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No. 177

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 16, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFREDO ACOSTA FIGUEROA

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and dear friend, Alfredo Acosta Figueroa, for his lifelong dedication to social justice and his relentless advocacy for civil rights during the Chicano Movement with Cesar Chavez and Bert Corona.

Alfredo Acosta Figueroa was born in Blythe, California, to a fifth-generation indigenous-Chicano family from

the Colorado River Indian Reservation, which encompasses the Palo Verde Valley in California and all through Parker Valley in Arizona.

From a young age, Alfredo learned the values of social justice from his family. As a young kid working in the mines, his parents taught him the values of standing up for himself, caring for his neighbors, and standing by his coworkers.

Because of his family's lessons, he has dedicated his entire life to safeguarding the civil, voting, working, and environmental rights of disenfranchised and indigenous communities.

In the late 1950s, Alfredo and his brothers, known as the Figueroa Brothers, became actively involved in the civil rights movement. Together, they fought against injustices in Blythe, the Coachella Valley, and throughout the American Southwest.

Through it all, Alfredo was mentored by two highly respected Chicano leaders: Humberto "Bert" Corona, an immigration rights activist with the Mexican American Political Association; and Cesar Chavez, the civil rights leader of the United Farm Workers.

Corona and Chavez's mentorship only deepened Alfredo's passion for human rights, encouraging him to further pursue equity and social justice for his community.

Over the years, Figueroa has worn many hats and has undertaken monumental roles, including that of lifetime "gambusino" or miner, civil rights activist, humanitarian, farm labor organizer, staunch environmentalist, anti-nuclear activist, historian, political coordinator, boxing coordinator, folkloric singer and guitarist, indigenous traditionalist, and author, just to name a few.

So now, he leads the protection of sacred indigenous sites within the Lower Colorado River Basin and Palo Verde and Parker Valleys.

Thanks to Alfredo's leadership, many historical indigenous sacred sites and

bodies of water have been protected. This includes the Sacred Mule Mountains, the Lower Colorado River, the world-renowned Blythe Giant Intaglios, and over 300 other sacred sites. Alfredo has achieved all this and more by following his guiding principle to never give up.

One of his famous sayings, "La Lucha Indeterminable," or "The Never-Ending Struggle," has kept him motivated in his lifelong mission to share, educate, organize, and regain indigenous cosmic traditional culture.

Alfredo's compelling force to provoke change has found inspiration in two indigenous philosophies: First, the Nelttiliztli, or "the birth of the new knowledge," meaning that we must always seek the truth;

Second, the ancient Nahuatl teachings of Tloque Nahuaque, or the saying, "among all, we do all, for the betterment of all." Both have allowed him to persist in this long journey and inspire many others.

So, to my dear friend, Alfredo Acosta Figueroa, you personify the dedication, resiliency, and carino of so many of our communities. Your life of service will forever be an inspiration for all people, and we are in great debt to you.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I thank you for your continued dedication and challenging work in the protection of our ancestral sacred lands.

"Mexica Tiahui," "Move Forward."

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF ANTHONY "TONY" G. D'ALEO

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anthony D'Aleo on his recent induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Anthony, better known as Tony, served in the U.S. Army and later in

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



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the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam war.

After leaving Active-Duty service, Tony moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where he lives today and serves as the president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Local Chapter 1046. Through this leadership role, Tony has remained active in advocating for his fellow veterans suffering from service-related illnesses. His continued commitment to the veterans of Northeast Florida and dedication to the Nation are unmatched.

I take this opportunity to thank Tony for his continued efforts to support those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom and salute his service to this Nation. We owe Tony and veterans like him a debt of gratitude that we could never repay.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN LESLIE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate retired Navy Commander John Leslie for his induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

John spent a total of 39 years in active service and civilian service to the U.S. Navy, where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Meritorious Service Medals, seven Strike/Flight Air Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, and numerous other service and unit decorations.

He is known by his friends and neighbors as an honorable officer, a devoted friend, a true patriot, and a loving husband to his wife, Patricia, who you see pictured here.

John's commitment to supporting those around him has continued into retirement through his service to his fellow veterans across Northeast Florida. He now devotes his time to leadership and volunteer roles at the Mayo Clinic, Community Hospice and Palliative Care, and Veterans Treatment Court in St. Johns County. John's legacy of dedication rightfully earned him a spot in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I thank Commander Leslie for his devotion to our Nation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PAUL WALDRON

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember St. Johns County Commissioner Paul Waldron.

Paul was a lifelong resident of St. Johns County and a vibrant member of the community. Throughout his young life, Paul worked and operated his family's small business, Harry's Curb Market, before becoming a respected real estate professional.

Paul applied his experience running a small business to his role as St. Johns County commissioner through his efforts to support and expand recreation and tourism development and strengthen our economy.

Throughout his 6 years as commissioner, Paul also became a powerful advocate for residents in St. Johns County and continued to volunteer in a variety of capacities throughout the community.

His recent loss is a devastating blow to our community. He will be remembered as a strong leader, faithful husband, loving father, and beloved neighbor and friend. I was proud to call him my friend.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I extend sincere condolences to Paul's wife, Stephanie, and their two daughters, Ashley and Kati.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF TYRONE WINFREY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tyrone Winfrey, a beloved resident of Michigan's 13th Congressional District. He was a tireless advocate for our students, a fighter for higher education opportunities, and so much more.

Tyrone Winfrey served as the Executive Director of Community Affairs for Detroit Public Schools Community District and was the former school board president. He worked tirelessly to advocate for our youth, and to ensure that every single student had access and an opportunity to quality education and a pathway for college and higher education opportunities.

Tyrone served our communities at Detroit public schools for almost 35 years, and during his time, he inspired, supported, and uplifted so many of our students and families.

He lost his 5-year battle with cancer, and I am proud to stand here in honor of his life and his love for our community and our youth. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, the Detroit Public Schools Community District, and all who were impacted by Tyrone Winfrey.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Islamic Center of America for their outstanding service on behalf of our communities of Wayne County and Southeastern Michigan as they celebrate their 60th anniversary.

They were founded in 1962, and there, the Islamic Center of America's roots can be traced back to 1949 when our religious leader, scholar, Imam Chirri, who could not speak or understand English, came to America at the request of a small group of residents.

A committed group of community members came together and worked to establish the Islamic Center as Michigan's first mosque and invited Imam Chirri to lead this family in faith.

Since its humbling beginnings, the Islamic Center of America has grown to accommodate its growing family in faith and offers numerous community programs, including education and senior services. They are a pillar of cross-cultural understanding in one of our area's most vibrant and diverse communities.

Please join me in recognizing the Islamic Center of America as they celebrate 60 years of faith and service.

#### IN MEMORY OF JOEY SMITH

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness about the death of Joey Smith, a 12-year-old resident of Dearborn Heights, whose young life was tragically cut short when he was struck by a car.

A seventh-grade student at O.W. Best Middle School, Joey was always surrounded by friends and classmates who will dearly miss him. He will be remembered for his bright smile.

I offer my deepest condolences and sympathy to Joey's family and his friends as they mourn his loss.

As a mother myself, my heart especially goes out to Joey's mother, Katie. I pray that she finds the strength and peace during this very difficult time of unimaginable grief. Our community is deeply saddened by this tragedy.

Please join me in honoring the memory of Joey Smith.

#### NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate the eighth annual National Apprenticeship Week. It is the perfect time to reflect on what is and what isn't working in our Nation's workforce development programs.

There are more than 10 million unfilled jobs in this country and nearly 6 million unemployed individuals. There is clearly a crack in the education-to-workforce pipeline.

The best way to address our country's skills gap and worker shortage is to promote workforce development programs that actually work.

I have been encouraged to see many businesses coming up with their own workforce development programs. Time and again, employer-led programs prove to produce the best results.

More industries are embracing apprenticeships as a solution for upskilling and re-skilling workers. As employers realize that baccalaureate degrees do not always prepare workers to fill needed roles, more alternative pathways will be needed.

Many businesses are already removing unnecessary degree requirements and are, instead, replacing them with apprenticeship programs. This is a great development for our country and our workforce.

Americans should not have to take out mountains of crushing student loan debt to study a subject that has nothing to do with their intended career, only to have to start from scratch once they enter the workforce.

For too long, the college-for-all mentality has pushed young people into obtaining a baccalaureate degree, regardless of their intended career. This mentality is slowly shifting, and our country will be better off for it.

Now that more young people are turning to apprenticeships, it is important to ensure that there are high-quality programs available.

We need apprenticeship programs that prepare workers for the open positions today, not the positions that were open yesterday. We need cutting-edge programs. One-size-fits-all, Washington-knows-best models are not the answer.

While President Biden touts his support for apprenticeships, his cancellation of employer-led apprenticeship programs tell a different story. President Biden supports only apprenticeships he can control.

Since terminating employer-led apprenticeship programs, the Biden administration has doubled down on support for the registered apprenticeship model.

Because this system, founded in 1937, has not been substantially updated in eight decades, it is not easily adapted for innovative industries. Using this model to expand and modernize apprenticeships would be like starting on a journey on an already-leaking ship. We can push as hard as we want, but in the end, the vessel can only take us so far before we sink.

It is time for a new system, one with employers in the driver's seat. Job creators know the tools workers need to be successful. Washington swamp dwellers, on the other hand, are clueless.

□ 1015

Why the Biden administration believes bureaucrats in Washington are more equipped to run apprenticeship programs than those on the ground is beyond me. It is no surprise that the vast majority of successful and thriving apprenticeship programs are led by private industry.

Take Kentucky FAME, for example. The Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education is a partnership of regional manufacturers that creates a pipeline of highly skilled workers through an earn and learn program. By the time participants are done with this program, they will have an associate's degree, an advanced manufacturing technician credential, and years of work experience, all with no student loan debt.

This organization operates in 12 States and has an 85 percent employment placement rate. This is an excellent workforce development model that other industries can learn from.

The more employers embrace apprenticeships, the better off our economy will be. The best way for our workforce to thrive is for the Federal Government to get out of the way and for industry leaders to lead the way.

So, for this National Apprenticeship Week, let's tell the Biden administration to stop putting special interests ahead of workers; let's recommit ourselves to empowering job creators to provide their own solutions; and let's support those jobseekers who want an opportunity to learn and earn at the same time.

## PASSING ELECTORAL COUNT ACT REFORM

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm that the 117th Congress and, indeed, this body is on track to surrender its last chance to safeguard American democracy.

It has been 1,045 days since this Capitol, this very building, this very Congress, was attacked on January 6, 2021, in a violent insurrection orchestrated by President Trump in an attempt to stop the transfer of power to the legitimate winner of the 2020 election.

Former President Trump tried to use violence and the flaws of the 1887 Electoral Count Act to overcome his loss in the 2020 election. That was 1,045 days ago.

By contrast, there are less than 20 days during which this Congress can still pass legislation to reform, amend, and clarify the 1887 Electoral Count Act and ensure that events like January 6 never happen again.

We must act. We cannot fail. Former President Trump has set the stage for his supporters to use the flaws in the 1887 law to put aside the electors that reflect the will of the voters in key States and, instead, send forward electors loyal to Trump.

In 135 years since the Electoral Count Act of 1887's enactment, the United States was fortunate to experience continuous, peaceful elections and transfer of power. Former President Trump shattered that cherished norm on January 6.

My colleagues, the fact that we came back into the House Chamber to formally confirm the 2020 electoral college count, despite the violent threats made against our lives, is a source of immense pride not only to us but to America.

We now know that the previous transfers of power took place despite the law and its failings, not because of it.

Tragically, President Trump and his antidemocratic allies' efforts to exploit the loopholes in the Electoral Count Act did not end on that infamous day. Over the last 2 years, unscrupulous MAGA Republican officials have been carrying out a deliberate and coordinated plan to build on the big lie by enacting State laws that allow partisan lawmakers to reject the will of the voters and undermine American democracy.

During the recent 2022 midterm election, 170 of Trump's endorsed election-denying candidates running for Congress and critical State offices have been projected to win their races.

Finally, last night, we watched former President Trump carry out the next step in his plan by formally declaring his candidacy for Presidency in 2024.

The stage is now set for these actors to once again exploit the ambiguities

of the Electoral Count Act as early as 2024.

These dangerous actions have already undercut public trust in our electoral system and their elected officials. If left unaddressed, they could prove catastrophic and bring about an end to America's 245 years of democratic tradition.

Congress must now reform the outdated 1887 law to ensure that no State legislature controlled by any party can subvert a Presidential election by ignoring the will of the voters in that State.

Fortunately, the House recently passed the Presidential Election Reform Act, which would significantly improve the Electoral Count Act. I applaud Chairwoman ZOE LOFGREN of the House Administration Committee and Ranking Member LIZ CHENEY, who brought the legislation forward.

Additionally, the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration recently marked up the Electoral Count Reform Act, a competing proposal.

I call upon my colleagues in the key committees to promptly bring forward compromise legislation that we can enact into law.

Democracy is fragile, and it is our responsibility to protect it. Americans have upheld this responsibility for more than two centuries of challenges and adversities. If we fail to seize this opportunity to fix the broken Electoral Count Act, I fear that our democratic system will not get another chance.

Congress has waited 1,045 days, and there are only 20 remaining. Time is running out.

## ADDRESSING THE DIESEL SHORTAGE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, every few weeks, we read headlines of another crisis: baby formula; fertilizer; and now another important input, diesel fuel.

This administration not only continues to turn a blind eye but perpetuates harmful policies that worsen these crises.

From day one, President Biden has launched a war on American energy, and now it must end. Through executive actions, the Biden administration paused domestic production of oil while limiting and disincentivizing investments in American energy infrastructure and refining capacity.

On his very first day in office, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, thus declaring war on our domestic energy production. Seven days later, he paused new oil and gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters. Then, in November 2021, the EPA proposed new source performance methane standards on the oil and natural gas industry, tying the hands of smaller producers.

Just last week, at COP 27, President Biden doubled down on this proposal and announced even more burdensome requirements on U.S. oil and gas sources. Meanwhile, Americans were pumping away their paychecks as prices for gas and home heating skyrocketed.

This administration needs to refocus its priorities by increasing domestic energy production, expediting pipeline permitting, and abandoning burdensome rulemakings that are harming American agriculture.

Let's face facts. America's farm families and consumers have struggled with fractured supply chains, skyrocketing input costs, and historic levels of inflation, economic woes exacerbated by congressional Democrats' excessive spending and the Biden administration's burdensome regulatory agenda. Under this administration, farm production expenses are up nearly \$80 billion, led by an 84 percent, or \$21 billion, increase in fertilizer expenses and a 65 percent increase in fuel expenses.

As the Biden administration's self-inflicted energy crisis surges into a diesel shortage, they continually pass the buck by blaming domestic energy producers.

Further, Biden's regulatory assault destroys any incentive for domestic energy producers to invest in energy infrastructure, which worsens energy market volatility and increases costs for vital farm inputs such as diesel fuel and fertilizer.

In October 2022, EIA reported the distillate fuel oil inventory at 106 million. This is the lowest stock since 2008; the lowest stock for this time of the year since 1982; and, in some regions, the lowest inventory since 1950.

Diesel fuel is used every day to power farm and ranch equipment and deliver goods to the marketplace. This Biden-inflicted diesel crisis further exacerbates record inflation, skyrocketing farm input costs, and consumer prices. The national average price for diesel fuel per gallon is \$5.36 a gallon, an increase of \$1.71, or 50 percent, from this time just last year.

By gambling away American energy and resource independence in the name of climate change, the Biden administration has harmed the very industry, U.S. agriculture, that contributes to 13 percent of the annual greenhouse gas sequestration.

Just this past summer, President Biden went to the Saudis and begged OPEC+ to increase production. Instead of relying on our adversaries and asking them to produce more, we should be focused on the responsible development of America's own abundant natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have solutions focused on reversing industry-crushing regulations and market signals, unleashing production of crude oil, streamlining permitting and environmental review processes, and restoring refining capacity.

We must reverse this self-inflicted crisis and unleash our domestic energy production.

#### DELIVERING STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

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

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today in full support of President Biden's student debt relief plan in the face of Republican efforts to block economic relief for millions of people.

The \$1.9 trillion student debt crisis has cost people more than just money. It has stripped countless people of the opportunity to start a family, buy a home, start a business, or further their education.

My office has been collecting heart-breaking stories from constituents across Missouri's First District about how student debt relief would impact their lives for the better. Here are some of their stories.

Michelle H. writes: "The ongoing gloom and constant worry of student loan debt will lessen significantly. Even if some of the debt I have accumulated through student loans was forgiven, my entire quality of life will drastically increase, and my mental health would also increase. This would be absolutely life-changing."

Amy V. notes: "We will be able to buy a house, my first mortgage. This will allow me to pay off other bills and increase my credit score. I cannot afford the monthly payment of over \$900 per month."

Alison M. writes: "I have been swimming in debt since I graduated college with a degree and a job. At one point, I couldn't even afford to move out of my parents' because my student loans were over \$1,000. Sallie Mae ruined my credit score, and now that I finally have somewhat of a stable income. If this debt relief comes through, I can actually see a light at the end of still a long tunnel. But, before, I never even thought there was such a light."

These are just three of the 43 million borrowers who are depending on transformative student debt relief measures that will change their lives forever.

I share my own personal story of my journey grappling with immense student loan debt. As a single mom of two, working an hourly job that made less than \$10 an hour, even after working there for 10 years, I struggled to provide for my family and myself. I knew I needed a change, a career change, but that meant I would need to go back to school and that I would ultimately incur student debt.

I thought that once I graduated and got a steady job, I would be able to pay it back quickly. So, I enrolled in nursing school, took out loans, and a few years later, I was a registered nurse.

□ 1030

For the most part, everything went as I expected, and it wasn't until I was

faced with that first payment that I realized just how astronomical this debt burden became. Even with a job that paid more money than I had ever made before, it still felt impossible to be able to pay it off.

Ultimately, I was able to pay off my student loans, but it took years. During those years I struggled to pay these loans, I faced multiple eviction notices and was evicted, had difficulty feeding my two babies and affording childcare as I worked long and odd hours as a nurse. It was hard, and at times it felt impossible. I would have welcomed debt relief, and it is why I am pushing so hard to remove that economic burden for current and future generations.

Education should be affordable, equitable, and accessible to absolutely everyone. It should lead to prosperity and opportunity, not debt.

I share these stories with you, my colleagues, and implore us all to continue supporting the Biden administration in backing down the dark money and right-wing attacks on student debt relief and to continue standing with borrowers by extending the payment pause beyond December 31st and using every single legal authority to deliver student debt relief. We have a responsibility and an obligation to cancel student debt now.

#### WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AND KANSAS FOOD AID LEGACY

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the American farmer and to deliver the 15th installment of my farm bill impact series.

The United States is the most food-secure country in the world thanks to the strength and determination of American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers. With America's robust resources, we have been committed to ensuring food security at home and around the world, and Kansas has been on the cutting edge of that effort for nearly a century.

In September of 1953, Peter O'Brien, a farmer from Cheyenne County, Kansas, stood up at his local county farm bureau meeting to share an idea. He wanted to use Kansas grain to help hungry people around the world. Over the next several months, today's Food for Peace program was crafted. The following year, one of Kansas' favorite sons, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed parts of the program into law. That was the beginning of what is now a longstanding Kansas tradition of commitment, care, and leadership in the international effort to address global hunger.

Two weeks ago, I hosted David Beasley, the executive director of the World Food Programme, in Kansas for an event to thank the American farmer. Executive Director Beasley had just been in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Rome, but he came to Kansas because he understands the impact that farmers in my

State have had on international food aid. American farmers use their resources to feed, fuel, and clothe the world, which is no small task. It takes grit, determination, and a strong partnership between the public and private sectors. The World Food Programme won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020, and it is the world's largest humanitarian organization specializing in using American-grown commodities for international food assistance. It is a great example of what we can accomplish when public-private partnerships thrive.

Now, with the 2023 reauthorization of the farm bill upon us, we see that the Kansas legacy of international food aid is alive and well. Today, our country administers in-kind food assistance primarily through farm bill programs, such as the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program, just to name two. These programs have an especially strong return on investment because they support American agriculture producers today while greatly reducing the need for conflict or war-related dollars tomorrow. In the long run, these programs save the American taxpayer money. We know that when food rations are accessible in developing countries, conflict decreases. International food aid is, therefore, a way to stop wars before they start.

I have the privilege and responsibility of advocating for Kansas' top priorities in the farm bill. That means protecting crop insurance, promoting trade, and ensuring that any oversight within the bill doesn't needlessly handcuff American producers with red tape. Congress must also ensure that international food aid programs remain strong in the farm bill. Around the world today, hungry people facing starvation in emergency situations rely on American farmers, who have provided nutrition in the place of starvation, created careers of dignity in the place of aimlessness, and secured peace in the place of war.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America. The people who feed, fuel, and clothe us all deserve our unwavering support.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOHN JONES

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant John Jones of Utica, New York, who retired in October of this year after nearly 30 years of full-time service in the Air National Guard.

Chief Master Sergeant John A. Jones entered the Air Force in August of 1993, serving in ever-increasing positions of

responsibility over the next 29 years, culminating in his most recent position as superintendent of the 174th Maintenance Operations Flight at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, New York.

Chief Jones started his career at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware as an airlift aircraft maintenance specialist, where he maintained the C-5 Galaxy. He accumulated hundreds of flying hours in both peacetime and combat missions.

He transitioned to the 174th Fighter Wing of the New York Air National Guard in 1997, serving 9 years as an attack controls systems specialist and electronic integrated systems specialist. In those roles, he maintained critical electronic systems of the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

In 2006, Chief Jones moved to the Maintenance Group Quality Assurance office as the avionics inspector, eventually serving as the chief inspector and superintendent.

Chief Jones deployed multiple times to the European and Middle Eastern theaters of operation in service of our country to support Operations Deliberate Force, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, and Enduring Freedom.

Chief Jones was also instrumental in the modernization of New York's Air National Guard fleet, including playing a pivotal role overseeing the aircraft conversion from the F-16 Fighting Falcon to the MQ-9 Reaper.

I have come to personally know Chief Jones through his dedicated work as the New York Wing commander of the Civil Air Patrol, a program I care deeply about and have consistently supported as a Member of Congress and also as a member of the New York State Assembly. My son, Trey, who is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a Marine officer, was once a young man in the Civil Air Patrol's cadet program.

I saw firsthand how Civil Air Patrol's educational program and leadership training lit a spark within him that played a role in propelling him to serve our Nation. CAP continues to do the same for young men and women across our country.

I had the opportunity recently to explore just how the Civil Air Patrol's New York Wing conducts disaster relief missions when I joined Chief Jones and his cadets for a training session in Rome, New York. I saw young cadets experience their first flights and was able to ride in a Civil Air Patrol plane myself.

Thank you to Chief Jones for his experience as well as decades of service to our community and our Nation. I wish him the very best in retirement, and I am confident he will continue to find ways to give back to our region and continue to empower and inspire leaders of the next generation.

#### SUPPORTING DELPHI SALARIED RETIREES

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the Senate to quickly pass the Susan Muffley Act, which

you may remember passed this body earlier this year with strong bipartisan support.

Under the Obama administration, the Delphi salaried retirees had their pension benefits slashed, while unionized hourly workers received their full benefits. This was an injustice to the Delphi salaried retirees that must be remedied, and it was the fault of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, a Federal program.

The Susan Muffley Act, led by Congressman DAN KILDEE and Congressman MIKE TURNER, would fully restore the Delphi salaried retirees' full pension benefits with backpay.

I was honored to support this legislation when it passed the House of Representatives in July. Thank you to all of my colleagues across the aisle and everyone who recognized this grave injustice and supported these hardworking people who deserve these benefits restored.

Now, the Senate must pass this legislation before it expires at the end of this year. The Delphi group has been fighting for almost 15 years to correct this wrong, and it would be a travesty if they lost this battle.

That is why I am calling on Senate leadership and all the Senators to bring the Susan Muffley Act to the floor, to support it, and to include it in their end-of-year work this legislative session. Together, we can make the Delphi employees whole and can right this wrong and this terrible injustice to these hardworking Americans who just did their job and paid into their own pension system and were not able to receive the benefits that were the fruits of their labor.

#### REMEMBERING DEPUTY JAMES LEE

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Jefferson County Sheriff's Officer Deputy James Lee, who tragically passed away on July 9, leaving behind a legacy of service to Jefferson County.

Deputy Lee was a marine who started with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in 1973 and was 71 years old when he passed away.

He was known as someone who enjoyed going to work to protect his community, who was tough but always showed compassion.

He leaves behind a wife and son, who will follow in his father's footsteps at the sheriff's office. Though he may be gone, I know that Deputy Lee is still watching over his beloved community and family.

Please join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and service of Deputy James Lee.

#### HONORING PAT HALLISEY

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a local leader and dedicated public servant who I am proud to call a friend, the

outgoing mayor of League City, Texas, the Honorable Pat Hallisey.

Throughout his 6 years as mayor, Pat's dedication to League City was clear. He maintained a community with high standards of safety, health, and prosperity. He left League City better than he found it.

As mayor, Pat led the city through recovery efforts stemming from the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. And I am proud to have worked with him over the years to revitalize Galveston County's largest city.

On behalf of a grateful community, it is my privilege to honor Mayor Pat Hallisey and his beautiful wife, Janice. Along with her and his family, friends, and colleagues, I want to extend absolute best wishes to Mayor Pat Hallisey in his retirement.

HONORING JUDGE MIKE NELSON

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of the Honorable Michael Nelson, or as his friends and family call him, Mike. He has dedicated his life to serving the people of Galveston County.

Judge Mike was born on June 17, 1949, in Gould, Arkansas. At 18, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, served three tours in Vietnam, and retired from service in 1976. He is married to the former Carol Rotenberry of Santa Fe, Texas, where they raised their four daughters: Sarah Jane, Peyton, Heather, and Michaelia; and four sons: Doug, Michael John, Michael Jr., and Curtis.

Mr. Nelson served as a justice of the peace and a municipal court judge since 1986 in Galveston County.

A true testament to his character, in 2017, he was awarded the Man of the Year from the Chamber of Commerce of Hitchcock.

Mike is a man of purpose, honor, and unwavering determination for the betterment of our community. He has left a positive impact on that very same community.

Judge Mike is a beloved member of his community and a fearless advocate for his constituents, whom he cares for deeply. He always had an open-door policy for any constituent who wished to meet with him. His accomplished record and willingness to serve are evident in his over 35 years of public service.

On behalf of Texas' 14th Congressional District, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize his exceptional leadership and his example as a true public servant.

I thank Mike for being an incredible leader. He will be remembered for generations to come. He is a man of his word, he is intelligent, he is disciplined, and he treats people with respect. It is an absolute honor to know him.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BILL NEILD

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Bill Neild or, as described by a lifelong friend, the John Wayne of Beaumont, Texas. He passed away at age 85 on Au-

gust 24, 2022, leaving behind a community of friends and family and a legacy of hard work, sacrifice, and service.

Bill was an extraordinary community leader and had a true servant's heart. He served 4 years as the mayor of Beaumont. He was chairman of the board of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Board of Directors of First City Bank, and he served as chairman for many organizations in the city.

He was a man of integrity, and his passion and service to the community was felt, and will continue to be felt, far and wide.

I take this time to honor the life of service exemplified by Mayor Neild. I thank him and his family for their dedication to our fellow citizens on behalf of a very, very grateful 14th District of Texas.

□ 1045

#### HARRISONBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, if you drive around Harrisonburg, Virginia, you are bound to see an officer with the Harrisonburg Police Department, keeping residents, visitors, and college students safe.

As HPD reminds us, "So many things have changed since those handwritten meeting notes of November 12, 1872 . . . when the 700 residents of the town of Harrisonburg at that time wrote the single-man police department into being."

By January 1, 1873, the force was comprised of the Chief of Police, Joseph Kelly, and a "police aide," Officer Willis.

Current HPD Captain Jason Kidd said of the anniversary, "It is so important to reach this milestone because the city has grown tremendously and developed tremendously during these past 150 years. The growth of the department, personnel, added positions, and technological improvements have allowed the department to police better and police smarter and just do the best job they can for the community."

To celebrate this milestone, HPD established a 150-year committee, and the officers will be sporting a 150-year badge to mark the occasion. HPD will also be building a time capsule to look back on this milestone in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I join the citizens of Harrisonburg in thanking the Harrisonburg Police Department for their 150 years of service.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SEASON INFLATION  
WOES

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are all looking forward to the holiday season.

Unfortunately, the annual pre-Thanksgiving shopping receipt will be a sad reminder that Washington hasn't been working for them.

Up and down the grocery store aisle, prices have risen on all our Thanksgiving necessities. Turkeys cost 23 percent more, eggs cost 43 percent more, butter is up 27 percent, and milk up 15 percent. The overall price of groceries over the last year has risen 12.4 percent. For those traveling far to see their families and loved ones this year, airline fares are up 43 percent over last year.

While everyone is having to tighten their budgets, those working two jobs or on fixed incomes are getting hit the hardest, forcing roughly one in four Americans to forego Thanksgiving dinner altogether.

An additional \$9 trillion in government spending has fueled this inflation crisis, and hardworking Americans are paying the price.

If we are going to get this country back on track, Congress needs to cut spending, unleash American energy independence, and push pro-growth policies.

It is time to fix a broken Washington and save America from this administration's failed economic agenda.

STUARTS DRAFT COUGARS CHEER TEAM WINS  
AGAIN

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Stuarts Draft Cougars cheer team for winning this year's Class 1-2 Virginia State cheerleading championship. This victory marks the program's fifth straight title in 6 years.

The Cougars faced numerous hurdles to reach this victory, placing second behind Fort Defiance during the first round.

However, before the second round began, Coach Tammy Carter told the team to be "the athletes they trained to be," and they did just that. By focusing on what they needed to improve, the Cougars left it all on the mat and increased their score by over 30 points, earning the State title.

These talented young ladies include Lexi Almarode, Addison Colvin, Jenna Comer, Sofia Coppola, Taylor Huffman, Zoe Mader, Zane Marshall, Abby Mikolay, Caydence Morris, Tarynn Morris, Baleigh Painter, Eiko Puckett, Olivia Puckett, Alyssa Sanner, Holly Stevens, A'mya Swats, and Natalie Thompson.

For six seniors on the team—Mses. Coppola, Mader, Marshall, Mikolay, Morris, and Painter—this was their last memory of cheering together. There was an outpouring of emotion hoisting the State championship trophy for one final time.

Senior Zane Marshall said of her class' historic reign, "To have three State championships, I don't even know how to feel. It is crazy."

The seniors will leave their high school cheerleading careers with their heads held high, knowing their leadership and performance have left a lasting legacy on their team.

Congratulations to all the talented athletes and dedicated coaches on this incredible victory. They have earned it.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHUCK LARSON

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Chuck Larson, or Charles Larson, Sr.

Chuck passed away earlier this month, surrounded by his family at the age of 87. Chuck's life was dedicated to public service, serving both in the military and in government. He was active in the United States Army Reserves for 33 years, where he was a recipient of the Legion of Merit award and retired as colonel.

Following his military service, Chuck worked with Iowa Governor Terry Branstad as a member of his cabinet, served on Iowa's Board of Parole, and served as the director of the Alliance on Substance Abuse.

Additionally, Chuck served under President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa.

I am grateful for Chuck's career in public service, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

### CONGRATULATING TODD HAFNER ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Todd Hafner for his retirement from William Penn University.

Todd has been the head coach of the football team at William Penn University in Oskaloosa for the past 19 years. During his career, the Statesmen had a winning record of 112-93-1, giving him the most wins of any coach in the school's history. Under Todd's coaching, he won league titles in 2010, 2012, and 2016.

Todd's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed by his colleagues. He was named a three-time conference coach of the year, the Victory Sports Network National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics coach of the year, and the AFCA Region 2 coach of the year in 2010.

I thank Todd for his role in furthering William Penn's football program, mentoring of young athletes, and his 19 years of success.

### COMMENDING HEALTHY SAVANNAH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Healthy Savannah for earning one of only two 2022 REACH Lark Galloway-Gilliam Awards for Advancing Health Equity Challenge.

Healthy Savannah is a public-private partnership of more than 200 businesses, nonprofits, faith- and commu-

nity-based organizations, schools, and healthcare and government agencies.

Healthy Savannah aims to make Savannah, Georgia, a healthier place to live with a particular focus on reducing health disparities and increasing health equity for African Americans with lower incomes and those disproportionately affected by chronic disease.

The CDC chose Healthy Savannah for this award because of its outstanding work improving the health and well-being of people in the communities in which they live. The members of the organizations within Healthy Savannah are all to be commended for the hard work and dedication that they have towards improving the lives of members of their communities.

Congratulations, Healthy Savannah, and thank you for continuing to make our community a healthier place to live.

### HONORING FIRE CHIEF RANDY MOBLEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Fire Chief Randy Mobley, an exceptional Georgian and selfless leader in his community.

In 1982, Mr. Mobley was hired as a fireman. Chief Mobley went on to dedicate 40 years of service to the city of Brunswick, 10 of which were spent as the fire chief.

Over four decades of noble labor, Randy has implemented many programs that have helped keep Brunswick citizens safe.

His safety smoke alarm program provided smoke alarms to all residents in his community. Through this program, Brunswick was able to maintain a class 1 ISO insurance rating, the highest protection rating you can receive.

What an inspiration it is to go to work every day and put your own life on the line to save others. Individuals like Chief Randy Mobley make me proud to represent the First Congressional District of Georgia.

### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence from the British Empire.

On August 15, 1947, the Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act, officially establishing India as a sovereign nation after nearly 90 years under the Raj. This act of Parliament marked the creation of the largest democracy in history, responsible for governing a nation over a billion strong.

Though it may not seem like it at first glance, the United States and India share much in common. Our national identities were both forged from a rejection of British rule by crown or company. We both recognize the vital importance of autonomy, of independence, and freedom from foreign rulers.

India's commitment to democracy and self-government has been unwavering in the past decades, and its future today is brighter than ever before.

I am excited for America's relationship with India to continue flourishing,

as it has for the past 75 years, and I am proud to call the people of India our friends.

### REMEMBERING PATRICIA "PAT" BOHLER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Patricia "Pat" Bohler, a woman who was a staple within the Garden City community for over 50 years.

After being born in Texas, Pat moved to Georgia, where she attended Armstrong State University, earning a degree in education before earning her master's degree at Georgia Southern University.

As a teacher with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, she touched the lives of countless elementary-aged children. Her work as a title I reading teacher will shape generations to come.

In a display of her true desire to serve the community around her, she spent considerable time teaching adult education classes.

Pat faithfully attended and served at Garden City United Methodist Church, where she was a member for 57 years. She taught Sunday school and was the president of the United Methodist Women. Outside of this, she was active as a Girl Scout leader and softball coach.

She raised four daughters with poise and taught them the values of education, service, and community.

She will be deeply missed and remembered by the innumerable lives she shaped.

I extend my sincere condolences to Pat's family, friends, and community.

### 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 56 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

### AFTER RECESS

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

### PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, for Your name's sake and out of the goodness of Your love, deliver the people of Ukraine from their enemy's unrelenting attacks. We pray for the poor and needy, who have lost hope and home. Heal the hearts of those wounded within, who have lost faith and family. Consider those whose lives and livelihoods have faded away like the evening shadows. Shine on them the light of Your saving love.

Help the men and women, those of old age and the children, those who



have fled their persecutors, and those who remain defiantly in place to preserve their land, the political leaders and the warriors who battle on all fronts. Protect each of them according to Your unfailing love.

Then may the foes who pursue them know that it is Your hand that has preserved Ukraine. May those who curse Ukraine be made mute by Your just word. May those who attack be put to shame by Your righteousness. And may those who continue to serve You faithfully in this, their time of trial, find reason to rejoice in You.

For You, O Lord, stand at the right hand of the oppressed, to save them from their distress.

And so it is with hope in Your salvation and in the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TLAIB led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### MARKING TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark Transgender Awareness Week.

In recent years, we have seen increased transgender visibility, whether on our TV screens with Angelica Ross on "Pose" and "American Horror Story" and Amy Schneider's success on "Jeopardy!" or in the Federal Government with the confirmation of Admiral Levine, the Assistant Secretary for Health.

Transgender people want and deserve the same thing we all want: to be treated with respect and to be equal members in our communities under our laws.

To the transgender community, I am standing here on the floor of the House

of Representatives today to tell you that you are valued, you are loved, and your stories matter. Your identities should not just be affirmed but celebrated.

As chair of the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, I will never stop fighting for your ability to reach your full potential without fear of discrimination, violence, or stigmatization. You deserve full equality, nothing less.

#### RECOGNIZING TARRANT COUNTY UNITED WAY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Way of Tarrant County's 100th anniversary.

United Way has supported the community in many ways and has enriched the lives of the people in the area. They have helped residents, volunteers, donors, businesses, governments, nonprofits, and community stakeholders and brought them together to solve some of the toughest issues affecting Tarrant County.

I join in proclaiming November 17, 2022, as Get United Day, and I am proud of their work to encourage unity among all residents and commitment to building a stronger community.

I congratulate the United Way of Tarrant County for this significant milestone. I am confident they will continue their exceptional service to the community for the next 100 years.

In God we trust.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF TYRONE WINFREY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Tyrone Winfrey, a beloved resident of Michigan's 13th District, a tireless advocate for students, and a fighter for higher education opportunities and so much more.

Tyrone served as the executive director of community affairs for Detroit Public Schools Community District and was our former school board president. He worked tirelessly to advocate for our youth and to ensure that every student had access to quality education.

Tyrone served our community over 35 years at the school district, and during this time, he inspired, supported, and uplifted so many of our students and families.

Unfortunately, Mr. Winfrey lost his 5-year battle with cancer this month, but I am proud to stand here in honor of his life and his love for our community.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and our school community, as

well as all those impacted by Tyrone Winfrey.

#### BIDENFLATION IS A CRISIS

(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, Americans are experiencing inflation at 40-year highs, with families in South Carolina paying over 14 percent more in the last year.

Under Biden, inflation has outpaced worker wages for 18 months in a row and will cost the average American household over \$8,000 annually, which is a loss of a month of income.

A trip to the grocery store costs families 12 percent more from last year. Eggs are up 43 percent, flour up 25 percent, milk up 15 percent.

The Congressional Budget Office reports the irresponsible inflation expansion act will increase the deficit through 2026 and cost working families an additional \$60 billion, destroying jobs.

Our country is in crisis, and Americans need relief, which is why voters have achieved a House Republican majority. Republicans will fight Bidenflation undermining American families.

Congratulations, Speaker-to-be KEVIN MCCARTHY.

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

#### SUPPORTING THE VIPER ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act, called the VIPER Act, that the House will consider today.

In Buffalo in 1958, Dr. William Chardack and engineer Wilson Greatbatch teamed up to develop the first implantable pacemaker at our Buffalo VA hospital. Today, more than 3 million people around the world have implanted pacemakers, and the VA Pacemaker Program still monitors more than 11,000 veterans with pacemakers.

The VIPER Act will build on this record, bringing us another step toward the next generation of life-saving treatments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation. It is an investment in a stronger future for veterans and our healthcare system overall.



CONGRATULATING CLARION  
KIWANIS CLUB ON ITS 100TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

(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 congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Clarion, Pennsylvania, on their 100th anniversary.

Since the club's founding on December 16, 1922, the members of the Kiwanis Club have been a crucial part of the community in Clarion.

The Kiwanis Club is an international organization of volunteers that strives to serve the needs of children. The Kiwanis Club has over 550,000 members internationally and seeks to help children by fighting hunger, improving literacy rates, and improving children's health and educational outcomes.

Across the world, Kiwanis Club members have taken part in over 150,000 service projects to benefit communities and to help make them better places to live.

Today, the Clarion Kiwanis continue to carry out the club's mission of giving back to the community by hosting regular fundraisers to benefit children and providing an annual scholarship for students in Clarion County.

Please join me in congratulating the Clarion Kiwanis Club on 100 years of service and thanking them for their many years of giving back to Clarion County.

MARKING THE 1984 ANTI-SIKH  
MASSACRE

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in solidarity with the south Jersey Sikh community. This month marks 38 years since anti-Sikh rioters in India massacred Sikhs over 3 days.

The massacre was retaliation for the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. There were mass rapes and lynchings. Sikhs' homes and their businesses were destroyed, senselessly slaughtered for nothing more than their beliefs and their religion.

Following the slaughter, some of the Sikhs chose to flee India. Today, many of them call south Jersey home. They built lives for themselves, contributing to the education, economic, religious, and cultural richness of our region.

They also carry the knowledge of those dark days. They keep the names and the memories of those who were lost in those days very much alive.

In memory of those Sikhs lost to this senseless violence between November 1 and 3 of 1984, and with respect to those who carry on their legacy in south Jersey today, I stand here in solidarity with my Sikh brothers and sisters.

HANDS OFF WOMEN'S  
REPRODUCTIVE DECISIONS

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, the midterm elections delivered a strong message to the GOP: Politicians should keep their hands off women's reproductive decisions.

Voters in California, Michigan, and Vermont enshrined abortion access into their State constitutions, and Kentucky voters rejected a ballot measure threatening abortion protections.

Postelection polls show a majority of voters want to see Congress protect abortion rights. But regardless of how unpopular their views, Republicans in Congress doubled down on their attacks on women's bodies.

We know it is going to be an uphill battle to codify Roe, and House Republicans made it clear they won't stop with banning abortion. Last July, 193 House Republicans voted against my bill to protect the right to birth control, a measure 95 percent of voters agree with.

The right to abortion and to birth control are critical issues for the American people. So, I ask my colleagues across the aisle: Why aren't they critical to you?

PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

(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, today, I rise to highlight some of the historic results my colleagues and I have been able to deliver to the American people over the last 2 years. By putting aside political agendas and working for the betterment of our communities, we have made real change.

In the 117th Congress, House Democrats fought to pass landmark packages to address the disenfranchisement inherently embedded in our country.

We helped ensure more of our people can thrive by passing the American Rescue Plan, the bipartisan infrastructure law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Still, there is more work to be done. My colleagues and I remain committed to putting money back in the pockets of American workers and families by addressing inflation, lowering healthcare costs, and bolstering domestic manufacturing to create new, good-paying jobs—not scaring people, supporting them.

DEFENDING AMERICA'S BORDERS

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we have watched tens of bil-

lions of dollars be sent to defend another nation's border that is not our own.

Every single day, our border is invaded by people from foreign lands and also by drugs. Over 300 people are dying every single day. Americans are dying every single day from fentanyl poisoning.

Yet, the Biden administration and this Congress have not done anything to protect our Nation's border and the American people.

Just to remind everyone, the building that we are standing in, the Federal Government and everyone's paychecks here are paid by the American taxpayers. The American taxpayers and the American people deserve to have a secure border and deserve the protection of the Federal Government from the Mexican cartels that funnel drugs into America to kill Americans.

I am calling for an audit of every single penny that has been sent to Ukraine, including aid money and any other moneys that have been given to the Ukrainian Government to defend their national security while our national security has been ignored.

This must be done. It has to be done as soon as possible for the American people. They deserve transparency, and they deserve to see where their money is going.

□ 1215

SUPPORTING OUR SELFLESS  
VETERANS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act, legislation I introduced to support and protect our selfless veterans.

The VA is the largest integrated healthcare network in the United States, and it stores millions of records with personal information for veterans and their families.

This legislation will require the VA to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of its most critical information systems and develop a timeline and budget to fix any identified weaknesses and deficiencies.

We must continue to work to ensure that the VA has the tools it needs to effectively protect against new and emerging cybersecurity threats and safeguard our veterans' information.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with all of my colleagues to move this commonsense and bipartisan legislation forward.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 15, 2022.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 15, 2022, at 4.39 p.m.

Appointment:  
United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

### SPEAK OUT ACT

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1464, I call up the bill (S. 4524) to limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1464, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4524

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Speak Out Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Sexual harassment and assault remain pervasive in the workplace and throughout civic society, affecting millions of Americans.

(2) Eighty-one percent of women and 43 percent of men have experienced some form of sexual harassment or assault throughout their lifetime.

(3) One in 3 women has faced sexual harassment in the workplace during her career, and an estimated 87 to 94 percent of those who experience sexual harassment never file a formal complaint.

(4) Sexual harassment in the workplace forces many women to leave their occupation or industry, or pass up opportunities for advancement.

(5) In order to combat sexual harassment and assault, it is essential that victims and survivors have the freedom to report and publicly disclose their abuse.

(6) Nondisclosure and nondisparagement provisions in agreements between employers and current, former, and prospective employees, and independent contractors, and between providers of goods and services and consumers, can perpetuate illegal conduct by silencing those who are survivors of illegal sexual harassment and assault or illegal retaliation, or have knowledge of such conduct, while shielding perpetrators and enabling them to continue their abuse.

(7) Prohibiting nondisclosure and nondisparagement clauses will empower survivors to come forward, hold perpetrators accountable for abuse, improve transparency around illegal conduct, enable the pursuit of justice, and make workplaces safer and more productive for everyone.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **NONDISCLOSURE CLAUSE.**—The term "nondisclosure clause" means a provision in a contract or agreement that requires the parties to the contract or agreement not to disclose or discuss conduct, the existence of a settlement involving conduct, or information covered by the terms and conditions of the contract or agreement.

(2) **NONDISPARAGEMENT CLAUSE.**—The term "nondisparagement clause" means a provision in a contract or agreement that requires 1 or more parties to the contract or agreement not to make a negative statement about another party that relates to the contract, agreement, claim, or case.

(3) **SEXUAL ASSAULT DISPUTE.**—The term "sexual assault dispute" means a dispute involving a nonconsensual sexual act or sexual contact, as such terms are defined in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code, or similar applicable Tribal or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

(4) **SEXUAL HARASSMENT DISPUTE.**—The term "sexual harassment dispute" means a dispute relating to conduct that is alleged to constitute sexual harassment under applicable Federal, Tribal, or State law.

#### SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL ENFORCEABILITY OF NONDISCLOSURE AND NONDISPARAGEMENT CONTRACT CLAUSES RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT DISPUTES AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT DISPUTES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to a sexual assault dispute or sexual harassment dispute, no nondisclosure clause or nondisparagement clause agreed to before the dispute arises shall be judicially enforceable in instances in which conduct is alleged to have violated Federal, Tribal, or State law.

(b) **CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF STATE LAW.**—Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a State or locality from enforcing a provision of State law governing nondisclosure or nondisparagement clauses that is at least as protective of the right of an individual to speak freely, as provided by this Act.

(c) **CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND TRIBAL LAW.**—This Act shall not be construed to supersede a provision of Federal, State, or Tribal Law that governs the use of pseudonyms in the filing of claims involving sexual assault or sexual harassment disputes.

(d) **PROTECTION OF TRADE SECRETS AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.**—Nothing in this Act shall prohibit an employer and an employee from protecting trade secrets or proprietary information.

#### SEC. 5. APPLICABILITY.

This Act shall apply with respect to a claim that is filed under Federal, State, or Tribal law on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 4524.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, S. 4524, the Speak Out Act, empowers survivors of sexual misconduct by prohibiting the use of nondisclosure and nondisparagement clauses that serve to silence survivors who entered into agreements containing those clauses before a dispute arises.

Often buried in the fine print of contracts of adhesion that workers and consumers sign every day to secure employment, goods, or services, these confidentiality clauses have contributed to the culture of silence in cases involving sexual misconduct. As such, they have routinely enabled sexual predators to evade accountability.

The confidential nature of these clauses makes it extremely difficult to fully diagnose the scope of this problem. Nevertheless, experts estimate that more than one-third of workers in the United States are required to sign a nondisclosure agreement in their employment contracts.

This is particularly concerning because of the rampant nature of sexual abuse in the workplace. An estimated 81 percent of women and 43 percent of men will experience sexual harassment in their lifetimes, and more than half of all women report being subjected to unwanted sexual activity while in the workplace.

But these appalling numbers do not even tell the full story. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that the vast majority of survivors simply never report incidents of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Today, we will take an important step toward fixing this problem by banning the enforcement of nondisclosure and nondisparagement clauses agreed to before a sexual harassment or sexual assault dispute arises. For the purpose of this bill, a dispute arises when a person chooses to exercise their legal rights by asserting a claim of sexual harassment or sexual assault in some official context, such as by complaining to a government agency or by filing a lawsuit.

This legislation continues Congress' important work to protect the rights of survivors to come forward and hold perpetrators accountable for abuse.

Earlier this year, on a bipartisan basis, we enacted H.R. 4445, which empowered survivors to decide whether they resolve their disputes in court or through arbitration. That bill was an example of how Congress can and should function. We worked together, across the aisle, to identify a problem, establish a bipartisan solution to that problem, and pass legislation to restore the rights of millions of Americans to their day in court.

The Speak Out Act is an opportunity for us to work together once again to end the oppressive culture of silence hiding sexual misconduct, promote transparency and accountability, and make the workplace safer for everyone.

This legislation has already passed the Senate unanimously, and it is supported by a broad coalition of public interest organizations, including the American Association for Justice, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, RALIANCE, The Army of Survivors, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

I thank our colleagues, Representatives FRANKEL, BUCK, CICILLINE, JAYAPAL, GRIFFITH, BUSTOS, and OWENS for their leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, sexual misconduct is terrible and it is wrong. Those who engage in it should be held accountable. But this bill, while well intentioned, is misguided.

For starters, it is a massive Federal overreach. It regulates contract law that has been and should be handled at the State level. Some States have decided to regulate confidentiality clauses in contracts. Others have decided not to. That is how our system of government works. That is how our Constitution works, States experimenting to find out what, in fact, works best.

However, this bill creates a new Federal floor that undercuts the power of States in the process. This is just the beginning of a new push by Democrats to chip away at States' rights.

The White House said as much this week. In commenting on the bill, the Biden administration said it "Looks forward to continuing to work with the Congress to advance broader legislation that addresses a range of issues implicated in NDAs and nondisparagement clauses."

They are not hiding the ball here. Federalism is a serious issue, and Congress should not be taking power from the States just to impose its top-down approach.

Additionally, we should take a hard look at the findings included in the bill as passed by the Senate. House Democrats intentionally left these findings out of the version of the bill that the Committee on the Judiciary marked up. These findings include statistics about the percentage of men and women who have experienced some form of sexual harassment or sexual assault in their lifetime. It is not clear where these statistics and new findings come from, but they seem to rely on a study that uses a broad definition of sexual harassment, very broad, that included instances of "misgendering" as sexual harassment. That definition goes way beyond existing law.

A finding of Congress that effectively treats "misgendering" on its own as a form of sexual harassment will doubtlessly lead to future efforts to expand the law in other ways. If Democrats are going to include findings like this, they

should at least have to debate it in the committee. We should think carefully about these findings before cementing them in Federal law.

Finally, this bill, as drafted, is too broad and will affect contractual matters completely unrelated to sexual misconduct. A confidentiality clause may cover a wide range of information. When the bill applies, it nullifies the entire confidentiality clause, with just a few poorly defined exceptions.

As such, it will give trial lawyers an incentive to add unsupported allegations in litigation so they can void a confidentiality clause and access and use confidential information unrelated to the sexual misconduct.

We all condemn sexual harassment and sexual assault, but this is a flawed bill, and it is going to create problems down the road.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I only wish this bill did what the gentleman from Ohio says it does. By his logic, we should never have passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. We should have left it with the States. That obviously didn't work.

Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am very, very proud to rise today in support of this game-changing, historic bill, the Speak Out Act. I thank our Senate and House sponsors, Representatives BUCK and BUSTOS and Senators GILLIBRAND and BLACKBURN.

Thanks also to the Committee on the Judiciary, to our staff, and to Becca Flikier in my office. Most especially, thanks to two very, very courageous women who may be with us today, Gretchen Carlson and Julie Roginsky, who, against all odds, fought back against the abuse of powerful men and a powerful corporation and who have lifted the voices of women by leading efforts to stem the scourge of sexual harassment and assault in the workplace and civic society. Thank you to Gretchen and Julie.

Today, Madam Speaker, we will pass legislation that, in tandem with the no forced arbitration law, is aimed at stopping sexual abuse in the workplace and holding abusers accountable.

With all due respect to my friends on the other side, we are here to protect women from being raped, not States from being raped.

Current Federal law and most States allow employers and others to force nondisclosure agreements into employment and consumer contracts that silence survivors of sexual assault and harassment. These are known as forced NDAs, and one-third of our workforce is subject to them.

Madam Speaker, I have an example of one right here. I mean, for a

layperson to look, I would just tell you, it is a bunch of gobbledygook. Nowhere would you know from reading this NDA, which is very typical, that it means if your boss rapes you, you can't tell a soul about it or you will be penalized.

Businesses are using these NDAs to cover up their dirty little secrets of sexual abuse that force survivors to bear the trauma in silence. It is not bad enough, Madam Speaker, that a survivor is humiliated, emotionally scarred, or physically hurt, that they have to quit their job or turn down a promotion or leave the field entirely. If they are forced to sign an NDA before a dispute arises, they must suffer in silence and not even be able to tell a spouse, a parent, or a coworker. If they do, they can be fired or disciplined or sued for damages and attorney's fees. That is crazy and that is unjust.

Forced NDAs punish the survivor and protect the perpetrator, who is set free to abuse and abuse and abuse again.

Today, we hold abusers accountable and change the culture of the workplace. Employers who were used to sweeping these stories under the rug will now be forced to stop toxic workplaces, sexual harassment, and sexual assault before it happens. This should lead to safer, more productive workplaces and a civic society for all.

The change couldn't come soon enough. It is not just the movie and the TV personalities we have read about that have been the victims of sexual abuse in the workplace. One in three women, disproportionately women of color, have suffered sexual harassment in the workplace. There are 71 million women in the workplace. That is millions and millions of women who have to endure this.

In our bipartisan Women's Caucus, we heard story after story from hotel maids raped by guests, waitresses pinched by their customers to earn tips, farmworkers assaulted in the field by their supervisors, a tech worker forced to date potential customers.

It doesn't matter whether you are a hotel maid, a farmworker, secretary, or CEO. People in all walks of life are being inappropriately touched, raped, and harassed by supervisors, coworkers, customers, and service providers. The Speak Out Act, Madam Speaker, will make these forced NDAs null and void.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida.

□ 1230

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, it does not prevent a business from protecting its trade secrets, and it does not prevent giving the survivors an option to sign an NDA at a post-claim settlement if they choose.

So, folks, let's all say "no" to the dirty little secrets that promote sexual

abuse, ruin lives, and degrade businesses.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to vote “yes” on the Speak Out Act.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my friend and a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I want to be the first to admit, this is a difficult bill to debate. It sounds good. I believe the intentions of the other side of the aisle are good as well. Nobody should be subjected to sexual harassment.

But there is a problem. We are legislating outside of our domain. We are violating States’ rights in doing this. The law that is being proposed to pass today here has already in some form or another been implemented in 15 different States. But guess what, those 15 different States don’t all have the same solution. It is sort of arrogant for us to sit here and say that we are going to come up with a one-size-fits-all that is going to be better than anything those 15 States have done.

I say to my constituents at home, that there are three tests that I apply to any bill before voting for it.

The first test is, is it constitutional. This bill is questionable whether it is constitutional because it would regulate intrastate contracts, not just interstate contracts. We all know we have no business inside of the States.

The other test that I apply is, can we afford it. Well, ostensibly, this bill doesn’t cost that much to impose a new thing on employers or on contracts.

But the third test that I always apply is, is this something we should solve at the Federal level or can States do it better? That is where this bill fails. The States can legislate on this. The States have legislated on this; 15 different States since 2018 have legislated on this.

In fact, as I read this bill and as we debated it, I wondered what is the definition of sexual harassment. Well, the bill itself refers to the State definitions of sexual harassment. It is tacitly acknowledging that contract law is the domain of the States. There was a concern expressed during the debate in committee on this that is this the camel putting its nose in the tent when we let Federal laws intervene in or override State laws, and that was a concern that was expressed.

But it wasn’t a conspiracy theory that there would be more legislation after that. In fact, the ink is not even dry on this; the vote hasn’t happened today. But 2 days ago, just recently, the Executive Office of the President, OMB, issued a Statement of Administration Policy about this bill.

They are giddy at overriding State laws and breaking State contracts. In fact, their statement says: “The administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Congress to advance broader legislation that ad-

dresses the range of issues implicated in NDAs and nondisparagement clauses.” They can’t wait to do more of this. They can’t wait to take over the State legislatures’ roles in legislating these issues.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” against this. I know it is a tough vote. I know the other side has good intentions, but this is the wrong bill.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank LOIS FRANKEL, CHERI BUSTOS, the chairman, and chairmen of our subcommittees, from DAVID CICILLINE to Chairman COHEN, for the work that they have done.

Let me agree with the gentleman from Kentucky in saying that it doesn’t cost much. In fact, it doesn’t cost much of anything as compared to the abuse that women have suffered for decades.

Let me also agree with the gentleman that there are and is something called States’ rights under the Tenth Amendment, but let me be very clear that women don’t have to suffer life-or-death circumstances under the Constitution.

I hold this book up for everybody to understand that this book does not require silence. This is not the Constitution of silence. This is not the Constitution of the 14th Amendment with equal protection of the law, yet as a woman you are silenced. It does not require due process, but you are silenced.

Let me give you a fact. More than half of all employed women report experiencing sexual harassment or sexual assault while at work. As a result, there is a significant concern that NDAs are, in fact, abusive, to the extent that it breaks a woman to not be able to tell of her harassment, abuse, or her rape.

Today, widespread sexual misconduct can be covered up by NDAs that are hiding the fine print that says, take it or leave it. When you have that, what you have is a circumstance where you are, in fact, promoting abuse and eliminating the power that women have and promoting the power that perpetrators have.

I would like to be able to stand on the Constitution that says to create a more perfect Union. This legislation does not allow the fine print, doesn’t allow or make you sign an NDA before there is even an issue or a case that has arisen, and more importantly, I think it saves lives and future women from sexual assault and rape.

We know that Harvey Weinstein had this tool that was used over and over again. Employment contracts at his company included strict NDAs, which prevented survivors from coming forward with their stories.

I know that that is not the workplace that you want your daughters to go into, as our young women leave and begin to work from colleges, but also

the women who work as factory workers, secretaries, and waitresses.

Those used to be the jobs that people would look down on and say: Oh, we know why they are in those jobs. No, they were in those jobs so they could support their family, being a single parent, raising up their children. I know those women every day. Bus-drivers, schoolbus drivers getting minimum wage, but they encountered those conditions just as you would encounter them in the major corporations.

I am rising to support S. 4524, the Speak Out Act, and ask whether or not if you are a believer of the Constitution, where in it it says that you must be silenced, your due process is silenced, the 14th Amendment equal protection of the law is silenced.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, all of this is silenced. The threat of legal retaliation is daunting to these women, enough to keep workers from coming forward with their stories of abuse. The Harvard Business Review has indicated over one-third of the U.S. workforce is bound by NDAs.

Madam Speaker, I close my remarks by saying, I walk away from here and saying that when we cast this vote, we will cast a vote for creating a more perfect Union, and that women will not be second class, second rate without the same equal protection of the law as anyone else.

I applaud the secretaries, the bus-drivers, the factory workers, the cafeteria workers who happen to be women, as well as I applaud the corporate women who are rising up the corporate ladder.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4524, The Speak Out Act, that would limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

This bill is critical to ending the culture of silence that quiets the voices of survivors of sexual harassment and abuse.

We must protect women from harassment, abuse, and violence of all types, at every opportunity, and in every facet of life.

As chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, I’ve led the fight against domestic violence for many years, and sponsored the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act, which led to VAWA’s reauthorization in March.

Just as VAWA is vital to protect women in their personal lives, the Speak Out Act is vital to protect women in their work lives, empowering women against workplace harassment and abuse that can impair their careers and life paths.

Ending the cycle of abuse starts with eliminating the power that perpetrators have over their victims.

Currently, companies can sue workers for breaking a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

The threat of legal retaliation is daunting enough to keep workers from coming forward with stories of abuse.

These NDAs have become commonplace in many industries.

Harvard Business Review has estimated that over one third of the U.S. workforce is bound by NDAs.

These NDAs not only appear in settlements after a victim of sexual harassment has raised their voice, but also have become routinely included in standard employment contracts that are used at the time of hiring.

NDAs are being signed at the start of employment, prior to any abuse that occurs.

NDAs are intended to provide confidentiality and protection, especially with regard to corporate trade secrets.

But they have increasingly been misused to protect power dynamics that enable abusers to continue their dangerous and disgusting behavior.

One in 3 women has faced sexual harassment in the workplace during her career.

An estimated 87 to 94 percent of women who experience sexual harassment never file a formal complaint.

The reality is that many of these women have no voice because the system rewards male manipulators and penalizes women who challenge the status quo.

This amounts to institutionalized abuse.

The Speak Out Act can change this reality.

The Speak Out Act would prevent employers from enforcing nondisclosure or non-disparagement agreements (NDAs) in instances when employees and workers report sexual misconduct.

In the wake of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, our country has become acutely aware that men in power frequently leverage that power abusively to exploit women.

Sexual abuse and harassment can destroy a victim's financial security, mental health, and career path.

By standing up for their rights, the women who have been subjected to abuse often become mired in a lengthy and costly lawsuit that drains their finances, imposes a heavy psychic toll, and impairs their future job prospects by creating a misimpression that they are disruptive workers.

Women face a disturbing choice when sexually assaulted in the workplace: report the abuse publicly and face litigation, leave the company and abandon their income, or the choice that many are forced to make, put their heads down and pretend it did not happen.

Passing The Speak Out Act would provide victims with a third option to pursue justice.

It is time to amend the NDA system to strip the power from abusive employers and give it back to the employee.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP), a valued member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the future chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Ohio. I think whatever else voters said a week ago, they said, don't go too far. That is the reason the gentleman to my right will be the Judiciary Committee chairman and the gentleman far to my left will no longer be.

This goes too far. In the chairman's comments in support of the bill, he gave the pieces of information that

help us to detect why that is. One, he made reference to a bill, H.R. 4445, Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021, and he said, appropriately so, that that bill had bipartisan support, including mine. It made it so that women who suffer sexual harassment, anyone who suffers sexual harassment is no longer limited if they have entered into a contract forcing arbitration; for mandatory arbitration of a dispute of that nature, they can bring it to court. Court is public in the United States.

That bill was supported on a bipartisan basis because it is fair and equitable. The other thing the chairman said is that this bill, the one we are talking about now, will empower survivors of sexual harassment and sexual assault, but it also will empower non-survivors. That is to say, anyone who wishes to bring a nonmeritorious claim of sexual harassment forward in order to destroy someone's life also will be empowered by this to ignore any contract to do otherwise.

"A Rape on Campus" is a retracted defamatory Rolling Stone magazine article written by Sabrina Erdely and originally published on November 19, 2014, that describes a purported group sexual assault at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Rolling Stone retracted the story in its entirety on April 5, 2015.

The article claimed that a UVA student, Jackie, had been taken to a party hosted by UVA's Phi Kappa Psi fraternity by a fellow student. At the party, Jackie alleged in the article, her date led her to a bedroom where she was gang-raped by several fraternity members as part of a fraternity initiation ritual.

Jackie's account generated much media attention, and UVA President Teresa Sullivan suspended all fraternities. After other journalists investigated the article's claims and found significant discrepancies, Rolling Stone issued multiple apologies for the story.

It has since been reported that Jackie may have invented portions of the story in an unsuccessful attempt to win the affections of a fellow student in whom she had a romantic interest. In a deposition given in 2016, Jackie stated that she believed her story at the time.

On January 12, 2015, Charlottesville police officials told UVA that an investigation had failed to find any evidence confirming the events in the Rolling Stone article. UVA President Teresa Sullivan acknowledged that the story was discredited.

Charlottesville police officially suspended their 4-month investigation on March 23, 2015, based on lack of credible evidence.

The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism audited the editorial processes that culminated in the article being published. On April 5, 2015, Rolling Stone retracted the article and published the independent re-

port on the publication's history, and so forth.

Everyone remembers the Duke lacrosse incident in Durham, North Carolina. Everyone remembers the lives destroyed by these and other false allegations. They do happen.

The balance that we brought to the law by ensuring that every victim of sexual assault or harassment could come forward and sue, and if it is a suit against a public figure or against someone notorious or against someone rich or powerful, I have got to tell you, that will get publicity.

But it also is a system that has balance. People are subjected to discovery as to their motives. You have tools to find out and test the veracity of each side's views, each side's story.

This bill gives the green light to the false accuser. This bill says resume speed. It is a resume speed sign to those who would make false accusations. We brought balance to the law with the participation of Republicans and Democrats.

I grant you that that was a great bill. I congratulate you on bringing forward that bill, which I joined and voted for. This one is unfair and unbalanced. It goes too far.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, this bill goes so far; the gentleman from North Carolina tells us, this bill goes too far. It goes so far, in fact, that every Republican Member of the Senate voted for it. What a bunch of radicals.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, this bill is proof of the extraordinary leadership of Chairman NADLER and the Judiciary Committee. He has led our committee in a principled, determined way. I think as a result of his leadership, the Judiciary Committee has been the most productive, impactful, and effective committee in the Congress. While my colleagues on the other side of the aisle look forward to a different chairman, I acknowledge the extraordinary leadership of our current chairman.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 4524, the Speak Out Act. I applaud the sponsors, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. BUCK, and all the other bipartisan leaders who were part of this effort, including you, Madam Speaker.

This commonsense legislation will prevent the enforcement of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement agreements in sexual harassment and sexual assault disputes.

□ 1245

It will ensure that any survivor who wants to share their story without fear of judicially enforced reprisals can do so.

In fact, it is unthinkable, I hope to all of us, that widespread sexual misconduct can be covered up and swept under the rug because of NDAs snuck

into these take-it-or-leave-it contracts. It is well beyond time for this abusive practice to end.

Enacting the Speak Out Act will bring sunlight and transparency to a system that relies on the shadows to hide horrific conduct. It will make our society more just. It will help end the culture of silence that allows predators to evade accountability.

I look forward to sending this bill to the President's desk and taking another step in our critical and ongoing work to eliminate the forced silence that prevents survivors of sexual misconduct from having their voices heard.

Before closing, I want to address the argument raised by some of my Republican colleagues that the Speak Out Act interferes with the rights of States to establish their own laws on this issue. They are missing the point. This legislation protects an American value by prohibiting survivor censorship and defending the freedom of survivors to tell their own stories. This baseline freedom should not vary from State to State.

Finally, I want to say that the Speak Out Act creates a floor for the basic protection of survivors' rights to speak out, not a ceiling. States remain free to enact stronger protections for survivors. According to reports, 15 States have done just that, with some States like California banning the use of NDAs entirely. Federal legislation is still necessary because survivors should not have to rely on a patchwork of varying States, uncertain which might apply to them.

Finally, I end by noting that I am a little bit confused and, I will be honest, disappointed by the opposition I have heard from some of my Republican colleagues in light of their previous statements.

For example, during consideration of legislation that prohibited the enforcement of forced arbitration clauses in the same kinds of cases, Mr. JORDAN, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, said: "Victims of sexual harassment and sexual assault must have their claims heard. They must never be silenced or intimidated into silence."

The Speak Out Act provides precisely that protection. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation that was passed unanimously in the Senate that builds upon the great work of you, Madam Speaker, in H.R. 4445 so that, once and for all, we can no longer provide protection to predators and abusers that are acting with impunity in workplaces all over America.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK).

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, what a strange world the woke are creating. Their open borders policy has produced an epidemic of child sex trafficking. They use taxpayer dollars to transport unaccompanied minors

across the country. These children are then delivered to those claiming to be friends or family and then abandoned. The Biden administration has now lost track of 45,000 children that it has turned over to so-called sponsors in this manner.

Now, the Democrats won't even discuss the sex trafficking crisis that they have created, let alone do anything about it, because to condemn it is to acknowledge it, and they won't even do that. Yet, they bring a bill to the floor today to virtue signal their opposition to sexual harassment in the workplace. Specifically, it voids certain confidentiality clauses in cases involving sexual harassment.

Now, let's be clear, no civilized person condones such behavior, and several States have already passed laws similar to the measure before us today. That is where the Constitution rightly places such questions—with the States.

Federalism allows a State to try something out. If it works, other States copy it. If it doesn't, they can avoid it. This bill imposes the same standards across the country.

Now, what could possibly go wrong? Well, first, it references a study that includes among the definitions of sexual harassment a microaggression—I believe that is the word the woke use—such as misgendering.

The mere allegation of sexual harassment, without the necessity of any kind of proof, invalidates the nondisclosure agreement if the parties reach their agreement before the dispute arose. This bill doesn't define "dispute," so we don't even know when exactly it will apply.

If an employee accidentally refers to a colleague by a pronoun that has just changed, should this really be grounds for publicly pillorying the employer for sexual harassment? The woke excel at targeting those they disagree with in such a manner. This makes it possible for them to do so under a wide range of circumstances.

Second, if the mere allegation of sexual harassment can void a nondisclosure agreement, would someone simply throw in such an allegation in order to air their real grievances? Remember, this bill voids the confidentiality clause entirely, even though those clauses can cover information unrelated to sexual misconduct.

Third, where do such confidentiality carveouts stop? Are references in the workplace to political ideology, religious beliefs, or cultural preferences, already branded as microaggressions by the woke, to be added one by one?

We know this bill is just the beginning. The White House said as much this week.

Perhaps these are questions best left to the States. Perhaps our time is best devoted to protecting the countless children that the crime cartels are sexually exploiting with their active assistance of the Democrats' open border policies.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished

gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), a member of the committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan, bicameral Speak Out Act. I thank Representative LOIS FRANKEL and the chairman for their leadership.

This bill bans forced nondisclosure agreements in assault and harassment disputes and preserves the right of survivors to use their voices.

Women across this country have been told for a long time what constitutes appropriate behavior, what constitutes sexual harassment, and what doesn't. Well, let me tell you, it is time to let them speak up and shine a light on exactly what is happening.

The reality is that estimates are that a third of employees in the United States are covered by these NDAs.

Last year, we heard stories of exactly this situation in the Judiciary Committee. Last year, Tatiana Spottiswoode bravely testified under the protection of a friendly subpoena about the harassment and abuse that she endured from her boss and former CEO, Zia Chishti. Previously, Tatiana had been bound by a gag order that silenced her and prevented accountability for her abuser.

Madam Speaker, after her moving testimony, after bringing light and being able to talk about the horror that she experienced, Chishti was finally fired. He was finally held accountable. In fact, the former British Prime Minister resigned from the company's advisory board after that happened.

Why should she have been silenced in the first place? Why should she have been raped or any other woman been raped and bound to silence because of a nondisclosure agreement that was forced, in many cases, in order for these women to be able to actually have employment? That is absolutely wrong.

Why should women be forced to feel alone, feel like somehow this is their fault, that they are crazy? They should be able to talk about what has happened and bring light to the situation.

The reality is, Madam Speaker, this is about power. This is about who holds the power and how it is held.

That is why we need the Speak Out Act to be passed. It is the only way to make sure that we bring transparency and light to this.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, for millions of survivors across the country who deserve to have their voices heard, vote "yes" on S. 4524. I thank those people on the other side of the aisle who agree with us and know that this is the right thing to do.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK).

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



Madam Speaker, this bill is very simple. It removes a muzzle from employees if they have been raped or harassed in the workplace.

By allowing women to expose predators in the workplace, this legislation further protects future victims. It also puts employers on notice that they must be more careful in performing due diligence and doing background checks on applicants.

Finally, this bill is limited to cases of rape and sexual harassment. This bill doesn't stop a worker from waiving their constitutional right to free speech in any other circumstance.

If you have trade secrets, you may be subjected to a nondisclosure agreement. If you object to the management practices of your employer, you may be subjected to a nondisclosure agreement. If you are raped, you may not be muzzled.

This legislation gives us a choice. We can protect rapists, predators, and perverts in the workplace, or we can give voice to victims, survivors, and the most vulnerable among us. We can assure Americans that our employers will only hire those employees who respect others in the workplace.

This bill received unanimous support in the Senate and has bipartisan support in the House. The reason is simple: We all had mothers who faced antiquated attitudes in the workplace. We don't want our daughters and our granddaughters to face those same attitudes.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for this commonsense legislation. I very much appreciate the Speaker and Representative FRANKEL's leadership on this issue, and I hope that Republicans step up and do the right thing.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA), a member of the committee.

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, this is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This is about stopping sexual predators.

For decades, Larry Nassar abused young girls on the U.S. women's national gymnastics team. At least 265 young women and girls—265 victims—were targeted and sexually abused by Nassar. It was all due to a nondisclosure statement that protected Nassar from justice.

Allowing sexual predators to hide behind nondisclosure agreements is wrong and is a crime.

Today, we have the power to stop sexual predators from hurting our loved ones.

I ask my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to vote for the Speak Out Act.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I thank my great caucus cochair and good friend, Congresswoman LOIS

FRANKEL, for this bill. I thank the chairman for bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the Speaker for her extraordinary work in this area.

I sit here and think to myself: Are we living on two different planets? Why would any of you on the other side of the aisle want to prevent a woman or a man from speaking up if they were raped by someone in the office? Why would we allow for these NDAs?

Sexual harassment is an abuse of power made worse by the indignity of being silenced and gagged about your experience.

We have heard this morning that a third of the American workforce is bound by NDAs. Now, they were used originally to protect trade secrets. We appreciate that. We get that. But they have now been extended to be a weapon of choice for abusers and those orchestrating coverups.

Let's talk about the Washington Commanders' owner, Dan Snyder, at the NFL. Snyder assured his fans that he knew nothing about rampant and reprehensible harassment suffered by his employees, the women staffers forced to endure harassment and attempted assault. Some testified before the Committee on Oversight and Reform that they were told to avoid him at all costs and other predatory employees.

□ 1300

Snyder even had cheerleaders videotaped without their consent, and some without their knowledge, for a calendar photo shoot. The women posed topless using only their hands and arms or body paint to cover their breasts. Snyder knew they would have to change outfits and be exposed at times, and he made sure that he got the video to watch and share with his cronies.

Surprise: Snyder used predispute NDAs with many of those women staffers.

Abusers like Snyder, Weinstein, Roger Ailes at FOX, and others should not be allowed to be the predators they are in the workforce. Women and men who become victims should be able to call them out.

It is time to end this predatory practice of silencing survivors. It is time for workers to have the freedom to speak out. For those who say that this should be a States' rights issue, remind me: Isn't it your party who wants to ban abortions across the country and not leave it to the States?

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

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan Speak Out Act.

One in three women in our country experiences sexual harassment in the

workplace at some point in her career. This appalling behavior is unacceptable, but it will not stop if survivors are silenced.

Let me be clear: any person who experiences sexual assault in the workplace or otherwise should be able to speak out and seek justice.

NDAs and nondisparagement clauses have been used for far too long to silence survivors of sexual harassment and assault in the workplace and instead shield abusers and the companies that enable them. The Speak Out Act helps to fix this flawed system and restores survivors' voices.

Contrary to some of the comments made by my colleagues across the aisle, this is a reasonable act that explicitly protects trade secrets and other proprietary information. It is carefully designed to remove the protection of predators. That is something we should all be in favor of.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to join me in supporting this critically important legislation so that those who wish to do so can hold perpetrators accountable and share their stories. This is something that should be important to all of us.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise to strongly support the Speak Out Act. It is carried by my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL.

Madam Speaker, I want to talk to you about why this is so important. Eight months ago, I stood in this Chamber to speak about my bill to expand the rights of sexual assault and sexual harassment survivors to seek justice.

I wrote a bill that is now law after reading the haunting stories of the thousands of women from a company called Sterling Incorporated, the parent company of Kay and Jared Jewelers. Each story was more disturbing than the one before it: managers demanding sexual acts in exchange for employment benefits and company events where women were expected to undress publicly. In one story, a former employee attended an overnight meeting where she woke up with her underwear pushed to her ankles and her manager raping her.

All of this stayed quiet, in secret for years all because of a few words that are hidden away in legal language filed alongside other forms and filled out as part of employment paperwork.

The women at Sterling Incorporated were silenced by forced arbitration clauses that prevented them from seeking justice in a court of law. But we know that these aren't the first nightmare stories that we have heard, and they won't be the last.

For way too long, the sinister culture of silence has protected predators and has shamed survivors. But as the saying goes, sunshine is the best disinfectant. The one way to dismantle this culture of silence is to let the voices and



the stories of the survivors be heard because those stories are powerful.

Survivors' stories launched the #MeToo movement. Survivors' stories inspired my bill to end forced arbitration and today's bill, and it will be those stories that will continue to bring change.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand on the right side of history and support the Speak Out Act.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, some have argued that the bill is not necessary because the courts may already choose not to enforce NDAs in certain cases. But this argument overlooks the reality that this scattershot approach to forced NDAs in sexual assault cases leaves survivors uncertain of their ability to tell their own stories without fear of reprisal, and it continues to allow NDAs to be used as an intimidation tactic by powerful corporations and abusers or as a coercive requirement for employment or everyday services.

Without a clear message from Congress that forced NDAs will no longer be enforceable in court, forced NDAs in employment and consumer contracts are likely to continue to have a chilling effect on survivors speaking out.

These contracts of silence limit the ability of millions of Americans to come forward in the first place. They contain sweeping prohibitions against any future negative statements about an employer. Standard language in these terms limit a survivor's ability to communicate by virtually any means, regardless of the truthfulness of the communication, in perpetuity.

In many cases, confidentiality clauses cover the existence of an NDA itself, meaning that even discussing the fact that one is bound by an NDA could constitute a violation of a contract.

There are cases in which survivors choose to waive their right to speak about their case. But that is a decision for survivors to make for themselves based on the circumstances, not something that should be forced upon them by their abusers or their enablers.

Last year, in a hearing that none of us will forget, the Judiciary Committee heard from four survivors of shocking workplace sexual harassment and assault. As they explained, after enduring horrific abuse at the hands of their perpetrators, confidential clauses in routine contracts prevented them from reporting and publicly disclosing their abuse.

The Speak Out Act ends this outrageous practice once and for all. Importantly, it does not prevent survivors from voluntarily entering into settlement agreements that include NDAs. Instead, it simply clarifies that these clauses cannot be enforced unless a

survivor chooses to agree to the clause after the dispute arises.

The Biden-Harris administration has issued a statement strongly supporting this legislation, noting that: "Prohibiting the use of predispute NDAs and nondisparagement clauses will increase access to justice and make the workplace safer for everyone."

The United States Senate has unanimously passed this legislation.

I have heard the argument from some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we should leave this to the States and that the national legislation impinges on States' rights somehow. This is from the same people who urge a national ban on abortion.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to send this critical message to the President's desk, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4524, the Speak Out Act. I am proud to support this bill and thank my good friends and colleagues Senator GILLIBRAND and Congresswoman FRANKEL for their leadership, and Chairman NADLER and the Speaker for bringing it to the floor.

This bill is a step toward ending a culture of silence and coercion that further deprives survivors of sexual assault from achieving justice.

We must put an end to the enablement of perpetrators in the workforce by eliminating the use of NDAs in sexual misconduct cases.

While this bill is progress toward eradicating institutional protections for perpetrators, we cannot stop here. As a champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, I hope that we continue joining efforts to fix this toxic system and empower survivors of sexual assault to be the authors of their own stories.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BUSTOS). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1464, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 315, nays 109, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 480]

YEAS—315

Adams	Beatty	Boyle, Brendan	Calvert	Huffman	Pappas
Aguilar	Bera	F.	Cammack	Huizenga	Pascrell
Allred	Beyer	Brown (MD)	Carbajal	Issa	Payne
Amodei	Bice (OK)	Brown (OH)	Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Peltola
Armstrong	Biggs	Brownley	Carey	Jacobs (CA)	Perlmutter
Arrington	Bilirakis	Buck	Carson	Jacobs (NY)	Peters
Auchincloss	Bishop (GA)	Bucshon	Carter (LA)	Jayapal	Phillips
Axne	Blumenauer	Burchett	Cartwright	Jeffries	Pingree
Bacon	Blunt Rochester	Burgess	Case	Johnson (GA)	Pocan
Balderson	Bonamici	Bush	Casten	Johnson (OH)	Porter
Barragán	Bourdeaux	Bustos	Castor (FL)	Johnson (TX)	Posey
Bass	Bowman	Butterfield	Castro (TX)	Jones	Pressley
			Chabot	Joyce (OH)	Price (NC)
			Cherfilus-	Kahele	Quigley
			McCormick	Kaptur	Raskin
			Chu	Katko	Reschenthaler
			Ciциlline	Keating	Rice (NY)
			Clark (MA)	Keller	Rice (SC)
			Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Rodgers (WA)
			Cleaver	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)
			Clyburn	Khanna	Ross
			Cohen	Kildee	Rouzer
			Cole	Kilmer	Roybal-Allard
			Comer	Kim (CA)	Ruiz
			Connolly	Kim (NJ)	Ruppersberger
			Conway	Kind	Rush
			Cooper	Kirkpatrick	Ryan (NY)
			Correa	Krishnamoorthi	Salazar
			Costa	Kuster	Sánchez
			Courtney	Kustoff	Sarbantes
			Craig	Lamb	Scalise
			Crawford	Langevin	Scanlon
			Crenshaw	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
			Crow	Larson (CT)	Schiff
			Cuellar	Latta	Schneider
			Curtis	LaTurner	Schrader
			Davids (KS)	Lawrence	Schrier
			Davis, Danny K.	Lawson (FL)	Schweikert
			Dean	Lee (CA)	Scott (VA)
			DeFazio	Lee (NV)	Scott, David
			DeGette	Leger Fernandez	Semolinski
			DeLauro	Letlow	Sewell
			DelBene	Levin (CA)	Sherman
			Demings	Levin (MD)	Sherrill
			DeSaulnier	Lieu	Simpson
			Diaz-Balart	Lofgren	Sires
			Dingell	Lowenthal	Slotkin
			Doggett	Lucas	Smith (MO)
			Ellzey	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
			Emmer	Luria	Smith (NJ)
			Escobar	Lynch	Smith (WA)
			Eshoo	Mace	Smucker
			Espallat	Malinowski	Soto
			Evans	Malliotakis	Spanberger
			Feenstra	Maloney	Spartz
			Fitzpatrick	Carolyn B.	Speier
			Fletcher	Maloney, Sean	Stansbury
			Flood	Manning	Stanton
			Flores	Matsui	Steel
			Foster	McBath	Stefanik
			Frankel, Lois	McCarthy	Stevens
			Gallagher	McCaul	Stewart
			Gallego	McCollum	Strickland
			Garamendi	McEachin	Suozi
			Garbarino	McGovern	Swalwell
			Garcia (CA)	McHenry	Takano
			Garcia (IL)	McKinley	Thompson (CA)
			Garcia (TX)	McNerney	Thompson (MS)
			Gimenez	Meeks	Thompson (PA)
			Golden	Meijer	Titus
			Gomez	Meng	Tlaib
			Gonzales, Tony	Meuser	Tonko
			Gonzalez (OH)	Mfume	Torres (CA)
			Gonzalez,	Miller-Meeks	Torres (NY)
			Vicente	Moore (UT)	Trahan
			Gooden (TX)	Moore (WI)	Trone
			Gottheimer	Morelle	Underwood
			Granger	Moulton	Upton
			Graves (LA)	Mrvan	Valadao
			Graves (MO)	Murphy (FL)	Vargas
			Green, Al (TX)	Murphy (NC)	Veasey
			Griffith	Nadler	Velázquez
			Grijalva	Napolitano	Wagner
			Guthrie	Neal	Waltz
			Harder (CA)	Neguse	Wasserman
			Hartzler	Newhouse	Schultz
			Hayes	Newman	Watson Coleman
			Higgins (NY)	Norcross	Wexton
			Hill	O'Halleran	Wild
			Himes	Ocasio-Cortez	Williams (GA)
			Hinson	Omar	Wilson (FL)
			Horsford	Owens	Wittman
			Houlahan	Palazzo	Womack
			Hoyer	Pallone	Yarmuth
			Hudson	Panetta	
					NAYS—109
					Babin
					Baird
					Banks
					Barr

Bentz	Good (VA)	Mullin
Bergman	Gosar	Nehls
Bishop (NC)	Green (TN)	Norman
Boebert	Greene (GA)	Obernolte
Bost	Grothman	Palmer
Brady	Guest	Pence
Brooks	Harris	Perry
Buchanan	Harshbarger	Pfluger
Budd	Hern	Rogers (AL)
Carl	Herrell	Rose
Carter (GA)	Hice (GA)	Rosendale
Carter (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Cawthorn	Hollingsworth	Rutherford
Cline	Jackson	Scott, Austin
Cloud	Johnson (LA)	Sessions
Clyde	Johnson (SD)	Stauber
Davidson	Jordan	Steil
DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)	Steube
Donalds	Kelly (MS)	Taylor
Duncan	LaHood	Tenney
Dunn	LaMalfa	Tiffany
Estes	Lamborn	Timmons
Fallon	Lesko	Turner
Ferguson	Long	Van Drew
Finstad	Loudermilk	Van Dwyne
Fischbach	Mann	Walberg
Fitzgerald	Massie	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	Mast	Webster (FL)
Foxx	McClain	Wenstrup
Franklin, C.	McClintock	Westerman
Scott	Miller (IL)	Williams (TX)
Fulcher	Miller (WV)	Wilson (SC)
Gaetz	Moolenaar	Yakym
Gibbs	Mooney	Zeldin
Gohmert	Moore (AL)	

NOT VOTING—8

Cheney	Herrera Beutler	Welch
Davis, Rodney	Kinzinger	
Doyle, Michael	Ryan (OH)	
F.	Waters	

□ 1349

Messrs. ARMSTRONG, LATTA, and GOODEN of Texas changed their votes from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, due to a conflict, I was not present to cast my vote on passage of S. 4524 The Speak Out Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 480.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Bass (Cicilline)	Johnson (TX)	Palazzo
Brooks (Moore)	(Stevens)	(Bilirakis)
(AL)	Kirkpatrick	Payne (Pallone)
Cawthorn (Gaetz)	(Pallone)	Porter (Neguse)
Courtney	Lawson (FL)	Pressley (Bush)
(Perlmutter)	(Wasserman	Rice (SC)
Demings (Kelly	Schultz)	(Valadao)
(IL)	Long	Sherrill
Gallego	(Fleischmann)	(Pallone)
(Stanton)	McEachin	Soto (Wasserman
Gonzalez,	(Trone)	Schultz)
Vicente	Morelle (Meng)	Thompson (CA)
(Correa)	Murphy (FL)	(Correa)
Green (TN)	(Wasserman	Waltz (Valadao)
(Fleischmann)	Schultz)	Wild (Cicilline)
Himes	Newman (Correa)	Wilson (FL)
(Perlmutter)	O’Halloran	(Cicilline)
Jacobs (NY)	(Pappas)	
(Sempolinski)		

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4130

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4130, a bill originally introduced by Representative TED DEUTCH of Florida, for the purpose of adding co-sponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week and to highlight the importance of registered apprenticeships in building a diverse and talented workforce, expanding economic opportunity, and growing a more inclusive and resilient economy.

Registered apprenticeships allow workers to learn and earn both a living wage and a nationally recognized credential within their industry of choice.

Workers who go through apprenticeships earn an average starting salary of \$70,000 a year, a salary that provides them with social mobility and economic security.

This Congress, we have passed historic legislation to fix our roads, bridges, ports, and infrastructure; to shore up domestic semiconductor manufacturing; and to combat climate change. The laws we pass create a need for thousands of well-prepared and fairly compensated workers.

Mr. Speaker, during this year’s National Apprenticeship Week, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in expanding the opportunity to get more people, including more women and people of color, on the path to a good job by investing in registered apprenticeships.

HONORING LAURA WOOTEN

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the unsung civic heroes of our time.

Last month, I attended a dedication ceremony of Laura Wooten Hall at Princeton University. Wooten Hall houses Princeton’s Center for Human Values, and it is only fitting that it was named for a woman who devoted her life to something greater than herself.

For nearly 80 years, Laura Wooten served as a poll worker, ensuring that the people of New Jersey could exercise their sacred right to vote. Her service earned her the honor of being the longest continuously serving poll worker in United States history.

Despite living from the Jim Crow era through present-day attacks on voting rights, Laura Wooten’s dedication to our democracy never wavered. May her life of selfless civil service be an inspiration to all of us.

□ 1400

PROTECTING THE DREAMERS

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize how critical it is for the Senate to protect the DACA program and the more than 800,000 Dreamers in America.

Brought here as children through no fault of their own, Dreamers have gone to our schools, grown up in our neighborhoods, served on the front lines for the pandemic, and are just as American as all of us in this room. Yet, the DACA program hangs by a thread because of right-wing politicians and judges.

Mr. Speaker, 75 percent of Americans already support Dreamers obtaining a path to legal citizenship. So I call on the Senate to act. America wants action. We must pass legislation this Congress, or our Dreamers will suffer. We must put people over politics, Dreamers over rhetoric. It is now or never for America’s Dreamers. We must act.

HONORING REVEREND DR. CALVIN O. BUTTS III

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of the legendary Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts III. As the pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church for 50 years, Reverend Butts understood his role as a leader went beyond the faith community.

Witnessing the racial strife of the late 1960s, Reverend Butts became an ardent protector of Harlem, particularly the Black community, and often pushed for projects and policies that would increase access to dire needs like housing and education.

Reverend Butts led projects that included raising and investing \$1 billion in housing and commercial development in Harlem through the Abyssinian Development Corporation and creating the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change.

Reverend Butts preached a message of faith and education, and he motivated each of us through his teachings to be an active and exemplary member of Harlem, uplifting communities while giving back through service, engagement, and social reform.

A dear friend and icon of Harlem, may he rest in peace, and may his legacy be cherished and never forgotten. Keep the faith.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN SLAVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, as my friends are assisting me, I

shall start by thanking the leadership for the opportunity to give this message today. I believe this is a message that is long overdue. In fact, it is hundreds of years overdue.

I thank the persons who are assisting me. They have done an outstanding job. I thank all of the persons associated with this body for making it possible for me to have this opportunity to speak today on a matter of vital importance, an issue that is hundreds of years overdue, an issue that can make a difference in the life of our country.

I am AL GREEN, Member of Congress from Texas, and still I rise, Madam Speaker, and still I rise today to call to the attention of the Congress that I will be asking for a Congressional Gold Medal for the many persons who toiled and slaved in this country such that our country is the economic and, quite frankly, the world powerhouse that it is when it comes to all of the things that can make a country great as it relates to its economic standing.

This is the message that I would have my colleagues take note of, the message that I hope they will give consideration to.

The message: Confederate soldiers were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in 1956. When some people hear this, they have what we call a double take, because it is difficult for them to believe that Confederate soldiers were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

Some things bear repeating. A Confederate soldier, more than one, were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in 1956. What Congress did for the soldier enslavers it should do for the enslaved. I am asking my colleagues to support the historic Congressional Gold Medal for America's economic foundational mothers, fathers, and children.

I say children because in this country, persons of African ancestry early on were born into slavery, lived in slavery, and died in slavery. This was the status of things in the United States of America at one point and when the country was known as the colonies at another point.

The enslaved people made a difference in the lives of those who were living here as persons other than slaves. The deadline for this document, this monumental piece of legislation, this bill requesting a Congressional Gold Medal, will be February 1, 2023. This will be the first day of Black History Month.

Black History Month has been chosen, Madam Speaker, because the history of Africans in America has not been told. There are many aspects of it that have been deleted from history. I believe that it is time for us to clear the record.

The deadline will be February 1, 2023, the first day of Black History Month. This date was chosen because Black history has not been told. It is one of the greatest stories never told, and we are still trying to complete it. This will be a part of that process, to let people know more about what the

enslaved people in this country contributed to the country.

Some people would say to me, and I have had at least one person to say: Do you really believe that Congress will accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the slaves? And my answer is: Yes, I believe Congress will do it.

I believe Congress will do it because I remember what the father of Juneteenth suffered in his effort to get Juneteenth as a holiday in Texas. I remember how he was called names and castigated. I remember how there were people who felt that Juneteenth was a country holiday, they felt that it was too bucolic, too rustic, for intellectual society to embrace. But he fought and he won. The Honorable Al Edwards is now the father of Juneteenth. At the time he introduced it, he was thought of as a person who would never succeed in the Texas House of Representatives, but he served well and he showed and demonstrated to us that persistence can make a difference.

So we plan to be persistent with this legislation, and we plan to make sure that we continue until we get the legislation passed.

The letter that I will send to my colleagues reads—continuing to read it—on July 18, 1956, Congress—this would be the House and the Senate—awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldier enslavers. However, to this day, Congress has never awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to the over 10 million enslaved men, women, and children.

I have to pause. Ten million men, women, and children. Who can imagine that a country would have a process by which a person is born into slavery, lives his or her entire life in slavery, and dies in slavery. This was the status of things in this country at one time.

The country has never awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to the over 10 million enslaved men, women, and children who toiled for over 240 years to build the economy and the infrastructure, the foundation, if you will, of the wealthiest nation to ever exist on the planet Earth.

These foundational mothers and fathers of our country labored arduously, constructing our roads, bridges, wells, and cities. They laboriously planted as well as harvested the food that fed our Nation. How ungrateful can we be to people who made such a sacrifice for this country, to still to this day see them as less-thans, to this day not accord them some degree of honor and dignity for the suffering that they endured for some 200-plus years.

They were the de facto producers of the cash crops that fueled our Nation's foundational wealth. America is the wealthy powerhouse that it is today because of Black people, people from Africa, who were enslaved, brought to this country, and made to work their entire lives, many of them, so that America could be the economic powerhouse that it was then and has continued to be until this day.

These enslaved human beings of African ancestry toiled as slaves without remuneration or recompense. They have not been given any emolument, and to add insult to this injury, they have not been given any degree of respect for what they did to make this country great.

Their humble hands were relied on for the erection of some of our Nation's most renowned edifices and monuments, including the White House, the Capitol Building—this is the Capitol Building, for those who may be unaware—and the Washington Monument. Humble hands, forced to do the bidding of those who lived lives of luxury, many of them, made America great, built the Capitol, humble hands, the Washington Monument.

In truth, their sacrificed lives provided the genesis of our Nation's economic preeminence. These sacrificed human beings—men, women, and children—were the greatest contributors to the foundational economy whose contributions are almost universally forgotten, underrecognized, ignored, overlooked, and/or undervalued.

□ 1415

Many of the things that I read to you today I will repeat. They have not been said before. They should be heard multiple times, and some things just bear repeating.

So let me repeat. These sacrificed human beings—men, women, and children, with the emphasis on children—were the greatest contributors to the American foundational economy whose contributions are almost universally forgotten, underrecognized, ignored, overlooked, and undervalued.

For these and countless other justifications, I am beseeching the Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the human beings who are the foundational fathers, mothers, and children who toiled as slaves without recompense or recognition for their unparalleled contributions to the infrastructural and economic development of the Nation that we enjoy today.

Awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to groups of individuals is not unprecedented, as a Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to Confederate enslavers. I think this bears some sidebar commentary. Confederate enslavers. The people who fought to maintain slavery have been awarded a Congressional Gold Medal. The people who sought to maintain the institution that prevented people from having the freedom that they had have received a Congressional Gold Medal.

What is wrong with us? What mindset could we have had in 1956 when this House decided that it would accord Congressional Gold Medals to Confederate soldiers? I cannot understand how we would ever do this. But then to add additional insult to injury, to never consider the people who helped build the country, the people who made it the economic powerhouse that it was then and is now.

What is wrong with us? Is racism such a disease that it infects our minds to the extent that we cannot see and concentrate with the degree of clarity necessary to make righteous decisions? This was one of the saddest days in this Congress when it voted to give a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldiers.

But there is a way for Congress to redeem itself. Redemption is at hand. And here is the means by which you can redeem yourself, Members: Give these persons who toiled and slaved, born into slavery, lived and died in slavery, give them the same level of respect that you gave the people who sought to enslave them, that fought to enslave them. Some of them died in their effort to keep them in chains, in bondage, subject to the whims of their masters, and their whims were many times things that are unacceptable in decent societies.

Awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to groups of individuals is not unprecedented, as a Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to Confederate soldier enslavers, also to the Tuskegee Airmen—some of them received their Congressional Gold Medals antemortem, and some others postmortem—to the Navajo Code Talkers, and posthumously to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

So, friends, the point to be made here is, you can't make the argument that we can't do it because it is a group of people. We have done it for other groups. You can't make the argument that we can't do it because none of them are alive. We have done it posthumously for others.

There is really no argument to make except you don't believe that persons who toiled all of their lives—many of them lived, died, born into it—that they deserve respect and recognition. That is what this is about, respect and recognition.

I am bringing this to your attention so that you can give consideration to it. We won't ask for signatures until the next Congress because to ask for them in this Congress with the short period of time left would be futile, and I believe that we should wait, and we will wait until February 1 of next year to do it during Black History Month.

It is my belief that men, women, and children who suffered a great crime against humanity—and this was a crime against humanity; slavery was a crime against humanity, one of the greatest crimes ever perpetrated on humanity—it is my belief that men, women, and children who suffered a great crime against humanity, toiling unremunerated as slaves, many for their entire work lives, are more deserving of a Congressional Gold Medal than those who soldiered to preserve slavery.

To be as clear as I can be, perspicuously so, it is my belief that those who were enslaved have a greater entitlement to a Congressional Gold Medal

than the soldiers who fought to maintain slavery.

The zeitgeist of our time, the mood, the spirit, the zeitgeist of our time impels the introduction of this historic legislation. I am going to ask if Members wish to be recognized as a courageous historic original cosponsor, they should contact my office. We will more than honor requests that are made early, but officially we will start in the next Congress. We will have this historic legislation made available on our website. In my office, you might contact Aaron, and his email address is readily available for those who would like to contact him, or you can simply call our office, and we will be more than pleased to speak to you.

I will close by talking about a couple of pictures that I have here. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. This is a depiction of the arrival of these first 20 or so persons in this what is now the United States of America. It wasn't then, 1619. If you can see this, you can see a representation of persons who are standing around.

This is purported to be the White Lion, the ship that brought them here, and these persons standing around, you can see that they have on clothing that would protect them from the weather. It appears to be a day wherein the weather is not kind, inclement weather. But if you look at the persons who are enslaved, shackled, to say that they are scantily clad is a gross understatement. It would be an insulting euphemism.

This picture speaks volumes about what slavery was all about. It was about people who were thought of as less than human. Didn't have to treat them fairly. Didn't have to keep them warm if you chose not to. Didn't have to keep them alive. One insult could cost a person his or her life. The picture is worth a thousand words. These people, well-clothed, looking on, some of them possibly contemplating what they would do with these human beings.

I plan to go to Norfolk, Virginia, Old Point Comfort, if you will. I want to see this place. It is identifiable. I want to see it. I want to say I was there. I want to say I stood on the soil where human beings were first introduced, by many accounts. There may be some discrepancy, but my most accounts, this is where it happened. I am going to go.

Here is another rendition. This one shows a baby. Looks like the baby is with a female, possibly the mother, dressed in clothing that I would consider more acceptable for the weather than in the other. There are many renditions, but we still have the White Lion, and we still have persons standing around talking about these human beings, contemplating their fate is my speculation.

What kind of person enslaves a baby? What kind of person enslaves a baby? What kind of person would see a child and see labor that can be the benefit of

having this human being survive and have this child grow up and deny the child an opportunity to get an education? What kind of person denies a baby the opportunity to grow up and just understand the world by virtue of being able to read?

There are still places on the planet where young girls are not allowed to get the same level of schooling and education as young men. I am opposed to that. I am opposed to the people who do that. I have good reason to be opposed. Here is one. I understand what has happened.

What kind of person keeps people in ignorance intentionally? The kind of person who would want to make sure that this person never has a life, but only an existence. They didn't have a life. They just existed to serve their masters.

Anybody who believes that this piece of legislation is inappropriate is a person that doesn't understand this, and I am being kind by saying what I just said. There are many other ways; there are many adjectives.

When I first examined these photos, I had tears well up in my eyes because I realized who they were. Not only were they human beings, these were my relatives. These are the people on whose shoulders I stand. More than 240 years they suffered. These are the people that this country ought to honor and appreciate, and these are the people that deserve what we have given to the enslavers.

□ 1430

I won't give up, friends. I will not. These are my people. I am not ashamed to say that I am a proud descendant of the enslaved people who made America great. I am not ashamed of it.

My dear brothers and sisters, my dear friends, I beg that you give consideration to the legislation. Those who want to have further query can call me, talk to me. I will be on the floor.

It would be no surprise, when I initially thought about introducing the legislation, my thought was, well, we will just wait and introduce it and start asking for signatures. But, no, I want to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to read it, peruse it, dissect it, scrutinize it, and do all the things you need to do to make a decision. Then, once we file it, I am going to come back to this floor, and I am going to announce and thank the persons who have signed on to the legislation. Anybody who signs on to this legislation deserves a word of gratitude, and I will be one of the many who will, hopefully, give these expressions of gratitude. I plan to come back to the floor and say to the public at large: We thank you for supporting this legislation.

My hope is that we will get the signatures necessary for the benefit of the public at large. You cannot get this legislation passed in the House with a majority of votes. It will take 290 votes or more.

I see the Parliamentarian looking in my direction. If I am incorrect, Madam Parliamentarian, will you give me some nod as to being correct or incorrect? She indicates that I am correct. So, now you have heard it from me and you have heard it echoed from the Parliamentarian: 290 votes we will need, not 289, 290 people of goodwill who have the courage to recognize the people who made America great.

Others have done things to make America great. I don't mean to minimize the efforts of any others. I just mean to maximize the efforts that have been ignored, that have been, quite frankly, with intentionality pushed aside.

They are people who are ashamed to acknowledge that they are the proud descendants of the enslaved people who built this country. I am not one of them, of course. But there are still people who are. They are ashamed. We have to change that. I want to do everything I can to bring about that change.

I will return to Al Edwards, the father of Juneteenth. I remember what he went through. He was my friend. I saw him suffer. I know about his fight to rid South Africa of Apartheid, how he went to jail in that struggle.

I am prepared to do whatever it takes, however long it takes, as long as I am in Congress.

Madam Speaker of the House of Representatives, I thank you for this time, and I will be asking for additional time to have additional commentary about this subject. I assure you that those who take this seriously will be doing the righteous thing, not just the right thing, but the righteous thing.

Again, I will close with Maya Angelou's very powerful words. She reminded us that we—persons of my ilk, if you will—were:

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I plan to fulfill their dreams.

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

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I do appreciate my friend, Congressman AL GREEN. We are friends. People have said: "What do you have in common with AL GREEN?" Well, actually, he is my brother. We are Christian brothers. He adds significantly to this body, and I am proud to be his brother.

Slavery does shock the conscience, and, I agree, it is really a crime against humanity. And it is still going on. It is happening across our southern border. It is horrendous what is happening to some of the people who are being sex trafficked.

We saw it in Nigeria after the 250-plus girls were kidnapped by Boko

Haram from a Christian girls school and handcuffed to beds and, according to some of the stories from the girls who had escaped, repeatedly raped day after day. Just horrendous conditions.

I had been asked to fly over to meet with some of the parents of the girls who were kidnapped. We had to go out a few hours from the city to a safe house. We met with no fathers, all mothers. I asked the pastor who was there with them during a break in our meeting, "Where are all the fathers?" He said that is part of the tragedy. The fathers don't feel like they did their jobs as a father since their daughters were abducted and, they knew, were being made to perform acts, chained and handcuffed to beds, being raped every day repeatedly. The fathers didn't feel like they had done their job or that they deserved to have a home and a bed, so they went out into the bush. As I understood, later on, many of them had died out there.

It is tragic. It is a form of slavery. Horrendous. To think that is still going on, I was totally shocked.

I thought humanity had advanced so far, yet during the later years of the Obama administration, we learned that, in the world today, there are currently more slaves than ever in the history of the world, with over 40 million people in slavery while the United States is a superpower.

I know the people in Nigeria told me they had word from the Obama administration that if Nigeria would legalize same-sex marriage and would legalize and provide abortions, then the United States would help Nigeria defeat Boko Haram. But as a very scrupulous, caring Catholic bishop in Nigeria said, our Christian beliefs are not for sale to the United States, to President Obama, or to John Kerry. We are not selling our Christian beliefs.

That seemed pretty tragic, too, that we would basically try to compel people to go against their Biblical beliefs so that they could get help removing children from sex slavery.

I was surprised many years ago to find out that as a history major—I was with the Army 4 years, so I was going to be going there. I loved math; I was good at it. Biology was very interesting. Not as interesting to me was botany. I loved history, and I majored in it. It turned out that when the horrendous mistake, crime against humanity, whatever you want to call it, it was horrendous, that first ship brought slaves to America, it turns out they weren't the first slaves to North America.

There were numerous cases of Indian tribes that would war with another tribe. They would kill many of the braves, the males, and often take women and children as slaves. That is something for which mankind should not be proud at all. There are even references in the Bible to people selling children to pay off their debts. It is just tragic.

Hopefully, in the days ahead, we can do more to alleviate this crime against

humanity that has grown substantially in the world today.

I saw this article from The Washington Times: "DHS released unvaccinated Afghans while threatening to fire unvaccinated Border Patrol agents." That seems grossly unfair to American law enforcement, kind of a war against law enforcement. We are going to force you, even though we know that the vaccinations don't actually prevent the spread of COVID.

That is science now. That should be clear. Even Fauci and President Biden have admitted that what they thought was originally true was not. It doesn't prevent people from getting COVID. We are told, "Oh, it keeps it from being as serious," unless you happen to get myocarditis or one of the other terrible side effects that have been found to occur.

Then we got Secretary Mayorkas maintaining the border is secure. While he is saying the border is secure, we have had millions of people come across illegally just since President Biden has been in office.

Then a big headline recently has been the big Democrat donor Sam Bankman-Fried, SBF some call him, the founder of FTX, the second largest contributor to the Democrat-affiliated political action committees. The company he founded dealing in cryptocurrency, FTX, has gone bankrupt, and he has gone out of business. We have a letter that was prepared by one of our Republican colleagues to Secretary Blinken.

□ 1445

It points out: "It has come to our attention that millions of taxpayer dollars sent to Ukraine to assist with their war efforts were potentially invested in a crypto exchange that then made massive donations to Democrats in the United States during the 2022 midterm elections.

"In March 2022, the Ukrainian Government officially—and for the first time—partnered with crypto exchange FTX Trading Limited to launch a crypto donations website, 'Aid for Ukraine'—it was called—"within days of President Joe Biden pledging billions of American taxpayer dollars to assist the country with war efforts against the Russian invasion."

It goes on to say: "... the Ukrainian Government also invested portions of the \$54 billion of U.S. economic assistance into FTX to keep Democrats in power."

Madam Speaker, this is just incredibly outrageous.

So their answer is being demanded, and Secretary Blinken will need to respond. I feel sure that he will be called as a witness shortly after the first of the year.

I hate to think that with all the suffering going on in Ukraine that some of that money intended to help them ended up helping FTX before it went broke, and, obviously, some of his money went to the Democrat campaigns. So we will see what is going on there.

I have made a dear friend since I have been in Congress, and he has been co-chair of the Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast. He is a friend, and he is a fine person.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I want to read into the RECORD a poem by an American poet who happened to live in my district in the 1800s. This poem was brought to my attention by my sister, Rosemary Lloyd, and the poem was brought to her attention by a historian from my college, Boston College, Heather Cox Richardson.

In this poem Walt Whitman spoke about America's choosing day. We see the confrontations and divisions we have in our country right now, but in 1884 there were great divisions in this country, less than 20 years after the Civil War, and there was great disruption among the political parties to decide how we would move forward.

Madam Speaker, I want to read Walt Whitman's poem into the RECORD. It is a great guidance for all of us today.

If I should need to name, O Western World,  
 your powerfulest scene and show,  
 'Twould not be you, Niagara—nor you, ye  
 limitless prairies—nor your huge rifts  
 of canyons, Colorado,  
 Nor you, Yosemite—nor Yellowstone, with  
 all its spasmic geyser-loops ascending  
 to the skies, appearing and dis-  
 appearing,  
 Nor Oregon's white cones—nor Huron's belt  
 of mighty lakes—nor Mississippi's  
 stream:  
 This seething hemisphere's humanity, as  
 now, I'd name—the still small voice vi-  
 brating—America's choosing day,  
 The heart of it not in the chosen—the act  
 itself the main, the quadrennial choos-  
 ing,  
 The stretch of North and South arous'd—sea-  
 board and inland—Texas to Maine—the  
 prairie States—Vermont, Virginia,  
 California,  
 The final ballot shower from East to West—  
 the paradox and conflict,  
 The countless snowflakes falling—a  
 swordless conflict,  
 Yet more than all Rome's wars of old, or  
 modern Napoleons: the peaceful choice  
 of all,  
 Or good or ill humanity—welcoming the  
 darker odds, the dross:  
 Foams and ferments the wine? It serves to  
 purify—while the heart pants, life  
 glows:  
 These stormy gusts and winds waft precious  
 ships,  
 Swell'd Washington's, Jefferson's, Lincoln's  
 sails.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend, and my apologies if calling the gentleman my friend gets him in trouble.

There is an article in The Epoch Times by Joseph Hanneman titled: "Judge's Latest Refusal to Grant Bail Looms Large for January 6 Defendant Maced Twice by D.C. Jail Guard."

Having been a felony judge in Texas handling how many thousands of felony cases, nobody gets more incensed

than I do when judges abuse their position. I recall having a bailiff. I found out that during recesses he was trash-mouthing, talking terrible to people who I was sentencing. When I found out, I called him in and said, look, I am sentencing these people to prison. We are supposed to show the example of civility. When you trash-talk somebody when they come into court, it builds up hatred and anger. They seethe during the time they are in prison, and it makes them more likely to come back and recidivate. There is no reason to do that. We are going to treat them civilly and fairly and make sure they are not abused verbally and physically.

Yet, I see Federal judges who seem to have the attitude of gee, I am confirmed for life, so once I am confirmed, I will do as I please and as I think I can get away with on appeal. It is outrageous.

So I am encouraging my friends on the Judiciary Committee that there is such abuse by Federal judges, there is such abuse by the Department of Justice, and by the FBI adopting gestapo tactics.

They didn't used to act like that. I heard so many FBI just tell me, you remember how it was in the eighties and nineties? We didn't go break down doors of people we knew would show up voluntarily if we just told them when and where. We didn't do it in the middle of the night to scare families and drag them out in their underwear and alert the news media so they would be there to humiliate them. Yet, it has been going on.

People say January 6 and think that justifies the worst criminality by the Department of Justice and even Federal judges. Because I do believe it is a breach of a Federal judge's oath when they ignore due process requirements and they take the position, I am not going to do anything about somebody that is being abused in jail until I am told to by an appellate court.

So I am hoping that the Judiciary Committee will even be subpoenaing judges to find out—not belabor specific cases—but to find out what their judicial philosophy is that allows them to avoid due process and to allow prisoners to be punished in pretrial confinement against the constitutional rights they have, and what allows and provokes a Federal judge to act like a dictator in their courtroom?

Here are some examples: I would not know U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan if he was here in the room, but I have read and heard firsthand from people who have had to deal with some of the injustice of him.

And I know the Federal judge that refused to recuse himself so he could sentence Dr. Simone Gold, even though he dated her, and she wouldn't date him anymore, so he looked forward to abusing his position to sentence her as the first woman with no criminal record and only guilty of a misdemeanor trespass. He got to sentence the girl that quit going out with him—

the woman, the brilliant lawyer and MD—to a maximum security facility down in Miami.

He needs to come in and answer about recusal and who he thinks he is, above the law. It is in the law that a judge must recuse himself or herself if there is even an indication there might be some impartiality there.

We have got a lot of cleaning up in the Federal system to do, and I am glad that Republicans will be able to do that.

The article points out:

"Despite audio and video evidence showing former Tennessee sheriff's deputy Ronald Colton McAbee did not assault a police officer on the Capitol steps on January 6 as alleged by prosecutors, a Federal judge again refused the defendant's motion to be released from the District of Columbia jail pending trial.

"The issue took on added urgency on September 5 when McAbee, 28, was twice assaulted with chemical spray by a guard in the District of Columbia jail for not wearing a COVID mask, his wife Sarah told The Epoch Times.

"This is just inhuman," Sarah McAbee said. "It doesn't even matter what your political beliefs are. You should never treat somebody that way. Are we living in the same universe?" she asked. "This is not the America I once knew."

"McAbee is charged by Federal prosecutors with seven January 6-related crimes: assaulting, resisting, or impeding a Federal officer; two counts of civil disorder; entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds with a deadly or dangerous weapon; disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds with a deadly or dangerous weapon; engaging in physical violence in a restricted building or grounds with a deadly or dangerous weapon, and committing an act of physical violence in the Capitol grounds or buildings."

That sounds horrible. But then when you find out that actually—if you listen to the audio as you watch the video, Madam Speaker—you find out he was helping a Capitol policeman who was down. Yet, this judge has the audacity to say, we are not listening to the audio, so he could hear that evidence.

Why wouldn't you listen to the evidence as well as watch a video that gives a false impression?

Why?

Then to chastise this guy and punish him even more because he was law enforcement, he should have known better than to assault a police officer, but he wasn't.

The judge doesn't want the facts to get in the way. He is too busy being a tyrant and punishing January 6 defendants while they are in pretrial and punishing them with pretrial.

People need to answer for the tyranny of our justice system as it has become.

I have no problem—and I didn't as a judge—punishing people who deserve



the punishment. There were people on January 6 who deserved to be punished. But it sounds like that corruption continues to grow in the Department of Justice, the FBI, and even in our judicial courts, Federal courts.

It is tragic. He had been pepper sprayed in the jail twice and was not allowed to clean it all off. It was a threat to his health.

By the way, this request for bail sat in front of the judge 117 days. In our State courts, we make sure somebody has a hearing—we used to, I am sure they still do—within 48 hours. If they had other evidence to bring in, then we would set a hearing and have that.

But this judge had this matter sitting in front of him for 117 days while the prisoner was being abused in the D.C. jail where there was a deputy warden that had tweeted out, F the supporters of Trump.

□ 1500

Well, she made sure what she tweeted was what was being done at the jail.

Judge Sullivan took 69 days after the hearing to issue a ruling on whether somebody should stay in jail or not. What kind of judge is that? And then he dismissed the new video and audio evidence, calling them ambiguities the Court could not resolve.

Well, apparently the only reason he had a hearing in the first place was because the U.S. Court of Appeals was going to require it if he didn't do it. So he did it, begrudgingly.

This matter had gone before a U.S. magistrate in the Middle District of Tennessee, he heard the evidence and saw the evidence and he ordered McAbee to be released to home detention pending trial after hearings were had in August and early September of 2021.

That judge said, "I do not believe that Mr. McAbee poses a future danger to the community if he were to be released between now and the time that he resolves this case. And the government, despite my request that they provide me any evidence that he's presented any sort of a danger to the community, have been able to point to absolutely nothing beyond the events around and during January 6."

Well, prosecutors knew they had to get that matter away from the judge in Tennessee where there was more evidence of who McAbee really was to the core. So they got it up here to Judge Sullivan, who immediately rescinded that order and kept him in jail as punishment, despite the requirement to the contrary by the U.S. Constitution.

It really is outrageous. If a judge were deciding whether Judge Sullivan breached his sworn oath, that judge could say exactly what Judge Sullivan said to McAbee. Judge Sullivan said, "Someone tasked with enforcing the law has shirked that responsibility, and that is why they are dangerous."

Well, it sounds kind of like that is where Judge Sullivan is. He has shirked his responsibility to the law

and the Constitution, and that is why he is a dangerous judge. I hope they will have hearings and get to the bottom of what his problems are with following the Constitution.

Last summer, there were a number of times, I met Pastor Tommy Nelson of Denton Bible Church in Denton, Texas. I listened, years ago, to hours and hours of Bible study he did. I am very impressed with him, and I love the fact that he loves history so much. He uses that as he speaks.

I heard him online doing sermons to his church, and he would kid and say: I am going to include that when I get to speak to Congress some day. I talked to Tommy, and I said: Look, you know, you are not going to be able to come in and talk to Congress as Tommy Nelson, but I can pass on your messages, we quote people all the time. Put together what you think would be good to have Congress hear and I will deliver that.

Tommy provided me this information. "His father was born in 1914"—and these are Tommy's words. "If you had asked my father if one should steal, kill, cheat on his taxes, commit adultery, or lie, he would have said 'Absolutely not'. If you had asked him, 'Why not?', he would have said, 'Because it is wrong'. If you responded, 'Says who?', he would have said, 'God'. If you said, 'Where does God say it is wrong?', he would have said, 'The Bible'. If you asked for an explanation, 'How do you know it is true?', he could not have given much of a defense of Biblical authority. But his world view, like most of his generation was of a Western or Judeo-Christian world view. He connected all the dots of diversity within the unity of an infinite personal God who had spoken truly to all mankind through His word, the Bible, and had intersected man through the Bible's chief idea, the incarnation of God in His son, Jesus Christ."

The God we speak of, actually, I am glad to say, is the one mentioned right up there: In God we Trust; because we used to.

Tommy said: "If you had said to any of that greatest generation, 'Truth is something relative to what you want it to be'. Or 'There is no final truth', not only would there be wonderment at you, but anger. They would have seen you as a threat to their day.

"Wisdom to that generation and every generation of Americans before them was to know the truth and to follow the will of God as truth was not simply the way that was true but the way that was best. Truth that carried them through the hardest century of our history.

"Now? That former view is seen as antiquated, as though greater minds have progressed beyond that. That former view is now seen as that which holds back the growth of society.

"But the belief in 'oughtness', in moral truth, is the marvelous byproduct of belief in the true God.

"It was Plato who said, 'In life we must seek the best opinions of men and

hold to them as to a boat in a storm unless we have a more certain word of God.' The idea of God, the Bible, Christ the Redeemer is the highest dream of the hopes of man. We can know what must be known to truly be mankind. Morality, marriage, the home, the dignity of man, the meaning of love, right and wrong, all are revealed on that which was the foundation of our civilization, Bible.

"It brought a world view which was light and salt to our culture and our country. It brought law and order and dignity. It served as a point of integration to which all answered. Our only problem was our refusal to live in keeping with it.

"But our day has cut off the limb upon which we were sitting in our rejection of God, banning school prayer, permitting the murder of children in the womb, and abolishing traditional marriage.

"Modernism is the belief that God can be rejected and yet be replaced by the reasoning and science of man. Post-modernism is the recognition that modernism will not work. Because post-modernism states that there is no such thing as absolute truth and with God refused, society as we have known it 'dis-integrates'. The earthquake beneath our feet began in the country's shift in the 1960s. The tsunamis followed and with each year more and more devastating. We are now worse than in the jungle. The jungle has natural law which governs it. But the law that governs man is God. Man as in God's image chooses. He can be angelic or demonic based on those choices. Without God and His word to guide man his fallen nature is unleashed. And unlike nature, man has become more and more immoral, violent, ignorant, and cruel. And that is the horror that is sweeping our country day by day. And as it has laid waste to Europe, it is about to eliminate the greatest culture in the history of man, the Western culture, the Judeo-Christian world view that sees all of life through the perspective of the God of the Bible which we, the leaders of the United States as a body have renounced.

"Washington's last words to us were to beware of following the path of Europe. A path that began in the exaltation of reason and science in the Enlightenment. We have not heeded his words, and now Europe's inhumanities of the 20th century have become ours.

"I need not spend much time on the violence, contempt of authority, breakdown of the home, violence in our cities, decay of our educational system, the division of our leaders and citizens, pornography, STDs, 65 million dead through abortion, gender confusion, illegal immigration, drug addiction, opioids, loss of constitutional freedoms, the homeless, the increase of mental illnesses, pedophilia, gun control, racial tensions. Not to speak of the economy and COVID.

"And yet in all this plethora of dysfunction, the terms 'God, righteousness, sin, repentance, Jesus Christ, the



Bible, and salvation' are forbidden terms. We cry over 'what ain't right' and yet offer nothing but Band-Aids and tourniquets.

"Man must be changed. His heart must be changed at the deepest level. He must have a new birth. He must be born again as a child of God. He must as Nineveh in the days of Jonah, repent and heed the warning of God that destruction awaits.

"Our country and its leaders must 'humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways that God may hear our prayer, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

"We must be reconciled to Him who is our life and being. It starts with us, the God-ordained leaders.

"Sadly, repentance cannot be legislated.

"It begins in revival. It begins in the yearning of individuals who have cast off the blinders of modern man and face the truth that their can be no truth, right, love, or life without the unique personal God of the Bible."

Tommy Nelson referenced a quote from Alexis de Tocqueville. I want to provide some, with thanks to William Federer's research and publication, there is much to be learned from Alexis de Tocqueville.

He was born July 29, 1805. He was a French social scientist, he traveled the United States in 1831, and wrote a two-part work "Democracy in America," 1835, and then the second in 1840, which has been described as "the most comprehensive and penetrating analysis of the relationship between character and society in America that has every been written".

In it, de Tocqueville said: "Upon my arrival in the United States, the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention; and the longer I stayed there, the more I perceived the great political consequences resulting from this new state of things, to which I was unaccustomed.

"In France, I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom marching in opposite directions. But in America, I found they were intimately united and that they reigned in common over the same country . . ."

He also said: "They brought with them . . . a form of Christianity, which I cannot better describe, than by styling it a democratic and republican religion . . ."

"From the earliest settlement of the emigrants, politics and religion contracted an alliance which has never been dissolved."

That was Alexis de Tocqueville's note back in the 1800s. He said: "Religion in America . . . must be regarded as the foremost of the political institutions of that country; for if it does not impart a taste for freedom, it facilitates the use of it . . . This opinion is not peculiar to a class of citizens or party, but it belongs to the whole Nation."

De Tocqueville says: "The sects that exists in the United States are innumerable. They all differ in respect to the worship that is due to the Creator; but they all agree in respect to the duties which are due from man to man. Each sect adores the Deity in its own peculiar manner, but all sects preach the same moral law in the name of God . . ."

"Moreover, all the sects of the United States are comprised within the great unity of Christianity, and Christian morality is everywhere the same."

□ 1515

De Tocqueville also said: "In the United States the sovereign authority is religious . . . there is no country in the whole world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence than in America . . ."

Inserting parenthetically, that drove and led to the Civil War. There were so many people that were going, wait a minute; we can't treat brothers and sisters with chains and bondage. Yes, I understand some fought for States' rights. But let's face it, it was about slavery for most.

De Tocqueville said: "In the United States the influence of religion is not confined to the manners, but it extends to the intelligence of the people . . . Christianity, therefore, reigns without obstacle, by universal consent . . ."

He is talking about America. He said: "The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other; and with them this conviction does not spring from that barren traditional faith which seems to vegetate in the soul rather than to live."

In Book Two of his Democracy in America, de Tocqueville wrote: "Christianity has therefore retained a stronghold on the public mind in America . . . in the United States . . . Christianity itself is a fact so irresistibly established, that no one undertakes either to attack or to defend it."

Wow, things have changed.

Tommy Nelson points out: "Remember the words of the atheist, John Paul Sartre, without an infinite reference point by which all things are judged, all singular points are meaningless. Without God, all of life disintegrates.

"It has always amused me that in 1789 two historical events occurred simultaneously. The American Constitution in Philadelphia and the French Revolution in Paris, both representing opposite world views. The American Constitution though not uniquely Christian reflected the historic Christian world view of 'nature's God' and the 'inalienable right' of life and liberty. It gave birth to a culture that France honored in their sending us the Statue of Liberty because our country was successful. Not because of our revolution but because of our Constitution. Revolutions are relatively easy. They are simply tearing down. What is difficult is rebuilding. The French had their revolution, but their replacement

was not a document that reflected the Bible. It was a culture that reflected French enlightenment; atheism that replaced God with nature, science, and unaided reason. With no divine standard it collapsed into a socialistic blood-bath that prompted a new term, 'guillotined.' All of Europe would follow and by 1848, the year of revolution, all European monarchies were gone.

But in France without the God of truth their replacement failed only to be conquered by a dictator to bring order, Napoleon, who plunged Europe into darkness."

And let me add, I agree with historians that have said the major difference between the American Revolution and the French Revolution was the American Revolution, like Tommy Nelson points out, it was about liberty that stemmed from biblical belief, whereas the French Revolution was about revenge. And we see how that worked out.

"The same would happen in Russia who exchanged the church for the communism of Marx and Lenin and, finally, the horror of Stalin."

Tens of millions killed.

"Germany had Hitler; China had Mao; and Cuba had Castro.

"But as a Russian pastor has said: 'Russia is a nation of darkness looking for the light. America is a country of the light searching for the darkness.' Our search has sadly been successful.

"The Christian philosopher and author Francis Schaeffer said: 'Where there is no absolute to govern society, society is absolute.' There is nothing magic about democracy or 'government of the people, by the people, and for the people'. It assumes that the majority of the voting public has the wisdom and character to place worthy men and women in places of authority. Should that society over time abandon their historic world view and adopt a modern one where truth is shaped by individual opinions . . . or should that society reject God and enthrone man, then absolute divine law will erode with each generation until the tyranny of the majority removes the freedoms enjoyed by the past. And considering the influence of modern media the majority will be controlled by the few. And the America of history will be just that . . . past history.

"To abandon God is to disintegrate.

"Imagine, if you will, a great metal machine operated by a man. The parts are sharp and pointed, moving with great speed and perfect synchronization. Anything that would get caught in the machine would be ground into nothingness within seconds. As long as the man operating the machine is careful to stay outside of the machine, he is safe. But should he catch a shirt sleeve in the gears, he will soon disintegrate. Such is man and the universe. As he stands unique in God's image outside of nature, man can observe the machine, use it and marvel at it. But should he become part of the impersonal, he is ground into mulch.

Such is man and nature. Though part of the creation, man stands infinitely distinct from it as in the image of God. As distinct from the impersonal machine, man maintains his glory but to be merely part of nature, all of the glory of man, mind, reason, conscience, soul, and will, merely become biological phenomena. The loftiness and magic of 'man' is lost in the machine of nature.

"King David wrote, 'When I consider the heavens and the works of Thy hands what is man that Thou art mindful of him? Yet Thou has made him for a little while lower than the angels. Thou dost crown him with glory and majesty and Thou dost appoint him over the works of Thy hands.' And these are the 'hands' that America has rejected.

"Man without God is a cosmic orphan with no one who gives him meaning, care, or hope of redemption or life after death. There is no way, truth, or life without God.

John 3:16 evaporates in that circumstance. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"Man may 'act' atheistic, wise and secular, but he cannot 'react' as an atheist. As soon as he is sinned against and done unjustly, he becomes a Puritan longing for an injustice to receive absolute retribution. Without God the only thing man can feel guilty about is guilt. Guilt assumes transgression, and transgression assumes law that assumes God. Without God there can be no final law, guilt, or true government. No civility to build a civilization. No 'cult' or religious rules to build 'culture'.

"We cannot legislate a return to truth. One hundred and fifty years of governmental, academic, artistic, scientific, philosophic, moral, domestic, medical, education, and judicial denial cannot be naturally fixed. We are beyond hope for a return. We are too stubborn, and too proud, and too self-centered, and too indulged.

"Our only hope is the divine reprieve of Nineveh in the day of Jonah. A prophet who rose from the dead promised life or destruction in 40 days upon their response to his prophecy of destruction. From the king to the people and even to the animals, a fast was called for and all wore sackcloth. The disaster was averted, and so it is now. Prophets who rise from the dead after 3 days and nights are not to be disregarded.

"If indeed man, has judged rightly for 20 centuries that there is an infinite and personal God who has revealed Himself in the Bible, the foundation of history's greatest culture, who raised His son from the dead to offer man repentance and salvation, and if he is indeed a God of wrath upon those countries who hold Him in contempt . . . then our country revels today in the shadow of Vesuvius.

"Jeremiah 48:42, 'Moab will be destroyed from being a people because he has magnified himself against the Lord'.

"Icarus may fly high with his wings of wax, but should Hubris carry him too high, his wings will melt, his feathers fly to the wind, and he shall come to a violent end.

May those who have ears to hear, take heed, repent and reform accordingly."

Tommy Nelson has profound truth that he has provided, but that is because it comes from truth beyond him, which he readily acknowledges.

Dostoevsky was quoted by Solzhenitsyn. I had not seen the quote before Solzhenitsyn used it in *The Gulag Archipelago*. Dostoevsky was taking on the crazy ideas of this nut named Marx, a sad man, sad family, who couldn't even foresee the formation of unions.

Dostoevsky said that the big problem with Marxism is not economic. Obviously, that is a problem. They always go broke eventually. The problem with Marxism is atheism.

I hear some of my colleagues talk about how wonderful progressivism is. That is the new term for Marxism; how great it will be when everybody shares and shares alike.

But as Khrushchev found when he set up a commission to come up with a plan of how you move to true communism, where there is no government, everybody shares and shares alike, he ended up disbanding the commission because there is no way to ever get to a place; until the Messiah comes, it won't happen because you have got to have a totalitarian government that takes away everybody's rights and tells them what they will be allowed to do and not do, and that government becomes the God. That is what Dostoevsky was saying.

So, I won't be back next year. I will be back in 2 weeks and the week after that.

Madam Speaker, I continue to have hope that springs eternal in the human breast that we won't lose the greatest freedom, the greatest country, the greatest gift of a country any people has ever received, that it will not be our generation that sees it lost.

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

□ 1530

#### REFLECTIONS ON CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on a lighter note, this will be one of the last opportunities that I will have to address this Chamber as Representative of the people of the Third Congressional District of western and north central Wisconsin.

It has truly been the honor of my life, but Tawni and I decided last summer that it shouldn't be the honor for our entire lives, so we decided to make this our last term after 26 years of serving the people back home.

As a kid growing up on the north side of La Crosse, Madam Speaker, if someone had told me, the son of a telephone repairman, that I would one day be serving in a place like the United States Congress, I would have thought they were crazy.

I thought this was a place where only the politically connected, the Kennedys, the Rockefellers, or those with great wealth, would come to. I guess I am a living example that if you want to serve your Nation, there are still opportunities to do so at all levels.

I had a chance to cut my political teeth as a college undergrad with one of my political icons and heroes back home, Senator Bill Proxmire.

From him, I learned the importance of fiscal responsibility, something that I have tried to practice each year in Congress, tried to instill in my colleagues, the need for us to balance our books.

I was a big advocate back in the 1990s when I joined this Congress for pay-as-you-go budgeting rules, which is a simple concept. It just means that if you are going to have a spending increase or a tax cut, you have to find an offset in the budget to pay for it in order to maintain that balance.

Then, if you are able to hit the sweet spot with strong economic growth, increased worker productivity, and with that comes increased revenue to the Treasury, you can actually not only balance budgets but run some surpluses, something that the second term of the Clinton administration demonstrated with 4 consecutive years of budget surpluses where we were actually paying down the national debt rather than adding to it.

But in my humble opinion, Madam Speaker, I believe I have represented the most beautiful congressional district in the Nation. Throughout western Wisconsin, in an area called the Driftless Area, where the glaciers missed, we have such beautiful natural resources.

I have more miles that border the Mississippi River than any other congressional district in the Nation, so I took it upon myself as a particular duty and responsibility to do what I could to better protect and preserve the Mississippi River and the watershed basin for future generations.

It is a huge source of tourism, outdoor recreation, and commercial navigation, which is vital to the economy and the quality of life in the upper Midwest.

I am proud that when I first got here back in 1997, I helped form the first bipartisan Mississippi River Caucus. We were able to do some good work, Republicans and Democrats working together, to manage river issues and make sure that we approached it as one

continuous ecosystem rather than just a northern and southern Mississippi area.

We have a lot of rivers, a lot of lakes, beautiful bluffs and hills and coulees that people enjoy back home.

More importantly, it has been such an honor to represent the people of the district: good, honest, hardworking, salt of the earth.

I have seen time and time again over these last 26 years, when a community got hit with a natural disaster—for us in western Wisconsin, it was typically bad flooding that hit people in their communities and flooded their homes and businesses. I saw people rally, and there weren't labels. It wasn't Republicans or Democrats or Independents or whatever. It was just, hey, we need to help our neighbor and get through this. It was demonstrated time and time again.

I also saw, through the years, how communities rally for our fallen heroes on the battlefield. People over the last year, knowing that I was going to be stepping down at the end of this term, have asked me: What was the most difficult part of your job serving in Congress?

Besides the obvious, the amount of time that you have to be away from and sacrifice from your family, those missed opportunities, clearly, the most difficult part of this job is receiving that phone call from the Pentagon and then having to deliver that message to the family back home that their loved one has just fallen on the field of battle, and how absolutely soul-crushing that is to have to deliver that message and hear the family's reaction to it and then go to that soldier's funeral in the community.

But it was also inspiring, seeing how the community rallied around that family and truly honored that fallen hero at the time—27 of them, unfortunately, in my congressional district alone, from the deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the other hand, people have asked me what has been one of my prouder accomplishments as a Member of Congress. I tell them it wasn't anything particular that I did or a piece of legislation that I may have drafted and passed or some type of project back home that I was able to help complete. It was more the opportunity I had as a Member of Congress representing the people back home to go travel and be with our troops in the field, seeing what our fine young men and women in uniform do for us each and every day.

We send them off to these faraway battlefields with strange-sounding names and weird histories and conflicts that are centuries old, and we ask them to perform incredibly dangerous and difficult missions, and they do it.

They are so well trained. They are so well motivated. They are the best our Nation has to offer.

It is just inspiring, being in their presence, especially the five times I went to Iraq, the six times I was in Af-

ghanistan, the one time I went to Kosovo at the height of that air war in the late 1990s, seeing the job they do for us.

There is no other Nation in the world that can do what our military does. They do it with decency, and they do it by abiding by the Geneva Convention. That is something that the world expects of us.

We have well-trained and well-motivated men and women on our behalf securing our freedom and our liberties but also advancing the cause of peace throughout the world.

I just wish everyone, as a citizen of this country, could see and go do the things that I did in meeting with our troops in the field.

That clearly is the proudest moment. I have never been prouder to be an American than during those opportunities to be with them.

I have enjoyed the committee assignments that I have had through the years. Initially, when I came to Congress, I was assigned to the Natural Resources Committee. Of course, with all the work we were doing for the Mississippi River, I have been one of the cochairs of the National Park Caucus for a number of years now—truly, America's greatest idea.

It is kind of neat to think that that democratizing principle that we created in the National Park System, that just because we were citizens of this great Nation, all of us are co-owners of some of the most beautiful and most expensive real estate in the entire world, our national parks.

They are calling for us to visit. They are beautiful places. I fell in love with them as a kid, and I wanted to pass that on to my family and my children. So, every August during our recess here in Congress, I take the family to a different national park where I can meet with the superintendents and the park personnel and get a park briefing. But I also took the family out in the back country, where we went backpacking.

We started that when the boys were just toddlers and could just barely carry their own sleeping bags. But as they got older and stronger, Tawni and I tended to load down their backpacks more and more, and that made backpacking a lot easier on us.

I encourage our citizens to take advantage of the great national parks we have, the national wildlife refuges that we have.

I also helped form and cochair the National Wildlife Refuge Caucus, having three of the most beautiful ones in my congressional district as well. They are objects of splendor, meant for us to enjoy and utilize.

I also served on the Education and Labor Committee. I represent 6 of the 11 State universities in Wisconsin, 4 of the greatest technical schools that we have. I made it a priority to focus on access to the affordability of higher education, making sure that those doors remain open to all of our kids,

regardless of their socioeconomic background.

I was one of the champions of the need-based financial aid programs because I benefited from that myself. Again, as a kid of a telephone repairman, I was the first generation to go on to school.

My family didn't have the resources to send me to college, let alone technical school, but through a combination of student loans, the work-study program, and I qualified for a Pell grant being a low-income student, I was able to make it work financially.

In fact, I think I still hold the undergraduate career for the most toilets cleaned in a 4-year span. It was the most disgusting job on campus, but it paid the best through work-study, so I was willing to do that 2 hours a day, every year, for 4 years in college while I was still trying to play college football and all that other stuff that I wanted to do.

I wanted to make sure those programs continued and were strengthened for the next generation because I didn't want to be one of those Representatives that pulls the ladder up behind me and tells the next generation, "Tough luck. You are on your own."

It is one of the wisest investments we can make as a Nation in our youth, expanding those educational opportunities, because the truth is, the jobs of the future are going to put a premium on higher education learning. I mean, that is just the way the world and the global economy are today. We have to expand that access.

The work we did on committee, too, for workforce development and worker safety issues, I am very proud of that.

I served on the Budget Committee for a number of years. I had a short stint on the Agriculture Committee. I was one of the leading voices on farm bill reform. I tried to move away from these huge taxpayer subsidies that were going to a few but very large agribusinesses, very much at the expense of our family farmers. I have been proud to be able to represent a large rural area in Wisconsin where farming, family farming, is a key component of our economy.

Wisconsin is the Dairy State. Cheese—everyone is kind of familiar with that, and we wear that label proudly.

It has been really neat throughout the years to go out on the family farms and visit with those farm families and see the incredible work they do for us to enable our food security, something that we, as Americans, kind of take for granted. Yet, we shouldn't because farming is tough: the ups and downs of commodity prices, the expenses, the fixed costs that they face.

The last year or so has been particularly difficult with the increase in fuel and fertilizer that they have without a corresponding increase in commodity prices.

It is a hard business, especially if you are a dairy farmer because that is 24/7.

Cows have to be milked every day. You don't have the luxury of being able to step away for a few days at a time. There are challenges there that I tried to understand and tried to address in my role as Representative of one of the larger dairy-producing districts in the Nation.

I especially enjoyed my time as a member of the Ways and Means Committee over the last 16 years. It is the only committee that is constitutionally mandated. In the early years of our Republic, it was the only committee that Congress had. Then, finally, it was starting to get piecemealed and torn apart and that, but we still have incredible jurisdiction over most of the economic issues: obviously, the tax code; trade policy; Social Security and Medicare; healthcare policy.

It has been fun working in that committee and working with my colleagues to try to develop good policy that makes sense for our country. The work I especially focused on is healthcare reform, trying to implement a value-based system so that we are actually paying for the quality of care that is given to us and not the volume of care, not the tests and procedures and things that are done to us without any results, but making sure that we are getting value out of the dollars that are spent.

I still believe that is going to be one of the keys to healthcare reform in our country, moving to that value, that quality-based outcome system that we need.

I benefited from having some of the best healthcare providers in the world operating in my congressional district: the Gundersen Health System, the Mayo Clinic Health System.

I think I still have more Mayo doctors in my congressional district throughout western Wisconsin than they even do in Minnesota or other places in the country, the Marshfields and the Auroras and the ThedaCares. We are very lucky in the State of Wisconsin to have such quality providers.

But, clearly, healthcare is still too expensive. We need to continue to think creatively on how we can bring those costs down and make sure that it is accessible for all of our citizens.

I was proud of being able to create the Veterans History Project. This is an attempt to record our veterans' stories before it is too late and they pass away because I believe it is an important part of American history that needs to be preserved.

I teamed up with Amo Houghton, a Republican friend, back when he was a Marine. We introduced the legislation on the House side. We teamed up with Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel on the Senate side. I think we still have the record for the shortest period of time from when a bill was introduced to when it was signed into law by Bill Clinton because, every once in a while, the urgency—at the time, it was the World War II generation that was pass-

ing away at 2,000 a day. We wanted to get this program up and going in order to start capturing their stories.

We are archiving it at the world's greatest library, the Library of Congress. They have done a tremendous job of handling that program and collecting all of these stories, digitizing them now, making them available on the internet for everyone to access, but especially our younger generation.

What gave me the idea to create the Veterans History Project—and I am proud to report today we have over 120,000 of these veterans' stories collected nationwide. Now, we are shifting the focus to the Vietnam generation, who are starting to pass away because they are getting up there in age, too.

What gave me the spark to create it was Father's Day weekend. I was out at the picnic table with my dad, Korea generation, and my uncle, his brother, Donnie, who flew bomber missions in the Pacific during the Second World War. For the first time, they started talking to me about their experience. I said, holy cow, and I told them to stop as I ran into the house and got the family video camera and then came out and set it up. My two boys were just toddlers at the time, and I wanted them, when they were old enough to appreciate it, to be able to hear it from their grandfather and their great-uncle.

I came back to Washington that next week and said, given the technology that is available today, we need to be doing this nationwide. So, we quickly drafted the legislation, moved it through both Chambers, and got it implemented into law.

It has been a lot of fun being able to not only interview our veterans but seeing this program grow and the history that we are preserving so future generations never forget the type of service and sacrifice that came before them.

□ 1545

I did a lot of work on the veteran front, obviously, trying to ease their transition from Iraq, Afghanistan, to back home. We had 2 million of them coming home with special needs, physical and mental, that still needs to be addressed.

At the VA hospital in my district, I spent a lot of time making sure we had better coordination of care and better outcome of care for our veterans. More needs to be done on that front. It is a promise our Nation has to live up to, given the type of service and sacrifice that these men and women do for us.

I was also co-chairing the Rural Healthcare Caucus. Obviously, as a Representative of a lot of rural providers in my district, I teamed up with CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS for a number of years to make sure that our rural providers had a voice when it came to healthcare policy, given the unique challenges that they face with recruitment, retention, and just those rural settings generally, and the type of obstacles that we have to overcome.

In many cases, these rural hospitals are the anchor of these rural communities. If they lose it, it has huge economic impact, and it also makes it very difficult then for the people in that region to access the type of quality healthcare that they need.

When I first got here, I helped form the New Democratic Coalition. It was back in '97 with Cal Dooley, Tim Roemer, Jim Moran, and others, who felt that we needed to try to restore the sensible center in Congress with a pragmatic group of House Members who could get together on a weekly basis, figure out how we can complement each other's work, but also figure out ways of building bridges rather than tearing them down around here, form those crucial bipartisan relationships to get things done, working closely with the Clinton administration initially and then subsequent administrations.

I got the honor of chairing the New Democrat Coalition for 4 years. Today, I think we are close to 100 Members in the Democrat Coalition, great Members, hardworking, earnest, again, those trying to build bridges and get things done around here. I think that group has a lot of hope and promise in the coming Congress now of finding the relevancy and finding those crucial relationships across the aisle that we need in order to advance the issues and the policies that benefit our Nation.

I know I am leaving that New Democrat Coalition in very good with hands with the young, bright, talented leadership that has come up now and taken over the reins.

Also, I had some good mentors as I was growing up. I mentioned Senator Bill Proxmire, who I had a chance to intern for, wrote many of his speeches about the need for the Senate to ratify the antigenocide treaty.

He was one of the first sounding the alarm about fiscal irresponsibility and how we have a responsibility as Representatives to be good stewards of the dollar.

Also, Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin, one of my heroes, one of the great conservationists of all time, not just in Congress but for the country and for the world. Here is a guy who grew up in a 400-person town called Clear Lake and later became Governor of Wisconsin, Senator from Wisconsin, and the father of Earth Day, a day that we commemorate every year about the need to protect our vital natural resources across the globe, celebrated in 144 nations today. It is a great story of how one person can make a difference, especially a small-town kid from northern Wisconsin and the impact that he left behind with his legacy.

So, obviously, you can't do all of this. This job is too big for one individual. Everyone here, all of my colleagues know the truth in the statement that you are only as good as the people you surround yourself with. I have been so blessed and so lucky throughout the years to have the best

staff that any Member could hope for, whether it was here in Washington or back home in my district offices. These are incredible individuals, typically young, hardworking, smart, just trying to do the best they can servicing people back home, whether it was the legislation that we worked on together here or the casework that my district office staff members would do.

Nothing brought me greater joy than traveling around the congressional district, having people come up and say: Ron, I have got to thank you and your office because of what you did for me or a family member, whether it was a veteran's issue or a lost Social Security check or some farm program that a family farmer was trying to access. I mean, the list goes on and on and on. I give all the credit and all the laurels to my staff for the job that they did throughout the years.

I had wonderful chiefs of staff, from Cindy, Erik, Travis, Mike, Hannah, and Alex, who ran a tight ship and just created a great atmosphere for all of us to work in. They were true partners through all of this.

I had two wonderful district directors back home: Lauren Kannenberg, who I recruited as a principal out of a Catholic high school to be my district office manager way back when, and later Karrie Jacqueline, who were able to manage those offices and the outreach that we ask our staff to do and to report back to us so that we stay in constant touch and communication, if we are not out on the road ourselves meeting with people back in the community.

The committee staff is just tremendous, the work that they put in, how helpful they are to us as individual Members, but also to our staff people. The people we have serving here on the floor, they are the ones that are behind the scenes, but they try to bring some function to the dysfunction that occurs too often in this place. We couldn't do it without them. It is the kind of seamless energy that they bring to making the trains run on time and just doing the basics for us to be able to do our job.

We have an official reporter right now taking down my words. They never get to say a word when they are here, but I know how important their job is as the guardian of the public record. Somehow they do it so well, even when we are yelling over each other in heated debates and trying to get all of that down. It is not an easy job. I know this personally because my wife is an official court reporter for a judge back home. I know the type of skill that it takes to perform these duties. I just want to thank them for their service to our Nation.

The Capitol Hill police. Obviously, January 6 is going to go down as a dark mark in American history. It was our Capitol Hill police that were the true vanguard of making sure that it didn't get uglier or deadlier than it did that day.

I mention these kinds of ancillary personnel who make Capitol Hill run, because through the years—and for me, 26 years—you get to know these people as individuals and as human beings and develop those friendships. It is something that I will truly miss.

Bob and Rose in our cloakroom, who keep us so well informed of what is happening all the time and what the schedule is and what we should anticipate, those types of relationships you are never going to forget.

I also benefited throughout the years in one of those competitive swing districts. I love the fact that my district was 50/50. We have too few of those districts today with gerrymandering where it is overwhelmingly Republican or overwhelmingly Democrat. That wasn't the case in my district. My district has always been about one-third, one-third, and one-third in registration. That forced me to play it down the middle and to understand that I was going to be taking incoming from the far right and the far left. I always reminded my staff to not worry about that, because that is not where are our district is. In fact, if I wasn't taking incoming from the far, far right and the far, far left, I probably wasn't doing a good job of adequately representing the people in the district that I had.

It was such a joy, because they did place their trust and confidence in me to make good decisions on their behalf, even though a lot of them will tell you they had disagreements with me throughout the years. But I think they saw the hard work we put in and the honesty and civility that I tried to bring to this job. It was a great congressional district to represent.

But I couldn't have gotten here without the help of my campaign staff, the campaign managers throughout the years, the staff, the fieldworkers, the volunteers, the supporters, the friends, people like Wally Capper, Paul Barkla, Bob Welsh, Nancy Johnson, Vicki Burke, Margaret Wood. These are the people who have enough belief and trust in you that they are willing to give you one of the most precious things that we own as human beings and that is our own time. They were, time and again, campaign after campaign, always there helping out and pitching in. That is true for thousands of people back home who supported me throughout the years.

They not only made it possible for me to win in a very competitive district, but they also made it fun. Because as candidates going through tough campaigns, it means a lot knowing that you have a lot of friends and a lot of supporters who have your back and care about you and care about the outcome of our democracy. They have been terrific.

Most of all, I thank my family. It starts there and it ends there, especially my soulmate and my partner in all this, my wife, Tawni. I don't know how she did it. When we first ran, our

first son, Johnny, was born just a few days before our primary. In the midst of that chaos, the first congressional campaign, with everything swirling around, suddenly we have a little boy in our arms. Boy, you talk about a life moment that just brings it down to the basics. At that point, when he was delivered, nothing else mattered. We win, we lose, it didn't matter; we have this beautiful little boy in our arms now. He was such a stabilizing force.

Then 2 years later came Matt. How she did it all of those years with me running back and forth every weekend, back to the district, coming out here for my duties in Washington. I am home representing a 19-county, large rural area, constantly on the road, getting out into the communities that I represent. So most of this fell on her to raise two beautiful sons, who are doing incredible things right now. She and I couldn't be more proud of Johnny and Matt.

They were born into this racket. It is kind of weird for them knowing dad is stepping down, because this life of me serving in Congress is all they have known. In fact, for a while, when they were little guys and Tawni would drop me off at the airport, they literally thought my job was getting on a plane and flying overhead all week and then landing, because they would come and pick me up then. Every time they saw a plane go by, "Oh, there's daddy." Then they started tuning in to C-SPAN and seeing me engaged in debates on the floor. Wait a minute: What is going on here? They started figuring it out. I couldn't have done it without Tawni's support and partnership and the kids.

So many times I had to be away from them, but there were also fun family events we could do, too, in the course of my duties. Parades, we lost count at about 1,500. I started losing the boys when they became teenagers, after about 1,200 parades that they did. County fairs, they would go along with me, the great dairy breakfasts that we have back home in Wisconsin during the summertime where we visit dairy families, have great breakfasts, community events, everyone coming together. So there were a lot of fun, enjoyable things we could do as a family that overlapped with my official duties. They never complained, even though it probably would have been more fun for them to be doing something else or hanging out with their friends.

Now, I am proud to say that Johnny, after playing college football, is with an engineering firm in La Crosse, doing great work there, we couldn't be prouder.

Our son Matt, after graduating Harvard, immediately signed up for officer candidate school at Quantico, and now he is an infantry commander for the Marines at Camp Lejeune. Yes, they fixed the water problem down at Camp Lejeune, after seeing all of those ads on TV lately. That is what they have been able to do.



Tawni and I are very, very lucky to have those two sons and the type of young men and citizens that they have become.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention our "third son" whom we didn't adopt, Oscar, who is an exchange student, who came and lived with us throughout his high school years, going to school with our boys. He went to Madison UW. He is working at Epic now and applying to med school. He is from Luoyang, China. He is just a great kid. He is home for the holidays with us and does family vacations with us and goes backpacking with us. That has been a lot of fun, too.

It has been quite the ride. Obviously, many, many people made this happen. I feel very blessed and very fortunate having the opportunity to be able to represent such a neat, beautiful area with some great people and families back home in Wisconsin.

We are looking forward to the next chapter. We don't know what that is yet. No final decisions have been made. But Tawni and I are going to be looking for new ways of being able to contribute to the community and being able to support our democracy.

As I leave here today, just a note of caution. The type of polarization that we are experiencing right now in this country, the hyperpartisanship, is not healthy. The key to the survival of any democracy is the ability to compromise. It is the give and take. It is being able to reach out across the aisle to a good friend, like DAVE SCHWEIKERT, who is on the Committee on Ways and Means with us and find some issues that we can work on together and try to advance. That is the only way this place is going to survive. It is the only way our country and democracy are going to be able to survive.

□ 1600

Unfortunately, in recent years, people getting involved in politics are looking at the other side not as reasonable people that you can disagree with and have heated debates about the best course of action for the future of our country, but the enemy that needs to be destroyed.

These campaigns are getting uglier, and they are getting nastier, and the division is growing, which is leading to events like we had here on Capitol Hill on January 6. This can't continue.

One of my prouder achievements that I tell people back home is, I have been consistently ranked as one of the most bipartisan Members of Congress through the surveys that are taken, the bills I introduce, the legislation we advance, who I am working with across the aisle. I wear that as a badge of honor, not as something to be ashamed of or run away from.

Too many of my colleagues now fear that if they are seen working with a Democrat or working with a Republican, someone on the other side, that would be the kiss of death for them in

their primary back home. That is not the way this place is set up to function.

We have got to figure out a way to fight through this bad era of American politics and remind ourselves that, ultimately, at the end of the day, we are all Americans with a commonality that can't separate us. We cannot be enemies.

We need to find a way forward of healing the division and the partisanship that has poisoned our politics and the alternate realities that are being created today through many different mediums because if you don't have that basic commonality of what the facts and what the truth are, there is no way you are going to be able to reach agreement on some of the tough issues facing our country. I mean, the separation, the gulf will be too great.

I didn't mean to lecture my colleagues here or future Representatives to this place, but it is an issue that we have to stay focused on.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the recognition, the honor of being able to address this Chamber for one of my last times and to thank, ultimately, the people in the Third Congressional District for the trust and the responsibility that they placed in me these past 26 years.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

H.R. 2617. An act to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4834. An act to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 63 Joint Resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020.

#### THE MATH ALWAYS WINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Sekweikert) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, RON is one of the good guys. For those of us who are blessed to be on the Ways and Means Committee, many times it is one of those committees where you have to do adult stuff that affects not only this country but the world. Having people that you can talk to and

work it through with is important. RON is going to be missed. I thank him for being one of the good guys.

Madam Speaker, this is going to be sort of a two-parter. I am going to come back in 2 weeks and provide solutions, but right now I need to define the problem.

As you know, right now around the Capitol complex, we have dozens and dozens of brand-new Members and hundreds of potentially new staffers. They are all trying to find their office and which way is up and where the bathrooms are; I mean, all the things we go through when we are brand-new around here.

My fear is no one is telling these Members that are new—and even talking to the Members who have been here a while—the truth. The truth is the math, and the math always wins.

We are in real trouble. What scares me is with some of the things going on in the economy right now, with where interest rates look like they are going, with inflation now becoming structural, it is potentially just devastating to the individuals out there, our brothers and sisters in the country, just the affordability, being able to afford a house, food, but you have got to understand what it also means to the stability of this country.

Let's actually walk through it. Some of this is big-boy math, it is going to be complex, but there are a couple punch lines in here I want to be remembered.

I am not going to take you back to 1965, but let's do last year. This is last year's budget cycle. Understand, over 71 percent of all of our spending is on autopilot. The fact of the matter is this is what we call mandatory. Only 13 percent was defense, 16 percent was discretionary, what we functionally debate here which we really fight over.

But this mandatory here, you see red, your government functionally is an insurance company with an army. This is health, Medicare, Social Security, other benefits, pensions for military, for government workers, those sorts of things. This is mandatory. And it is on autopilot.

I don't think there is a Member here who has ever ultimately voted on this red portion. It is a formula. You turn 65, you get certain benefits. You serve in the military a certain amount of time, you get certain benefits. It is autopilot.

Defense, well, that we debate, we work through, but the fact of the matter is defense sort of stays within a certain mean of the GDP.

And then domestic. The crazy thing, domestic, actually, as a percentage of GDP, at the end of a decade will be flat.

So where is all this debt coming from? Where is all this growth coming from?

I am going to give you an answer, and it is going to make people really unhappy. You need to understand, when we talk about just last year's borrowing, does anyone out there understand how big it was?

Okay. So we borrowed, functionally, \$1.375 trillion.

How much is that?

It is \$114 billion a month.

It is \$26 billion a week.

It is \$3.7 billion a day.

It is \$159 million an hour.

It is \$2.6 million a minute.

We are told with big numbers, how do you get it so it is understandable? If I came to you right now and said to you, how much last year did your government borrow every second? Anyone in this body able to answer that? It turns out it was \$43,600 a second. We borrowed \$43,600 every second last year.

Does anyone see a problem? Or is it one of those things that as long as we are handing out goodies and subsidizing the folks who will vote for us or contribute to us, the world is good?

Where is all this debt coming from? Brian Riedl, Manhattan Institute, basically just put out a series of slides where they take the Congressional Budget Office, the OMB office from the administration, and sort of look at it and say, what is driving the debt?

Today we hold \$31 trillion of total debt. That is borrowing from trust funds and everything, but that is the total debt.

But from today for the next 30 years, based on a previous interest rate calculation—so we haven't even plugged in the new higher interest rates that we are borrowing money on—anyone want to guess what the borrowing is from today to the future, how much money? We are going to borrow, functionally, \$114 trillion. There is a \$114 trillion shortfall.

Now, the interesting thing—remember on that previous slide, I was saying, here is mandatory, here is discretionary. Well, it turns out the discretionary military we calculate today to actually have about a \$1.9 trillion surplus over the next 30 years.

So where is \$114 trillion of borrowing coming from? This is really uncomfortable. I will tell you, I believe the Democrats did something actually really crappy during the election, but it is a knife fight. I accept the knives come out, it is all about winning.

But when you had campaigns out there—"They are going to cut your Medicare"—you can't even have an honest conversation here what is going on.

The shortfall in Medicare, when you add in the interest cost, is \$80 trillion. The shortfall in Social Security is \$35.8 trillion. The entire borrowing over the next 30 years is Social Security and Medicare.

We got old. The fact of the matter is this place didn't pay any attention. There was this thing called baby boomers.

You get the clown show around here that says, well, we will do Medicare for All. That is a financing bill. It had nothing to do with what we pay. ObamaCare, that is a financing bill; who gets subsidized, who has to pay. The Republican alternative was ulti-

mately a financing bill. You need a revolution in what we pay, not who pays it.

But that is actually more uncomfortable here than actually having a debate over raising taxes or doing entitlement reform, an actual discussion of should we legalize technology, should we legalize the things that actually create disruptions in providing our brothers and sisters the healthcare that we as a society made a deal? We are going to keep our promise on Social Security and Medicare. Well, I think we are.

I mean, the fact of the matter is, what is it now? In a decade, because of the new COLA increase, we just shortened the lifespan of the Social Security trust fund by, what?, almost a year. So you have a little bit over a decade, and our brothers and sisters who live on Social Security are heading toward a 25 percent cut.

What is this place going to do?

Medicare is just unsustainable. The stunning amount to finance our brothers and sisters, our promise for those who turn 65 and get Medicare, to finance it, basically consumes every dollar of this government.

It is math. It is the reality.

How many of you during this last campaign had an honest debate, honest conversation, anyone who was even willing to talk about this? Really dangerous because the other side will run nasty ads about you to scare people, yet by not dealing with it, you are sentencing our seniors to misery because at some point this hits the wall.

So what is going on? Why am I even more dour right now than I was several months ago?

It is inflation, it is the cost of everything. It is the affordability in our society. But you are crushing people. We are going to walk through a little bit of that. But you have got to understand—I am sorry, I am going to geek out on interest rates for a moment, but then I am going to try to show what it actually means to everyone in this country. What we are doing to you and so many of our brothers and sisters out there, you don't understand how—oh, I am sorry, it is a sort of high-level, technical, economic term—how screwed you are.

Let's sort of walk through this. We were building budgets a year ago on an assumption that U.S. sovereign debt when you did the 2-year, the 5-year, the 10-year, the 20-year, the 30-year, the blended interest rate, the weighted daily average, it was all these fun calculations. Actually really interesting stuff.

We were originally about 1.78 we thought would be our mean interest rate. Then last—what was it, was this March or May?—March we recalculated because of this thing called inflation. Oh, we are going to be up to 2.10. Then the reality of it is that we ended up at a recalculation of, hey, the U.S. mean now is heading toward 2.85. That is on the 10-year.

We have some economists around us who are starting to say, it is going

higher; it is going higher. I am going to show you a couple things here of what happens to us as a country if the way the Federal Reserve has to stop inflation is raising, raising, raising interest rates, breaking the labor market because you understand within there, even though there is this delay effect, that also means what you and I have to pay the interest back on all the borrowing, and the biggest part of the borrowing cycle has not even hit us yet because we are just now starting to absorb and get ready for the huge spike in costs because of our demographics.

Remember, baby boomers, the final tail end of the baby boomers is moving into their retirement benefits, and as they get slightly older and a little bit older, a little bit older, the Medicare costs start to really go up, and we haven't even hit that financing cycle. It is coming. What happens if we have to finance that at the higher interest rates?

You start looking at some of this. Three months T-bill back in March was 0.2. That was our Biden administration estimate for the 3-year. The actual 3-year right now is 1.75.

Let's see, what is the difference between a 0.2 and a 1.75? Can anyone say "a whole lot"?

This may not mean much to you, but this is money your taxes are going to be paying back.

□ 1615

Here is the punch line. I am going to make it really simple. What if this inflationary cycle stuck with us? What if instead of that, what was it, 1.78 or even the 2.3 percent interest rate on U.S. sovereign debt, what if it were 2 points higher, just 2 percent higher?

Fifteen years ago, that is where we were at. Remember, we actually had a reprieve, a completely fake economic reprieve for a decade with artificially low interest rates. We were borrowing, and the Federal Reserve kept interest rates lower, particularly since 2008. Now, we are about to pay the cost of it.

What would happen if we paid that 2 percent higher? Functionally—and my math is a little bit less—the end of 30 years, 100 percent of all tax receipts, of all taxes, all tariffs, all everything that comes into the government, 100 percent goes just to pay interest.

You have to understand how sensitive we are as a government, as a society, as a country, how fragile we have made ourselves because we structurally are going to borrow another \$1 trillion to \$1.3 trillion—there is one estimate of \$1.4 trillion—this year. We are never paying off anything.

It gets worse and worse because of our demographics as we get older, unless we crash the price of healthcare. Two weeks from now, we are going to talk about things we can do to accomplish that.

Are you prepared to live in a country that if our mean interest rate goes up 2 percent and stays there, all tax receipts go just to cover our interest?



There is no more government. There is no more military. There are no more benefits. There is no more Social Security. There is no more Medicare.

That is why it is so crucial around here to have an honest conversation where people put batteries in their calculators. Instead, this place is living on theater. Oh, modern monetary policy—we can spend all the money we want, and look, nothing happens. Oh, got it. Didn't work.

I can show you right now the largest tax increase in modern history has happened in the last year. If you live in my Phoenix-Scottsdale area and are a working person, you are a hardworking taxpayer, and you have not had a pay hike, do you realize you have lost 6 weeks, maybe more, of your labor? We are still at 12.1 percent inflation in my community. You have lost 6 weeks of your labor.

If I had walked in and told you that I was going to take a month and a half of your salary, that that is going to be my new tax hike, you would have lost your mind. But if we do it through this thing called inflation, where we strip the affordability of your groceries and your gasoline and everything else in your life, did you notice it? Well, you know there is a problem. You know life has gotten much harder. You know sometimes you get to the checkout stand and are taking things back because the price just doesn't work on your budget.

The perverse thing, you are going to see a chart here, my next one, where actually there is going to be this little drop in sort of the debt-to-GDP and those things. That is because that inflation actually has been a tax. We lowered the value of your income. We lowered the value of your savings. At the same time, we lowered the value of all this debt because we are going to pay it back with what we call inflated dollars, which is wonderful up until the next year or 2 when we have to refinance the debt and refinance the new spending at the higher interest rates. Then that little benefit of taxing you through inflation goes away, and we are off to the races, and it becomes hell.

Remember, this has brought down other countries for hundreds of years, and it is right in front of us. No one seems to come behind these microphones—they talk about it, educate about it, and for the last couple years I have come here behind these microphones and tried to show solutions, and then it drives the lobbyists out of their minds.

Let's take a look at this. Let's see if I can make this work. These are deficits during the Biden administration fiscal year 2023 budget baseline versus a 1 percent rise in interest. Do we all agree that we have had at least a 1 percent rise in interest rates? Yes. Do you see this one little bit of a fall right there? This orange is what happens when you tack on the additional interest. That little fall is, functionally, the fact that we devalued your dollar. That

is our little benefit from taxing you in a way you didn't know.

But then, boom. Functionally, the budget cycle we are about to work on is the 2024 budget cycle. You are basically going to have a budget deficit of \$1.4 trillion, and then, boom, it is \$1.5 trillion. You get out a couple more years, you are heading toward \$1.75 trillion. In less than a decade, you are well over \$2 trillion a year in just borrowing. This chart explodes if we go beyond that 1 percent rise in interest rates.

Structurally, even if I say we are going to go back to living in that world of that fantasy artificially low interest rate, we are still heading toward \$2 trillion a year borrowing. It just takes 10 years. This is insane.

Right in here, interest will be just the basic borrowing. All of defense, a whole bunch of discretionary, and other things will all live on borrowed money.

Most people have no idea what the concept of debt-to-GDP is. It is the concept of: Here is the size of my economy, and, yes, we are borrowing all this money, but look how big my economy is, and that economy's ability to finance—just like your income finances your credit cards. As long as your income keeps going up faster than the debt on your credit cards, you can live. You are going to be okay. What happens when your economy isn't growing, when your income isn't growing as fast as you are borrowing on those credit cards? At a certain point, it comes to an end.

We are heading toward a time where if we add—this is our baseline. If we start adding a little bit of higher interest rates because we have to finance the debt, we have to sell our bonds, the bond markets are expecting higher interest rates because of inflation—you start seeing the chart where you are hitting a world where at the end—now, I know these are 30-year projections, but remember, we are selling 30-year bonds. The baseline number is 185 percent of debt-to-GDP. That means the debt will be 85 percent bigger than the entire economy. If we had 3 percent higher interest rates, the debt is, functionally, 245 percent bigger than the entire economy.

Do you think we ever get anywhere—because this is what we are doing to ourselves. This is already baked in the cake if these interest rates go up. But this down here, the base CBO assumption—remember, we are already over 100 percent. Right now, our borrowing is already substantially bigger than the entire size of our economy.

It is why growth is moral but is also necessary. If we don't start growing this economy and we are continuing just the borrowing—remember, what was the primary driver of our borrowing? Medicare and Social Security. We got old. It is demographics. Getting old is not Republican or Democrat; it is just who we are. That is driving most of our borrowing. We are not adopting

policies that maximize growth at every opportunity.

We are destroying the future. I need my brothers and sisters on the left to at least embrace some basic truths.

The very end of 2017, we did tax reform. Some people go, oh, it was tax cuts, except the rich actually pay a higher percentage of Federal income taxes today than they did under the old tax system. But, 2022, tax receipts, the highest in U.S. history by far, and this is under the new tax system. If you are going to demagogue us for doing tax reform, trying to bring businesses back to the United States and get them to domicile and manufacture and do things here in this country, you can at least pull out a chart and show me where the revenues disappeared because they didn't. They are right here.

We brought in \$4.8 trillion in tax receipts last year, and we are still borrowing \$1.3 trillion. The spending has just exploded around here, and now we hit our structural deficits because of our demographics. It gets uglier and uglier, and we have made ourselves incredibly fragile.

God forbid we ever have a failed bond auction or an undersubscribed one, and interest rates start to spike. Do you understand what happens to the entire world, let alone your savings?

We don't need to do this to ourselves. There are solutions, but this body is incapable of having that debate.

Dear God, please, with a Republican majority, no matter how thin it is, maybe we will actually try to do something honest and adult with the calculators.

You keep looking at the charts, and there are charts out there. It is not revenues. There is this whole line of thought out there that has been worked on by the left and the right that we raise taxes, somehow we stay within a certain mean of the size of the economy. When we have lowered taxes, somehow the revenues come back up. Taxes always seem to come in just right about here. If this is 20 percent of GDP, you raise the taxes, the economy seems to shrink, the growth shrinks, we fall back to the mean. You lower taxes, the economy grows, the revenues come back. You have decades and decades of data. You look at the charts, and it is pretty darn clear. We are going to take in 19.1 to 20 percent. Sometimes we fall down to 18 percent of the economy in revenues, in receipts, in taxes.

The art here is to design a tax code, design a regulatory code, adopt embracing of technology and other things that maximize growth. The ultimate solution is grow, grow, grow, and then adopt disruptive technologies that lower prices, so affordability.

Imagine if you had a society once again that was growing, your wages were going up, but inflation wasn't; where your healthcare costs were actually going down; where your savings, your investments, your planning for retirement, your ability to help your

kids go to college got better. We can do that. We did that in 2017, 2018, 2019, even the first quarter of 2020 before the pandemic. There is a model to do it.

All that progress, all that closing income inequality, making the poor less poor, the hardworking, tax-paying middle class, making them more prosperous, it is all gone. The Democrats succeeded, in 18 months, in crushing the people of this country by really crappy policy—great virtue signaling, just incredibly good virtue signaling, really crappy policy.

Once again, I need my brothers and sisters on the left to buy a calculator and understand if you came in and said I am going to take every dime, you make small businesses, rich people, high-income earners, if I take every dime—if you make \$500,000, the next dollar we just take everything. You have heard this, oh, rich people aren't paying enough, take every dime. You, functionally, don't get anywhere.

This is assuming that they continue to work as hard, that they make the same amount of money so they don't change their behavior at all. It is a math experiment, and you get about 5.1 percent of GDP in taxes.

The problem is our borrowing is already about to hit 6 percent, and in a couple more decades, we are over 12 percent. It is a fantasy.

Look, the Republicans have their sin, too. We will often say, well, waste and fraud, foreign aid, that is just almost a rounding error. Remember a little while ago, \$40,000-plus a second in borrowing?

□ 1630

The scale of the problems ahead of us is terrifying, and it is no longer getting postponed to the future.

I have gotten in front of audiences, and, A, they will boo when you try to explain to them the truth of the math. They say, Well, I was told this 10 years ago.

Yes, but we had 10 years of artificially low interest rates that allowed Congress to engage in really crappy policies.

What is that saying, “the chickens are coming home to roost”? I am not particularly good at colloquialisms. But it is time. It is here.

Will this new Congress with a divided government step up, tell the public the truth, tell our new freshman class the truth, and actually take on a really tough decision?

Madam Speaker, do you want a society and a country that is prosperous, innovative, and disruptive but we are growing so fast and so healthy that you can imagine a world where healthcare prices aren't going up twice as fast as inflation, where your wages go up faster than inflation, and where affordability when you go to the grocery store or your gasoline station doesn't take your breath away?

We can do that. At least I think we can do it.

I just want to know: Are we going to have partners on the other side to do what is honorable?

Because growth is moral.

Are we going to do the right thing for our society, for our brothers and sisters out there, or are we going to continue with virtue signaling?

Because virtue signaling may be brilliant politics, but it is really crappy economics.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 10 o'clock 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-5898. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticides; Addition of Chitosan (Including Chitosan Salts) to the List of Active Ingredients Permitted in Exempted Minimum Risk Pesticide Products [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0701; FRL-7542-05-OCSPP] (RIN: 2070-AK56) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5899. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Paint Stripping and Miscellaneous Surface Coating Operations at Area Sources Technology Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0016; FRL-8339-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV34) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5900. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Delegation of New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the States of Arizona and California [EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0962; FRL-9400-04-R9] received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5901. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Nitric Acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0363; FRL-10247-01-OCSPP] received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5902. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acetic Acid, 2-Ethylhexyl Ester; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-

2017-0084; FRL-10295-01-OCSPP] received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5903. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 1,3-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, 5-sulfo-, sodium salt (1:1), polymer with 1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol and 2,2'-oxybis[ethanol]; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0505; FRL-10301-01-OCSPP] received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5904. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Maryland; Clean Data Determination and Approval of Select Attainment Plan Elements for the Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County, MD Sulfur Dioxide Non-attainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0325; FRL-10364-02-R3] received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5905. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's policy statement — Standard Applied to Complaints Against Oil Pipeline Index Rate Changes [Docket No.: AD20-10-000] received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5906. A letter from the Office Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — American Society of Mechanical Engineers 2019-2020 Code Editions [NRC-2018-0290] (RIN: 3150-AK22) received October 31, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5907. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Expansion-Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems [EERE-2017-BT-STD-0017] (RIN: 1904-AD-92) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5908. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Issuance of Regulatory Guide — Dedication of Commercial-Grade Digital Instrumentation and Control Items for Use in Nuclear Power Plants, Regulatory Guide RG 1.250, Revision 0 received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5909. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Issuance of Regulatory Guide — Acceptability of ASME Code, Section XI, Division 2, “Requirements for Reliability and Integrity Management (RIM) Programs for Nuclear Power Plants”, for Non-Light Water Reactors, Regulatory Guide 1.246, Revision 0 received October 31, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5910. A letter from the Acting Chief, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Snail Darter From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2020-0152; FF09E22000 FXES11130900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BE62) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5911. A letter from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Emperor Penguin With Section 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2021-0043; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR 232] (RIN: 1018-BF35) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 404. A bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing, with an amendment (Rept. 117-561). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 570. A bill to require operators of offshore oil and gas facilities to report failures of critical systems to the Secretary of the Interior, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-562). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 667. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-563, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1415. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize grants to Indian Tribes to further achievement of Tribal coastal zone objectives, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 117-564). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1733. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-565). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1734. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to delegate certain emergency reclamation activities to the States and Tribes, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-566 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2026. A bill to assist in the conservation of highly endangered amphibian species in foreign countries, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 117-567). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2444. A bill to establish Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 117-568). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2512. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-569). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2551. A bill to designate and adjust certain lands in the State of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-570). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2872. A bill to establish an integrated national approach to respond to ongoing and expected effects of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, managing, and conserving the fish, wildlife, and plants of the United States, and to maximize Government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with State, local, and Tribal Governments and other entities, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-571). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3228. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve science, data, and services that enable sound decision making in response to coastal flood risk, including impacts of sea level rise, storm events, changing Great Lakes water levels, and land subsidence; with an amendment (Rept. 117-572 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3540. A bill to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-573). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4458. A bill to establish a grant program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of carrying out projects on the conservation, restoration, or management of kelp forest ecosystems; with an amendment (Rept. 117-574). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4494. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land in Frederick County, Maryland, for the Historic Preservation Training Center of the National Park Service, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-575). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4677. A bill to direct restoration and protection of the New York-New Jersey watersheds and estuaries hydrologically connected to New York-New Jersey Harbor, and for other purposes; with

an amendment (Rept. 117-576). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5345. A bill to authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a regional program to assess, monitor, and benefit the hydrology of saline lakes in the Great Basin and the migratory birds and other wildlife dependent on those habitats, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-577). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6142. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Buckeye Trail as a national scenic trail, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-578). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6199. A bill to revise the boundary of the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-579). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. S. 2923. An act to improve the Fishery Resource Disaster Relief program of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-580). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. Ending Hunger in America: Challenges, Opportunities and the Political Will to Succeed (Rept. 117-581). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 667 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1734 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3228 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### 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. DESAULNIER:  
H.R. 9305. A bill to amend the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to require employers who are ordering a plant closing or mass layoff to cover the cost of an economic impact study in each impacted unit of local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MANN:  
H.R. 9306. A bill to authorize the use of FBI criminal history record information for administration of interstate compacts, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 9307. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues relating to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. JACOBS of California (for herself, Mr. CORREA, Ms. BASS, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PORTER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LIEU, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. CHU, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BERA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. WILD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATERS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ISSA, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. CONWAY, Mr. MCCARTHY, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 9308. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6401 El Cajon Boulevard in San Diego, California, as the "Susan A. Davis Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. AXNE (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MACE, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 9309. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 9310. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to give the United States Preventive Services Task Force the authority to take early action based on scientific evidence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 9311. A bill to authorize the Community Advantage Loan Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 9312. A bill to provide enhanced capabilities to combat transnational criminal cartels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each

case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 9313. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low-income housing tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JACKSON (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mrs. LESKO):

H.R. 9314. A bill to prohibit the provision of Federal funds to a labor organization the members of which are education professionals; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 9315. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require the accounting principles standard setting body to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act, to require the head of such body to testify annually before Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LAMB, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 9316. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 9317. A bill to direct the Librarian of Congress to obtain a stained glass panel depicting the seal of the District of Columbia and install the panel among the stained glass panels depicting the seals of States, which overlook the Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 9318. A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and 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. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 9319. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide for the reissuance to households supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to replace benefits stolen by identity theft or typical skimming practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 9320. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit against income tax for tuition expenses incurred for each qualifying child of the taxpayer in attending public or private elementary or secondary school; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 9321. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the development and publication of independent value

assessments for drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SUOZZI (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 9322. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. CHU, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 9323. A bill to establish a task force on child and family economic security and stability for economic growth; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. AGUILAR):

H. Res. 1473. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2022, as "National GIS Day"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK (for herself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. DONALDS):

H. Res. 1474. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of Everglades National Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. CLYDE:

H. Res. 1475. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives any record created on or after January 21, 2021, under the control of the President or the Secretary, respectively, that refers to the Department of Defense and includes certain terms and phrases relating to gender; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H. Res. 1476. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to provide to the House of Representatives certain documents or records relating to coordination between social media companies and the Biden administration on information, censorship, and censorship meetings in order to suppress or deplatform persons or information the administration views as misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation on COVID-19, Hunter Biden, and elections, and certain documents or records relating to plans to provide grant funding to consortiums, including the Democratic National Committee, in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H. Res. 1477. A resolution calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information in the possession of the Attorney General regarding NICS Indices Self-Submission Forms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H. Res. 1478. A resolution calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information regarding the decision of the President of the United States to institute the "Ghost Gun" Rule; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H. Res. 1479. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President transmit certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to the surveillance or monitoring of pro-gun, pro-life, or conservative groups under the Internet Covert

Operations Program operated by the United States Postal Inspection Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SIREs:

H. Res. 1480. A resolution promoting stronger economic relations between the United States and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Mr. SIREs, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H. Res. 1481. A resolution urging United States policy toward Guatemala to support the rule of law and address challenges of kleptocracy, organized crime, private and public sector corruption, illicit campaign financing, criminalization of and attacks on justice operators, journalists, and human rights defenders, and restrictions resulting in the closure of civic space; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, 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.

#### MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-238. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 4, memorializing the 117th Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to enact legislation, S. 3213, known as the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would fully fund the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ML-239. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 5, urging the United States Congress to amend the United States Social Security Administration's index of earnings to ensure that a decline in aggregate wages due to COVID-19 does not result in decreased benefits; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ML-240. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, urging the President and Congress of the United States to amend Section 402(d)(1) of Title 42 of the United State Codes and any other necessary statutes to allow recipients of DAC benefits to continue to receive those benefits upon marriage; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ML-241. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 15, urging the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to take action to restore honor to the sailors unjustly blamed for, and the sailors convicted of mutiny following the Port Chicago disaster, and to rectify any mistreatment by the military of those sailors; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and the Judiciary.

ML-242. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, recognizing October 12, 2021, as the 20-year anniversary of the enactment of the exemption from non-resident tuition during the 2001-02 Regular

Session; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and the Judiciary.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 9305.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 9306.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, Section 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the President “. . . shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.”

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 9307.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JACOBS of California:

H.R. 9308.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mrs. AXNE:

H.R. 9309.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 9310.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 9311.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8 “The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 9312.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 9313.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. JACKSON:

H.R. 9314.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 9315.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 9317.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 9318.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 9319.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, §8, cl. 1 and Article I, §8, cl. 18.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 9320.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U. S. Constitution

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 9321.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 9322.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 9323.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 291: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 336: Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 948: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1330: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1362: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 1401: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 1596: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 1704: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1814: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 2021: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 2294: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 2326: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 2525: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 2549: Ms. ESHO, Ms. BUSH, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2565: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 2791: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 3015: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 3079: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 3150: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 3183: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 3514: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3554: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3592: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 3783: Mr. CLEAVER.

- H.R. 3921: Mr. TIFFANY.  
 H.R. 4141: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.  
 H.R. 4309: Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 4319: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 4779: Mr. GOLDEN and Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 5026: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
 H.R. 5029: Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H.R. 5038: Mr. POSEY.  
 H.R. 5232: Mr. EVANS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
 H.R. 5473: Mr. COHEN.  
 H.R. 5782: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 5854: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 6056: Mr. FALLON.  
 H.R. 6366: Ms. ESHOO.  
 H.R. 6394: Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 6498: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 6559: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 6584: Mr. PANETTA.  
 H.R. 6658: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 6976: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
 H.R. 6985: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
 H.R. 7122: Mr. CASE.  
 H.R. 7213: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 7236: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. QUIGLEY.  
 H.R. 7382: Mrs. STEEL.  
 H.R. 7570: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.  
 H.R. 7580: Ms. LEE of California.  
 H.R. 7627: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
 H.R. 7630: Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. MANNING.  
 H.R. 7644: Mr. KIM of New Jersey and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
 H.R. 7752: Mr. EVANS.  
 H.R. 7773: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. WALTZ.  
 H.R. 7775: Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. WALTZ.  
 H.R. 7826: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 7995: Mr. COHEN and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
- H.R. 8181: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 8195: Mr. FINSTAD and Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 8210: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 8219: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.  
 H.R. 8406: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 8558: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 8565: Mr. FALLON.  
 H.R. 8585: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma.  
 H.R. 8616: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. LYNCH.  
 H.R. 8800: Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. HARRIS.  
 H.R. 8817: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
 H.R. 8913: Mr. PENCE, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. FULCHER, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 8978: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 9074: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
 H.R. 9088: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 9128: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 9130: Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
 H.R. 9135: Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 9148: Mr. WESTERMAN.  
 H.R. 9160: Mr. CLINE.  
 H.R. 9162: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
 H.R. 9198: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 9201: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 9202: Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H.R. 9203: Mr. FALLON.  
 H.R. 9207: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.  
 H.R. 9208: Ms. ROSS and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
 H.R. 9233: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 9238: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 9245: Mr. CASE, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
 H.R. 9251: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. CONWAY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. VALADAO, and Ms. WATERS.  
 H.R. 9275: Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H.R. 9279: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 9304: Ms. SCANLON.  
 H.J. Res. 94: Mr. WESTERMAN.  
 H.J. Res. 95: Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H. Con. Res. 113: Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. MFUME.  
 H. Res. 118: Mr. ELLZEY.  
 H. Res. 352: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H. Res. 548: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H. Res. 644: Mr. GOSAR.  
 H. Res. 1226: Mr. COHEN.  
 H. Res. 1317: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
 H. Res. 1382: Mr. ALLRED.  
 H. Res. 1389: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. PETERS.  
 H. Res. 1397: Mr. CLINE.  
 H. Res. 1400: Mr. SIRES.  
 H. Res. 1457: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. PENCE.  
 H. Res. 1462: Ms. TITUS and Mr. GROTHMAN.

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 PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-153. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, CA, relative to Resolution No. 379-22, urging the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco to instruct the City's state and federal lobbyists to work in support of decriminalizing all Entheogenic Plants and plant-based compounds that are listed on the Federal Controlled Substances Schedule 1; the Judiciary; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Judiciary.