped government recover $70 billion in fraud.

Last year, I asked the Department of Veterans Affairs about allegations that VA employees leaked potentially market-sensitive information, and then do you know what they did? They retaliated against these whistleblowers. Nearly 1 year later, I haven't received any answers, and I assume I am not going to receive any answers because it is an embarrassment to the VA.

As a cofounder and cochairman of the Whistleblower Protection Caucus, I lead efforts from Capitol Hill to strengthen protections and raise awareness for what often is an uphill battle for whistleblowers.

I want you to know how I feel whistleblowers are treated by their very own government, how they are treated just because they want the government to do what the government is supposed to be doing under the laws, and they want the money spent the way Congress intends for the money to be spent. These whistleblowers who point out that wrongdoing are treated by the bureaucracy like skunks at a picnic.

This U.S. Senator will continue shining spotlight on waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, and I am going to do it elsewhere, as well. I will continue advocating for whistleblowers with every tool at my disposal.

And as an Iowa farmer, I know why farmers make hay when the sun shines, and that is a good lesson for good government. Sunshine helps hold government accountable to the people.

Let me repeat that again: Transparency brings accountability.

EB–5 REFORM AND INTEGRITY ACT OF 2022

Madam President, I have another point I would like to make. We were able to pass something with the Omnibus appropriations bill that I have been working on in a bipartisan way for years. It was a program that was abused, and we finally got together—Senator LEAHY and I—to finally win what we have been trying to do for years.

So I am here to speak about reforms to the EB–5 investor visa program that were included in last week's Omnibus bill. I also addressed this issue before the vote, but I would like to follow up on that statement with some brief remarks about how important this is after years of fighting to get it done.

First, this wouldn't have been done without working with my friend and colleague Senator LEAHY. So I thank him. He worked with me for several years on reforming this EB–5 program. Senator LEAHY, as well as his staff, have put in a great deal of time and work on a number of legislative efforts to reform the EB–5 program. I appreciate the partnership that we had on this issue for those many years.

As I mentioned in my previous statement on the day the bill passed, Congress originally authorized the EB–5 Regional Center Program in 1992 as a pilot program and as an outgrowth of the EB–5 investor visa that was created by Congress 2 years before that, in 1990.

When the EB–5 visa and regional center programs were established, Congress intended for them to spur investment in, No. 1, rural areas, and, No. 2, in economically depressed areas. I emphasize rural and economically depressed areas because this whole program, over a period of the next 20 years, evolved into a program far removed from the original goals. Senator LEAHY and I recognized that 5 or 6 years ago. But to get around all of the interest groups that have something to do with the EB–5 program, and particularly those who are enriching themselves from it, it is hard to get changes made here in the Congress of the United States.

Thank God we were fortunate not to get the EB–5 program extended from year to year because that is what happened for 4 or 5 years as we were working on these reforms. You just extended it and let the fraud and abuse of the law go on. But, finally, about a year ago, we kept that program from being extended year to year and forced people to sit down and talk to us in a responsible way to get to where we are today.

It is unfortunate that the EB–5 Regional Center Program, in particular, has been plagued with all this fraud and abuse. Rampant and abusive gerrymandering of the EB–5 program's targeted employment areas also undermined congressional intent that lower investment thresholds be a tool for channeling investment into areas that truly need it. Those are the rural areas and the economically depressed areas

of our country. Gerrymandering undermined the whole purpose of the program.

Another problem that the reforms addressed was that EB–5 investment levels had not been adjusted by Congress since 1990, and they should have been adjusted for the inflation that has taken place since then, and our act does make some adjustment in that area. It doesn't quite make up for all the inflation we have had since 1990, but it is still better than if we had gone with those 1990 figures.

The EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, which was included in the Omnibus bill, will address a number of these issues. The bill, which Senator LEAHY and I primarily authored, formally repeals the pilot program created by Congress in 1992 and codifies in its place a new Regional Center Program reflecting a number of reforms that we pursued for many years. These reforms will help to crack down on fraud and abuse that have plagued the program for far too many years.

As I said in my previous statement, all EB–5 regional centers that had operated under the lapsed and repealed pilot program will be expected to seek a new regional center designation. In that process, they will have to certify compliance with all the relevant requirements and reforms laid out in our bill, now law, in order to receive such a designation.

Additionally, for the first time since 1990, the bill statutorily raises EB–5 investment levels and mandates that they be adjusted for inflation every 5 years so we don't have what has happened in the last 30 years using 1990 figures for investment.

The legislation also codifies certain aspects of the 2019 EB–5 Immigrant Investor Program modernization rule. Specifically, the bill codifies the 2019 rule's definition of a ''high unemployment'' targeted employment area and allows only the Department of Homeland Security to make such a designation.

The so-called ''doughnut'' targeted employment area model from the 2019 rule will significantly limit the number of census tracts that may be used to seek designation as a high unemployment area.

This targeted employment area model, combined with exclusive authority of the Department of Homeland Security to make ''high unemployment'' targeted employment area designations, should then crack down on the targeted employment area gerrymandering, which gerrymandering has long deprived the rural and the economically distressed areas of the investment that Congress intended when Congress passed that legislation—now, I guess, 30 years ago.

Listen to this next point. I want the Department of Homeland Security to pay attention to this. It is also my belief and expectation that the Department of Homeland Security should reserve ''high unemployment'' targeted employment area designations for census tracts that have experienced persistently high unemployment for a number of years rather than just brief spikes in unemployment due to temporary and extraordinary circumstances, such as what you could have because of the COVID–19 pandemic, as just one example.

Finally, the legislation puts in place specific visa set-asides for rural area projects, high unemployment area projects, and infrastructure projects. The visa set-aside for infrastructure projects is limited to true public infrastructure projects; that is, in further explanation, those that benefit the public and the American people, not public-private partnerships or projects for private businesses.

I will continue to monitor the implementation of this bill, as well as developments in the EB–5 program over coming months and years.

This bill was titled the EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022. It is the result of years of hard work, and I hope it brings real reform to a program badly in need of that reform. I am grateful that it was included in the Omnibus bill and was happy, after all of these years, to see meaningful reform of the EB–5 program finally signed into law.

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. THUNE. Madam 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. Madam President, on Thursday, the February inflation numbers were released, and the news wasn't pretty. Inflation for February was 7.9 percent, the highest inflation since January of 1982—January of 1982, 40 years ago. We are in the grip of the worst inflation in 40 years.

American families have been hit hard by this crisis as the price of everyday necessities has soared, and energy prices, particularly gas prices, are one of the top challenges facing Americans. Energy prices are up 25 percent on average from a year ago. Electricity is up 9 percent. Propane, kerosene, and fire wood are up 19 percent. Utility gas services are up 23 percent, and prices at the pump for gasoline are up 38 percent.

The national average for a gallon of gas was $4.31 on Tuesday, up from $2.86 a year ago. That is $1.45 more per gallon. That is a big problem for American families. That is a big problem for our entire economy.

High energy prices don't just have an impact when Americans fill up their cars; they affect prices across the economy. High energy prices drive up the cost of operating a factory. They drive up the cost of raw materials, and they drive up the cost of getting goods to customers.

President Biden would like to blame the inflation situation, particularly high energy prices, on Vladimir Putin. I don't need to tell anyone how ludicrous that is. Our inflation crisis has been going on for a year. Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine 3 weeks ago. I am afraid passing the buck to Putin doesn't hold water.

Now, it is true that the uncertainty surrounding Putin's war and corresponding sanctions on Russia are partly to blame for the most recent spike in gas prices. But had gas prices been lower to start with, Americans wouldn't be feeling the sanctions-triggered bump to the extent that they are.

Democrats' American Rescue Plan spending spree helped create our inflation crisis. Americans need to look no further than the White House when wondering how the United States, a recent net exporter of energy, is not on stronger footing to weather these tumultuous times.

The President has pursued an energy agenda that has done next to nothing to help drive energy prices down and is, in fact, almost guaranteed to increase energy prices long term and increase our reliance on foreign sources of oil.

From the moment he took office, the President sent a negative signal to energy producers by making it clear that his administration was not going to be embracing conventional energy production.

He set the tone for his administration on day 1 by canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline—an environmentally responsible pipeline project that was already underway and that was to be paired with $1.7 billion in private investment and renewable energy to fully offset its operating emissions.

He also almost immediately froze new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, sending a clear signal to oil and gas producers that his administration would be reluctant to work with them to increase American energy production.

Now, President Biden has recently been touting the number of available permits for oil and gas development, which is positive as far as it goes, but new permits have dropped precipitously this year. And issuing permits alone isn't enough to get development going.

The Biden administration has thrown up roadblock after roadblock to actual energy development. Companies are struggling to break through regulatory redtape to actually get oil and gas development up and running. For example, they have struggled to obtain right of way to build essential development infrastructure, like access roads to oil rig sites. They are also struggling to get timely pipeline permits to transport the oil and gas that they extract.

Unfortunately, they know exactly how this administration feels about building pipelines. And the Biden administration is fully responsible for

these problems. The administration has the ability to immediately take action to expedite American oil and gas development by clearing away the red-tape that companies are facing.

It is refusing to do so. Instead, President Biden seems ready to increase our reliance on energy imports from despotic governments in volatile areas of the world. That is not acceptable. Energy independence, relying on homegrown production instead of foreign energy sources, is key for a number of reasons.

For starters, energy security is national security. The more we rely on imports from other countries, the more that we are dependent on those countries. We have seen that during the current conflict in Ukraine. European companies like Germany have been unable to divest from Russian energy because they rely on that production.

Without Russian energy, more than one country in Europe would face a dire energy shortage—as Putin is well aware. We don't want to give another country that much power over us.

Energy independence, and the robust energy production that comes with it, also reduces the risk to Americans from price hikes in the global market. The more oil and gas the United States produces as a share of the global market, the more we are able to influence global supply, which is the leading driver of cost.

The Biden administration has not been good for American energy independence. We have increased our reliance on foreign sources of energy during this administration, including our reliance on Russian energy production.

And now that we have banned Russian energy imports, President Biden seems ready to replace Russian energy, not with increased American production but with oil and gas from human rights-challenged countries like Venezuela.

I realize that President Biden and many Democrats would like to see the United States focus solely on alternative energy production, but the fact of the matter is that we are a long way from being able to rely exclusively on alternative energy technologies. Whether Democrats like it or not, our country is going to need oil and natural gas for quite a while yet, and all of Democrats' wishful thinking isn't going to change that.

The answer is not to get that oil and natural gas from despots in volatile areas of the world but to get it from American energy production.

President Biden and his administration may not be solely to blame for high gas prices, but they have the power. They have the power to help lower energy prices by unleashing American energy production—all of it, both alternative and conventional—and they are responsible for their failure to do so.

We need an ''all of the above'' energy policy that embraces everything from oil and gas to hydroelectric and nuclear, to solar and wind. And when it comes to alternative energy production, we need to invest in all proven clean energy technologies, not just the administration's preferred technologies like electric vehicles. The administration has neglected important clean energy technologies like biofuels, which have demonstrated significant emissions reductions versus conventional gasoline.

As a resident of a rural state, I would like to see the administration get serious about leveraging agriculture as an energy solution and work to expand biofuel production and consumption. This means not only setting robust blending targets and rejecting specious small refinery exemptions but approving advanced fuels from corn kernel fiber and restoring the year-round sale of E15.

Last week, I led a letter to the President with the Democratic whip and colleagues from both parties urging the President to enable E15 to be sold during the upcoming travel season to provide Americans with a lower cost fuel that would help displace Russian oil.

Yesterday, the President's Press Secretary said that ''E15 was on the menu.'' Well, it deserves real consideration. American drivers can't afford for the President not to take action. The President could get us on a path to lower energy prices today—today—by announcing that his administration will get serious about expediting American production of oil and natural gas. If he fails to do so, then he really will be responsible for the prices that Americans are facing at the pump and for the hit that our national security will take from our increasing reliance on foreign sources of energy.

I hope the President will decide to unleash American production and put our Nation on a path to long-term energy independence.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 682, Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 84 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tillis
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murphy	Warren
Graham	Murray	Whitehouse
Grassley	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	Young

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 678, Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United

States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Charles E. Schumer, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie K. Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 85 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Portman	Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 6:30 p.m. tonight, the Senate vote on the cloture motions with respect to Executive Calendar Nos. 683, 737, 679, 680, 681, 684, 685 and 662; that at 11:45 a.m. tomorrow, March 17, the Senate vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar Nos. 656 and 738; that at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow, the Senate vote on the cloture motion with respect to Executive Calendar No. 677; finally, that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee following consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to seek unanimous consent to confirm four nominees to posts that are critical—critical—to our response to Putin's war against Ukraine.

Through smoke and rubble and artillery fire, Ukrainians are leaving their homes with nothing more than a backpack, nothing more than their children in their hands.

Over the past 20 days, Vladimir Putin's illegal and horrific assault on Ukraine has led more than 3 million refugees to flee into neighboring countries. Those who remain are suffering from a dire and deteriorating humanitarian situation.

With Putin's army blocking aid convoys, millions of Ukrainians are facing lack of water, food, and heat. Meanwhile, Putin orders unprovoked, unjustified attacks on civilians—shelling apartment buildings, bombing maternity hospitals, and destroying kindergartens, committing atrocities throughout the country.

The United States and the world have a duty to exact costs on Putin, to demand accountability for war crimes, and to provide aid for the millions of innocent Ukrainians who are suffering. If we want to rise to this challenge, if we want to respond to the mounting human suffering, one thing is clear: We need to have the people in place—the people the President has selected—to lead and carry out this work. Their leadership is critical in our response to the growing crisis in Ukraine and the looming refugee crisis across Eastern Europe. They will fight to defend human rights when they are violated. They will fight to defend democracy when it is attacked. They will make sure we maximize the pain and the price Putin pays for this heinous war.

NOMINATION OF JAMES C. O'BRIEN

Mr. President, that is why we must confirm Jim O'Brien. He is the President's nominee for Coordinator for Sanctions. This is our most significant tool against Putin and his regime—sanctions. He is the President's nominee for Coordinator for Sanctions. Once confirmed, he will enhance the Biden administration's efforts with our allies and partners to impose devastating costs on Russia.

To date, more than 30 nations have joined this cause. Countries have stepped up that we never would have expected. But the fight is not over. We have to keep up the pressure. We must keep up coordination. And we must ensure that we are implementing and enforcing sanctions in concert with dozens of countries around the globe.

Now, I know my Republican colleagues agree that this must be a top priority. I have heard it on the Foreign Relations Committee: We need to do more sanctions. I have heard it on the Senate floor. I have heard it in the conversations with my colleagues: We need to do even more. I know they want our sanctions to be as effective as possible, so to them, I say: Confirm Jim O'Brien today.

NOMINATION OF JULIETA VALLS NOYES

Mr. President, now I can also give you 3 million reasons why we must confirm Julieta Valls Noyes, the nominee to be the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration—because 3 million people have already fled their homes in Ukraine; 3 million people have left a war-torn country with their dreams shattered, their children traumatized—3 million people who have no idea what the future holds. Even as I speak, that number has surely been surpassed.

There is a reason we have the Population, Refugees, and Migration Bureau. There is a reason the President selects a qualified nominee to lead it. Ms. Noyes is that person. It is a travesty that Ms. Noyes's nomination has been languishing on the Senate floor for 148 days because of Republican holds.

We need a Senate-confirmed leader in place to take charge of the U.S. response to the refugee crisis forming in Europe, as well as the crises that already exist around the world. We need someone to work alongside our European allies as they face the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. We need her confirmed today—not tomorrow, not next week, today.

NOMINATION OF ERIN ELIZABETH MCKEE

Mr. President, the humanitarian crisis inside Ukraine is worsening every day. We can all see it for ourselves. You can see the images of Mariupol, where more than 200,000 civilians remain under siege, cut off from food, fighting for their lives. You can see the frightened faces of children crossing the border into Poland, carrying only a teddy bear and a change of clothes. This is a trauma they will struggle with for the rest of their lives.

So it baffles me that we would wait another hour, let alone another day, to

even think about confirming Ambassador Erin McKee as the Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia at USAID. The minute she gets in the door, the minute we send her to USAID, she will get to work on behalf of the millions of Ukrainians who are suffering. She will make sure that we are meeting basic needs and that we are helping Ukraine's neighbors shoulder the burden of the crisis. Let her get to work. Let her help the people of Ukraine today.

NOMINATION OF C.S. ELIOT KANG

Mr. President, finally, there is a danger that Putin will unleash a chemical weapons attack against Ukraine. The Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation has a crucial role to play here, not just to prevent the spread of chemical weapons but to help safeguard all nuclear materials and facilities in Ukraine. To do this, the nominee to be Assistant Secretary for that Bureau—International Security and Nonproliferation—Dr. Eliot Kang, would work with the Ukrainian Government, our allies, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. But because of Republican delays, he has not yet been confirmed, despite the fact that he was nominated 328 days ago—328 days ago. Think about that. That was almost a year ago, and he has not yet been confirmed.

Because we cannot wait, because the people of Ukraine cannot wait, I rise to seek unanimous consent for the confirmation of these four nominees. Each of them moved through the Foreign Relations Committee with bipartisan support. There is no reason for Republicans to block their confirmation. The situation in Ukraine is dire, and our national security demands it.

Because of that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 462, 783, and 784; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the Biden administration has failed to properly oversee the Pan American Health Organization, or PAHO. President Biden and Secretary Blinken know that PAHO has cooperated with the communist regime in Cuba to traffic doctors overseas, and they know that there are Cuban doctors who are trying to sue PAHO and hold their traffickers accountable.

Here are the facts: In July 2013, the Cuban Ministry of Health signed an agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of Health to formalize an arrangement for Cuban doctors to provide medical services in Brazil. That agreement required the administration of former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff to transmit a monthly payment through PAHO to the Cuban Ministry of Health for the medical services provided by each Cuban doctor serving in Brazil. It also prevented Cuban doctors from seeking employment in Brazil outside of the formal structure of the agreement.

More than 20,000 Cuban medical professionals serving in Brazil under the Mais Médicos Program had their wages stolen by the Cuban Government and received only a small fraction of what they earned. Their family members were prohibited from accompanying them, and many had their passports confiscated.

Cuban doctors were the only medical professionals participating in the Mais Médicos Program who had their salaries directly garnished by their government. Meanwhile, doctors from other countries serving in Brazil received the full wages for their medical services.

Other Cuban doctors suffered similar abuses in Angola, Guatemala, Mexico, Qatar, and Venezuela. For example, in 2019, a group of Cuban doctors reported that they had been directed and often coerced to use their medical services to influence votes in favor of the Maduro regime, including by denying medical treatment to opposition supporters and by giving precise voting instructions to elderly patients.

This gross program is a huge moneymaker for the communist ruling thugs in Cuba. In 2018 alone, they deposited more than $6.3 billion from exporting Cuban professionals to work overseas, and medical missions by Cuban doctors represent a majority of those profits.

Since I came to the Senate in 2019, I have been fighting for these Cuban doctors and against human trafficking. I know my colleague from New Jersey has also voiced concerns about this issue in the past, but nothing has been done to hold PAHO accountable. PAHO is hiding behind legal immunity. President Biden has the power to lift their immunity, and I have requested this administration to do so multiple times, but they have shamefully declined.

It is wrong. Victims of trafficking deserve to see their alleged abusers in court, and PAHO should never be able to hide behind claims of immunity to avoid accountability for their role in facilitating those abuses.

I have informed Secretary Blinken that until substantial steps toward fulfilling this request are made, I will be blocking all relevant State Department nominees.

Americans deserve qualified and competent people in positions of power who put American interests first. If this administration wants to appease dictators, like they have with the Castro and Diaz-Canal regimes, I am going to hold them accountable.

Therefore, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I would like to ask the Senator from Florida, through the Chair, does the Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia at USAID have anything to do with PAHO?

Does the Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation have anything to do with PAHO?

I guess the Senator doesn't want to engage in a colloquy.

Madam President, it is amazing to me. My colleagues who get up and applaud Zelenskyy, my colleagues who come to the Senate floor and talk about both the need to help Ukraine and the humanitarian realities that are compounding every day—and yet here we are with four pertinent, key positions that could help in regard to each and every one of those elements, and on some unrelated issue, not Ukraine, not even Europe, not about proliferation, not about humanitarian response, no, there is a wholesale objection.

Now, if you wanted to pick your objection and target it, that might make sense, but I am deeply troubled that the junior Senator from Florida is once again obstructing the Senate's responsibility to provide advice and consent on Presidential nominations, not only preventing us from fulfilling our constitutional duties, but in this case, moreover, he is singlehandedly undermining the ability of the U.S. Government to respond fully to Russia's brutal invasion. In doing so, he seeks to singlehandedly damage our ability to ensure a coordinated international effort to sanction Putin, his cronies, sectors of the Russian Government.

He is undercutting the U.S. Government's ability to support the Ukrainian people and our allies. He is undercutting our ability to provide and coordinate the humanitarian assistance for 3 million Ukrainians who have left and millions more who are inside the country and need help. It is mind-boggling—mind boggling. Get up, (applauds) and then come to the floor and object to the very things that can make it happen. Mind-boggling.

Now, let me address the issue that the junior Senator from Florida has raised here today—the Cuban regime's trafficking of doctors and medical personnel. Simply put, the Diaz-Canel regime, like the Castro regime before it, does subject Cuban doctors to forced labor schemes abroad while pocketing the doctors' wages in profit-making schemes that generate billions of dollars annually.

Now, I have been working on this issue since before my colleague ever held public office. I have engaged multiple administrations on this issue. I have actually authored legislation and resolutions on the subject. So my track record for standing up for Cuban doctors who are trafficked by the Cuban regime eclipses that of any other Member of Congress, period. But, my God, as passionate as I am about that issue—no one would be more passionate

than me—it is not right to hold up everything we are trying to do on Ukraine.

This is a global emergency. The fate of not only Ukraine but of democracy and its ability to achieve victory is under threat. And here we have objections to critical positions that can help us make sure that we win in that battle.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Madam President, let me try one other thing. I want to make in order the same request that I previously made with respect to Calendar No. 788, Erin Elizabeth McKee, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, so here we go. The person who would be responsible for helping the humanitarian challenge in Ukraine and in the surrounding countries where 3 million people have fled to, we can't get her in position—can't get her into a position to do the job to help millions of Ukrainians who are fleeing.

I don't understand how the party of Reagan, the party of freedom and democracy, the party of standing up to these people can actually create a set of circumstances where this is like helping Putin at the end of the day. It is like helping Putin at the end of the day.

Now, while Senator MARSHALL didn't speak to it, I understand his concerns are about COVID origins. Well, there is nothing wrong with that. It has been a lively topic of discussion in many forums, including the Senate. But these things have nothing to do with what Ambassador McKee is nominated for: Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia.

All of us, including Senator MARSHALL, know that we need to do everything possible to support Ukrainians in their time of need. Blocking Ambassador McKee is self-defeating.

It is also not clear to me what more USAID can do to satisfy Senator MARSHALL. I have inquired because I heard this was the issue. USAID has been engaged at the most senior levels in trying to be helpful and responsive to Senator MARSHALL. They offered him and his team briefings, and I understand that none of those offers have been accepted. They have also pointed Senator MARSHALL's office to a wealth of information on specific USAID projects of interest.

So I would urge the Senator, instead of blocking nominees, to act on USAID's multiple briefing offers and engage them meaningfully. That would be more helpful to his ultimate goal—but not to be helping Putin, at the end of the day, by not being able to take care of the humanitarian needs of the Ukrainians.

I have seen a lot over my course of 40 years in public service and 30 years in the Congress. I just—this is mind-boggling. But more than that, it really undermines our national security. It really undermines our help with the Ukrainian people. And so I hope that some saner minds will prevail in the days ahead when I come back to the floor to try this once again.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UKRAINE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am joined on the floor today by my friend and colleague Senator GRAHAM. We have the honor of coleading the U.S. congressional delegation to the Munich Security Conference, which for a great number of reasons, all well-deserved, is still called CODEL McCain. It is the only codel that is named for a Senator who is no longer with us, and it is out of respect for Senator McCain's long tradition of support for that conference, NATO, and the Atlantic alliance, more generally.

This year, obviously things were very different. The Russians were on the border of Ukraine, and two things came out of this conference that I thought were important. One was an early flicker of hope within the delegation that the Ukrainians might actually pull this off. That was supported by none of our briefings. The entire national security establishment had presumed that it was only a matter of time until Ukraine fell. But Senator GRAHAM and I and others were questioning each other during that trip: Is there really no chance?

And the other thing was going after the kleptocrats and the oligarchs around Putin and making their lives miserable. And there was just a wonderful explosion of bipartisan support for that that has now manifested in funds, in laws, in pending bills, in lots of bipartisanship—and Senator GRAHAM and I are going to have a bit of a colloquy about that with the Chair's permission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I will say one thing, and then I will hand it over to Senator GRAHAM.

On March 8, I sent out over social media this sentiment:

> Keep alive in your heart the possibility that Ukraine could actually win: columns stalled, defense fierce, casualties high, morale low, deserters surrendering, food and fuel snafu, population uncowed.

Since then, we are hearing more and more. I will read four quotes, and the first is from the man we heard from this morning, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who, in his speech to the people of Ukraine on March 14, didn't just talk about peace for Ukraine—although, he did talk about peace for Ukraine, but he also talked about ''our victory.'' Victory. It is an important word to keep in mind.

He is not alone.

GEN Wesley Clark, also on March 14, said:

> The battle for Ukraine is hanging in the balance. . . . If we can get enough in there, they'll push the Russians out.

Victory.

> It would be a tremendous win for the West.

Anne Applebaum knows probably about as much about this area as anyone. She joined us on the Munich security delegation, and she also spoke afterward on the 15th of March about it. She said:

> [V]ictory in this conflict—

Victory—

> [V]ictory . . . would provide an enormous, transformational boost in confidence to the entire democratic world.

Michael Kofman, the director of Russian studies at the Center for Naval Analyses has said the same thing: ''Are [the Ukrainians] in a position to win the war? Yes,'' he said.

I will close with Francis Fukuyama. On the 10th of March, the author of ''The Origins of Political Order'' said the following things. I am quoting from a longer piece selectively.

> 1. Russia is heading for outright defeat in Ukraine.
>
> 2. The collapse of their position could be sudden and catastrophic, rather than happening slowly through a war of attrition. The army in the field will reach a point where it can neither be supplied nor withdrawn, and morale will vaporize.
>
> 5. The Biden administration's decisions not to declare a no-fly zone or help transfer Polish MiGs were both good ones; they've kept their heads during a very emotional time. It is much better to have the Ukrainians defeat the Russians on their own, depriving Moscow of the excuse that NATO attacked them.

Finally, he said:

> A Russian defeat will make possible a ''new birth of freedom,'' and get us out of our funk about the declining state of global democracy. The spirit of 1989 will live on, thanks to . . . brave Ukrainians.

We are here together on the floor in bipartisan fashion to urge that in the press coverage and in our national security conversations about this, we keep open in our hearts and in our planning the possibility of victory for Ukraine.

Senator GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Well, thank you. All I can say is, SHELDON, thank you.

John is no longer with us, but I think he is here in spirit at this moment. If Senator McCain were here, there would be 27 MiGs they would want to transfer because he would probably be in one, headed for Ukraine.

The bottom line is, 20 days into this fight, we are all amazed at how bad the Russians are doing and how well the Ukrainians are doing. And I think what Senator WHITEHOUSE is trying to remind us all of is that the outcome of Ukraine really does matter to the world at large.

Senator McCain was known for his support of the transatlantic alliance, a

rules-based society, a values-based world, and Putin has put that in jeopardy.

So let's look at it this way. If Putin wins, SHELDON, then the largest war criminal in the 21st century survives the dismemberment of a neighboring democracy, slaughter of the innocents on a mass scale. If he is still standing, I think China understands what to do with Taiwan more clearly; the Iranians are more bold when it comes to their nuclear ambitions; and the ripple effect in Asia and the Middle East will be felt if Putin wins.

Now, if Putin loses and Ukraine wins—victory for Ukraine—I think it would be the biggest change for the good since World War II. What would it mean? It would mean that a murderous war criminal who tried to use force of arms to impose his will on his neighbor lost. It would mean that the good guys won and the bad guys lost, and China would have to think twice about Taiwan.

How do we make sure victory for Ukraine is maximized? Only God knows how this ends, but here is what I think we can do in working together, with three lines of effort:

Economic and military aid. We have had a very robust package leave the Congress. The President announced $800 million more in military aid today. We have a difference about the MiGs, but otherwise we are pretty much on the same sheet of music.

Sanctions against Russia. The war is not against the Russian people. They are in many ways victims of Putin as much as anybody. Unfortunately, the only way we can bring this to a conclusion and have victory for Ukraine is to crush the Russian economy, so secondary sanctions need to be on the table. Then, if China comes to Putin's aid, they need to understand the consequences of that decision.

So we are all in on sanctions, and secondary sanctions are now in play. The Ukrainian Ambassador asked me yesterday to broaden the sanctions to Russian officials in different regions that are part of Putin's war machine. President Zelenskyy asked for that today, too.

My good friend SHELDON WHITEHOUSE has been speaking about victory when nobody else hardly will, and I am here to say that victory for Ukraine is victory for America; it is victory for the rule of law; and it is victory for the post-World War II order that has led to historic prosperity.

Three lines of effort: military assistance, including MiGs; economic aid—fuel, food, humanitarian airlift if that is feasible; crushing sanctions; labeling Putin the war criminal that he is; and letting every Russian military commander know that, if you pick his side and you carry out these war crimes against the Ukrainian people, we are coming after you.

Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself met with the British Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to create a joint effort, an intel cell, to collect information about Russian units engaged in war crimes in Ukraine and start putting the commander's name out for the world to understand so they will know that we are watching them.

How does this end? The Russian people end the reign of terror in Putin. It is in their hands. I encourage them to do it.

Finally, if there has been one voice on kleptocracy, it is SHELDON's. He has got it on climate change. He is determined to see that issue through to the end, but Senator WHITEHOUSE was talking about kleptocracy long before the invasion. So we are introducing together the Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act, which is an effort by our government, joining with international partners, to get every yacht we can get, raid every bank account we can find, take the money away from the thieves, and give it back to the Ukrainian people and eventually to the Russian people.

What Senator WHITEHOUSE and I are trying to do in a bipartisan fashion is to make the war real to the oligarchs. Without the oligarchs, there is no Putin. It is time for them to enjoy the experience of having their assets that they stole taken away from them. ''Enjoy'' is maybe not the right word. It is time for us to enjoy the sight of Russian oligarchs having their property taken that they achieved through thievery. It is time for us to start putting people in jail who engaged in the mass theft of the Russian people.

Victory for Ukraine is possible, I think, if we are all in on sanctions, if we are all in on labeling, naming, and shaming people around Putin as war criminals in order to break their will, and if we begin to pour it on when it comes to regaining control of the skies.

I am not for a NATO no-fly zone because I think that would put us in a situation with NATO and Russia that I am not comfortable with right now, but I am for Ukraine controlling their skies, a no-fly zone enforced by the Ukrainian military. That is why I want more anti-aircraft systems and the MiGs.

The bottom line here is that victory for Ukraine is possible because I think the Russian people and the Russian military are really not into this. I think the world is coalescing around the idea that if Putin wins, it is bad for us all. Now is the time. This is the most historically significant moment since the end of World War II for the continent of Europe and for freedom itself and for the rule of law.

If we can pull this off, then those who come after us will be very pleased with our efforts. If we fail, future generations will wonder ''What the hell were you doing?'' just like we all wonder how Hitler could have gotten so strong and nobody stopped him when they could have.

Let it be said in this moment of history that Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator GRAHAM, and many others, particularly the Ukrainian people, believe not only is victory for Ukraine possible, it is absolutely necessary.

With that, I turn it back over to my colleague.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, in conclusion, let me just thank Senator GRAHAM. He has been an extraordinary leader on the Munich Security delegation year after year, and I think he has a ''McCainian'' view of our foreign policy needs.

I would close by saying, if there is a lesson from Ukraine, it is that oligarchs can throw out a dictator if you put pressure on them. So the kleptocracy initiative is important strategically in Ukraine, and it also puts in motion forces that can diminish kleptocracy and corruption around the world in a way that enhances our rule of law and national security.

The press has tended to buy into the narrative of defeat but not entirely.

Sudarsan Raghavan went to the front for the Washington Post, and he reported back this:

> To be sure, most military analysts and Western officials still predict that Russian forces will eventually encircle Kyiv and push into the capital, possibly aided by airstrikes. While this could prove true, it's far from clear whether Russia will prevail.

That leaves open the important planning option of victory for Ukraine.

Then, when bad news comes, sometimes it is just not the whole story. The BBC reported the bad news that Russian forces were already inside the city of Irpin. Well, there is a little bit more to the story than that.

A Ukrainian army officer said that Ukrainian forces were waiting for civilians to evacuate Irpin before ''we start to clear the city of Russians.''

> They don't have enough provisions—food, water. They don't have a lot of gasoline. They will get tired, and then we will go and drive them out.

Well, it appears that that counteroffensive is underway right now, as we speak.

As I close, I think all of our hearts and prayers go to the Ukrainian troops, who are trying to drive those Russians out of Irpin and out of Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

REMEMBERING BRENT RENAUD, PIERRE ZAKRZEWSKI, AND OLEKSANDRA KUVSHYNOVA

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, over the course of just 3 days, the world lost three talented, tenacious journalists to Vladimir Putin's war crimes and brutal invasion of Ukraine.

Brent Renaud was a Peabody Award-winning documentary filmmaker who was working to tell the stories of Putin's war when he was fatally shot in the Kyiv suburb of Irpin on Sunday.

Then, on Monday, two more journalists with FOX News lost their lives when their vehicle came under fire just outside of Kyiv. A cameraman and veteran war reporter, Pierre Zakrzewski, was killed. He had been reporting in Ukraine since February.

We also lost Ukrainian journalist Oleksandra ''Sasha'' Kuvshynova, who was serving as a consultant for FOX's team in Ukraine. She was just 24 years old.

Their colleague, correspondent Benjamin Hall, was also injured, and he remains in the hospital.

Journalists know they face danger when they report from war zones. They put themselves in harm's way to tell the world the true stories that we need to hear.

Today, the Presiding Officer from Minnesota joined me and dozens and dozens of others to see the video, the pictures, and the photos of the war in Ukraine, which were shown to us by President Zelenskyy. Those pictures—many of them—were taken by very courageous journalists who risked their own lives. They bring us the unvarnished truth, unfiltered by government propaganda, at the times when we need it most. They are committed to basic ideals of truth, accuracy, and transparency—so committed that they put their lives on the line to make sure the world knows what is happening. Their commitment to these ideals only makes their deaths that much more tragic.

Today, three families and so many colleagues are grieving for these three journalists, grieving losses that cannot be replaced. They shouldn't have to.

This war was started by a man with no regard for the freedom of the press or basic human rights; a man who is a former KGB agent and has open contempt and hostility toward real reporters, toward real journalism, toward free speech; a man who presides over a regime wherein journalists are killed with impunity.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 28 journalists have been killed in Russia since Putin came to power 20 years ago, and 10 are currently in prison simply for telling the truth, for doing their jobs. According to Reporters Without Borders, Russia ranks 150 out of 199 countries for press freedom. They are actually behind Afghanistan and South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Last October, the United States and 18 other countries issued a statement, warning of ''the Russian government's intensifying harassment of independent journalists and media outlets in Russia.''

In 2020, the Russian Government began labeling many outside journalists as ''media foreign agents''—a term reminiscent of the worst of the Cold War.

It is not just foreign journalists; Putin's government has applied the ''media foreign agent'' label to independent Russian outlets in the country or to those operating near the country's border—Russian reporters themselves. It goes against all of our values. It is the kind of authoritarianism that the Ukrainian people bravely fight every day now. They don't want their country to turn into a place where reporters fear for their lives, where journalists can't tell the public the truth. Journalists' entire job is to ask questions, to challenge powerful interests, to—shall we say—afflict the comfortable.

Reporters put their safety and—as we saw with these three brave journalists in Ukraine—their lives on the line, whether it is covering floods and hurricanes in the United States or traveling the globe to bring us the stories of war zones.

We depend on reporters in my State and around the world to bring us the stories that impact our day-to-day lives and tell the stories that might not otherwise be told. They are too often under attack overseas increasingly. We recently had a President of the United States who attacked journalists in almost every stop.

As we all stand with the people of Ukraine, let's recommit ourselves to fighting just as hard as they are for our values, for freedom of the press, for free speech. These three journalists made the ultimate sacrifice to show the world the heroism of the Ukrainian people. We pray that they are the last who have to do that.

We recognize that President Putin has been shocked by two things: shocked by the heroism of the Ukrainian people—those fighting back, those brave journalists, those freedom fighters, those mothers and fathers and children who have so courageously stood up against Russia; he is also shocked by the way President Biden so effectively has put together an international coalition, not just for the countries you would expect, but Germany, and Finland, and Sweden, and Switzerland—countries that have rarely chosen sides and stepped up the way that all of our countries have.

And while doing this, we send our sympathy and our gratitude to the families of Brent Renaud, to Pierre Zakrzewski, to Oleksandra Kuvshynova. They died doing the vital heroic work they love. We have a better understanding of this invasion, of the war crimes being committed, of how it is affecting people's lives. We have a better understanding because of journalists like them, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

REMEMBERING FRED ABDALLA

Madam President, I would like to remember an Ohio public servant whom we lost this year, longtime friend of mine, Jefferson County Sheriff—Eastern Ohio, along the Pennsylvania-West Virginia line, along the Ohio River—Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla.

He took office in January 1985. He served his community ever since for nearly four decades, in his sheriff's car, going up and down the river, going to Mingo Junction and Tiltonsville to Steubenville, to Wintersville—all over Jefferson County. He served that community.

His colleagues and his neighbors called him tough but big-hearted. He was particularly passionate about solving crimes against children and seniors.

His chief deputy, Susan Bell, worked with Sheriff Abdalla for 32 years. She said:

> He and I had a lot of cases together. He laughed a lot. . . . We cried a lot. . . . We worked as a team.

His colleagues at the department posted a moving remembrance of Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla. They wrote:

> Although we miss you dearly, we will carry on as you've taught us to do in the face of adversity. One of the last ''working sheriffs,'' you were always involved and answered calls with your staff. You led by example. [You] never ordered a deputy to do something you would not do yourself.

Our thoughts are with his family, with the people of Jefferson County. His passing is a real loss for my State, for all who knew him. His dedication to his community will not be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Fred Abdalla.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JOHN H. CHUN

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor this evening to support the nomination of John Chun, who is to serve as judge for the U.S. District Court of Western Washington, and I know that we will be voting later tonight on that nomination.

I was proud to recommend to President Biden Judge Chun, who then was nominated by the President. My colleague Senator MURRAY and I know what a qualified individual he is to serve our country.

He has spent his entire legal career practicing law in the Western District of Washington, making him deeply knowledgeable of the district that he will serve. He is well-prepared for the Western District and offers a unique perspective to the bench, having served as a superior court judge for 4 years before joining the court of appeals in 2018, as well as his tenure in private practice.

Through his extensive courtroom experience as a former trial judge and current appellate judge, he has had much time as a trial litigator. He will be ready on day one to serve effectively on the Federal district court bench.

Judge Chun has received profound support for his nomination to the U.S. district court. Not only did his nomination receive bipartisan support from the Senate Judiciary Committee; it also received support from the American Bar Association, which unanimously rated him ''well qualified'' to serve in this position.

In addition to the endorsement from the National Asian Pacific American

Bar Association, Judge Chun's nomination has received praise from many organizations in our State, including the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington, the South Asian Bar Association of Washington, the Asian Bar Association of Washington, and the Korean American Coalition of Washington.

As I am sure my colleagues can see, Judge Chun is immensely qualified to serve on this court. I urge them to join me and my colleague Senator MURRAY in supporting his nomination to serve as judge for the U.S. District Court of the Western District of the State of Washington.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise, as so many of us have of late, to talk about the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. This invasion, as we know, started on February 24, and it is now, I guess, in its 21st or 22nd day.

At the time of the invasion—I think it was the day after or 2 days after—I was reading in a newspaper the reference to one resident of Ukraine who said the following about the onset of the hostilities by Vladimir Putin and Russia:

> It was the worst sunrise in my life.

I can't even begin to imagine what that individual in Ukraine or tens of thousands of families were feeling on that day, and hundreds of thousands throughout the country—millions, even.

This attack, which is ongoing, was both unprovoked and unjustified. It is an attack on a sovereign nation by a murderous dictator who has no regard for human life and no regard for the rules-based international order. I think a lot of people knew that before the invasion, but now it is abundantly clear to the world what Vladimir Putin's intentions are and what his practices are when it comes to attacking a sovereign nation.

The New York Times told us last Friday, March 11, about Putin. I am quoting here from the New York Times, and they made reference in this story to his actions in Syria, as well as Chechnya:

> [H]e has demonstrated in [the] past . . . a willingness not only to bomb heavily populated areas indiscriminately but also to use civilian casualties as leverage against his enemies.

''[U]se civilian casualties as leverage''—that is the dictator that the people of Ukraine are dealing with right now. And I think it is clear from the reporting, and so many Americans have read the stories and have seen the coverage of the bombings. It is clear that he is bombing indiscriminately. It is clear that he and his army, his military, are targeting civilians.

All you have to do is look at the list of locations. And the list would be hundreds if we read all of them, but here are just a couple examples. Maybe the most graphic in the last couple of days was the bombing of a maternity ward and that footage of a stretcher coming out of that rubble with a pregnant woman, who has since died, as did her child. That is an example of that kind of indiscriminate bombing.

But in addition to a maternity ward, he has bombed a shoe factory, a psychiatric hospital, apartment buildings, cafes, homes, parking lots near a shopping center, bombing near a kindergarten, bombing of a mosque, bombing—we are told, the most recent number—34 medical facilities, damaged in Ukraine. And that number, of course, will grow. Most recently, just in the last day or so, a supermarket, and, I think, at least a 12-story residential tower.

And then, just today, another reference to just one example of the brutality of Putin: 10 people killed waiting in line for bread in Ukraine. The adviser to the mayor of one of the most besieged cities, Mariupol, said the following. This adviser said:

> Humanity has not yet invented a word to describe what Russia is doing to us.

I think that says it all. There is no way to describe what is happening. The world has never seen this, in recent history. Maybe the closest example would be what happened in Syria, which, of course, was also paid for and led by the Russian military, Mr. Putin.

Despite all that horror and all that bloodshed and all that is to follow, despite all of that grim reminder of the brutality of Mr. Putin, the Ukrainian people have inspired so many of us. When I say ''us,'' I don't mean just voting Members of Congress or people throughout the country. They have inspired people the world over. I have never seen anything in my lifetime that equates to the inspiration that they have generated; their courage—the raw physical courage of the people, of the military, and all the contributions they are making to their country—their resolute determination to protect their freedom, to protect their families, to protect their nation, and, really, when you think about it in a larger sense, to protect democracy itself, because that is really very much on the line in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian people's stubborn refusal to be intimidated by a ruthless autocrat and his military has inspired so many people every single day. I just saw another example this morning. Women who have left Ukraine with their children, to bring their children to safety, coming back into Ukraine to join the fight or, in some cases, I guess, to rejoin the fight—women putting their lives at risk for their country.

This morning the Presiding Officer and all of us, the Members of Congress, had the honor to listen to President Zelenskyy's address to the Congress, and I know the Nation saw it as well. His address this morning was also inspiring, every bit as inspiring as that engendered by his people. But his address was also a call to action for us to do more. We have got to do more. And we have got to provide additional support.

President Zelenskyy thanked our President, President Biden, and the American people for all the support that we have provided, especially in the last couple of weeks since the invasion began but also before that.

And President Biden responded just 2 or 3 hours later when he announced even more military assistance or security assistance, which, if you add up just that part of the support, just since he took office, is now at about $2 billion. That doesn't include other support like humanitarian support.

But here is just a quick list of what that security assistance is. I will just itemize a few. This isn't exhaustive, but it is just some examples: Stinger anti-aircraft systems—we provided many hundreds of them, and now we are providing a lot more than that—the Javelin anti-armor systems that have had such success against the Russian military, Russian tanks; helicopters; patrol boats; grenade launchers; guns and ammunition; grenades; mortar and artillery rounds; secure communications; military medical equipment; on and on and on.

And, as I mentioned, the President responded specifically today by announcing that the United States will add $800 million just on security assistance, bringing that total, as I said, to $2 billion since he began his administration. It was noteworthy that two of the component parts of that—the Stinger systems and the Javelins—both are being used with great skill by the Ukrainian fighters. The increase in those numbers is not just a few hundred. In both cases it is either doubling or tripling what we have already done. And we will do more. We will continue to do more.

Congress has passed a spending bill just a couple of days ago, at the end of last week, and the President signed it this week, which allowed that $800 million to be available.

So that is the good news: more money for weapons and other security assistance, more money for humanitarian support. That number is growing all the time because of the need that the Ukrainian people have.

The sanctions—the crushing, unprecedented sanctions—that already are having effect. I had a briefing today just on that topic of the impact of the sanctions, and it is substantial, and it will only grow as time goes by. We will have more time later to talk about that. And, of course, the contribution, as well—all of these are contributions of not just our government but our people. The American people made these contributions of military assistance and humanitarian support and our

ability to impose sanctions with our allies, with our NATO partners.

But at the same time, what gets lost sometimes in the discussion about Ukraine is the intelligence support we have provided—all kinds of offices throughout our intelligence community providing actionable intelligence or intelligence that the Ukrainians can use if they fight the battle, fight the war. That is probably incalculable in terms of the advantages given on the battlefield and beyond. So that bears emphasis as well.

I think one area of positive development in the last couple of months is the unity, not just the unity of NATO, which has never been stronger, probably never stronger since the 1960s or even more so, but the unity here at home—unity in the Senate, unity in the House, unity throughout the country to support the people of Ukraine—the people but also to support the military.

I have to say, though, as much as we have that unity with our NATO partners and here in the Congress, there are voices here in Washington and around the country that are not as unified. We know the voice of our former President and his continued approval of Putin's ''genius.''

Why would you ever say that about a murderous dictator? He is not a genius. He is, I believe, a war criminal, but that kind of language and that kind of support for Putin, at least by way of laudatory words, has tarnished that unity, has undermined that unity here at home and around the world. But it is not enough to break that unity.

I just hope that Republican Members of Congress, when someone in their party, especially a leader of their party or a Member of Congress or any other Republican official—I hope that when they say things about Vladimir Putin that are positive or in any way supportive that they would call it out and condemn it.

When you are supporting the people of Ukraine at a time of war, you have to use every tool in your toolbox: military assistance, diplomacy, sanctions, humanitarian support, but also your words as leaders. And we should be condemning any American leader who supports or says positive things about Mr. Putin.

I hope the Republican Members of Congress who have stood up and been very supportive of the Ukrainian people in this fight would also call out Members of their party and condemn such statements because that didn't happen in July of 2018, when the former President—in my judgment, this is my view of it—was genuflecting before Vladimir Putin on the world stage in Helsinki, Finland, in probably what I believe is maybe the worst day for an American President on the world stage ever when he took the side of Mr. Putin, a murderous dictator, over the determinations made by our intelligence community about the previous election. That was a low moment for America, for our democracy, and for our country.

We now have, I think, very clearly a choice. It is not a choice of three or four options or five options. There are only two options here: You can choose Mr. Putin or choose Mr. Zelenskyy. You can choose a dictator who has no regard for human life and all of the enablers around him, or you can choose the President who is standing up for freedom, Mr. Zelenskyy, the President of Ukraine.

It is really a simple choice. It is a choice between the incarnation of evil and the personification of freedom. That is the choice. There is not a third option here. Every American has to make this choice, but especially Members of Congress, elected officials. That is part of our job. You have to make a choice, and it is very simple.

The good news is Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—House and Senate, the two branches of government—have made a choice, and the American people have made a choice. They made a choice for freedom to support that personification of freedom by supporting Mr. Zelenskyy and his government in this war, by supporting the Ukrainian people, who are literally putting their lives on the line for freedom itself.

I will conclude with these thoughts. Like our Constitution that we turn to for both—not just guidance and inspiration, but we turn to, to remind ourselves of our duty, so, too, are the people of Ukraine turning to their Constitution for that guidance and that inspiration and that call to action.

Here is what that Constitution says in pertinent part, and it sounds very familiar:

> The people are the bearers of sovereignty and the only sources of power in Ukraine . . . To affirm and ensure human rights and freedoms is the main duty of the State.

That is what the Ukrainian Constitution says, a mandate that freedom must be the goal and the work of the State. Wow, are they doing that now. President Zelenskyy and his government and the people of Ukraine are standing up for freedom.

When we are at our best here at home, we do the same. We have a great anthem for our Nation: ''O beautiful''—and you know the rest of that great anthem. One of the verses of that great anthem says:

> O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years.

The dream of a patriot isn't just to stand up in the moment and fight, but that patriot is standing up for freedom, fighting and willing to put their lives on the line—or his or her life on the line—for freedom because they are seeing beyond the years. They are standing up for freedom, not just for themselves and their families and their nation, but for the future—for the future of that nation. That is what the people of Ukraine are doing right now, and that is why we have to continue to support them in that great fight.

I think most Americans have already made the choice. We just have to back them up and stand for freedom—not to stand for the incarnation of evil, Mr. Putin and his government right now, but to stand for the personification of freedom. We saw that this morning with President Zelenskyy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Washington.

TRANSGENDER YOUTH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak out against the recent wave of hate attacks on transgender youth happening across our country.

Over the last few months, we have seen extreme Republican lawmakers take unprecedented steps to go after trans children and their families. Not only are they spewing hateful rhetoric around gender identity—making something personal and something a lot of Americans probably don't think about every day into a cruel political cudgel—but they are also using their political power and legal authority to target trans people, and trans kids, in particular.

Last month, Texas Governor Greg Abbott made the decision to actively investigate and target parents of transgender kids and providers, making the totally false claim that gender-affirming care is child abuse. In Idaho, just across the border from my home State of Washington, lawmakers got dangerously close to passing legislation that would criminalize providers for giving kids the gender-affirming care they need. In Florida, there is a bill headed to the Governor's desk which aims to erase gay and trans kids, parents, and teachers from our schools by banning any discussion about gender identity or sexual orientation.

While Democrats have been focused on getting our schools back open and helping students catch up after 2 really tough years, Republicans are targeting trans kids and gay students and taking incredibly important and personal decisions away from parents and families.

Right now, it feels like far-right lawmakers are in a race to legislate the most extreme, most hateful bill they can think of, at the expense of trans kids. We all have a responsibility to stand up and make clear this is not right. Trans people are our friends; they are our neighbors; they are our families. Trans kids deserve to be just kids—to play sports, to go to school, to see a doctor, or to get healthcare. They should be able to get the same opportunities as any other child, to learn and grow and play and thrive free from fear and discrimination. And parents deserve to be able to make their own parenting decisions with their medical providers to do what is best for their kids' health. They should not have to worry about what a rightwing politician thinks is best for their kids. And they definitely shouldn't live in fear

that a State legislature is going to intervene in their parenting decisions and hurt their child.

So we have to push back against these attacks on trans kids in every way that we can—in the courts, with legislation, through Executive action, and by speaking out and speaking up because I can tell you, having just talked to my constituents in Washington State, the hurt and fear the Governor of Texas has caused is not staying in Texas. What Greg Abbott said about trans kids has an effect on many States. I wish it didn't, but the truth is: All of those measures are not only really scary for trans families across the country, but they also embolden more hateful rhetoric and even violence against trans people; and it is harming trans kids' mental health no matter where they live.

We have to be louder than Greg Abbott or whoever is taking aim at trans kids. We have to push for legislation like the Equality Act that would send a powerful message of support and fairness for trans and gay Americans. And we have to stand up for a future without this hateful hate, harm, and division that we are seeing and with a lot more compassion for each other. It is not too much to ask.

NOMINATION OF JOHN H. CHUN

Mr. President, I also rise today to urge my colleagues to join me this evening in voting to confirm Judge John Chun for a Federal district court judgeship in the Western District of Washington State.

Judge Chun is a Pacific Northwest native. He is a father. He is the son of South Korean immigrants. He would be the first Asian-American man to serve on Washington State's Federal bench.

He is patient and thoughtful, someone the people of Washington State can really count on to faithfully uphold the rule of law and treat litigants and all parties before him with grace and respect. Judge Chun's qualifications are superb, having served for 7 years now as a State court judge. His temperament and record of service demonstrate a real commitment to fairness and impartiality, whether through his service as a board member for the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance or his many pro bono commitments over the course of a very long career as both an attorney and a judge.

For all these reasons and more, Judge Chun's service as Federal district court judge in my home State of Washington would surely help rebuild faith in our judicial system. I respectfully am here today to urge my colleagues to confirm Judge Chun.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 493

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I come today to the floor with a very simple unanimous consent request.

This is a resolution. It doesn't allocate any dollars, doesn't change any policy. It is just a statement of belief from the U.S. Senate. It is a statement to be able to say we hold certain things very important.

I will talk through some of the resolution part of it—the resolve at the beginning of it—but it ends with a very simple statement. It ends with:

> Resolved, That the Senate—(1) recognizes and promotes the importance of parental involvement in their child's education; and (2) recognizes the necessity of school choices as a tool to empower all parents with the freedom to choose the best educational environment for their children and to reject destructive ideologies promoted by many public schools, such as Critical Race Theory.

This comes from a basic conversation that happens in my State and, quite frankly, in States all around the country. Parents should be the primary decision-makers for their children—not only where they are educated so that they don't live in a certain neighborhood and they say, I am sorry, you live there so you have to go here.

This is so the parents have the maximum amount of flexibility knowing one child may be a great fit for one school, and the younger child may be a better fit for a different school, whether that be a public school that allows flexibility within a district to be able to move place to place or, as it happens in my State, where you can even change district to district within public schools.

If a parent maybe works in one area—one school district—but lives in another, that parent can choose to be able to have their child go into a different district. Though it is a public school setting, it gives them the flexibility and the choice to do that. Why? Because not every kid is the same and not every educational environment is the same.

I would say in my State—and I would assume in other States as well—not every school district is the same. It is important to us in our State that every school district is successful. There is no place that we don't want any child to be able to be successful.

But we should all admit the facts: Not every school district is thriving. As we invest dollars and time and encourage great teaching in that district, that child who is in that district that is not being successful is trapped in a location that is currently not successful. Maybe they can be successful in 5 years from now when they work through the different issues they have, but that child doesn't have a second shot.

If that child has no other opportunity to be able to choose and their parents are locked into that spot, we basically say, We will fix everything in this district in a few years, and that child is just not allowed to get an option out. I don't think that is helpful for that child and that parent at that time.

Giving parents the ability to be able to make choices—whether public schools, charter schools, private schools—whatever may work best for their school and for their State and the policies their State has created seems like a smart thing to be able to do.

Any kind of teaching that is within a school that actually promotes one kid as the oppressor and the other kid as the oppressed simply because of the color of their skin should not be taught in our schools. Why don't we teach every child is equal? Why don't we teach every child should have opportunity? Why don't we teach every family has the opportunity in this great country of ours; and where we have weaknesses, we work on our weaknesses? But we don't label a child as an oppressor or as oppressed based on the color of their skin—at least we used to not in America.

But that is what is rising up with this critical race theory as it rises up from place to place. I have had many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle saying: That is not true. That is not being taught.

Great. Let's make the resolution. Let's say that we as a Senate don't believe that this should be taught. Let's teach every child. Let's love every child.

This resolution also affirms the rights of parents to be able to speak out—not in a violent way, not in a destructive way, but for parents to be able to speak out.

Why is it that several months ago, the Department of Justice in our Nation starts a whole investigation on parents to be able to say: Are there parents who are actually maybe closet terrorists who are showing up at school board meetings, complaining about what is being taught, complaining about a mask mandate in their school, complaining about a vaccine mandate, complaining about critical race theory, or just saying ''I don't like this particular curriculum''?

That used to be the rights of parents, to engage, and now we hear: Really, parents don't know enough about these difficult things. Parents need to just sit down over there. We will take care of this as professionals.

So, again, this resolution doesn't add additional funding. It doesn't change the structure of our schools. But it does say: We as the Senate believe in the power of the parent to be able to make the right choice for their children.

So, with that, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to my resolution, S. Res. 493. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I got my start in national politics as a parent advocating for my kids' preschool program. I am a former preschool teacher. I am a former school board member. I

am now chair of the Senate Education Committee. I have worked across the aisle on fixing No Child Left Behind. I have also fought against efforts—many during the former administration with Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education—because I felt they took us further from the goal of making sure that every student in our country, no matter who they are or where they live or how much money their parents make, can get an excellent public education and all the opportunity that comes with it.

All this is to say that I could not care more deeply about making sure every child gets the chance to learn and succeed in life, and my belief that parents should be as involved as possible in their kids' education could not be more firmly or personally held. In fact, I can remember the times when, as a U.S. Senator with young kids at home myself, I would try to read all my memos at night and help with their homework. I wanted my own kids to have that support from me, just like I want every parent to be able to be on top of what is going on in their kids' school.

I also know from talking to my own family and so many students and families across Washington State that these last two years have been some of the toughest, most overwhelming times for parents and kids that many of us can remember.

Here in the Senate, our job is to recognize that and do everything we can to get things back on track, which is why Democrats acted quickly to pass the American Rescue Plan and give schools the resources they need so they could reopen and stay open safely.

We also recognized that after 2 really disruptive years, many students would need extra help, so the American Rescue Plan is, as we speak right now, paying for afterschool programs and tutors and summer learning so students all across the country can catch up.

I will remind you that this bill to help reopen schools safely and keep them open passed with zero Republican votes—not one. Not only that, Senate Republicans have come to the floor twice last month alone with ideas about snatching Federal funding away from our schools, and Republican leaders even rolled out a plan that would eliminate the Department of Education altogether. Could there be a clearer message about their priorities?

At all times but especially after the last 2 years, there is no excuse for anything short of an all-hands-on-deck national effort to put students' education first, but, unfortunately, here is what we have got happening: Democrats acted to reopen our schools safely and keep them open. Congressional Republicans, down to the last one, voted no.

Democrats believe that quality public education for every student is a good investment. The Republican Party keeps putting forward ideas to gut public education. Democrats want to lower student debt and the cost of tuition. Republicans are virtually nowhere to be seen on those issues. Democrats want students to learn. Republican legislatures across the country want to ban books.

To sum it up, Democrats want every student to have the ability to get a great education. We are focused on that. We are serious about it, and we are working on it. Meanwhile, Republicans at all levels—and the resolution we are debating today is a case in point—want to use students and parents and schools as political pawns rather than focusing on making sure every single student in our country can get a high-quality education and be able to succeed.

In fact, I just spoke this afternoon with trans kids and parents about what is going on in Texas and other parts of the country. These kids are brave, but they are scared. Their parents are worried about being investigated by the State just because a politician has decided he doesn't like how they are raising their kids.

How are kids supposed to focus on learning when their safety is in question? How are their friends supposed to focus on learning when their classmates are dealing with something like this? Why are parents having to worry about whether they will get investigated for raising their kids according to their beliefs, their doctor's advice, and their kids' needs?

When and if Senate Republicans are truly serious about focusing on getting American students the great education they need and deserve, we will know because Republicans and Democrats might be able to come together again and put students and parents and schools first. I know that is possible because I have worked with Republicans to make this happen.

So today I would like to give my colleague an opportunity to take the first step in the right direction. In a moment, I will ask consent to pass a bill that would help our students.

If we agree we want parents involved in their kids' education and if we agree that this is a moment when students, like so many Americans, are stressed and need us to have their backs, which I really hope we do, then let's send more counselors and nurses to our Nation's schools. Let's prioritize STEM education and advanced coursework and make them available to more of our K–12 students. Let's make students' mental health a top priority so they can focus on learning.

So I will be asking unanimous consent on legislation that would help us all do this—importantly, in a way that seeks parents' input directly on what will matter most to their kids and their communities.

If you are trying to get our schools back on track, this should be an easy yes vote because it will be a vote for students' education, parents' peace of mind, and actually doing something real about the tough challenges students and parents are facing.

I hope my friend from Oklahoma will support it and that moving forward, Republicans will take education as seriously as they claim to and reverse course and join us in working to meet this moment for students' and parents' sake.

At this time, I object to the Senator from Oklahoma's unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mrs. MURRAY. As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the Murray bill, which is at the desk, a bill to appropriate funds for students' academic and mental health needs. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I appreciate the dialogue on education. A degree is an education. My mom is a lifelong educator. I spent my summers growing up in the school library, putting books in the Dewey Decimal System, putting the new piece of tape on the outside of it, and actually, back in the old days, filing a new card in the card catalog, which half the people listening to me right now have no idea what that is.

I am passionate about education. I have two daughters, and I stay very engaged in the issue of education. So it is always interesting to me when my Democratic colleagues say: When Republicans get serious about education.

It is always interesting. We will pass a bill, like what happened in the omnibus or what happened in any Education bill before, and there will be billions and billions of dollars in education, but the comment will always be ''Well, if you really loved kids, you would do just $1 billion more, but because you don't love kids, you did $1 billion less.'' It is never enough on it.

This resolution that I brought today was not about an extra $1.3 billion in education to be able to hire more people; it was just about empowering parents.

It is an interesting side by side to say what families need more is more employees at school, and what I am seeing is that we need more empowerment of parents.

One costs $1.3 billion; the other one is just free. One says: Let's have folks at school know how to be able to take care of your kids best. The other one says: Well, let's make sure there are certain things, like critical race theory, that we don't teach at school to make sure every child is taught the same. And if that parent wants to teach that at home, they are welcome to teach that at home, but let's not impose that on every child. Let's not call some children oppressors because of the color of their skin.

Why don't we do that?

So the resolution I brought is not about a billion dollars; it is just a statement of support of parents, a statement of support of what parents want to be able to teach. It is not about more school employees; it is about stronger parents. That is what I think that we ought to continue to be able to address.

This is not about who loves education more. Quite frankly, I know my colleague from Washington is passionate about kids and about education. She has lived it as a mom, as a leader in the Senate, and as someone I watched negotiate with Lamar Alexander some of the toughest education policy conversations. She is a remarkable legislator and is passionate about this.

We have some disagreements on some of these issues. I am just passionate about doing whatever we can to be able to honor parents as often as we can and to tell them: No, you are not going to be investigated.

She mentioned parents in Texas being worried about being investigated. I will tell you, parents in Oklahoma have said to me: I no longer go to school board meetings because I am afraid the FBI is going to be there and they are going to open a case on me. I have heard that the Attorney General is looking for parents who are problems across the country, and so I don't feel comfortable going to a school board meeting anymore because the U.S. Attorney General may open a file on me.

Now, that is a real conversation with a parent at home.

So let's find a way to be able to empower parents and do whatever we can. So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. First, I would ask consent that I be able to complete my brief remarks before the vote starts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JULIE REBECCA RUBIN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the confirmation of Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Julie Rubin to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland. I recommended Judge Rubin, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN, to President Biden, and we strongly support her nomination.

Judge Rubin has been nominated to fill the vacancy created when Judge Ellen Hollander, appointed by President Obama in 2011, announced her intentions to take senior status.

President Biden nominated Judge Rubin for this position on December 3 of last year, and the Judiciary Committee held her confirmation hearing on December 15. Judge Rubin was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee on January 20 of this year by a bipartisan vote.

She received a unanimous ''well qualified'' rating from the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, which is the organization's highest rating. The ABA assesses the nominee's professional competency, integrity, and judicial temperament.

Shortly after the November 2020 Presidential elections, I worked with Senator VAN HOLLEN to establish the judicial selection committee in Maryland. We used an open application process with public advertisement and communicated closely with State, local, and specialty bar associations in Maryland. In particular, we sought out highly qualified and diverse applicants. Our committee interviewed everyone who submitted an application, which involved several dozen interviews. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I personally interviewed several finalists before recommending names to the White House.

Born in Baltimore, Judge Rubin received her B.A. cum laude from Mount Holyoke College in 1995 and her J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1998.

She worked at Astrachan Gunst, handling intellectual property and employment law matters in both Federal and State court.

Judge Rubin was appointed by the Governor of Maryland in 2012 as a Baltimore City circuit judge and was elected in 2014 by the people of Baltimore to a 15-year term.

The circuit court is the State trial court of general jurisdiction in Maryland, covering both civil and criminal cases, and is the exclusive court for jury trials, including felony trials—similar jurisdiction to what the Federal district court handles. So she has that experience.

Judge Rubin brings tremendous experience to the courtroom as a sitting Baltimore City circuit judge for nearly a decade. She has handled a substantial and diverse caseload in our State court in Baltimore, having served in the civil, family, criminal, and general trial divisions, as well as serving on special assignments to the asbestos docket. She previously served as a supervisory judge of alternative dispute resolutions. She estimates that she has presided over about 1,000 criminal and civil cases that have gone to verdict or judgment, including both bench and jury trials.

Judge Rubin is known as a judge's judge, in terms of her excellent temperament, work ethic, and congeniality with lawyers and litigants. She is known to be fair in judgment to all litigants. She was selected to serve as a faculty member of the Judicial College and tasked with instructing newly appointed Maryland trial judges on judicial ethics and best courtroom practices.

Judge Rubin has continued to give back to the community as an adjunct legal professor at the Maryland Law School. She cochaired the Bench Bar Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, served on the board of the Baltimore Metropolitan Chapter of the Simon E. Sobeloff Law Society, and assisted the CollegeBound Foundation and the Baltimore Education Scholarship Trust to help underprivileged or at-risk youth. She has served as chair of the board of trustees for the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore. She has given back to our community and understands the challenges in our community.

As a fellow graduate of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey Law School, I am confident that Judge Rubin will meet the highest standards of integrity, competence, and temperament. I know she will uphold the rule of law for all Marylanders for this lifetime appointment.

Finally, let me say that I know that public service is a sacrifice, not only for the nominee but for their family. So I want to thank Judge Rubin's husband James and her entire family for sharing Judge Rubin with the people of Maryland.

Judge Rubin's confirmation will build on the quality and diversity of the Maryland District Court bench. All 10 of the confirmed judges have been recommended by me to the President for appointment as a Senator from Maryland. I am proud of their qualifications and diversity.

In Maryland, our Federal bench is 50 percent women, 50 percent men, 40 percent people of color. We appointed the first African-American woman, the first person of Palestinian descent. We have a diversified, quality bench representing the people of Maryland and providing the justice the people of Maryland deserve.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the confirmation of Judge Julie Rubin to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 683, Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland,

to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Blunt	Leahy	Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this vote took a long time. If the others take that amount of time, we are going to be here until very late because we are going to get this done. So I hope everyone will—now that we are on the second vote—hang close.

I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes tonight be 10-minute votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Let me reiterate.

Members, please stay on or near the floor during the votes so we can get this done quickly.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 737, Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 87 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Cornyn	Fischer
Blackburn	Cotton	Grassley
Boozman	Cramer	Hagerty
Braun	Crapo	Hawley
Burr	Cruz	Hoeven
Capito	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Cassidy	Ernst	Inhofe
Johnson	Portman	Shelby
Kennedy	Risch	Sullivan
Lankford	Romney	Thune
Lee	Rounds	Toomey
Lummis	Rubio	Tuberville
Marshall	Sasse	Wicker
Moran	Scott (FL)	Young
Paul	Scott (SC)	

NOT VOTING—4

Blunt	Sanders
Leahy	Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 679, John H. Chun, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Brian Schatz, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Ossoff, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Raphael G. Warnock, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Gary C. Peters, Mazie K. Hirono, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, that vote took too long. Will Members please stay around so we can get these done quickly. We have many more votes to go.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John H. Chun, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Blunt	Sanders	Toomey
Leahy	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, and the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John H. Chun, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 680, Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Brian Schatz, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Ossoff, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Raphael G. Warnock, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Gary C. Peters, Mazie K. Hirono, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 89 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Luján	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Grassley	Portman	

NOT VOTING—5

Blunt	Sanders	Toomey
Leahy	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 681, Georgette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Georgette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 90 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Luján	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Grassley	Portman	

NOT VOTING—5

Blunt	Sanders	Toomey
Leahy	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Georgette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 684, Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 91 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Portman
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Rosen
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Boozman	Burr
Blackburn	Braun	Capito
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cornyn	Inhofe	Rubio
Cotton	Johnson	Sasse
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Ernst	Marshall	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	Tillis
Grassley	Moran	Tuberville
Hagerty	Paul	Wicker
Hawley	Risch	Young
Hoeven	Romney	

NOT VOTING—3

Blunt	Shaheen	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 685, Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Blunt	Shaheen	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 662, Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Luján, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Mazie K. Hirono, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 93 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	Kennedy	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Luján	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Sullivan
Cornyn	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tillis
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Fischer	Moran
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Blunt	Shaheen	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 61, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

CONFIRMATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to acknowledge the confirmation of Shalanda Young to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget with a bipartisan vote of 61 to 36.

Director Young has a depth of experience that cannot be matched to lead the Office of Management and Budget. A staff member on the House Appropriations Committee for 15 years—serving 4 of these years as the committee's staff director—Director Young has years of experience in crafting the budgets of the Federal agencies that the American people rely on.

In 2019, Director Young was one of the few staff present in the room while then Chairman SHELBY, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member GRANGER, and I negotiated the end to the longest Federal Government shutdown in U.S. history. Her knowledge of Federal programs, understanding of the political process, and years of critical insight into the operations of the federal government were invaluable in our negotiations to reach a deal.

I was glad to strongly support Director Young's nomination to be Deputy Director of OMB. After she was confirmed to that position, she began to serve as its Acting Director. It was in this role that she guided the Biden administration's budget priorities through the COVID pandemic, devastating natural disasters, a long sought after bipartisan infrastructure law, and now the response to President Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

As if she did not have enough on her plate, on October 31, 2021, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Charlie. If juggling all of that did not prove she is more than qualified for the job, I am not sure what would.

As the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I look forward to working with her and her team at OMB on the fiscal year 2023 appropriations process. Director Young understands how to work across the aisle to get a deal done. I cannot think of someone I would rather work with in putting the appropriations process to work on behalf of the American people.

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE SENATE NATO OBSERVED GROUP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in 2018, we reestablished the Senate NATO Observer Group. I ask for the following Republican Senators to participate in the group: TILLIS (cochair), BARRASSO, ERNST, ROUNDS, RUBIO, and HAGERTY.

EB–5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have long been a supporter of the EB–5 program, which has been a significant economic driver in Texas. This merit-based immigration program has created thousands of American jobs and brought billions of dollars in investment to urban and rural areas across Texas and the U.S.

While it was unfortunate that the authorization for the EB–5 Regional Center program was allowed to lapse on June 30, 2021, I am pleased to have worked with my colleagues, Senators CHUCK GRASSLEY and PATRICK LEAHY, on the EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act, which was included as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.

The EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act reauthorizes the regional center program through September 30, 2027, and implements meaningful reforms and integrity measures that will ensure the viability and security of the program for the coming years.

This legislation provides the first multiyear authorization for the regional center program since 2015, so that regional centers, which have been in limbo for nearly 9 months, will have much-needed stability going forward. There is also a 60-day implementation period to allow USCIS to begin processing EB–5 petitions and applications that have been on hold since the lapse. Following that initial period, existing regional centers will be able to immediately get back to work driving investment into the U.S. and facilitating the creation of jobs across the country.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22–09, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Spain for defense articles and services estimated to cost $950 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to

issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JEDIDIAH P. ROYAL,
(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–09

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Spain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $425 million.

Other $525 million.

Total $950 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eight (8) MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters.

Twenty (20) T–700–GE–401C Engines (16 installed, 4 spares).

Thirty-two (32) AGM–114R(N) Hellfire Missiles, All Up Rounds.

Two (2) Hellfire II Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

One hundred (100) WGU–59/B Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) II Guidance Sections, All Up Rounds.

Eight (8) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) (8 installed).

Four (4) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (4 installed on 4 aircraft).

Non-MDE: Also included are M514 impulse cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; MJ20 cartridge actuated thruster/cartridge actuated devices; WB53 fire extinguisher cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; CCU–136A/A impulse cartridges; M299 Hellfire missile launchers; GAU–21 crew served guns (including pintle and laser pointer); LAU–61 digital rocket launchers; M152 High Explosive warheads for airborne 2.75 rockets; MK66 MOD 4, 2.75-inch rocket motors; rocket motors, 2.75-inch, MK–66–4 inert; WTU–1B inert warheads (HA23); AN/ARC–210 RT–2036 radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/AAR–47 missile warning systems; AN/SSQ–62F sonobuoys; AN/SSQ–53G sonobuoys; AN/SSQ–36B sonobuoys; SRQ–4 Hawklink radio terminals with Hawklink Crypto Control Modules; AN/APX–123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/ALE–47 dispenser, Electronic Countermeasures; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); AN/AAS–44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems; Identification Friend or Foe Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Applique, KIV–78; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM); Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only for 4 aircraft); AN/ARQ–59 Hawklink radio terminals; Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS/OMIA); tactical operational flight trainer; AN/ALQ–210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) systems; APS–153(V) multi-mode radars; spare engine containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; United States (U.S.) Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Spanish MH–60R helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (SP–P–SDE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SP–P–SCY, SP–P–SDB, SP–P–GOJ.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 15, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Spain—MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters with Support

The Government of Spain has requested to buy eight (8) MH–60R Multi-Mission helicopters; twenty (20) T–700–GE–401C engines (16 installed, 4 spares); thirty-two (32) AGM–114R(N) Hellfire missiles, all up rounds; two (2) Hellfire II Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); one hundred (100) WGU–59/B Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) II Guidance Sections, all up rounds; eight (8) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) (8 installed); and four (4) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (4 installed on 4 aircraft). Also included are M514 impulse cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; MJ20 cartridge actuated thruster/cartridge actuated devices; WB53 fire extinguisher cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; CCU–136A/A impulse cartridges; M299 Hellfire missile launchers; GAU–21 crew served guns (including pintle and laser pointer); LAU–61 digital rocket launchers; M152 High Explosive warheads for airborne 2.75 rockets; MK66 MOD 4, 2.75-inch rocket motors; rocket motors, 2.75-inch, MK–66–4 inert; WTU–1B inert warheads (HA23); AN/ARC–210 RT–2036 radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/AAR–47 missile warning systems; AN/SSQ–62F sonobuoys; AN/SSQ–53G sonobuoys; AN/SSQ–36B sonobuoys; SRQ–4 Hawklink radio terminals with Hawklink Crypto Control Modules; AN/APX–123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/ALE–47 dispenser, Electronic Countermeasures; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); AN/AAS–44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems; Identification Friend or Foe Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Applique, KIV–78; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM); Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only for 4 aircraft); AN/ARQ–59 Hawklink radio terminals; Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS/OMIA); tactical operational flight trainer; AN/ALQ–210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) systems; APS–153(V) multi-mode radars; spare engine containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; United States (U.S.) Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Spanish MH–60R helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $950 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Spain's capability to meet current and future threats. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopter will provide the capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay and will bolster the Spanish Navy's ability to support NATO and remain interoperable with the U.S. and the NATO alliance. Spain will have no difficulty absorbing these helicopters into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Owego, NY. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale may require the assignment of two (2) contractor representatives to Spain.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–09

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopter focuses primarily on anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare missions. The MH–60R carries several sensors and data links to enhance its ability to work in a network centric battle group and as an extension of its home ship/main operating base. The mission equipment subsystem consists of the following sensors and subsystems: an acoustics systems consisting of a dipping sonar and sonobuoys, Multi-Mode Radar (MMR) with integral Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) interrogator, Radios with COMSEC, Electronic Support Measures (ESM), Integrated Self-Defense (ISD), and Multi-Spectral Targeting System (MTS). The aircraft processes sensor data onboard, and transmits data via Common Data Link (CDL) (also referred to as Hawklink). The aircraft is night vision compatible. It can carry AGM–114A/B/K/N Hellfire missiles to engage surface and subsurface targets.

a. The AGM–114 Hellfire missile is an air-to-surface missile with a multi-mission, multi-target, precision strike capability. The Hellfire can be launched from multiple air platforms and is the primary precision weapon for the United States Army.

b. Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) laser guided rocket to counter the fast attack craft and fast inshore attack craft threat.

c. Communications security (COMSEC) devices contain sensitive encryption algorithms and keying material.

d. Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) (KIV–78) contains embedded security devices containing sensitive encryption algorithms and keying material.

e. GPS/PPS/SAASM—Global Positioning System (GPS) provides a space-based Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) that has reliable location and time information in all weather and at all times and anywhere on or near the earth when and where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (AN/PSN–11) is used by military GPS receivers to allow decryption of precision GPS coordinates. In addition, the GPS Antenna System (GAS–1) provides protection from enemy manipulation of the GPS system.

f. Acoustics algorithms are used to process dipping sonar and sonobuoy data for target tracking and for the Acoustics Mission Planner (AMP), which is a tactical aid employed

to optimize the deployment of sonobuoys and the dipping sonar.

g. The AN/APS–153 multi-mode radar with an integrated IFF and Inverse Synthetic Aperture (ISAR) provides target surveillance/detection capability.

h. The AN/ALQ–210 (ESM) system identifies the location of an emitter.

i. The AN/AAS–44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting System (MTS) operates in day/night and adverse weather conditions. Imagery is provided by a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor, a color/monochrome day television (DTV) camera, and a Low-Light TV (LLTV).

j. Ultra High Frequency/Very High Frequency (UHF/VHF) Radios (ARC–210) contain embedded sensitive encryption algorithms and keying material.

k. Advanced Data Transfer System (ADTS) with Type 1 encryption for data at rest.

l. Satellite Communications Demand Assigned Multiple Access (SATCOM DAMA), which provides increased, interoperable communications capabilities with U.S. forces.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems, which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Spain can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Spain.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, March 16, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1679, the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, having been referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

1. On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 12 ayes to 12 noes; and

In accordance with Section 3 paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the Resolution.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 472, Rachel Jacobson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

UKRAINE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to bring attention to the need to support the Ukrainian people in the face of Russia's invasion. Over the weekend, I took part in a Senate delegation to Poland alongside my colleagues Senator ROB PORTMAN, Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, and Senator ROGER WICKER. We met with Ukrainian refugees—women, children, grandparents—some who were carrying their whole lives on their backs.

Three weeks ago, Ukrainians were thinking about their jobs, their plans, and their dreams. Now, so much of that is in shambles. Women have been figuring out how to get their older parents and young children to safety across the border while their brothers and husbands take up arms. The most heartbreaking conversations I had were with children who didn't know if they had a future.

Seeing the cost of this invasion up close has only strengthened my resolve to stand with Ukraine, both with humanitarian aid for refugees and military support. With advanced weapons from the United States and allies, Ukraine's Territorial Defense has been more effective in stifling Russia's invasion than most imagined. Vladimir Putin thought he would be greeted with rose petals—instead it was Molotov cocktails. And 21 days later, Kyiv still stands.

I was proud to join the bipartisan Senate majority in allocating $13.6 billion for aid to Ukraine, but more support is needed. Over the past few weeks, Russian aircraft have been behind brutal assaults on residential neighborhoods, religious institutions, and hospitals in Ukraine. Ukraine needs more air defense support. Drones, Stingers, and Javelins have proven to be highly effective in taking down Russian aircraft and tanks, so we must continue to provide that critical weaponry and more.

In the face of this devastation, Poland has shown that it is a country with a big heart, taking in more than 1.7 million Ukrainian refugees. For perspective, Poland is a country of 38 million. Since they have opened their doors, the country's population has grown by over 4 percent. In Warsaw alone, the population has increased by 11 percent. Poles are meeting refugees at the border and welcoming them into their communities—even into their own homes.

The Polish people don't have to imagine what it is like to live through a full-scale invasion. Their history is marked by invasions by Prussia, the Habsburgs, the Nazis, and yes, Russia. Poland is also well aware of its 332-mile border with Ukraine. Last week, Russian missiles struck 15 miles from Poland's border. The Polish border guards I spoke with said they could literally feel the earth shake. As Putin's war inches westward, we must affirm our commitment to our NATO ally from a military and humanitarian standpoint.

During our trip, Senator PORTMAN, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator WICKER, and I had the honor of meeting with the 82nd Airborne. They briefed us on everything that is being done to help Ukrainian refugees, as well as fighters on the front lines. I also met with Minnesota troops, and I was inspired by their character and determination. It was clear that they understood the patriotic value of their service. I pray for their safety as they continue their mission in the region.

Across the Atlantic in Ukraine, we are all seeing how precious democracy truly is. Putin has shown his true colors. But you know what else? The people of Ukraine have shown their true colors—in bright blue and yellow—they are showing the world what true courage is all about. We must continue to stand with them in their fight.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF KING SOOPERS SHOOTING

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, on March 22, 2021, we suffered another horrific mass shooting in our State at the King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, CO. As we approach its 1-year anniversary, we honor the 10 Coloradans whose lives were cut tragically short in this senseless act of gun violence. They leave behind children, spouses, parents, friends, and a Boulder community that will always carry the grief of their loss.

They will never forget the 10 victims and neither should America. So today, we read their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Denny Stong was 20 years old and a graduate of Fairview High School. He was an introverted, smart kid who loved history and model airplanes. He had been covering shifts at the King Soopers and took enormous pride in his role as an essential worker during the pandemic. He once posted on Facebook: ''I can't stay home . . . I am a grocery store worker.''

Neven Stanisic was 23 years old. His dad said he was ''a really good boy, a good kid . . . a hard-working boy.'' His parents are refugees from Bosnia who left in the 1990s to escape the war. The reverend at their local church said, ''His family fled the war . . . They left everything to save their lives, and came here to have a new start.''

Rikki Olds was 25 years old. She had been working as a manager at King Soopers for 6 years. Her family described her as a ''firecracker'' who lit up a room with her infectious giggle. Her aunt Lori said, ''She had a beautiful way of just being her . . . When you're down, she just wanted to cheer you up, just by being around.''

Tralona Bartkowiak was 49 years old. She co-owned a clothing and accessories store with her sister and was a

frequent presence in the Boulder arts and music scene. She had a deep curiosity about the world that took her on travels from Nepal to Costa Rica. Her younger brother remembers her as ''a beam of light.''

Teri Leiker was 51 years old. She was a huge fan of the Buffaloes at CU and was a regular face at the Pearl Street Stampede. A friend called Teri ''the most selfless, innocent, amazing person I have had the honor of meeting.''

Suzanne Fountain was 59 years old. She worked for 15 years at Boulder Community Health. She loved gardening and was passionate about music and theater. A friend described her as ''the cream of the crop and a good person, a good soul.''

Kevin Mahoney was 61 years old. He had worked in the hotel business but retired early to spend more time traveling, skiing, and visiting his daughter, Erika. After learning of her father's death, Erika wrote, ''My dad represents all things Love. I'm so thankful he could walk me down the aisle last summer.''

Lynn Murray was 62 years old, a mother of two, and a retired photo director for prominent national magazines. Her husband John said, ''I just want her to be remembered as this amazing, amazing comet spending 62 years flying across the sky.''

Jody Waters was 65 years old. She used to own a boutique clothing store named Applause on the Pearl Street Mall, where she remembered all her customers and their favorite brands. She was a mother of two and a grandmother who loved horses and hiking. A friend said when Jody walked into the room, ''She was a breath of fresh air, a light.''

Finally, we honor Officer Eric Talley. He was 51 years old, a man of deep faith, and a devoted father of seven. After losing a close friend to a DUI, he joined the police academy at age 40 to give back to the community. In 2013, he made headlines when he helped rescue 11 ducklings from a drainage ditch. Eric's father said he ''loved his kids and family more than anything.'' For their sake, he was hoping to stay off the frontlines by learning to become a drone operator. But when the bullets rang out, he rushed into action, saving countless lives at the cost of his own. Colorado owes Officer Talley a debt we will never be able to repay. He and the nine other victims represent the best of our State.

As we honor the victims' lives, we stand with all who continue to grieve and the community as it continues to heal. We condemn the senseless gun violence, not only in Boulder last year, but in far too many American cities and towns every day. Until no American has to live in reasonable fear of being gunned down in a school, or a movie theater, or a grocery store, we have more work to do.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:51 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. 268. An act to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1908. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1931. An act to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2899. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3113. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5001. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2062, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individuals and Member to the Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center: Ms. Brooke Scannell of Arlington, Virginia, Ms. Stacey Leavandosky of Washington, D.C., Mr. Collin Davenport of Alexandria, Virginia, Ms. Lora Snyder of Washington, D.C., Mr. Matthew Dwyer of Alexandria, Virginia, Ms. Natalie Joyce of Arlington, Virginia, Mr. Cyrus Artz of Washington, D.C., Ms. Alyene Mlinar of Washington, D.C., Ms. Cari Fike of Cheverly, Maryland, Mr. Robbie Minnich of Arlington, Virginia, Ms. Jennifer Belair of Washington, D.C., and Mr. Hudson of North Carolina.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 55. An act to amend section 249 of title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a hate crime act.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 268. An act to provide for the boundary of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Park to be adjusted, to authorize the donation of land to the United States for addition to that historic park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1908. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1931. An act to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2899. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5001. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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–3406. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the drug-free workplace plans of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) and the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery (SIGPR); to the Committees on Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Foreign Relations.

EC–3407. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3408. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferators Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 544) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3409. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transnational Criminal Organizations Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 590) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3410. A communication from the Congressional Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law , the report of a rule entitled ''Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold'' ((RIN7100–AG21) (Docket No. R–1758)) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3411. A communication from the Congressional Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law , the report of a rule entitled ''Consumer Leasing (Regulation M)'' ((RIN7100–AG19) (Docket No. R–1756)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3412. A communication from the Congressional Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law , the report of a rule entitled ''Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)'' ((RIN7100–AG20) (Docket No. R–1757)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3413. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Stephens' Kangaroo Rat From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule'' (RIN1018–BE64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3414. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 2.8 Rev 0, Guidance for Implementation of 10 CFR 50.59, 'Changes, Tests, and Experiments,' At Non-Power Production or Utilization Facilities'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3415. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Bird Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Migratory Bird Permits; Administrative Updates to 50 CFR Parts 21 and 22'' (RIN1018–BF59) received on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3416. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Regulations to Limit Premises-Wide Actual and Potential Emissions from Major Stationary Sources of Air Pollution'' (FRL No. 9530–01–R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3417. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oregon: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 8853–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3418. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Conformity'' (FRL No. 9487–02–R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3419. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Stationary Combustion Turbines; Amendments'' ((RIN2060–AV03) (FRL No. 5909.1–02–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3420. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals Under TSCA Section 6(h); Phenol, Isopropylated Phosphate (3:1); Further Compliance Date Extension'' (FRL No. 6015.6–02–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3421. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval of Arizona Air Plan Revisions, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Maricopa County Air Quality Department'' (FRL No. 9572–01–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3422. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Atlanta Area Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statements Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9274–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3423. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; New Mexico; Clean Air Act Requirements for Emissions Inventory and Emissions Statement for Nonattainment Area for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 8989–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3424. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Jefferson County Emissions Statements Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9398–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3425. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Removal of Transportation Facilities Rules for Mecklenburg County'' (FRL No. 9175–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3426. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin'' (FRL No. 9386–01–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3427. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Jackson County 2010 SO2 1-Hour NAAQS Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9105–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3428. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Finding of Failure to Attain the 2008 Lead and 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Standards; Arizona; Hayden and Miami Nonattainmnet Areas'' (FRL No. 8726–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3429. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans and Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date; California; San Joaquin Valley Serious Area and Section 189(d) Plan for Attainment of the 1997 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS'' (FRL No. 8969–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3430. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Jefferson County 2010 SO2 1-Hour NAAQS Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 8693–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3431. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: Extension of Compliance and Attest Engagement Reporting Deadlines'' ((RIN2060–AV57) (FRL No. 8521.1–01–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3432. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Emergency Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Enthnological Material of Afghanistan'' (RIN1515–AE70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3433. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3434. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Notification of the Emergency Third Party Transfer Authorization from the Netherlands to Ukraine''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3435. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled ''Passports: Option for Passport Applicants Eligible To Apply by Mail for Renewal of Passports To Apply On-Line'' (RIN1400–AE68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3436. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the intent to exercise the authorities under section 506(a)(1) of the FAA and 614(a)(1) of the FAA to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3437. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Notification of the Emergency Third Party Transfer Authorizations from Turkey to Ukraine and from Germany to Ukraine''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3438. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to program fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2020 funds to provide support to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 664. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review certain legislation in order to identify potential risks of duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives (Rept. No. 117–94).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

*Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

*Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

*Philip Nathan Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2022.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3846. A bill to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3847. A bill to prohibit certain anticompetitive mergers, to amend the Clayton Act to permit the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice to reject proposed acquisitions, to implement procedures for retrospective reviews and breaking up anticompetitive consummated acquisitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3848. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to fund additional school-based mental health providers to help reduce psychological harm, and assist with the return to adaptive coping in schools following a violent or traumatic crisis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3849. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to expand the Magnet Schools Assistance Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3850. A bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Customs and Border Protection officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3851. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans and dependents who were stationed at military installations at which those veterans and dependents were exposed to perfluorooctanoic acid or other perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain veterans who were stationed at military installations at which those veterans were exposed to such substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3852. A bill to reauthorize the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3853. A bill to reauthorize the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3854. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3855. A bill to amend section 7014 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to advance toward full Federal funding for impact aid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3856. A bill to prohibit the importation of uranium from the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 3857. A bill to terminate certain waivers of sanctions with respect to Iran issued in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3858. A bill to require the publication of opinions issued by the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S.J. Res. 41. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to ''Ensuring Access to Equitable, Affordable, Client-Centered, Quality Family Planning Services''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 548. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on ending the access of Russian financial institutions to specialized financial messaging services; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 549. A resolution supporting the transfer of aircraft and air defense systems to the Armed Forces of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 306

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to provide a

process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 618

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 618, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes.

S. 2550

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2550, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2607, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 2992

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2992, a bill to provide that certain discriminatory conduct by covered platforms shall be unlawful, and for other purposes.

S. 3360

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3360, a bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3526

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3526, a bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the People's Republic of China if the People's Liberation Army initiates a military invasion of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) 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. 3726

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3726, a bill to address research on, and improve access to, supportive services for individuals with long COVID.

S. 3770

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3770, a bill to establish a point of order against legislation that would cause a net increase in outlays unless the Director of the Congressional Budget Office certifies that inflation is below 3 percent.

S. 3771

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3771, a bill to prohibit United States persons from engaging in transactions with foreign persons that purchase or transact in gold from the Russian Federation.

S. 3778

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3778, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to make premium and cost-sharing subsidies available to low-income Medicare part D beneficiaries who reside in Puerto Rico or another territory of the United States.

S. 3802

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3802, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a windfall profits excise tax on crude oil and to rebate the tax collected back to individual taxpayers, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 546

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 546, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the Russian Federation, President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces, and Russian military commanders for committing atrocities, including alleged war crimes, against the people of Ukraine and others.

S. RES. 547

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 547, a resolution recognizing the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ENDING THE ACCESS OF RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO SPECIALIZED FINANCIAL MESSAGING SERVICES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 548

Whereas providers of specialized financial messaging services are a critical link to the international financial system;

Whereas the European Union, Japan, Canada, and other partners of the United States are to be commended for strengthening the multilateral sanctions regime against the Russian Federation;

Whereas, while the expulsion of selected Russian financial institutions from specialized financial messaging services is a first step, that expulsion alone is not sufficient to address the scope and scale at which the Government of the Russian Federation is waging war against Ukraine; and

Whereas, once achieved, the complete loss of access by Russian financial institutions to specialized financial messaging services must be maintained: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate urges the President, in the strongest possible terms, to immediately take all measures necessary to remove all Russian financial institutions from access to specialized financial messaging services, including by working with allies and partners

of the United States to execute that removal multilaterally;

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Russian financial institutions covered by paragraph (1) include—

(A) Sberbank;
(B) VTB;
(C) Gazprombank.
(D) VEB.RF;
(E) The Russian Direct Investment Fund;
(F) Credit Bank of Moscow;
(G) Alfa Bank;
(H) Rosselkhozbank;
(I) FC Bank Otkritie;
(J) Promsvyazbank;
(K) Sovcombank;
(L) Transkapitalbank;
(M) Tinkoff Bank; and
(N) any financial institution that is owned or controlled by, or is a successor to, a financial institution specified in any of subparagraphs (A) through (M); and

(3) it is the sense of the Senate that any package of sanctions imposed with respect to the Russian Federation is strengthened by working in concert with allies and partners of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT AND AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS TO THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the people of Ukraine have shown great resolve in combating the blind aggression of the Russian Federation following the further invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continue to assault the people of Ukraine through indiscriminate aerial attacks;

Whereas the United States Department of Defense has stated that the Russian Federation flies ''on average 200 sorties per day'' in their campaign against Ukraine;

Whereas Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has continued to request that members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other countries around the globe support the transfer of military aircraft and air defense systems to the Armed Forces of Ukraine in order to protect the people of Ukraine;

Whereas the MiG–29 is the main fixed-wing aircraft in the inventory of the Ukrainian Air Force, and it is critical that the Ukrainian Air Force receive aircraft that mirror the capability and operating standard of the MiG–29;

Whereas additional MiG–29s are essential for the Ukrainian Air Force to remain capable of contesting aircraft of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, it was reported that the Government of Poland would transfer MiG–29s to Ukraine in exchange for aircraft from the United States;

Whereas, on March 6, 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that the transfer of Polish MiG–29s to Ukraine ''gets a green light [and that] we're talking with our Polish friends right now about what we might be able to do to backfill their needs. . .'';

Whereas, on March 8, 2022, the Government of Poland stated that Poland would ''deploy—immediately and free of charge—all of their M[i]G–29 jets. . .and place them at the disposal of the Government of the United States'' and further stated that ''other NATO Allies—owners of M[i]G–29 jets—[should] act in the same vein'';

Whereas, on March 9, 2022, the Pentagon stated that the United States does ''not support the transfer of additional fighter aircraft to the Ukrainian Air Force at this time, and therefore have no desire to see them in our custody, either'' and further stated that ''the transfer of combat aircraft right now could be mistaken, by Mr. Putin and the Russians as an escalatory step'';

Whereas a failure to provide aircraft, such as MiG–29s, and air defense systems to the Armed Forces of Ukraine would embolden the Russian Federation and further endanger the people of Ukraine;

Whereas the Biden Administration should support the transfer of aircraft, such as MiG–29s, and air defense systems, including Stinger missiles and more advanced surface-to-air missile systems, to Ukraine; and

Whereas Congress urges the Biden Administration to meet the air defense needs requested by President Zelensky, including the transfer of aircraft, such as MiG–29s, and other air defense systems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the President of the United States to support the transfer of aircraft, such as MiG–29s, and air defense systems to Ukraine;

(2) supports continued efforts by members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other countries around the globe to identify additional aviation and air defense capabilities to transfer to the Armed Forces of Ukraine; and

(3) stands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the people of Ukraine in their struggle against Russian aggression.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I have eight 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 16, 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 Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: The Honorable Madelyn R. Creedon of Virginia and General (Ret.) John E. Hyten of Colorado.

The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology: The Honorable Dov S. Zakheim of Maryland and The Honorable ALEX PADILLA of California.

The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 117–81, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform: Diem Salmon of Maryland.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: The Honorable TIM SCOTT of South Carolina, vice The Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, March 17; 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 and resume consideration of the Nathan nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday'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.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, there will be two rollcall votes at 11:45 and one at 1:45.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:29 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRAYER OF PUTIN'S WAR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas, now an American citizen from Wales, United Kingdom, being the Senior Minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia founded in 1795 delivered a heartfelt prayer on February 27th for the embattled people of Ukraine with love for the people of Russia. The prayer was authored by Rev. Steven D. Froehlich of New Life Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, NY.

The ministry of Dr. Thomas is so meaningful to our family with six generations having attended First Presbyterian Church of Columbia.

Lord, destroy Putin the tyrant
Lord, have mercy on Putin the man made in your image
Lord, overwhelm the Russian soldiers with the guilt of the evil to which they are party
Lord, show the Russian soldiers the forgiveness that can be theirs in Christ
Lord, guide the weapons of Ukraine to destroy the weapons of their enemy
Lord, may the Russian missiles go astray and miss their targets
Lord, as you have done before, send your angels through the camp breathing chaos and destruction among the Russian army
Lord, as you have done before, send your angels to announce the promise of peace and life in Christ
Lord, keep the Ukrainian people safe and the leaders alive, wise and courageous
Lord, may the citizens of Russia flood the streets with protest against the evil of their leaders
Lord, may the Russian fathers and mothers call to their children bearing arms to lay down their weapons
Lord, may the United States and the nations of Europe be of one mind and resolve to stand against evil, even when it proves costly
Lord, may peace return to the Ukraine and Russia
Lord, as your children were vital to the collapse of the Iron Curtain, may they once again be instruments of peace and justice
Lord, may the Gospel be proclaimed in word and deed so that in war and in peace, in life and in death, in joy and in suffering, Christ might be lifted up, loved and worshipped as the Prince of Peace.
''Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid . . . I have told you all this so you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials, but take heart, because I have overcome the world.'' John 14:27, 16:33
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.''

IN RECOGNITION OF WEAVER HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING STATE TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Weaver High School wrestling team for winning the AHSAA Class 1A/4A state title in dramatic fashion.

On February 19, 2022, The Weaver Bearcats beat Ohatchee High School 82 to 81 thanks to pins by Devin Anderson and Joshua Johannson in the final two matches to secure their title win. The event was held at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Devin Anderson earned 1A–4A most valuable wrestler. This was head coach Andy Fulmer's first state title and the Bearcats' 10th state title. Their last state title was in 2004.

Madam, Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Fulmer, the wrestling team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Bearcats.

JASON SLOWINSKI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Golden, Colorado's City Manager Jason Slowinski and wish him well as he transitions to a new role at the Colorado School of Mines.

Since being appointed as City Manager in 2015, Slowinski has led the city in several key initiatives, including critical infrastructure projects such as a new interchange at 6th Avenue and 19th Street, street upgrades on North Washington Avenue, and drainage improvements along Ford Street. Slowinski also played a critical role in the Heart of Golden planning initiative to revitalize the Clear Creek corridor—and all of this under strong and transparent budgetary practices. Throughout the COVID–19 pandemic, Slowinski has worked to ensure the City's financial stability, the continuity of the City's essential services, and support the community's overall recovery.

An effective and successful city manager requires dependability, consistency, and dedication to the city's residents. Throughout Slowinski's career as City Manager he has maintained the best interest for the community of Golden and its people. I want to extent my deepest appreciation to Jason Slowinski for his contributions to the City of Golden and the State of Colorado. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING FRISCO ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF GREG WARD

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Frisco Assistant Police Chief Greg Ward on his distinguished twenty-nine year career in law enforcement upon his well-deserved retirement.

In 1985, Ward graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. He would later go on to attend the FBI National Academy, the Senior Management Institute for Police, and would obtain a State of Texas Master Peace Officer License.

Since joining the Frisco Police Department in 1999, Chief Ward has supervised numerous departments including patrol, special operations, school resource officer programs, community services, and communications. Chief Ward was also responsible for the Investigations and Services Bureaus as well as the department's firearms program.

Given his extensive experience and active involvement, it comes as no surprise that in 2019 Chief Ward was selected to serve as the interim Chief of Police for the City of Frisco following the departure of Chief John Bruce.

A true public servant, he could often be found around Frisco engaging with residents and participating in events such as Safety Palooza, which sought to bring members of the community face to face with police and fire personnel.

During his twenty-two years of service with the City of Frisco, Chief Ward's versatile skillset made him a valuable asset to both the Department and the community. Due to his approachable nature and willingness to serve as a source of wisdom amongst his fellow officers, Chief Ward was highly regarded not only as a colleague, but also as a friend.

Chief Greg Ward made a lasting impact on the Frisco community during a pivotal time in the city's growth, and his absence will certainly be felt among many. Now upon his retirement, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Chief Greg Ward for his dedicated career in law enforcement and wish him the best as he prepares to begin a new chapter of his life.

HONORING THE EMBASSY

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding organization, The Embassy in Sedalia, Missouri. The Embassy operates two Christian Discipleship Transitional Men's Homes to provide support to men in recovery and help them overcome

substance abuse issues. The organization was founded in 2010 by Chris Patton, Gary Smith, and Ben Embree. The Embassy officially opened their doors on January 8, 2011, to men in the community wanting to overcome their dependence on drugs.

The mission of their ministry focuses on building a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and rebuilding a sense of self and confidence for their residents to become leaders, whether that be in their work, community, church, or family. Along with spiritual development, The Embassy provides occupational opportunities to ensure a comprehensive strategy for treatment and recovery. These jobs help bring restoration and fulfillment through purposeful employment and development of life skills.

I am proud of Executive Director Rick Rogers, and all the mentors and volunteers that have transformed so many lives. Without their assistance, much of this would not have been possible. Their commitment and devotion to the transformation of these men have helped many Embassy residents become productive members of their community. I commend The Embassy's efforts in providing such an impactful program to help the men in the Sedalia community strive to maintain a life of sobriety. I look forward to seeing their continued work in supporting men in recovery for years to come.

HONORING JOHN BLEYL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS COMPANY, BLEYL ENGINEERING

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career and community contributions of my dear friend John Bleyl as we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Bleyl Engineering.

John founded Bleyl Engineering in 1997, after recognizing the need for high quality municipal projects in Conroe, Texas. The inception of Bleyl Engineering helped jumpstart an era of record-setting growth in the Conroe community.

However, John's keen sense of entrepreneurship, strong Texas values, and reputation for faith-fueled business ethics grew the company from a boutique firm in Montgomery County to an engineering and construction management powerhouse with offices and community projects across the Lone Star State. The company now employs 100 people in Conroe, Austin, Bryan-College Station, and Tomball.

Bleyl Engineering continues to be guided by its founding vision: ''to be a foundation for the advancement of stronger, safer communities across Texas.'' Under John's leadership, not only has Bleyl Engineering prospered as a company, but many communities now have safer intersections, accessible public transportation, critical health care infrastructure, and economic growth opportunities.

Mr. Bleyl's first-class public and private sector engineering portfolio speaks for itself. A few notable engineering projects that highlight John's legacy across Texas include the George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the Deison Technology Park, Texas Children's Hospital, and the Fish Creek Thoroughfare Expansion. When the highest standard of engineering or project management is required, Mr. Bleyl has been consistently called upon for his efficiency, dependability, and expertise.

Bleyl Engineering has also been committed to supporting the community through various philanthropic causes. It contributes to local fundraisers through the Rotary Club of Conroe and the Magnolia Education Foundation. In addition, Bleyl Engineering sponsored a local Ironman Triathlon competitor to raise money for Syrian refugees displaced by the civil war.

Mr. Bleyl continues to serve as the City Engineer for Panorama Village and Shenandoah, but his ideas live beyond his work as an engineer. His dedication to his community is evident through his involvement in the Lazy River Improvement District Board, Lone Star Groundwater District Board, West Fork—TIRZ Board, Bryan—TIRZ Board, and the New Danville Project.

I am proud to recognize John as an outstanding member of the Conroe community and his business for celebrating a quarter-century of excellence. Mr. Bleyl is an exceptional businessman, a generous philanthropist, and the embodiment of a true Texan. I congratulate him on this milestone and look forward to his continued sucess.

SAVE THE LIBERTY THEATRE ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3197, which provides a land conveyance to the city of Eunice, Louisiana.

The Save the Liberty Theatre Act of 2021 will allow the city of Eunice to restore its historic Liberty Theatre.

This historic theatre has hosted silent films, live bands, and other entertainment over its beautiful history.

The Liberty Theatre has been a staple of Louisiana's Cajun community for nearly 100 years.

With passage of this bill, the City of Eunice can proceed with its efforts to restore the theatre as an important center of culture and tourism.

The bill will also direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey all rights, title, and interest of the federal government in specified areas of the ''Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve'' to the city of Eunice, Louisiana.

That area includes an annex owned by the National Park Service (NPS) that is attached to the Liberty Theatre, which is owned by the city.

The area the NPS owns is a section of the Liberty Theatre that provides a handicap accessible entrance, but this ownership interest in the property is hindering efforts to restore the theatre.

The Save the Liberty Theatre Act of 2021 would grant Eunice full ownership of the theatre property so the city can begin restoration efforts.

The theatre's stage has been dark since October 2019, and to local Cajun musicians like Joel Savoy, there is a fear that the centerpiece of the Cajun community will be nothing more than a memory.

Savoy's family is very connected to the theatre, as his parents were the driving force behind a restoration project in the 1980s to reopen the ornate building.

The theatre's return is vital to regional tourism.

Savoy, along with a handful of other Eunice residents, formed the Association for the Liberty Theatre earlier this year.

Their association is looking into ongoing revenue potential through private events, such as wedding receptions, so the theatre doesn't shutter again in a few decades.

Their goal is to renovate and reopen the theatre by 2024 to commemorate the 100th anniversary, and according to Savoy an anonymous donor has committed to donating a ''substantial amount'' of the projected $2 million needed to return the theatre to its former glory.

A handful of other Eunice residents plan on launching fundraising campaigns and other public planning projects if the legislation passes.

The people of this community are willing to go the extra mile in hard work and funding to preserve this landmark that is dear to them.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me and vote for H.R. 3197.

Since the people of this community are willing to come together to revitalize this landmark, we should support them.

RECOGNIZING MR. ARMOND MORRIS

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Armond Morris of Irwin County for his retirement as Chairman of the Georgia Peanut Commission.

While farming for over 50 years, Armond has advocated for the peanuty industry and farmers nationally and internationally. He served with the Georgia Peanut Commission for more than four decades and was chairman for 20 years. During his service, he led efforts to ensure that the U.S. peanut industry remained competitive against imports, worked toward improving federal policies, and fought off regulation and disease that would've been harmful to the industry. His outstanding dedication to our nation's peanut industry prioritized U.S. peanuts and grew the industry domestically.

As a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, I am honored to represent outstanding farmers such as Armond. It is individuals like him that make Georgia, and America, great.

HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the gravity of the cyber threat to our national security and critical infrastructure, especially as we face potential cyber threats from Russia following its horrific invasion of Ukraine. The Federal Government must know when vital sectors of our Nation are affected by cyber attacks, so that we may deploy the full resources of the Federal Government to respond to and mitigate these attacks.

Division Y of the bipartisan ''Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022'' will take significant steps to strengthen cybersecurity protections and ensure that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, is at the forefront of our Nation's response to serious cyber attacks by requiring timely reporting of these attacks to the Federal Government so that we can better prevent future incidents and hold attackers accountable.

To be clear, Division Y of the Act, which is based on Rep. YVETTE D. CLARKE's H.R. 5440, the ''Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2021,'' and its Senate companion legislation (S. 2875) sponsored by Senator GARY C. PETERS, does not impede the FBI or other law enforcement investigations against perpetrators of attacks.

The plain text of Division Y makes Congress's intent clear. Although the reports themselves—and any ''communication[s], document[s], or material[s], or other record[s] created for the sole purpose of preparing, drafting or submitting'' those reports—may not be received in evidence, the FBI and other law enforcement entities nevertheless may make full use of the information contained in such materials in their investigations of a cyber incident or for other purposes authorized by the statute. Likewise, additional facts developed in those investigations may be used to further those investigations or activities, including in ex parte or other proceedings. In other words, although the FBI cannot attach the report filed with CISA in a warrant application or submit it in evidence in a trial, it may, as appropriate, use information contained in the reports and derived from them for a range of purposes, including obtaining a warrant and prosecuting bad actors. Further, the legislative language also is not intended to prohibit or discourage entities from reporting to CISA and law enforcement concurrently.

The language of this division makes clear that the information may be used for cybersecurity or investigative purposes. In the new section 2245 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 created by this division, it clearly states that reports submitted to CISA under this provision can be used for ''the purpose of preventing, investigating, disrupting, or prosecuting an offense arising out of a cyber incident reported pursuant to'' the statute's requirements or through voluntary reporting provisions.

Moreover, facts developed during an FBI investigation of a relevant cyber incident using other authorities are not subject to the evidentiary restrictions found in section 2245(c)(3) of the statute, including similar facts that may also have been disclosed to the Federal Government in the report to CISA.

The FBI's efforts to hold accountable, disrupt, or deter perpetrators of cyber attacks are fully consistent with the goal of encouraging entities to disclose cyber incidents. As stakeholders work through the rulemaking process, the committees of jurisdiction in both the House and the Senate look forward to working with them to ensure that congressional intent is not misinterpreted, and that this legislation is implemented as intended.

Mr. Speaker, the hard work of many of my colleagues went into the inclusion of this important legislation in the ''Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.'' I want to thank especially Representatives CLARKE, JOHN KATKO, and ANDREW R. GARBARINO; and Senators PETERS, ROB PORTMAN, MARK R. WARNER, and SUSAN M. COLLINS.

RECOGNIZING SARA EGELSTON AKERS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sara Egelston Akers for a lifetime of service dedicated to fostering a love for the performing arts among the youth in our community.

In 1991, what began as a single production of ''The Wizard of Oz'' at a local church, would go on to become the profoundly impactful Plano Children's Theatre (PCT), one of the first youth theaters dedicated to providing children from all backgrounds the opportunity to be on stage. Due to Sara's efforts as the Theatre's Founder and Executive Director, in time multiple performance theatres and rehearsal studios would be established across North Texas.

Among her most notable achievements during her tenue with PCT, Sara pioneered the use of drama as a means of therapy, paving the way for the widespread implementation of adaptive performing arts programs for students with disabilities.

Over the past three decades, Sara has been a vital contributor to Plano's performing arts landscape. Following her executive role with PTC, Sarah went on to a serve as the Vice President of Community Outreach for North Texas Performing Arts (NTPA), where she oversaw fundraising, community outreach, and diversity efforts. Under her leadership, NTPA has become the largest youth theatre in the country impacting thousands of families.

For her many contributions within our community, Sara was recognized by the Plano Chamber of Commerce with the prestigious Athena Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Art Centre of Plano. In honor, NTPA has likewise established a ''Sara Egelston Akers Legacy Fund'' which will provide support for the organization's scholarship initiatives.

Following her retirement this May, Sara will continue to serve as a teacher and director maintaining an active role in the NTPA's Arts Advisory Council, Governing Board of Director's, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

Ms. Sara Egelston Akers, a gifted educator, artist, and leader, has undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the North Texas community, and though she will be missed, her future is sure to be filled with many wonderful new opportunities.

As she prepares to embark on this next chapter of her life, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sara Egelston Akers for her successful career devoted to promoting accessibility among youth in the performing arts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF KENNETH BICE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Kenneth Bice.

Kenneth was born in Anniston, Alabama, on November 28, 1944. He now resides in Ohatchee, Alabama, with Fran, his wife of 40 years. He has been blessed with five children, 12 grandchildren and nine greatgrandchildren.

After working with South Central Bell for 15 years, Kenneth saw an opportunity to start a ground-breaking telecommunication company in Anniston, Alabama. As the telecommunication industry began rapidly changing with new FCC rulings allowing companies and individuals to buy their own telephone equipment instead of renting, he seized this opportunity and founded Telephone Communications, Inc (TCI) in 1979. TCI now serves thousands of customers with their managed services in the telecom, security and IT services industries. This successful company is the first of many companies Kenneth would begin. Other companies he founded include: TelNet Corporation, Bice Enterprises, The Homestead & Liberty Square, Blue Signs, Yello Wireless, Smart Ink, BCR Corporation, PHR, Inc., KB's Restaurant and Action Auto.

He has served his community over the years and been involved as a Graduate of Leadership Calhoun County, a member of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Anniston Main Street Board of Directors, Founder of Citizens for Safer Alabama, Calhoun County Economic Development Council, Colonial Bank Advisory Board, Board of Directors for the Berman Foundation Museum, Board member of Anniston Retail Commercial Development Authority, Founder of Alabama Long Distance Association, Volunteer fireman at Ohatchee Fire Department and active member of Oak Bowery Church where he currently serves as Sunday School Teacher and Chairman of Properties Committee.

He Received Small Business Leader of the Year for Calhoun County (1990, 1994) and Special Achievement Award from State of Alabama (1990).

Kenneth retired February 14, 2022 and will be honored March 29th with family and friends in Saks.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend on his retirement and his tireless service to our community.

HONORING CHUCK FOWKE

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Chuck Fowke, a home builder and developer from Valrico, Florida, who on February 10th concluded his successful term as the 2021 chairman of the National Association of Home Builders.

As chairman, Chuck confronted the challenges he and his fellow builders faced during the COVID–19 pandemic head-on. His steady leadership at NAHB during the past year has paid great dividends as the housing industry has overcome new challenges.

Chuck provided a laser-like focus to keep housing moving forward by working with the administration and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to resolve issues pertaining to the price and availability of building materials, and the supply chain in general. He personally testified before Congress on this issue in October, calling on lawmakers to determine what action can be taken to address our nation's troubled building materials supply chain.

These efforts are paying dividends. Chuck and the NAHB have been working tirelessly to reduce lumber tariffs that have contributed to unprecedented price volatility and harmed housing affordability. These efforts proved successful as the Commerce Department announced on Jan. 31st that it would be lowering tariffs on Canadian lumber imports into the U.S. from 17.99 percent to 11.64 percent—a 35 percent reduction.

As founder and president of Homes by John C. Fowke Inc., Chuck has built hundreds of homes throughout Central Florida and the Tampa Bay area. He is dedicated to his industry, having previously served as president of the Tampa Bay Builders Association and the Florida Home Builders Association. In 2019, he was inducted into the Florida Home Builders Association Hall of Fame.

Chuck also recognizes the importance of giving back to the community he's helped build, having served as chairman of the Charity Women's Crisis Center's Addition and Renovation Committee. He contributed to the efforts of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Joshua House and completed a project for the Gary Sinise Foundation for a deserving military widow and her children.

I congratulate Chuck on his efforts to ensure that housing remains accessible and affordable to America's families. I congratulate him on his successful tenure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Nos. 58 and 59 on March 7, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Nos. 58 and 59.

HONORING THE KENTUCKY SCIENCE CENTER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Kentucky Science Center—located in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky—as this outstanding institution celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Originally founded in 1871 as a "cabinet of curiosities" in the Public Library System of Kentucky, what was soon known as the Louisville Museum of Natural History and Science has grown in size and scope to become the largest hands-on science center in the Commonwealth and one of our region's leading resources for education immersion.

Simply put, they make science fun. At the core of the Kentucky Science Center's mission are these simple instructions: "play, tinker, explore, collaborate, test, experiment, goof up, and try again." Though their focus is helping teach their visitors about a specific field of study, I can't think of more fitting instructions for any endeavor of learning, no matter your age.

Their approach makes learning accessible to people from all walks of life. Whether you 're an individual, a family, or an educator with a classroom full of students, the Kentucky Science Center has a seemingly never-ending supply of programming tailored to meet your needs, helping you think big and learn more. Understanding the important role STEM education plays in our future, the Kentucky Science Center has been an invaluable resource in advancing this field of study for all who are lucky to pass through its doors, helping us prepare the next generation of leaders right here in Louisville.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District, I thank the administrators, staff, volunteers, and supporters of the Kentucky Science Center for all of their hard work in making this place of learning such a valuable asset to our community. The Kentucky Science Center has encouraged us to think critically, to immerse ourselves in the marvels of science, and to stay forever curious. I congratulate them on this important milestone and I look forward to another 150 years.

HONORING BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burlington High School Boys Basketball Team for their first appearance in the Iowa High School State Tournament since 1987.

These extraordinary young men have worked tirelessly to hone their skills and overcome obstacles during this season. I am extremely honored to represent these young men in Congress and proud that their hard work was rewarded by an appearance in the state tournament. I look forward to seeing this program continue to grow and develop and cannot wait to see more tournament appearances soon.

HONORING SERVICE OF MSGT JOSHUA UPTON

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Master Sgt. Joshua Upton, crew chief with the 131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He has recently been selected as the 131st Bomb Wing's Maintainer of the Year.

Master Sgt. Joshua Upton has distinguished himself as an essential leader in the B–2 mission, providing both hard work and high performance while stationed and deployed. He was awarded with an incentive flight in a B–2 Spirit bomber on January 9th. Sgt. Upton's leadership as an aircraft-dedicated crew chief has led to the execution of 18 sorties and 145.9 flying hours in support of 16 higher headquarters missions.

Aircraft mechanics are essential to the maintenance, safety, and success of our Armed Forces. Without their long hours of hard work and commitment to detail, these sorties would not be possible. Mechanical teams and their crew chiefs work each day around the clock to ensure constant readiness for military aircraft that are vital to our national defense. Our adversaries never rest and neither do our aircraft maintenance squadrons.

It is a great honor that I recognize the dedicated service of Master Sgt. Joshua Upton. His steadfast leadership and continuous devotion to each mission are part of what make our military the best in the world. I am proud of his accomplishment and his team of aircraft maintenance technicians for earning this recognition. Please join me in congratulating him for his dedicated service to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF JONATHAN B. HOTCHKISS TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE FARM MUSEUM

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jonathan B. Hotchkiss's long history of volunteerism and nearly 20 years of service to the New Hampshire Farm Museum in Milton, NH. For the past two decades, Jonathan has served his community as a steadfast supporter of New Hampshire agriculture and culture.

Jon worked with the Farm Museum in a variety of capacities including the facility maintenance, cost-saving program development, grant writing, reenactments, and as both a member and President of the Board of Trustees. He worked tirelessly to develop community and business relationships that enabled the museum to become more organized, creative and financially stable.

As public health precautions during the coronavirus pandemic caused many institutions to close their doors to the public for prolonged periods of times and face financial hardship. Due to Jon's hard work developing the museum's innovative cost-saving program, the Farm Museum gained a financial stability that has helped it weather the continuing pandemic.

Prior to 1900, nearly 90 percent of New Hampshire residents lived on a farm. Our state's history is deeply tied to its agriculture and Jonathan's commitment to the preservation of this history is commendable.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Jonathan for his continued dedication to the Granite State and wish him the best as he transitions from his work with the museum.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEMPLE ISRAEL OF SCRANTON'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor Temple Israel of Scranton and its congregation who will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Temple's founding June 10–12, 2022. The congregation was organized in July 1921, but the celebration to mark this joyous occasion was postponed because of the COVID–19 pandemic.

On July 14, 1921, a group of Jews gathered at the YMCA in response to urging by their peers to establish a modern synagogue in the City of Scranton. The result of that founders meeting was Temple Israel, a synagogue that ''would comply with the thoughts of the American Jew and would be conducted in accordance with the best traditions of Judaism.'' On September 21, 1921, Rabbi Alfred H. Kahn was installed as the first rabbi. During the final months of 1921, a Hebrew School was organized, the Temple was granted its charter, and the constitution and by-laws of the Temple were adopted.

On April 11, 1923, plans to build a new Temple began, and a committee to oversee the process was formed with Isadore Finkelstein as chairman. Over the next three years, the committee drafted a report, raised funds, approved architectural plans, and hired contractors. On May 18, 1926, they broke ground for the new Temple, and on September 11, 1927, Rabbi Max Arzt dedicated the Temple in the afternoon and an evening banquet followed. The celebrations continued throughout the week with a Hebrew School Night, Ladies' Auxiliary Night, Open House Night, the Dedication Ball, and culminated with religious services on Friday and Saturday.

Rabbi Arzt, who served Temple Israel from 1924 to 1939 before joining the faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, was not the only prominent clergy member to lead the congregation. Other distinguished clergy include Rabbis Simon Shoop and David Geffen and Cantor William S. Horn, who served 50 years as cantor and youth instructor for the Temple Israel Junior Congregation and Hebrew School, which educated thousands of Scranton's Jewish youths over the past 100 years.

Today, Temple Israel remains the only Conservative Synagogue in Lackawanna County and boasts a vibrant and welcoming congregation in the heart of the City of Scranton. Rabbi Miriam Spitzer, one of the first female rabbis, and Cantor Vladimir Aronzon, who has served for more than two decades, are the Temple's current clergy. They, along with the dedicated volunteers who serve as officers and on the board of directors, work tirelessly to foster an environment and community to meet the spiritual, educational, and social needs of their members.

I am honored to join with Rabbi Spitzer and the entire Temple Israel congregation in celebrating 100 years of worship in the City of Scranton. Temple Israel has been an essential part of the Scranton community and Lackawanna County at large as a center for Jewish thought, learning, and worship. This multigenerational congregation that celebrates diversity, spirituality, and community has welcomed countless worshipers over the years, and I know it will continue to be a beacon of Jewish faith and tradition for many generations to come.

GRAYSON FOX

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Grayson Fox for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Grayson Fox is a student at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Grayson Fox is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Grayson Fox for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING MR. SCOTTY RAINES

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Scotty Raines of Turner County for being named the 2022 Georgia Farmer of the Year.

Scotty is a lifelong contributor to the agriculture industry. After high school, he was an active member of the Turner County High School FFA chapter and worked as a farm technician for Agra Tech Seed Research. He began farming full-time in 1993, partnering with his father-in-law on 500 acres of rented land and establishing a personal herd of 30 beef cows. Scotty has spent 28 years expanding and diversifying his farming operation, emphasizing marketing strategies related to the cotton, corn, peanuts, and watermelons he produces on more than 2,300 acres today. His contributions to the local community and outstanding agricultural achievements have not gone unnoticed.

As a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, I am honored to represent outstanding farmers such as Scotty. It is individuals like him that make Georgia, and America, great.

RECOGNIZING MIKE SCHULTZ OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Schultz of St. Cloud, Minnesota, for his participation in the 2022 Winter Paralympics. Mike competed for Team USA in the Men's Snowboard Cross and Banked Slalom races.

Mike has not only inspired other athletes with his diligent training and perseverance, but he started his own company to design high-performance lower limb prosthetics for other amputees to participate in competitive sports and activities.

His dedication has paid off. Congratulations to Mike for bringing home a silver medal for Men's Snowboard Cross and coming in fifth for Men's Banked Slalom. I am proud to count such an amazing athlete and innovator among my constituents in the Sixth District.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACKSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL 4A STATE TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jacksonville High School boys' basketball team for winning the AHSAA Class 4A state title.

On March 4, 2022, The Jacksonville Golden Eagles played fast and left no doubt as to who deserves to be state champion, beating Escambia County 85 to 49 to secure their title win. The game was played at Legacy Arena in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cade Phillips was named tournament MVP. This was head coach Shane Morrow's first year and the Golden Eagles' first basketball state title.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Morrow, the basketball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Golden Eagles.

JAPANESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II HISTORY NETWORK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6434, the Japanese American WWII History Network Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network.

We must never forget the maltreatment that these Americans endured.

The establishment of this network would educate generations to come on past racial injustices in our country, in an effort to avoid future prejudice.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, marked the United States' official entrance into World War II.

Two months later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which ordered 120,000 people of Japanese descent to be forcibly removed from their homes and placed in internment camps, based on the widespread suspicion that they were acting as foreign agents.

The belief was baseless, but that didn't stop the War Relocation Authority from rounding up more than 120,000 people—two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.

Japanese Americans were interned and essentially treated as prisoners.

After decades of pressure from the Japanese American League (JACL) and the Japanese American community, President Jimmy Carter opened an investigation to determine if the imprisonment of these people was justified by the government.

The investigation found virtually no evidence of Japanese disloyalty and concluded that the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans was a product of abject racism.

In 1988, over 40 years after the internment camps closed, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, which offered a formal apology for the government's policy toward Japanese Americans and paid $20,000 in compensation to each of the 80,000 living survivors.

The reparations granted to the survivors and the official apology were necessary for our country to move past this grave racial injustice.

It must be noted that, just as our government recognized that reparations to the Japanese American community was necessary to acknowledge and move beyond that injustice, America's original racist tragedy must be similarly addressed.

On July 30, 2008 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H. Res. 194 apologizing for American slavery and subsequent discriminatory laws.

The Senate has never passed a resolution, and no reparations have been granted.

Millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States from 1619 through 1865.

Slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known in history, as Africans were captured and sold at auction like inanimate objects or animals.

Africans forced into slavery were brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and subjected to the indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage.

In 2022, he passage of H.R. 40 is essential to solving the deep racial, economic, social, and cultural divides in America.

Now more than ever, the facts and circumstances facing our nation demonstrate the importance of H.R. 40 and the necessity of placing our nation on the path to reparative justice.

By passing H.R. 40, Congress can start a movement toward the national reckoning that we need in order to bridge racial divides.

Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation and the hope that someday, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.

We owe it to the millions of Americans who were born into bondage, knew a life of servitude, and died anonymous deaths, as prisoners of this system.

We owe it to the millions of descendants of these slaves, for they are the heirs to a society of inequities and indignities that naturally filled the vacuum after slavery was formally abolished 154 years ago.

Madam Speaker, the establishment of the Japanese American WWII History Network would represent much more than just a resource that will educate on inequality and brutality in America.

It represents Americans moving past injustices and honoring those who were once victims of racial discrimination in our country.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 6434, the Japanese American WII History Network.

RECOGNIZING PROSPER MAYOR RAY SMITH

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ray Smith as he prepares to depart his longtime service as the steadfast Mayor of Prosper, Texas.

A 1981 graduate of Baylor University, Ray earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and Real Estate. During his time at Baylor, Ray, the son of a former Dallas Cowboy, would passionately pursue football as a member of the renowned 1980 Southwest Conference Champion Football Team.

Smith began his career in public service in Frisco, Texas where he served as a member of the City Council, Economic Development Corporation, Community Development Corporation, Planning & Zoning Board, Frisco Education Foundation, and as a volunteer firefighter during a period of unprecedented growth.

In 2004, Ray was appointed the President of the Prosper Economic Development Corporation where he continues to serve as council liaison. In 2005, Ray and his family would relocate to the Town of Prosper where he would plant deep roots and play an integral role in the town's early development. Following his service on Town Council, Ray was elected Mayor in 2010.

Over the past twelve years, Mayor Smith's leadership has helped cultivate the town's rapid but intentional growth. By managing the town in a manner that focuses on the long-term wellbeing of its residents, Smith has worked to implement needed structural improvements while preserving neighborhood greenspace. During his tenue, the community has tripled in growth, and new residents are frequently known to receive Smith's personally signed welcome letter—a trademark of the affable leader.

In addition to his many leadership roles on numerous boards, councils, and committees, in 2016 Ray was elected to serve on the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board and was elected President of the Board in 2020. He is currently the Chair of the Collin College Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the Meals on Wheels of Collin County Advisory Board, and an Alternate Member of the Regional Transportation Council.

While Ray's many efforts have undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the region, his greatest achievement is his family. Ray and his wife of 31 years, Lena, were blessed with three sons and two grandsons, Jacob and Jackson, whom they are helping to raise.

Ray Smith has undoubtedly made a lasting impact on the Prosper community, and while his tenure as Mayor is coming to a close, he will certainly continue to forge a tremendous legacy. As he prepares to begin a new chapter of his life, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ray Smith for his selfless and dedicated service.

CASSIDY BOGGUS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cassidy Boggus for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Cassidy Boggus is a student at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cassidy Boggus is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cassidy Boggus for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose

of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 21

11 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SH–216

MARCH 22

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SH–216

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William A. LaPlante, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, and Erik Kristopher Raven, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, both of the Department of Defense, Musetta Tia Johnson, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and Marvin L. Adams, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine rural quality of life, focusing on opportunities and challenges for the rural care economy.

SD–562/VTC

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 1541, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for telephone and advanced communications services in correctional and detention facilities, S. 3014, to establish the Next Generation Telecommunications Council, S. 3262, to improve the efficient movement of freight at ports in the United States, S. 3278, to protect children and other consumers against hazards associated with the accidental ingestion of button cell or coin batteries by requiring the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard to require child-resistant closures on consumer products that use such batteries, S. 3296, to require the TSA to develop a plan to ensure that TSA material disseminated in major airports can be better understood by more people accessing such airports, S. 3405, to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue a rule providing that certain low power television stations may be accorded primary status as Class A television licensees, S. 3434, to commission a study relating to the manufacturing programs of the Department of Commerce, S. 3580, to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, S. 3662, to temporarily increase the cost share authority for aqueous film forming foam input-based testing equipment, S. 3664, to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, S. 3785, to amend title 49, United States Code, to eliminate the restriction on veterans concurrently serving in the Offices of Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, S. 3817, to improve the forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR–253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine child care and preschool, focusing on cutting costs for working families.

SD–430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine building a resilient economy, focusing on shoring up supply.

SD–538

MARCH 23

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine developing next generation technology for innovation.

SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine promoting American energy security by facilitating investments and innovation in climate solutions.

SD–406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine strengthening Federal mental health and substance use disorder programs, focusing on opportunities, challenges, and emerging issues.

SD–430

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the importance of home-based services, focusing on an economy that cares.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1397, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, S. 3168, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to modify the enforceability date for certain provisions, S. 3308, to authorize the Colorado River Indian Tribes to enter into lease or exchange agreements and storage agreements relating to water of the Colorado River allocated to the Colorado River Indian Tribes, S. 3443, to extend Federal recognition to the MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians, S. 3773, to authorize the leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, and S. 3789, to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

SD–628

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine improving the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

SR–418

MARCH 24

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

SH–216

MARCH 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the strategic importance of the Freely Associated States to the United States and our allies in the Indo-Pacific region, including the Compacts of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

SD–366

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1193–S1228

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3846–3858, S.J. Res. 41, and S. Res. 548–549. **Page S1225**

Measures Reported:

S. 664, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review certain legislation in order to identify potential risks of duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 117–94) **Page S1225**

Appointments:

Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: Madelyn R. Creedon of Virginia and General (Ret.) John E. Hyten of Colorado. **Page S1227**

National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appointed the following individuals to serves as members of the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology: Dov S. Zakheim of Maryland and Senator Padilla. **Page S1227**

Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform: The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 117–81, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform: Diem Salmon of Maryland. **Page S1227**

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 117th Congress: Senators Scott (SC) and Rubio. **Page S1227**

Corley Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California. **Pages S1193–99**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 63 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 82), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1199**

Slaughter Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Pages S1199–S1206**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 83), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1199–S1200**

Montenegro Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Page S1206**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 84), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1206**

Calvert Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Pages S1206–16**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 85), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1207**

Rubin Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. **Pages S1216–17**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 86), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1217**

Gonzalez Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Page S1217**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 87), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1217**

Chun Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of John H. Chun, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington. **Pages S1217–18**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1218**

Geraghty Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia. **Page S1218**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 89), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1218**

Castner Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Georgette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Pages S1218–19**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 90), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1218**

Silva Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada. **Page S1219**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 91), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1219**

Traum Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada. **Page S1219**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 92), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1219**

Luger Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years. **Pages S1219–20**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 61 yeas to 36 nays (Vote No. EX. 93), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1220**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11:45 a.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2022, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, and at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2022, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit; and that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations, all post-cloture time be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or his designee, following consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S1207**

Nathan Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2022, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit. **Pages S1227–28**

Messages from the House: **Page S1223**

Measures Referred: **Page S1223**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1223–25**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1225**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Page S1222**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1225–26**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1226–27**

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1227**

Record Votes: Twelve record votes were taken today. (Total—93) **Pages S1199, S1206–07, S1217–20**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 9:29 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S1227–28.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

EXPOSURE TO AIRBORNE HAZARDS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine the health effects of exposure to airborne hazards, including toxic fumes from burn pits, after receiving testimony from Terry M. Rauch, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight, Raul Mirza, Division Chief of Occupational and Environmental Medicine Clinical Public Health and Epidemiology, Army Public Health Center, Colonel Adam J. Newell, USAF, Chief of Medical Readiness, Air Force Medical Readiness Agency, and Captain Brian L. Feldman, USN, Commander, Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, all of the Department of Defense; Steven Patterson, former Environmental Science Officer, Combined Joint Task Force 101 Headquarters, Afghanistan, 2008–2009; Anthony M. Szema, Northwell Health Foundation; Tom Porter, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; and Rosie Torres, Burn Pits 360.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, to be Chairman, Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman, and Philip Nathan Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be a Member, all of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund formula, after receiving testimony from Jonathan L. Ramseur, Specialist in Environmental Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Laura Watson, Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympia, on behalf of the Environmental Council of the States' Water Committee; and Thomas W. Sigmund, NEW Water, Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cleveland, both on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE INFLATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine prescription drug price inflation, focusing on the urgent need to lower drug prices in Medicare, after receiving testimony from Rena Conti, Boston University Questrom School of Business Department of Markets, Public Policy and Law, Boston, Massachusetts; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and Stephen J. Ezell, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.; and Steffany Stern, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine violent extremism and terrorism, focusing on the threat to houses of worship and public spaces, after receiving testimony from Ryan T. Young, Executive Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Stephanie Dobitsch, Deputy Under Secretary for Intelligence Enterprise Operations, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Christopher Logan, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Marcus T. Coleman Jr., Director, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, all of the Department of Homeland Security.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR NATIVE BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Federal support for Native business capacity building and success, after receiving testimony from Wizipan Garriott, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Janie Simms Hipp, General Counsel, Department of Agriculture; Wahleah Johns, Director, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Department of Energy; Gary Hennigh, City of King Cove, Anchorage, Alaska; Lexie Holden, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Billings, Montana; JT Willie, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona; and J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth, MA'O Organic Farms, Wai'anae, Hawai'i.

SMALL BUSINESS FRANCHISING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine small business franchising, focusing on an overview of the industry, Small Business Administration's role, and legislative proposals, including S. 420, to amend the

National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, S. 1120, to establish minimum standards of disclosure by franchises whose franchisees use loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration, and S. 2162, to require the Small Business Administration to publish loan default rates by franchise brand, after receiving testimony from Senator Cortez Masto; Robert W. Emerson, University of Florida Warrington College of Business, Gainesville; Aaron Yelowitz, University of Kentucky, Lexington, on behalf of the Cato Institute; Leanne Stapf, The Cleaning Authority, Columbia, Maryland, on behalf of the International Franchise Association; and Bryan Tipton, Tipton Investments, Nicholasville, Kentucky.

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: 13 public bills, H.R. 7095–7107; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 76; and H. Res. 986–988, were introduced. **Pages H3775–76**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3776–77**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Underwood to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3747**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3751**

Address of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine: Agreed by unanimous consent that proceedings during the address of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine held in the Capitol Visitor Center Congressional Auditorium, on March 16, 2022, be printed in the Record. **Pages H3751–52**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:57 p.m. and reconvened at 3:15 p.m. **Page H3759**

Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act and Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 979, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 963) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2116) to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 74, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 73. **Pages H3754–60**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, March 15th.

Save the Liberty Theatre Act: H.R. 3197, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Eunice, Louisiana, certain Federal land in Louisiana, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 422 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 75; **Pages H3760–61**

Designating the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial: H.R. 4380, to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas to 25 nays, Roll No. 76; and **Pages H3761–62**

Japanese American World War II History Network Act: H.R. 6434, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 77. **Page H3762**

Discharge Petition: Representative Gosar presented to the Clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from the consideration of the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 46, relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020, which was referred to said committee May 20th, 2021 (Discharge Petition No. 12).

Senate Referral: S. 623 was held at the desk. **Page H3747**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H3747.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3759, H3759–60, H3760–61, H3761–62, and H3762.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Committee Meetings

A 2022 REVIEW OF THE FARM BILL: THE ROLE OF USDA PROGRAMS IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: The Role of USDA Programs in Addressing Climate Change''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled ''United States Central Command''. Testimony was heard from General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., Commander, U.S. Central Command. This hearing was closed.

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled ''Energy, Installations, and Environment Program Update''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: Paul Cramer, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, Energy, Installations, and Environment; Paul Farnan, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Energy, Installations, and Environment; Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Energy, Installations, and the Environment; and Edwin Oshiba, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Energy, Installations, and the Environment.

ENSURING WOMEN CAN THRIVE IN A POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMY

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Ensuring Women Can Thrive in a Post-Pandemic Economy''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a business meeting to approve new subcommittee assignments. Subcommittee assignments were approved.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6102, the ''Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2021''; H.R. 5129, the ''Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2021''; H.R. 2499, the ''Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2021''; H.R. 5428, the ''School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act''; H.R. 3114, the ''Longshore and Harbor Workers' COVID–19 Compensation Act of 2021'', and H.R. 6087, the ''Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act''. H.R. 6102, H.R. 5129, H.R. 2499, H.R. 5428, H.R. 3114, and H.R. 6087 were ordered reported, as amended.

5G AND BEYOND: EXPLORING THE NEXT WIRELESS FRONTIER

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled ''5G and Beyond: Exploring the Next Wireless Frontier''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EARLY SIGNS OF WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED BY THE RUSSIAN MILITARY DURING THE FULL-SCALE INVASION OF UKRAINE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment held a hearing entitled ''Early Signs of War Crimes and Human Rights Abuses Committed by the Russian Military During the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

11 YEARS OF WAR: THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN SYRIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled ''11 Years of War: The Humanitarian Impact of the Ongoing Conflict in Syria''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 350, the ''Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021''; H.R. 5460, the ''Virgin Islands Visa Waiver Act of 2021''; and H.R. 301, to amend title 36, United States Code, to establish the composition known as ''Lift Every Voice and Sing'' as the national hymn of the United States.

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE: EVALUATING THE ROLE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT IN REDUCING CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled ''Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires''. Testimony was heard from Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

BIOENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUELS AND CHEMICALS OF TOMORROW

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''Bioenergy Research and Development for the Fuels and Chemicals of Tomorrow''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN EMPIRICAL REVIEW OF THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled ''An Empirical Review of the Paycheck Protection Program''. Testimony was heard from William Shear, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

PROPOSALS FOR A WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022: MEMBERS' DAY HEARING

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2022: Members' Day Hearing''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Fletcher, Wittman, Garcia of Texas, Porter, Tlaib, Allen, Soto, Higgins of New York, Gottheimer, Costa, Miller of Illinois, Issa, Wasserman Schultz, Newhouse, Schrader, Tonko, Carter of Georgia, Schrier, Trahan, Blunt Rochester, Meng, Mrvan, Foster, Mann, Bishop of Georgia, Blumenauer, Luria, Sessions, Stansbury, Trone, Correa, Lee of Nevada, Plaskett, Valadao, and Case.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on legislation on Permanent Authorization for Flexible Use of Funds for Homeless Veterans; legislation on Veteran Health Training Act; legislation on Permanent Authorization for Education Assistance Benefits During Emergency Situations; legislation on Vaccine Refusal and GI Bill Benefits; legislation on HU–ASH Flexibilities; legislation on VA Home Loan Transparency and Consumer Protection Act of 2022; legislation on Expand Eligibility for Self-employment Assistance under Veteran Readiness and Employment; legislation on Foreign School GI Bill Payment; legislation on Program Approval; legislation on Quality Education for Veterans Act of 2022; H.R. 6458, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement to specify an effective period of a transfer of Post-9/11 educational assistance to a dependent; and H.R. 6604, the ''Veterans Eligible to Transfer Schools Credit Act''. Testimony was heard from Brianne Ogilvie, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 4993, the ''Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement Act of 2021''; H.R. 5738, the ''Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act''; H.R. 5754, the ''Patient Advocate Tracker Act''; H.R. 5819, the ''Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act''; H.R. 5941, the ''Fairness for Rural Veterans Act of 2021''; H.R. 6647, 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; H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022; and legislation on Long-term Care Veterans Choice Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Dingell, McClain, O'Halleran, Rodgers of Washington, and Higgins of Louisiana; Julianne Flynn, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Scotte Hartronft, Executive Director, Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

IMPROVING FAMILY OUTCOMES THROUGH HOME VISITING

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support held a hearing entitled ''Improving Family Outcomes through Home Visiting''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BIG IDEAS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: FOSTERING AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH STARTING, SUSTAINING AND GROWING SMALL BUSINESSES

Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Big Ideas for Small Businesses: Fostering American Entrepreneurship Through Starting, Sustaining and Growing Small Businesses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

SHAREHOLDER PRIMACY

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the impact of shareholder primacy, focusing on what it means to put stock prices first, after receiving testimony from Lenore Palladino, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Judy Samuelson, Aspen Institute, New York, New York; Frederick Alexander, The Shareholder Commons, Wilmington, Delaware; and Joshua D. Rauh, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the role of digital assets in illicit finance, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kathryn Huff, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy), 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine charitable giving and trends in the nonprofit sector, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine pandemic response and accountability, focusing on reducing fraud and expanding access to COVID–19 relief through effective oversight, 10:15 a.m., SD–342.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine building financial inclusion for America's underserved populations, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled ''United States Southern Command'', 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in the Greater Middle East and Africa'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled ''Defense Intelligence Posture to Support the Warfighters and Policy Makers'', 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''The Future of Medicine: Legislation to Encourage Innovation and Improve Oversight'', 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7066, the ''Russia and Belarus Financial Sanctions Act''; H.R. 7081, the ''Ukraine Comprehensive Debt Repayment Relief Act''; H.R. 7080, the ''Nowhere to Hide Oligarchs' Assets''; H.R. 6891, the ''Isolate Russian Government Officials Act''; and H.R. 6899, the ''Russia and Belarus SDR Exchange Prohibition Act'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Targeting of Black Institutions: From Church Violence to University Bomb Threats'', 10 a.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections, hearing entitled ''Voting in America: Ensuring Free and Fair Access to the Ballot in Texas'', 3 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Workplace Protections for Federal Judiciary Employees: Flaws in the Current System and the Need for Statutory Change'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 3431, the ''Increasing Community Access to Resiliency Grants Act of 2021''; H.R. 6491, the ''Salmon Focused Investments in Sustainable Habitats Act''; H.R. 6651, the ''Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act''; H.R. 6785, the ''Right Whale Coexistence Act of 2022''; and H.R. 6987, to establish programs to reduce the impacts of vessel traffic and underwater noise on marine mammals, and for other purposes, 1 p.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''HBCUs at Risk: Examining Federal Support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities'', 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Member Day Hearing on Proxy Voting and Remote Committee Proceedings as Established by H. Res. 965 of the 116th Congress'' [Original Jurisdiction Hearing], 9 a.m., H–313 Capitol and Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''Setting the Standards: Strengthening U.S. Leadership in Technical Standards'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''Aviation Noise: Measuring Progress in Addressing Community Concerns'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, business meeting to approve Majority and Minority Subcommittee Assignments, and hearing entitled ''Building a Better VA: Addressing Healthcare Workforce Recruitment and Retention Challenges'', 2 p.m., HVC–210 and Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled ''Hearing with IRS Commissioner Rettig on the 2022 Filing Season'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Innovative Workplaces, Historic Spaces: Modernizing House Office Buildings'', 9 a.m., 210 Cannon and Zoom.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the Baltics under pressure, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, March 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

At 11:45 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 17

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 963—FAIR Act. Consideration of H.R. 2116—CROWN Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Brady, Kevin, Tex., E264
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E267
Emmer, Tom, Minn., E267
Franklin, C. Scott, Fla., E266
Hartzler, Vicky, Mo., E263, E266
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E264, E268
Miller-Meeks, Mariannette, Iowa, E266
Murphy, Stephanie N., Fla., E266
Pappas, Chris, N.H., E266
Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E263, E267, E268
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E263, E265, E267
Scott, Austin, Ga., E264, E267
Taylor, Van, Tex., E263, E265, E268
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E265
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E263
Yarmuth, John A., Ky., E266

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