



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022

No. 183

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

O Lord, You give and You take away. Blessed be Your name. By Your grace, You have given us Your noble and humble servant, Representative Donald McEachin, and we have been privileged to enjoy this, Your generous gift, and we are witnesses to his response to Your claim on his life.

Representative McEachin lived into Your anointing, committing himself to bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming freedom for those imprisoned by the inequities that constrain, and working diligently to set the oppressed free. His compassionate manner and trusted counsel, so eagerly shared with all those graced to be in his sphere, are truly a blessing that we will cherish dearly.

O Lord, You give and You take away. Blessed be Your name. For even in the worst of his brave and valiant fight for his life, Representative McEachin held firm in his convictions that You gave him the strength to endure his sufferings. May this, his legacy of character and devotion, reveal the hope he found in You.

Then may all who grieve this day, his wife Colette, his dear family, his colleagues, and friends, find blessing in this same hope, that in his life and his death, Representative Donald McEachin will always bring glory to You.

It is in Your sacred name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. McEachin), the whole number of the House is 432.

REIMAGINING THE SOUTH SHORE OF ST. CROIX

(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, for decades, my island, my home, St. Croix, was the home of the largest refinery in the Western Hemisphere, an identity that largely shaped our economic makeup to the detriment, in some instances, of historic industries such as agriculture or at the detriment of our environment but provided thousands of jobs throughout the years to our residents. The recent failure of the refinery to restart successfully has been a disappointment to many, but in there lies a unique opportunity before us.

With the rapid changes taking place in our climate and the urgency that the Biden administration has placed on environmental reform and the much-

needed transition to green energy and renewables, we have an opportunity to reimagine how the south shore of St. Croix can be redeveloped.

The green energy initiatives and the focus on historically disadvantaged communities contained in the Inflation Reduction Act, along with the incentives and funding included in the bipartisan infrastructure law, are not only timely but critical for us as a territory.

I ask my colleagues, I ask Virgin Islanders, I ask our Governor and our elected officials to all join in reimagining and getting to work on redefining what we look like.

PERMITTING OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE TAKEN WHILE THE HOUSE IS IN ACTUAL SESSION ON A DATE DESIGNATED BY THE SPEAKER

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1494

Resolved, That on such date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives may designate, official photographs of the House may be taken while the House is in actual session. Payment for the costs associated with taking, preparing, and distributing such photographs may be made from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

H8599

BIDEN ENERGY POLICIES ARE THE SOURCE OF INFLATION

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Biden administration's self-made energy crisis.

Since taking office, I have been vocal about my commitment to alternative forms of energy that bring revenue and flexibility to Iowa and allow Iowa to be a major energy exporter.

However, the Biden administration's policies have relied on foreign nations instead of prioritizing American energy independence.

Iowans have felt the effect of President Biden's policies. Grocery and energy prices continue to soar with inflation rates at historic highs. So while the temperatures drop into the teens, some are forced to choose between turning on their heat and buying groceries.

According to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, diesel prices could top \$6 per gallon this winter, but Iowa could fill the gap with biodiesel. Struggling families simply cannot afford President Biden's energy policies.

I want to reiterate my calls to President Biden to unleash domestic energy and look towards Iowa as a framework for an any-of-the-above approach to lower energy costs for Americans.

I also want to wish a very happy birthday to Andy Swanson.

IN MEMORY OF DONALD MCEACHIN

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in shock and feeling an immense loss for the Member that will not be with us, Donald McEachin, the gentleman from Virginia, a dear friend.

The members of the Committee on Natural Resources extend to his family, his wife Colette, his children and his grandchildren, his loved ones, and his loyal and capable staff, our condolences, our sympathies, and our comfort.

This imposing man, Donald McEachin, was more than that. His strength came from his heart, his faith, his empathy, and his compassion for other people.

On this journey, I have had the privilege and pleasure to work with him for over 3 years to develop legislation that would assure every American had clean air, clean water, and a clean environment. That piece of legislation is historic, and it is the creation of great work on the part of Donald McEachin.

It is his legacy that I hope we address, but it is also his character and his strength, as he guided me and other Members through a process that is

sometimes difficult, sometimes contentious, but a process that at the end of the day has produced something that will be part of the legacy of a man that served his community, served his country, served his family, and gave honor to all of us. This is a deep loss, an immense loss, and one that I share with everyone.

AMERICANS ARE EXPERIENCING INFLATION AT A 40-YEAR HIGH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, families across America sat down to enjoy Thanksgiving meals. Unfortunately, this week, as a result of irresponsible policies of Biden and Democrats, families are paying massive costs.

Americans are experiencing inflation at a 40-year high with families in South Carolina paying nearly 15 percent more for goods and services in the last year.

Average national costs have increased. Turkey is up 21 percent. Pie crusts and whipping cream are up 26 percent. Dinner rolls are up 22 percent. Milk is up 16 percent.

According to the recent Morning Consult poll, 41 percent of Thanksgiving shoppers were planning to cut side dishes to save money.

Our country is in a crisis, and Americans need relief, which is why voters elected a House Republican majority. Republicans will fight inflation with fiscal sanity.

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.

RECOGNIZING JESSE PORRAS

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a servant leader in our community, Odessa native, Mr. Jesse Porras, a Marine veteran.

Mr. Porras has been cooking and serving a Thanksgiving meal to hundreds of Odessans in need every year since 2013 when he first felt called to provide a warm and comforting meal to anyone in need or struggling with homelessness in our community. Since then, it has grown into a community feast, with local businesses and others partnering with Jesse. Over the past 9 years, Mr. Porras' Thanksgiving meal has fed thousands and lifted the spirits of the entire community.

Jesse Porras is an inspiration to all of us. Not only was he willing to put his life on the line through his service to our country as a marine, but he continues that service through his generosity and philanthropic spirit today. This is something that we can all emu-

late, especially as we are approaching the holiday season.

I thank Mr. Porras personally for giving so much of his time, talent, and goodwill to share the blessings of Thanksgiving, which, in my opinion, should be celebrated every day. But on that particular day, he does a great job in Odessa. It is with heartfelt thanks that Texas' 11th Congressional District thanks him.

□ 1415

MOURNING THE TRAGEDY AT UVA AND HONORING THE BRAVERY OF MIKE HOLLINS

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the senseless and tragic loss of life at the University of Virginia on November 13, but I also rise to recognize and honor the bravery displayed by Mike Hollins during the recent shooting at the University of Virginia.

After getting off the bus and directing two students to run to safety, Mike Hollins, a running back on the Cavaliers football team, turned around and attempted to reboard the bus to help his teammates and others still trapped with the gunman.

Mike's bravery was met with evil, however, as he was shot while trying to protect those still in harm's way. Thankfully, Mike has been released from the hospital. I pray he will continue to have a full and complete recovery.

My prayers are also with the families of D'Sean Perry, Lavel Davis, Jr., and Devin Chandler, who are deeply hurting from the loss of their loved ones, along with the entire University of Virginia community.

We are always saddened in the face of tragedy, but bravery like Mike Hollins showed gives us hope. May God continue to heal our land.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DELIVERING OPTIMALLY URGENT LABOR ACCESS FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2521) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to furnish doula services to veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2521

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 “Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access for Veterans Affairs Act of 2022” or the “DOULA for VA Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY STUDY ON DOULA SUPPORT FOR VETERANS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a study on the feasibility and advisability of furnishing doula services to covered veterans. Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) measures taken by other Federal, State, and local entities to ensure the appropriate certification of doulas; and

(2) the extent to which such measures, or similar measures, may be adequate for purposes of such furnishment.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the findings of the study under subsection (a) that shall include a determination by the Secretary as to whether furnishing doula services to covered veterans is feasible and advisable.

(c) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered veteran” means a pregnant veteran or a formerly pregnant veteran (with respect to doula services to be furnished post-partum) who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. 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 H.R. 2521, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2521, as amended, the DOULA for VA Act of 2022. This bill, authored and long championed by Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE, would bring VA closer to providing the full scope of reproductive healthcare that our veterans and their newborns deserve. This bill would require VA conduct a feasibility and advisability study to determine whether to provide pregnant veterans access to doula support services.

The United States has a maternal mortality crisis, and our veterans are not protected from it. In fact, they are disproportionately more likely to experience severe maternal mental health outcomes than their civilian counterparts.

There is a growing body of research that shows that doula care is an effective tool in mitigating pre and postpartum mental health crises and can be a factor in reducing childbirth complications. The VA must investigate the ability to provide such holistic and effective care.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill. I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting Mrs. LAWRENCE’s critical and commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2521, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access for Veterans Affairs Act of 2022, or the DOULA for VA Act of 2022.

Women are now our fastest growing group within the veteran community. More than 2 million women veterans live in the U.S. today. Many of them are within childbearing age.

In the last few years, the use of maternal services within the VHA has increased by 44 percent. The DOULA for VA Act would require VA to conduct a study to provide doula services for pregnant veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, a doula is a trained companion who provides physical and emotional support to women before, during, and after childbirth. They also offer guidance and educational support for new mothers. However, doulas are not medically trained professionals, and there are no certifying or licensing standards for doulas, which is why it is imperative that doulas meet the minimum quality and safety standards set forth by the VA.

This bill will provide VA and Congress with valuable insight into the trade, and I ask all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2521.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), the author of H.R. 2521 and my good friend, who serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his dedication and the efforts of his entire team in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the ranking member for his support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the DOULA for VA Act.

Maternal mortality in the United States is a public health crisis. While maternal mortality rates have declined globally over the past three decades, the United States’ maternal mortality rates have climbed.

As we work to address this serious public health issue, we have a responsibility to make sure that our pregnant veterans are included in the conversation. This is because veterans who have experienced pregnancy disproportion-

ately experience mental health afflictions such as post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety.

Studies have found that pregnant veterans were twice as likely to have a diagnosis of depression, anxiety, and stress disorder, and more than those who had not experienced a pregnancy.

We must provide veterans who have served our country optimal maternal and mental health care that takes into consideration their veteran-specific experiences.

Doulas have a proven positive effect on the health outcome of the mother and child. As the use of doula services continue to grow, we must look at ways to expand maternal health services for our women in the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues for supporting this effort, the House leadership and their hard-working staff, and the amazing committee staff for working to advance this bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I again ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2521, as amended. With a heavy heart, I take this moment to pay tribute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE). She has joined us on Veterans Affairs’ codels and done factfinding on behalf of the committee for the betterment of our veterans. I thank her for that, and I wish her the best of the new opportunities that she will encounter after she leaves this body.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2521, DOULA for VA Act of 2021—to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to furnish doula services to veterans.

Doulas provide emotional and physical support to pregnant people during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. A doula will assist during birth by providing a positive and safe birthing experience.

Studies show that when doulas are present in the birthing process labors are shorter, it is less likely that a C-section will be needed, there are less requests for pain medication, and there is a more positive childbirth experience.

In 2013, the Journal of Perinatal Education conducted a study which found that expectant mothers matched with a doula had better birth outcomes than did mothers who gave birth without involvement of a doula.

Doulas work to develop birthing plans, help the parent understand labor and delivery procedures, communicate preferences to the medical staff, and teach relaxation and breathing skills, along with many other non-clinical tasks that improve the birthing experience.

Currently, Veterans Affairs benefits do not cover doula.

Improving the childbirth experience should be a priority for us all. Veterans and their family members deserve to have positive birthing experiences, just as all Americans do.

Maternal mortality is an issue that continues to plague the United States health care system. In 2020, 861 women died of maternal causes in the United States. In the U.S., two-thirds of those pregnancy-related deaths are preventable and for every pregnancy-related death, there are 70 pregnancy-related near-death experiences. It's extremely important that we remove barriers in health care that may be contributing to these deaths.

Maternal mortality is caused by several issues such as cardiovascular problems, high blood pressure, blood clots, and complications of labor and delivery.

One step to removing health care barriers is to provide more services such as doulas who can advocate for the parent and provide positive birthing experiences.

From 2010 through 2015, the use of maternity services from the Veterans Health Administration increased by 44 percent.

If doula services are improving care for the general public, then veterans should be provided with the opportunity to utilize doula services as well.

A study in 2010 found that veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom who experienced pregnancy were twice as likely to have a diagnosis of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia as compared to those who had not experienced a pregnancy.

H.R. 2521, Doula for VA Act of 2021 is important because we should be working to improve the lives of women and children in the United States. This bill directly impacts the health of veterans and their families.

I know that this bill is important to my constituents in Houston. Over 282,000 Veterans live in the Houston area, and almost 25,000 Veterans in Houston are women. Improving the birthing experience for these women is a top priority to me.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical bill that will direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to furnish doula services to veterans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2521, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMITMENT TO VETERAN SUPPORT AND OUTREACH ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4601) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4601

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 "Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO AWARD GRANTS TO STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES TO IMPROVE OUTREACH TO VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 6307 and 6308 and sections 6308 and 6309, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 6306 the following new section 6307:

“§ 6307. Grants to States and Indian Tribes to improve outreach to veterans

“(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to provide for assistance by the Secretary to States and Indian Tribes to carry out programs that—

“(1) improve outreach and assistance to veterans and the spouses, children, and parents of veterans, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about any veterans and veterans-related benefits and programs (including veterans programs of a State or Indian Tribe) for which they may be eligible; and

“(2) facilitate opportunities for such individuals to receive competent, qualified services in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of veterans benefits claims.

“(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants under this section to States and Indian Tribes—

“(1) to carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance outreach activities;

“(2) to increase the number of county or Tribal veterans service officers serving in the State or Indian Tribe by hiring new, additional such officers; or

“(3) to expand, carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance existing programs, activities, and services of the existing organization of the State or Indian Tribe that has been recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 5902, in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for veterans benefits through representatives who hold positions as county or Tribal veterans service officers.

“(c) APPLICATION.—(1) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a State or Indian Tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(2) Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) A detailed plan for the use of the grant.

“(B) A description of the programs through which the State or Indian Tribe will meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (i).

“(C) A description of how the State or Indian Tribe will distribute grant amounts equitably among counties (or Tribal lands, as the case may be) with varying levels of urbanization.

“(D) A plan for how the grant will be used to meet the unique needs of American Indian or Alaska Native veterans, elderly veterans, women veterans, and veterans from other underserved communities.

“(d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that grants awarded under this section are equitably distributed among States and Indian Tribes with varying levels of urbanization.

“(e) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize awarding grants under this section that will serve the following areas:

“(1) Areas with a critical shortage of county or Tribal veterans service officers.

“(2) Areas with high rates of—

“(A) suicide among veterans; or

“(B) referrals to the Veterans Crisis Line.

“(f) USE OF COUNTY OR TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS.—A State or Indian Tribe that receives a grant under this section to carry out an activity described in subsection (b)(1) may only carry out the activity through—

“(1) a county or Tribal veterans service officer of the State or Indian Tribe; or

“(2) if the State or Indian Tribe does not have a county or Tribal veterans service officer, or if the county or Tribal veterans service officers of the State or Indian Tribe cover only a portion of that State or Indian Tribe, an appropriate entity of a State, local, or Tribal government, as determined by the Secretary.

“(g) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Any grant awarded under this section shall be used—

“(1) to expand existing programs, activities, and services;

“(2) to hire and maintain new, additional county or Tribal veterans service officers; or

“(3) for travel and transportation to facilitate carrying out paragraph (1) or (2).

“(h) OTHER PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A grant under this section may be used to provide education and training, including on-the-job training, for State, county, local, and Tribal government employees who provide (or when trained will provide) veterans outreach services in order for those employees to obtain and maintain accreditation in accordance with procedures approved by the Secretary.

“(i) OUTCOME MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary shall develop and provide to each State or Indian Tribe that receives a grant under this section written guidance on the following:

“(A) Outcome measures.

“(B) Policies of the Department.

“(2) In developing outcome measures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the following goals:

“(A) Increasing the use of veterans and veterans-related benefits, particularly among vulnerable populations.

“(B) Increasing the number of county and Tribal veterans service officers recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under chapter 59 of this title.

“(j) TRACKING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) With respect to each grant awarded under this section, the Secretary shall track the use of veterans benefits among the population served by the grant, including the average period of time between the date on which a veteran or other eligible claimant applies for such a benefit and the date on which the veteran or other eligible claimant receives the benefit, disaggregated by type of benefit.

“(2) Not less frequently than annually during the life of the grant program established under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on—

“(A) the information tracked under paragraph (1);

“(B) how the grants awarded under this section serve the unique needs of American Indian or Alaska Native veterans, elderly veterans, women veterans, and veterans from other underserved communities; and

“(C) other information provided by States and Indian Tribes pursuant to the grant reporting requirements.

“(k) PERFORMANCE REVIEW.—(1) The Secretary shall—

“(A) review the performance of each State or Indian Tribe that receives a grant under this section; and

“(B) make information regarding such performance publicly available.

“(l) REMEDIATION PLAN.—(1) In the case of a State or Indian Tribe that receives a grant

under this section and does not meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (i), the Secretary shall require the State or Indian Tribe to submit a remediation plan under which the State or Indian Tribe shall describe how and when it plans to meet such outcome measures.

“(2) The Secretary may not award a subsequent grant under this section to a State or Indian Tribe described in paragraph (1) unless the Secretary approves the remediation plan submitted by the State of Indian Tribe.

“(m) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not exceed 10 percent of amounts made available for grants under this section for the fiscal year in which the grant is awarded.

“(n) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Any grant awarded under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant State and local funding that is otherwise available.

“(o) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘county or Tribal veterans service officer’ includes a local equivalent veterans service officer.

“(2) The term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(3) The term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any territory or possession of the United States.

“(4) The term ‘Veterans Crisis Line’ means the toll-free hotline for veterans established under section 1720F(h) of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 63 of such title is amended by striking the items relating to sections 6307 and 6308 and inserting the following new items:

“6307. Grants to States and Indian Tribes to improve outreach to veterans.

“6308. Outreach for eligible dependents.

“6309. Biennial report to Congress.”.

(c) MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEE.—The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “January 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “February 10, 2031”.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE.—During fiscal years 2024 through 2028, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may hire two or more additional full-time equivalent employees in the Office of the General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as compared to the number of full-time equivalent employees that would otherwise be authorized for such office, to carry out duties under the accreditation, discipline, and fees program.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. 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 H.R. 4601, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4601, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act, as amended. This bill authorizes VA to provide grants to States, counties, and Tribes to implement programs that improve outreach and assistance to veterans and their families to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about veterans’ benefits and programs.

Specifically, VA may provide grants to States, counties, and Tribal entities to implement or enhance outreach activities or activities to assist in the development and submittal of claims for veterans or increase the number of county or Tribal veteran service officers in the State.

Additionally, VA would be required to prioritize awarding grants in areas with a critical shortage of county or Tribal veterans service officers, areas with high rates of suicide among veterans, and areas with high rates of referrals to the veterans crisis line.

With high-profile, sweeping veterans’ legislation like the PACT Act recently signed into law, the support and outreach offered by H.R. 4601 would greatly assist in implementing such new programs as smoothly as possible.

With enhanced communication outreach focused on explaining new benefits and services to a broader range of veterans and their families, the more opportunities we will have to connect with potential beneficiaries interacting with VA for the very first time.

With more accredited claims representatives available to assist with the preparation and submission of claim applications, the better positioned VA will be to decide these claims in a more timely and accurate manner.

With funds to recruit and train more county and Tribal veterans service officers, helpful skills and information related to life-changing benefits and other VA services will reach farther into our veteran communities that are so often and undeservedly overlooked.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill. I thank Representative LEVIN for crafting this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote for its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4601, as amended, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act.

This bill would provide VA the authority to award grants to States and Indian Tribes to improve outreach to veterans and their families about the benefits they may be eligible for.

H.R. 4601, as amended, would prioritize grants to the areas that have large populations of underserved veterans and high rates of suicide. Additionally, this bill would help county and Tribal VSOs assist veterans with preparing and presenting their disability compensation claims.

With the implementation of the PACT Act right around the corner, it is imperative that Congress provide local VSOs with the resources they need to assist veterans with their claims.

Every veteran deserves access to the same wraparound help with their benefits regardless of where they live. Congressman LEVIN and Congressman ROSENDALE’s proposal would do exactly that.

I also want to point out that this bill has a mandatory cost because of toxic exposure funds created by the PACT Act. Now, I am happy to see the cost is now fully offset rather than swept under the rug.

Congress must find a permanent solution to the toxic exposure fund scoring problem before we use up all of our offsets and become unable to move additional legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to work toward that solution, and I urge all Members to support H.R. 4601, as amended.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, again, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4601, as amended. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly stand in strong support of H.R. 4601, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act, which will authorize the VA to provide grants to states to implement programs that improve outreach and assistance to veterans and their families to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about veterans’ benefits and programs.

As our veterans have put their lives on the line for defense of our nation, we must do everything in our power to support them when they return home after their service.

This bill achieves this goal by increasing outreach to veterans and their families to ensure that they are fully informed about their benefits and can get the assistance they need to apply for and get the benefits to which they are entitled.

According to a report by the Department of Veterans Affairs, America has over 19 million veterans, of whom over 1,567,000 live in Texas, the second most of any state. Over 179,000 live in Harris County and about 29,000 live in my district.

Of the total veteran population, the VA reports that only 49% (9.8 million out of 20.0 million) used at least one VA benefit or service in FY 2017.

That percentage is far too low. Too few veterans are taking advantage of the programs and services available to them to cope with the ravages of war.

Their ailments include everything from respiratory problems caused by burn-pit toxic exposure to combat conditions such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Prompt and easy access to services to address these problems determines a veteran's ability to recover from them.

For example, according to research conducted by the VA, veterans who received care soon after the end of their service had lower levels of PTSD upon a follow-up evaluation a year after they initiated care. According to the study, for each year that a veteran waited to initiate treatment, there was about a 5 percent increase in the odds of their PTSD either not improving or worsening.

In 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found that post-9/11 veterans who had not sought VA mental health care didn't know how to apply for benefits—or were unsure whether they were even eligible. Some didn't know what services the VA offered or felt that they didn't deserve care even if they could get it.

This bill addresses that problem by making grants available to states to help the thousands of veterans who need services for their conditions acquired or exacerbated by military service but who don't know how to access them.

This legislation will not only be key to assisting veterans to get over barriers to access their benefits but will also improve veteran mental health and help reduce the veteran suicide crisis.

This bill focuses on equity by prioritizing grants to areas with high suicide rates among veterans and high referrals to the Veterans Crisis Line. This approach will help save veterans' lives and ensure this funding is directed to areas most in need.

Smoothen access to VA mental health care and suicide prevention has never been more important than it is today. A disproportionate number of veterans die by suicide following separation from military service.

Veterans ages 18 to 34 have the highest rate of suicide.

As reported by the Houston Chronicle, in 2020, the suicide rate for Texas veterans was 36.6 suicides per 100,000 veterans while the nationwide rate was 34.4, according to data from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. This rate is in stark contrast to the suicide rate among Texans overall, which is 13.3 per 100,000 people.

I am proud to support this legislation because it will reduce veteran suicide among Texans and nationwide, and it will enable states to better serve veterans who are in need of many types of assistance.

This is especially important because of the Texas governor's recent actions impacting troops and veterans in Texas with regard to the southern border.

Texas's governor has thrust our National Guard into a disastrous border operation, Operation Lone Star, by declaring a fictional "migrant invasion", and falsely claiming that activation of the National Guard is needed for what he describes as "secure our communities against record-breaking illegal border crossings and transnational criminal activity."

The result is that our National Guard troops are being forced to commit major human rights violations. The governor's use of the National Guard to police misdemeanor trespassing by migrants has sparked a civil rights probe by the Justice Department. According to Human Rights Watch, the operation results in arrests that target people based on race and national origin and disregard due process, including abuses in detention.

Black and Brown migrants, and even US citizens, are subjected to racially discriminatory arrests, prosecutions on flimsy pretexts, and detention with substandard food and inadequate or nonexistent health care, according to detainees cited in a complaint filed with the US Justice Department. Defendants have been forced to wait weeks or months in pretrial detention before they have an opportunity to see a judge.

Troops commanded to carry out this operation are so affected that at least four confirmed suicides have occurred since the operation began, while ten soldiers linked to the operation have died since September 2021, all via accident or suicide.

In addition to human rights abuses, Texas Guard troops have complained about pay problems, poor living conditions and inconsistent guidance from leaders since the operation expanded massively last Fall.

I strongly denounce the program, its abuses, and the trauma that it is inflicting on our troops who are charged to carry out the program's edicts.

This legislation, H.R. 4601, will help these veterans who struggle with the aftermath of the psychological and physical toll of serving on this operation, just as veterans of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere continue to wrestle with the aftereffects of their service.

We must help veterans access the benefits and services that they earned and so definitely deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4601, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1430

MARK O'BRIEN VA CLOTHING ALLOWANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4772) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the application and review process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims submitted by veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4772

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 "Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO PROCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE CLAIMS.

(a) PROCESS FOR CLOTHING ALLOWANCE CLAIMS.—Section 1162 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "The Secretary under" and inserting:

“(a) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary, under”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “which (A) a physician” and inserting: “which—”

“(A) a physician”; and

(B) by striking “, and (B) the Secretary” and inserting “; and”

“(B) the Secretary”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(b) CONTINUOUS NATURE OF PAYMENTS.—Payments made to a veteran under subsection (a) shall continue on an automatically recurring annual basis until the earlier of the following:

“(1) The date on which the veteran elects to no longer receive such payments.

“(2) The date on which the Secretary determines the veteran no longer eligible pursuant to subsection (d).

“(c) REVIEWS OF CLAIM.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall conduct reviews of the claim on which the clothing allowance is based to determine the continued eligibility of the veteran as follows:

“(A) Beginning not earlier than five years after the date on which a veteran initially receives a clothing allowance under this section and on a periodic basis thereafter.

“(B) Whenever the Secretary receives notice that the veteran no longer meets the requirements specified in subsection (a).

“(2)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe in regulations standards for determining whether a claim for clothing allowance is based on a circumstance that is not subject to change.

“(B) If the Secretary determines, pursuant to such standards, that a claim for clothing allowance is based on a circumstance that is not subject to change, paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply with respect to the claim.

“(d) DETERMINATION REGARDING CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY.—If the Secretary determines, as the result of a review of a claim conducted under subsection (c)(1), that the veteran who submitted such claim no longer meets the requirements specified in subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

“(1) provide to the veteran notice of such determination that includes a description of applicable actions that may be taken following the determination, including the actions specified in section 5104C of this title; and

“(2) discontinue the clothing allowance based on such claim.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to—

(1) claims for clothing allowance submitted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) claims for clothing allowance submitted prior to the date of the enactment of this Act, if the veteran who submitted such claim is in receipt of the clothing allowance as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. ADJUSTMENTS OF CERTAIN LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “January 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “January 15, 2031”.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory

Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4772, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4772, as amended, the Mark O’Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act.

As it stands today, under 38 U.S.C. 1162, the Secretary may pay an annual clothing allowance payment to a veteran with a service-connected disability that requires the use of a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, including a wheelchair, which the Secretary determines tends to wear out or tear the clothing of the veteran, or medication which, A, a physician has prescribed for a skin condition, or, B, the Secretary determines causes irreparable damage to the veteran’s outer garments.

Veterans who are entitled to a VA clothing allowance must reapply each year to receive the annual payment. This places the onus on veterans with what are, in most instances, permanent conditions to remember to reapply each year to receive the benefit they have already shown they are entitled to. Veterans must also remember to apply before August 1 or risk denial due to untimely application.

Mr. LEVIN’s bill would change all of that. It would amend 38 U.S.C. 1162 to allow for the VA clothing allowance to be an automatic annual payment, subject to periodic review by VA to determine continued entitlement.

It would no longer force veterans to reapply each year and, instead, requires VA to complete periodic reviews to determine continued entitlement on its own initiation. This would require notice to the veteran if entitlement were no longer shown.

Approximately 40,000 veterans were approved for the clothing allowance benefit in fiscal year 2020 alone. This bill would ensure these veterans no longer have to reapply every year to maintain their benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting Mr.

LEVIN’s beneficial and commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4772, as amended, the Mark O’Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act.

The clothing allowance program was created to give veterans the financial means to replace clothes that have been damaged due to their service-connected disability. For example, a veteran who has a prosthetic or uses a wheelchair may wear out their clothes quickly and need to replace them often.

Yet, under current law, veterans who qualify for the clothing allowance must go through a tedious process of reapplying every year to receive their benefit, even if their condition is unlikely to change.

H.R. 4772, as amended, would streamline the process for veterans receiving a clothing allowance by making the renewal process automatic.

To ensure proper oversight of this program, VA would be required to re-evaluate the veteran 5 years after they have received the benefit to determine eligibility for the clothing allowance. If a veteran has a more permanent condition, such as an amputation, VA would have the authority to exempt the veteran from regular reevaluations.

I support these commonsense changes, which would simplify the clothing allowance program and reduce the paperwork burden on our veterans, and I am glad to see the cost of the bill is also fully offset. I thank Congressman LEVIN and Congressman MOORE for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4772, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 4772, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4772, the Mark O’Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act.

This legislation would amend the VA’s existing clothing allowance program by enabling automatic payments to continue being made to eligible veterans on a recurring basis until the veteran opts out of the program or is no longer eligible.

The bill will make it easier for veterans—especially veterans living with lifelong disabilities—to receive their earned clothing benefits which enables them to live with the dignity and comfort that they earned and so rightfully deserve.

Millions of veterans will live the rest of their lives with disabilities due to service-incurred injuries and physical impairments that resulted after they made the decision to protect our nation and safeguard our freedom.

Our courageous servicemembers have pledged that, on the battlefield, they will leave no soldier behind. In carrying out this sacred obligation, many have suffered life-altering injuries, including loss of limbs.

These injuries often result in loss of mobility or the need for a prosthetic which require spe-

cialized clothing and cause accelerated deterioration of standard garments.

In full appreciation of their devotion and the consequences they suffered from it, as a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.

H.R. 4772, the Mark O’Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act will alleviate these veterans’ burden of needing to reapply for clothing benefits every year for our 1.9 million veterans with a service-connected disability.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4772, the Mark O’Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act.

Veterans have kept their promise to serve our nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

Let us resolve together that we will provide returning veterans with the welcome, services, care, and compassion that they deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4772, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LANCE CORPORAL DANA CORNELL DARNELL OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5943) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the “Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell Outpatient Clinic,” as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5943

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF LANCE CORPORAL DANA CORNELL DARNELL VA CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell VA Clinic”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell VA Clinic”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5943, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 5943, as amended, which will appropriately honor the memory of Lance Corporal Dana C. Darnell as one of the more than 58,000 names etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial just down the street on The National Mall.

Like so many of those who served our great Nation, Lance Corporal Darnell's life was tragically cut short. In April 1967, his Marine platoon was ambushed by enemy forces in the Quang Tri Province in north-central Vietnam.

Lance Corporal Darnell, at just 19 years old, displayed remarkable bravery and selflessness in the face of adversity. When his platoon's mortar gunner was knocked unconscious, Lance Corporal Darnell quickly retrieved the weapon and began firing it into the enemy's position.

After exhausting his ammunition, he moved from man to man, collecting additional mortar rounds to help silence the attack. In doing so, Lance Corporal Darnell undoubtedly saved the lives of others in his platoon.

Even after being temporarily blinded by enemy fire, Lance Corporal Darnell refused to be evacuated. Instead, he quickly began caring for his wounded comrades. Two days later, Lance Corporal Darnell was killed in action.

For his extraordinary heroism, Lance Corporal Darnell was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross by President Johnson. The Greenville, South Carolina, native also received a Purple Heart and National Defense, Vietnam Service, and Vietnam Campaign Medals for his meritorious service.

I thank my colleague, Representative TIMMONS, for introducing this bill, which will designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Greenville, South Carolina, the Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell Outpatient Clinic.

This bill has letters of support from The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Speaker, I include these letters in the RECORD.

[From the American Legion]

Whereas, The American Legion is always preserving the memories in incidents in all wars and to the men, women and families sacrifice to the country of The United States of America will never be forgotten; and

Whereas, The American Legion has paid homage to the courage and commitments from the United States military and the values they have brought to our great nation; and

Whereas, the United States is a grateful nation for the ultimate sacrifice of 58,220

United States Service members during the war with the North Vietnamese from 1955–1975; and

Whereas, one of those conflicts was the battle of Quang Tri Provence the northern provincial capital of The republic of South Vietnam involving Company B, First Battalion, 9th Marines, Third Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force April 24, 1967; and

Whereas, Greenville South Carolina's very own United States Marine Lance Corporal Dana Cornell was engaged in a search and destroy operation against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese ambushed Cornell as they entered a field; and

Whereas, using heavy small arms Lance Corporal Dana Cornell was knocked unconscious while seeking cover and still managed to face extraordinary calmness in the face of enemy fire, Cornell retrieved the mortar, and was unable to set it up properly, due to the urgency of the situation, holding it between his legs and steadyng it from his hands, began firing into enemy positions; and

Whereas, Cornell exhausted all of his ammunition and moved from man to man collecting mortars until the enemy fire was silenced and his platoon began to withdraw from the clearing Darnell, was dragging two wounded Marines from the clearing when he was temporary blinded; and

Whereas, Darnell showed exceptional courage staying in the field tending to the wounded. By his outstanding courage, exceptional fortitude, and valiant fighting spirit he served to inspire all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service; and

Whereas, It has pleased almighty God, the Great Commander to summon his immortal and beloved comrade at arms Lance Corporal Dana Cornell while paying the ultimate sacrifice of his life at age 19 so that others could be free April 26, 1967; and be it finally

Resolved, That South Carolinas Largest Veterans organization the American Legion, Department of South Carolina Executive Committee at a specially called meeting assembled on this day in November 10, 2022 that it supports designating the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell Outpatient Clinic".

JAMES KVAM,
Chairman, Internal
Affairs.

JAMES JARVIS,
South Carolina De-
partment Com-
mander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE
UNITED STATES, DEPARTMENT OF
SOUTH CAROLINA,

November 4, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Veterans Affairs Committee,
Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN TAKANO: On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Carolina, it is my honor and privilege to pledge our support for HR 5943 naming the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic in Greenville, SC after Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell.

Lance Corporal Darnell's service and sacrifice for our nation is truly worthy of this honor. The heroic deeds of this South Carolina native during action in Vietnam reflects great credit upon this organization, and all of America's combat veterans . . . past, present, and future.

This measure would bring about a fitting tribute to Lance Corporal Darnell in his native Greenville. We stand in solidarity with South Carolina's veterans' community and

our elected representatives in support of this bill.

Yours in Comradeship,

ED STEFANAK, Jr.,

State Commander,

VFW Department of South Carolina.

Attested:

KEVIN L. JOY,

State Adjutant,

VFW Department of South Carolina.

DAV,

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

West Columbia, SC, November 3, 2022.

Subject: Support for Bill, Naming Greenville CBOC

Congressman WILLIAM TIMMONS (SC-04),

Attn: Jessica Ridley.

The DAV Department of South Carolina, fully support Congressman William Timmons' Bill that would name the VA Greenville Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for a Vietnam Marine who was killed in 1967 at Khe Sanh during an action for which he received the Navy Cross.

We are honored to write this letter of recommendation for LCpl Dana Cornell Darnell, United States Marine Corps.

LCpl Darnell was born in Greenville, South Carolina on February 5, 1948. He joined the U.S. Marines on his 18th birthday, arriving at Parris Island, South Carolina on March 8, 1966. He received further training at Camp Pendleton, California before his assignment in Vietnam on August 20, 1966. On April 24, 1967, North Vietnam Army Forces ambushed his platoon and wounded this young Marine. He died April 26, 1967, at 19 years of age.

The Navy Cross was awarded, posthumously, to LCpl Darnell for his extraordinary heroism and for exhibiting sound judgement and calmness in the face of intense enemy fire.

The personal sacrifice and brave actions of LCpl Dana Darnell help preserve our nation's freedom for which we are profoundly grateful. We wholeheartedly support the recommendation that the VA Greenville CBOC be named in his honor.

Respectfully,

LARRY LONG,

Commander, DAV Dept. of South Carolina.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5943, as amended, and I re-serve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5943, as amended, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Greenville, South Carolina, as the Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell VA Clinic.

Lance Corporal Darnell was born in Greenville, South Carolina, and joined the United States Marine Corps on his 18th birthday. While he was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in 1967, his unit was engaged in a mission against Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces in Quang Tri Province. His patrol was ambushed by enemy forces using heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire.

In the chaos that ensued, his mortar gunner was knocked unconscious. Displaying courage in the face of extreme danger, Lance Corporal Darnell quickly retrieved the mortar.

Despite being unable to set the mortar up properly, he continued to fire at the enemy. When he ran out of ammo,

he moved from man to man, collecting more ammo until the enemy guns fell silent.

When Lance Corporal Darnell's unit was ordered to withdraw from the area, he dragged two marines to safety and refused to evacuate himself. He stayed back to tend to the wounded.

Lance Corporal Darnell died 2 days later, on April 26, 1967, at the age of 19. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his selfless sacrifice and act of courage in combat.

Lance Corporal Darnell's service to our Nation is truly worthy of honor. Semper Fidelis.

Naming this VA facility after the Greenville native son and hero will serve as a reminder and an inspiration to all who seek care there. It will also ensure that his story of service is never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5943, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS).

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member BOST and Chairman TAKANO for supporting this bill and bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our bill, H.R. 5943, to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell Outpatient Clinic.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Dana Cornell Darnell was a lance corporal in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam war. On April 24, 1967, his platoon was ambushed by North Vietnamese Army forces. He quickly worked to silence enemy fire. Even after being temporarily blinded, he refused to be evacuated and quickly began assisting in the care of the wounded.

For his extraordinary heroism, Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell was awarded the Navy Cross.

Renaming the Greenville VA clinic in honor of Lance Corporal Darnell will ensure we never forget the courage, service, and sacrifice of our fellow South Carolinian.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the entire South Carolina delegation for their support of this bill. We believe the Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell Outpatient Clinic will serve countless veterans throughout the upstate and uphold our promise to those who gave our country their all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5943.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill and honor the lance corporal by naming this facility after him.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5943, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5943, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LONG-TERM CARE VETERANS CHOICE ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7158) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7158

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 "Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act".

SEC. 2. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENT OF CARE FOR VETERANS IN NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h)(1) During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, and subject to paragraph (3)—

"(A) at the request of a veteran for whom the Secretary is required to provide nursing home care under section 1710A of this title, the Secretary may place the veteran in a medical foster home that meets Department standards, at the expense of the United States, pursuant to a contract, agreement, or other arrangement entered into between the Secretary and the medical foster home for such purpose; and

"(B) the Secretary may pay for care of a veteran placed in a medical foster home before such date of enactment, if the home meets Department standards, pursuant to a contract, agreement, or other arrangement entered into between the Secretary and the medical foster home for such purpose.

"(2) A veteran on whose behalf the Secretary pays for care in a medical foster home under paragraph (1) shall agree, as a condition of such payment, to accept home health services furnished by the Secretary under section 1717 of this title.

"(3) In any year, not more than a daily average of 900 veterans receiving care in a med-

ical foster home, whether placed before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, may have their care covered at the expense of the United States under paragraph (1).

"(4) The prohibition under section 1730(b)(3) of this title shall not apply to a veteran whose care is covered at the expense of the United States under paragraph (1).

"(5) In this subsection, the term 'medical foster home' means a home designed to provide non-institutional, long-term, supportive care for veterans who are unable to live independently and prefer a family setting."

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (h) of section 1720 of title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ONGOING MONITORING OF MEDICAL FOSTER HOME PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall create a system to monitor and assess the workload for the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out the authority under section 1720(h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), including by tracking—

(A) requests by veterans to be placed in a medical foster home under such section;

(B) denials of such requests, including the reasons for such denials;

(C) the total number of medical foster homes applying to participate under such section, disaggregated by those approved and those denied approval by the Department to participate;

(D) veterans receiving care at a medical foster home at the expense of the United States; and

(E) veterans receiving care at a medical foster home at their own expense.

(2) REPORT.—Based on the monitoring and assessments conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall identify and submit to Congress a report on such modifications to implementing section 1720(h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), as the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the authority under such section is functioning as intended and care is provided to veterans under such section as intended.

(3) MEDICAL FOSTER HOME DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "medical foster home" has the meaning given that term in section 1720(h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than each of three years and six years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) assessing the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section;

(2) assessing the impact of the monitoring and modifications under subsection (b) on care provided under section 1720(h) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1); and

(3) setting forth recommendations for improvements to the implementation of such section, as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(d) MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEE.—The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "January 14, 2031" each place it appears and inserting "February 15, 2031".

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of

the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7158, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7158, as amended, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act.

This bill, authored and long championed by Congressman HIGGINS and Chairwoman BROWNLEY, would enable VA to better provide long-term services and support for our aging and disabled veterans.

□ 1445

The VA's medical foster homes are one of its most creative and effective initiatives. Veterans who have access to these care settings thrive and are able to remain a part of their community, even if their conditions do not allow them to remain independently in their homes.

Veterans who are not yet ready for institutional care but need the help and assistance of professional caregivers are able to live in a home setting among other veterans in their communities. Satisfaction with the program is very high, but veterans have to pay for the care themselves, which is a barrier for many veterans. Yet, VA is currently prohibited from paying a veteran's room and board. This legislation would change that.

Community-based programs like these are what veterans want and deserve. They also prevent veterans from being forced into much more expensive institutional care settings.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7158, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act.

H.R. 7158 would give VA the authority to grant payments to non-VA entities for veterans who require long-term care in medical foster homes. A medical foster home is a private home, not an institutional facility, where trained caregivers provide wraparound care and service to patients.

VA inspects and approves medical foster homes and enrolls veterans in the VA Home Healthcare Program. But under current law, VA is not authorized to pay for veterans' medical foster home care. Veterans must cover the bill themselves, even if they would otherwise be eligible for a VA-run nursing home facility.

Now, medical foster homes are a more cost-effective alternative to nursing home care. They typically cost between \$1,500 and \$3,000 a month, compared to a typical \$7,000-a-month cost in a nursing home.

Allowing veterans to age with dignity and being comfortable is something that I care deeply about, and this bill is a critical step towards helping us to do just that.

However, this is another bill that CBO gave a large mandatory score to because of the toxic exposure fund. We were able to fully offset this score, but we won't be able to do that for every piece of legislation. Our offsets are quickly running out, and we have to solve the scoring problem before the work of our committee grinds to a complete halt.

This bill is supported by the VA and numerous VSOs, and I thank Congressman HIGGINS for his tireless work on it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7158, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the ranking member's desire to engage in talks regarding the toxic exposure fund. It is an important issue, which is the long-term implications of the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, otherwise known as TEV, and it was created by the Honoring our PACT Act.

This fund is absolutely crucial to ensuring VA has the resources necessary to fully support our veterans and to deliver the new benefits available to them without having to sacrifice existing programs.

As I have said repeatedly, any potential change to this fund and how it operates must be considered very carefully and requires the input of other committees that have a stake in this issue, to include appropriations and budget in the House and Senate.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the chairman as we move forward to try to cure that problem that we were just talking about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), a great Member, who has worked hard on this bill.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act. The Department of Veterans Affairs has been running its medical foster homes initiative since the year 2000, and as of 2021, the Veterans Health Administration oversees about 600 medical foster home caregivers taking care of veterans in about 40 States.

Medical foster homes are private homes where a caregiver provides services to a small group of individuals who are unable to live without day-to-day assistance.

Currently, veterans enrolled in home-based primary care through the VA may elect to receive their care at medical foster homes. However, the VA does not cover the cost of medical foster homes for veterans that would otherwise be eligible for nursing home care through the VA. As has been noted by my colleagues, full nursing home traditional care is far more expensive than medical foster homes.

Veterans must pay for medical foster homes out of their pocket or through private insurance. This bill would fix that.

My bill would authorize the Secretary of the VA to enter into contracts and agreements for placement of up to 900 veterans a day in medical foster homes. These are veterans who are unable to live independently.

In addition, medical foster home caregivers would be required to pass a Federal background check and undergo VA screening. They would be required to participate in annual training, and they would have to permit the VA to make announced and unannounced home visits.

Finally, the VA would provide these veterans with full interdisciplinary home care that includes, physicians, nurses, rehabilitation therapists, medical healthcare providers, dietitians, and pharmacists.

My bill is supported by the American Legion, the VFW, Disabled American Veterans, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

In closing, I sincerely thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for bringing this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his hard work. I feel his sincere words. I take them to heart, and I sincerely hope that we get this through the Senate so that we can see this signed into law before the end of this year.

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

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

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, as I have said before on the floor of this House, serving our veterans is not about red or blue. It is about red, white, and blue. I know that the ranking member stands with me in service of our veterans, and he stands with me right now in the optimism that Team USA is going to prevail today at the World Cup. They are ahead 1-0. I know the ranking member and I, and the gentleman from Louisiana, are all standing united with the hope of an American victory there.

Mr. Speaker, again, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7158,

as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7158, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROTECTING FIREFIGHTERS FROM ADVERSE SUBSTANCES ACT

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 231) to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 231

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 “Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act” or the “PFAS Act”.

SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PREVENT EXPOSURE TO AND RELEASE OF PFAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the heads of any other relevant agencies, shall—

(1) develop and publish guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on training, education programs, and best practices;

(2) make available a curriculum designed to—

(A) reduce and eliminate exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly referred to as “PFAS”) from firefighting foam and personal protective equipment;

(B) prevent the release of PFAS from firefighting foam into the environment; and

(C) educate firefighters and other emergency response personnel on foams and non-foam alternatives, personal protective equipment, and other firefighting tools and equipment that do not contain PFAS; and

(3) create an online public repository, which shall be updated on a regular basis, on tools and best practices for firefighters and other emergency response personnel to reduce, limit, and prevent the release of and exposure to PFAS.

(b) CURRICULUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of developing the curriculum required under sub-

section (a)(2), the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall make recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security as to the content of the curriculum.

(2) CONSULTATION.—For the purpose of making recommendations under paragraph (1), the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration shall consult with interested entities, as appropriate, including—

(A) firefighters and other emergency response personnel, including national fire service and emergency response organizations;

(B) impacted communities dealing with PFAS contamination;

(C) scientists, including public and occupational health and safety experts, who are studying PFAS and PFAS alternatives in firefighting foam;

(D) voluntary standards organizations engaged in developing standards for firefighter and firefighting equipment;

(E) State fire training academies;

(F) State fire marshals;

(G) manufacturers of firefighting tools and equipment; and

(H) any other relevant entities, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration.

(c) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the guidance and curriculum required under subsection (a) is issued, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, shall review the guidance and curriculum and, as appropriate, issue updates to the guidance and curriculum.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to this Act.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to promulgate or enforce regulations under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 231, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 231, the Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act, or the PFAS Act, championed by my Michigan colleagues and dear friends, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL and Senator GARY PETERS.

I profoundly thank them for their steadfast and dedicated leadership on

addressing PFAS contamination to protect our natural waters in the Great Lakes, our air, and beyond.

Exposure to PFAS chemicals continues to harm the health and well-being of families across America. My home State of Michigan has the most PFAS contaminated sites in the country, thus making it the State’s biggest environmental crisis in half a century. But we also have been one of the very few States tracking it.

Although scientific knowledge regarding PFAS continues to develop, we know PFAS chemicals are linked to serious adverse health effects in human beings. The more we find out, the worse the picture appears.

Recently, the EPA sounded the alarm bell and asked its Science Advisory Board, the SAB, to review new analyses and data that suggests that two chemicals, which have been found in many drinking waters and surface waters in Michigan and around the country, are far more toxic than previously thought.

While officials in Michigan have taken steps to address this crisis, there is so much more to be done at every level of government.

Our efforts in Michigan need to be strengthened by Congressional action. In order to adequately address this threat, we need the Federal Government to step it up. That is why I am proud to cosponsor the bill we are considering today, Congresswoman DINGELL’s and Senator PETERS’ Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act.

PFAS are human-made chemicals that have been manufactured since the 1940s and can be found in a wide range of both consumer and industrial products, including firefighting foam and firefighter turnout gear.

While firefighters have dedicated their lives to protecting others in keeping our communities safe, they have, unfortunately, been exposed to these forever chemicals on the job.

The Department of Defense, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Federal Aviation Administration all conduct research on PFAS-free firefighting foam or PFAS-free firefighter gear.

This promising work across our Federal Government is vital to reducing exposure to PFAS, but more progress is needed. Until PFAS-free alternatives are widespread, we must do everything we can to protect firefighters, emergency medical responders, and the communities they serve from unnecessary PFAS exposure.

This bipartisan legislation directs the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to offer resources to help protect firefighters, emergency response personnel, and the communities they serve from PFAS exposure.

□ 1500

The bill also directs the administrator to provide resources that identify PFAS-free alternatives for firefighting gear and equipment. This

guidance would be developed in consultation with other Federal agencies conducting research on PFAS-free alternatives, as well as a wide range of stakeholders, including firefighting and emergency response personnel, communities dealing with PFAS contamination, fire training academies, manufacturers of firefighting tools and equipment, and voluntary standards organizations.

This is America doing what America does best: innovating. This bill is an important step to protecting our first responders in the line of duty from exposure to harmful chemicals.

It has already passed the Senate with bipartisan support, and today I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the bill here in the House and sending it to the President.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the PFAS Act.

PFAS refers to a large group of high-strength, high-durability chemicals used in industry and consumer products. They are critical to the reliable and safe function of essential products like cell phones, military aircraft, solar panels, wind turbines, and medical devices. But because of their durability, they don't break down easily and last a long time in the environment. In some cases, but not all, that creates hazards to human health.

There are more than 5,000 strands of PFAS in use, and their tremendous variation means we need to take a thoughtful and nuanced approach to regulating them. We absolutely need to protect the health and safety of firefighters, the military, and individuals exposed to harmful PFAS. That means preventing exposure to unsafe PFAS and addressing PFAS contamination now.

But not all PFAS are harmful, and some are indispensable for things like fighting fires and protecting our servicemen and women from chemical warfare. Others are used for lithium batteries and solar energy equipment. So my concern about some of the legislation on PFAS is that they would ban their use entirely, even when that might not be necessary.

The fact is that we don't fully understand the properties of all PFAS. Maybe a newly created strand has better fire suppression power and dissolves in a solution, or another has absolutely no human health effects and breaks down organically. We simply don't know yet, and we can't shut the door on innovation.

The Science, Space, and Technology Committee is working hard to improve and expand our knowledge about PFAS so that we can make individual determinations about what is safe and what is not.

For example, this summer, the House passed our Federal PFAS Research Evaluation Act which directs the Na-

tional Academies to study the toxicity, effects, and behavior of different strands of PFAS. It also will study emerging PFAS strands in hopes of finding more harmless strains with effective and useful properties.

This is groundbreaking research, and it can't be done overnight. So while the experts are working on it, my fellow Science, Space, and Technology Committee members and I urge the rest of this body to respect the scientific process.

Do not pass legislation that outright eliminates all 5,000-plus strands of PFAS without the scientific understanding to support that decision.

Here is the good news: The bill we are considering today isn't intended to put us on a path toward banning PFAS. While some of the language could be construed by a creative mind to be broadly anti-PFAS, I know that is not the intention of the sponsors of this bill from Michigan, nor is it the intention of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

To further support this, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) to engage in a colloquy on her intent related to this bill.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LUCAS for yielding.

Ranking Member LUCAS, I thank you for all of your hard work on this. I agree with you. The scientific process should be respected and used to inform and direct policymaking to effectively protect human health and our environment.

While it may take time to continue to develop the science around many of the lesser known PFAS compounds, a great deal of science has already been completed and known for years on the most notorious PFAS compounds.

With respect to this bill, the PFAS Act would help protect the health and safety of firefighters, emergency responders, and the communities they serve from these harmful chemicals by developing guidance—not bans—for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on training, education programs, and best practices to protect them from exposure to harmful PFAS and to prevent its release into the environment.

Emergency response teams are frequently exposed to harmful PFAS in firefighting foams and personal protective equipment as they work to keep their communities safe. It is important that we act on behalf of our first responders to mitigate their exposure to these harmful PFAS chemicals and prevent environmental releases while the scientific work must continue, and we gain a full understanding of the effects of all PFAS compounds.

Again, I thank Ranking Member LUCAS for continuing to work with us on this important legislation. We wouldn't be here without the gentleman today. It will make a meaningful difference for long-term first responders, their families, and the communities they serve.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks in agreement. We both share the understanding that instead of banning PFAS, this bill focuses on education, understanding, and knowledge of these chemicals. Specifically, it will ensure that we are protecting our firefighters who rely on PFAS to extinguish fires.

There aren't many alternatives to PFAS when it comes to fighting fires, but firefighters put their lives at risk every day, and this bill will ensure they aren't facing long-term health risks simply because of the equipment and the tools they use daily.

We can mitigate harmful effects by carefully studying what chemicals first responders are exposed to and ensuring they are properly educated about safety procedures and risks.

The curriculum authorized by this bill is just that. We are focusing on education, understanding, and knowledge. I support its passage today. When the time comes, I have every intention of working with the gentlewoman from Michigan to make sure we are targeting the truly bad PFAS—those with health and environmental effects. But for now, I appreciate that my friends on the other side of the aisle are leaving the door open for future development and letting science determine the outcome, not politics.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 231, the Protecting Firefighters From Adverse Substances Act, or the PFAS Act.

I am proud to stand here today in support of this important bipartisan legislation to protect our first responders from forever chemicals, which I am co-leading with my friend and colleague, Representative BRIAN FITZPATRICK.

This is a significant bill that has already passed the Senate with unanimous consent and bipartisan support thanks to the leadership of Senator GARY PETERS.

The PFAS Act would simply direct the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies to provide important guidance for Federal, State, and local firefighters on training and best practices to reduce, limit, and prevent exposure to PFAS from firefighting foam and turnout gear, as well as provide resources that identify alternatives for firefighting tools and equipment that do not contain harmful PFAS.

Today, by supporting this bill, the House can continue to take bold action, once again, to address the PFAS crisis—this time to protect our firefighters.

Forever chemicals are an urgent threat to public health and, specifically, our firefighters who are on the front line. Emergency response teams

are frequently exposed to harmful PFAS in firefighting foams and personal protective equipment as they work to keep our communities safe.

These manmade chemicals—but specifically the two most notoriously harmful chemicals, PFOA and PFOS—are extremely persistent in the environment, as well, as a result of its use during fire training exercises and real-world emergency response situations. PFAS chemicals are persistent, bio-accumulative, and toxic. These chemicals have been linked to harmful human health effects, including cancer, reproductive and developmental harms, and weaken immune systems.

Nearly every American has some level of PFAS coursing through their blood today.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Michigan an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. DINGELL. This important bill is supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and first responders all across this country.

We must get this important, commonsense, and bipartisan legislation to the President's desk without delay to protect our firefighters and the communities they serve.

Finally, I thank leadership for bringing the PFAS Act to the floor under suspension today. I express a special thanks to Chair EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Ranking Member FRANK LUCAS—who has really worked with me closely on this—and each of their staff for continuing to work with me to advance this critically important bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this PFAS Act. This is an important bipartisan and meaningful bill to protect the health and safety of our first responders from harmful PFAS in the line of duty.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Protecting Firefighters From Adverse Substances Act. It has been a pleasure to work across the aisle on proposals to address the dangers posed by PFAS not just to firefighters but also to our environment.

It has been a pleasure to cosponsor the House companion to this bill and support its passage.

This bill will direct the Department of Homeland Security to provide training designed to reduce and eliminate exposure to PFAS from firefighting foam and personal protective equipment, to prevent PFAS from firefighting foam from being released into the environment, and to give fire-

fighters and other emergency responders information on alternatives that do not contain PFAS.

This bill is another step we are taking together in a bipartisan spirit to address the consequences that we have learned far too late.

The firefighters' motto is "Be Ready," and this bill helps better prepare our firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for managing and her leadership and the gentleman from Oklahoma for his leadership.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee that has dealt with PFAS over the years, I am extremely grateful for this legislation that has come from the Senate and particularly grateful because I use as a backdrop having been on the Homeland Security Committee since its origins, on 9/11, when firefighters rushed in to save lives. Some, of course, tragically lost their lives along with other law enforcement as they were attempting to save people from the burning buildings.

But we do know that their long journey that was taken in order to get coverage and compensation for the terrible exposures that they had in the chemicals in the aftermath of 9/11.

This brings to mind the importance of this legislation having dealt with PFAS in many different forms, particularly in the agriculture arena, the Homeland Security Committee has looked at these chemicals and how they can be made safe, if you will, in the midst of the utilization that they have.

This legislation is extremely important because it works to develop guidance to firefighters and other emergency response personnel on training, education, and best practices to protect them from exposure from PFAS, these chemicals that they are bound to engage when they rush in to save lives and to save property from the terrors of fire.

I am excited about this legislation and hope that it gets to the President's desk because I have seen what chemicals can do in the midst of a 9/11 but also in the midst of an ordinary house fire or business fire.

I applaud the proponents of this bill. I am excited about it reducing and eliminating exposure to PFAS from firefighter foam, personal protective equipment, PPE, prevent the release of the PFAS from firefighting foam into the environment so that it provides for an environmentally safe pathway, and educating firefighters and other emergency response personnel on the foams and non-foam alternative.

□ 1515

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and continue to say that I think what we have here is an important directive for the Department of Homeland Security. Under their jurisdiction are the first responders, and we clearly know the wide range of needs that firefighters face. Look at the West and the series of wildfires that have spread from California to the far Northwest. Fires are never-ending; chemical exposures are never-ending; and firefighters never stop going into places where people are desperate or there is a need.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited about this legislation because it is long overdue. I hope it gets to the President's desk as quickly as possible. I believe that once we pass this, we will give a new lifeline to the Nation's firefighters. As a member of the Fire Caucus, I know that this is a bill long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude my remarks celebrating the firefighters and supporting this legislation, let me say: Go USA against Iran.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in strong support of S. 231, the Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act.

Known as PFAS, for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, the chemicals in this class of approximately 5,000 substances have become notorious for their danger to human health.

Because the chemical bonds that hold the compounds together don't break down easily, they last a very long time. This has led to a commonly used name for the group: "Forever chemicals."

According to monitoring by the Environmental Protection Agency, millions of Americans are easily exposed to unsafe levels of PFAS through outlets as simple as drinking water.

PFAS chemicals have been associated with several health problems, including testicular and kidney cancers, reduced immunity, thyroid problems, and reproductive harms.

Our first responders are at the front lines of PFAS exposure. Firefighters have been shown to have a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population does.

This is a result of direct exposure to PFAS chemicals in firefighting foam and personal protective equipment.

It is time we do something to protect the brave men and women who, even in the face of danger, continue to put themselves at risk for our safety and protection.

Mr. Speaker, it is urgent that this Congress enact this legislation because agencies such as the Environmental Protection Administration have failed to address known threats presented by PFAS chemicals.

The EPA has known about the risks from PFAS chemicals for decades but failed to act to prevent the spread of this contamination.

Because of such negligence, the persistent and toxic effects of PFAS linger and firefighters are now forced to work around these "forever chemicals."

With S. 231, the Department of Homeland Security will be required to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on training and education programs to protect them from exposure to PFAS.

This curriculum would not only educate firefighters on how to protect themselves, but also educate them on how to prevent the release of PFAS into the environment.

Clear and swift action from Congress is needed to address the PFAS crisis, and we need an all-hands-on-deck effort to protect both the health of our first responders and our environment.

Backing our first responders should be a non-partisan issue, so I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for S. 231, the Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, firefighters and emergency response personnel put themselves in harm's way daily with no questions asked. They do this to save lives and protect their communities. Therefore, it is only fitting that Congress does what we can to protect their lives in return.

The bill we are considering today, the PFAS Act, arms our first responders with knowledge and procedures to avoid long-term health effects from harmful chemicals.

This bill is also an example of strong bipartisan collaboration, with all the discussion and refinement that entails. My colleague from Michigan understood my concerns about not getting ahead of the science and banning all PFAS. I understood her desire to take immediate action for her constituents. We worked together to both walk away happy with the result.

My sincere thanks to Congresswoman DINGELL, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee staff, and everyone involved in these discussions.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we stand here today in strong support of S. 231, the PFAS Act, and certainly recognize the leadership that has come from the Michigan delegation here in the House with Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who has been steadfast, dedicated, and dogged. You don't travel through Michigan without hearing Congresswoman DINGELL talk about PFAS.

We also appreciate the Senate leadership of Senator GARY PETERS, particularly in his chairmanship of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, in partnership with the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) who just spoke, along with our full committee chair, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, who has been a real role model for leadership and support in this body for bipartisan, collaborative legislation.

As I stand here with the last month of this term upon us in the 117th Congress, I can't help but thank Ranking Member LUCAS for his very dedicated

and remarkable leadership. One might say it is an anchor of sorts as we move to be bipartisan. Over the course of this term, I have had the privilege of sitting next to him in committee, and I will take the time to let him know that he has taught me a few things this term, which I greatly appreciate.

As we move forward, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this Chamber to continue to showcase the best of what America can be, coming together to solve problems and deliver for the American people.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 231, the Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act or the PFAS Act.

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been manufactured since the 1940's and can be found in a wide range of both consumer and industrial products, including firefighting foam and firefighter turnout gear. These chemicals are sometimes known as "forever chemicals" due to their widespread use, persistence in the environment, and a molecular structure that makes them very difficult to break down. There is growing evidence that PFAS are linked to adverse health outcomes including liver damage, thyroid disease, and an increased risk of cancer.

While we still have much to learn about the health risks associated with prolonged exposure to PFAS, work is underway to better understand the exposure pathways of PFAS and to develop alternatives to these chemicals. The Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, and the Federal Aviation Administration all conduct research on PFAS-free firefighting foam or PFAS-free fighter gear.

This promising work is vital to reducing the release of and exposure to PFAS but more progress is needed. Until PFAS-free alternatives are widespread, we must do everything we can to protect those who are exposed to PFAS in the course of their job and to limit the release of PFAS into the environment. S. 231 directs the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment as well provide resources that identify PFAS-free alternatives for firefighting gear and equipment. This guidance would be developed in consultation with other federal agencies conducting research on PFAS-alternatives as well as a wide range of stakeholders including firefighting and emergency response personnel, communities dealing with PFAS contamination, fire training academies, manufacturers of firefighting tools and equipment, and voluntary standards organizations.

This bill is an important step to protecting our first responders from exposure to harmful chemicals. It has already passed the Senate with bipartisan support and today I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the bill here in the House and sending it to the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms.

STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 231.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DE-ESCALATION TRAINING ACT OF 2022

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4003) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for training on alternatives to use of force, de-escalation, and mental and behavioral health and suicidal crises.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4003

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 "Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. TRAINING ON ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF FORCE, DE-ESCALATION, AND MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRIMES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 901(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (27), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (28), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(29) the term 'de-escalation' means taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force encounter in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be called upon to resolve the situation without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary;

“(30) the term 'mental or behavioral health or suicidal crisis'—

“(A) means a situation in which the behavior of a person—

“(i) puts the person at risk of hurting himself or herself or others; or

“(ii) impairs or prevents the person from being able to care for himself or herself or function effectively in the community; and

“(B) includes a situation in which a person—

“(i) is under the influence of a drug or alcohol, is suicidal, or experiences symptoms of a mental illness; or

“(ii) may exhibit symptoms, including emotional reactions (such as fear or anger), psychological impairments (such as inability to focus, confusion, or psychosis), and behavioral reactions (such as the trigger of a freeze, fight, or flight response);

“(31) the term 'disability' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102);

“(32) the term 'crisis intervention team' means a collaborative, interdisciplinary team that brings together specially trained law enforcement officers, mental health providers, and other community stakeholders to

respond to mental health-related calls, use appropriate de-escalation techniques, and assess if referral to services or transport for mental health evaluation is appropriate; and

“(33) the term ‘covered mental health professional’ means a mental health professional working on a crisis intervention team—

“(A) as an employee of a law enforcement agency; or

“(B) under a legal agreement with a law enforcement agency.”.

(b) COPS PROGRAM.—Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) TRAINING IN ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF FORCE, DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES, AND MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISES.—

“(1) TRAINING CURRICULA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall develop training curricula or identify effective existing training curricula for law enforcement officers and for covered mental health professionals regarding—

“(i) de-escalation tactics and alternatives to use of force;

“(ii) safely responding to an individual experiencing a mental or behavioral health or suicidal crisis or an individual with a disability, including techniques and strategies that are designed to protect the safety of that individual, law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, and the public;

“(iii) successfully participating on a crisis intervention team; and

“(iv) making referrals to community-based mental and behavioral health services and support, housing assistance programs, public benefits programs, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, and other services.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The training curricula developed or identified under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) scenario-based exercises;

“(ii) pre-training and post-training tests to assess relevant knowledge and skills covered in the training curricula; and

“(iii) follow-up evaluative assessments to determine the degree to which participants in the training apply, in their jobs, the knowledge and skills gained in the training.

“(C) CONSULTATION.—The Attorney General shall develop and identify training curricula under this paragraph in consultation with relevant law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government, associations that represent individuals with mental or behavioral health diagnoses or individuals with disabilities, labor organizations, professional law enforcement organizations, local law enforcement labor and representative organizations, law enforcement trade associations, mental health and suicide prevention organizations, family advocacy organizations, and civil rights and civil liberties groups.

“(2) CERTIFIED PROGRAMS AND COURSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which training curricula are developed or identified under paragraph (1)(A), the Attorney General shall establish a process to—

“(i) certify training programs and courses offered by public and private entities to law enforcement officers or covered mental health professionals using 1 or more of the training curricula developed or identified under paragraph (1), or equivalents to such training curricula, which may include certifying a training program or course that an entity began offering on or before the date on which the Attorney General establishes the process; and

“(ii) terminate the certification of a training program or course if the program or course fails to continue to meet the stand-

ards under the training curricula developed or identified under paragraph (1).

“(B) PARTNERSHIPS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which training curricula are developed or identified under paragraph (1)(A), the Attorney General shall develop criteria to ensure that public and private entities that offer training programs or courses that are certified under subparagraph (A) collaborate with local mental health organizations to—

“(i) enhance the training experience of law enforcement officers through consultation with and the participation of individuals with mental or behavioral health diagnoses or disabilities, particularly such individuals who have interacted with law enforcement officers; and

“(ii) strengthen relationships between health care services and law enforcement agencies.

“(3) TRANSITIONAL REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY PERSONNEL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—During the period beginning on the date on which the Attorney General establishes the process required under paragraph (2)(A) and ending on the date that is 18 months after that date, the Attorney General shall, and thereafter the Attorney General may, provide, in collaboration with law enforcement training academies of States and units of local government as appropriate, regional training to equip personnel from law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government in a State to offer training programs or courses certified under paragraph (2)(A).

“(B) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—The Attorney General shall develop and implement continuing education requirements for personnel from law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government who receive training to offer training programs or courses under subparagraph (A).

“(4) LIST.—Not later than 1 year after the Attorney General completes the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall publish a list of law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government employing law enforcement officers or using covered mental health professionals who have successfully completed a course using 1 or more of the training curricula developed or identified under paragraph (1), or equivalents to such training curricula, which shall include—

“(A) the total number of law enforcement officers that are employed by the agency;

“(B) the number of such law enforcement officers who have completed such a course;

“(C) whether personnel from the law enforcement agency have been trained to offer training programs or courses under paragraph (3);

“(D) the total number of covered mental health professionals who work with the agency; and

“(E) the number of such covered mental health professionals who have completed such a course.

“(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection—

“(A) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

“(B) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

“(C) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

“(D) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”.

(c) BYRNE JAG PROGRAM.—Subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 508 as section 509; and

(2) by inserting after section 507 the following:

“SEC. 508. LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘certified training program or course’ means a program or course using 1 or more of the training curricula developed or identified under section 1701(n)(1), or equivalents to such training curricula—

“(1) that is provided by the Attorney General under section 1701(n)(3); or

“(2) that is—

“(A) provided by a public or private entity, including the personnel of a law enforcement agency or law enforcement training academy of a State or unit of local government who have been trained to offer training programs or courses under section 1701(n)(3); and

“(B) certified by the Attorney General under section 1701(n)(2).

“(b) AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the Attorney General completes the activities required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1701(n), the Attorney General shall, from amounts made available to fund training programs pursuant to subsection (h), make grants to States for use by the State or a unit of government located in the State to—

“(A) pay for—

“(i) costs associated with conducting a certified training program or course or, subject to paragraph (2), a certified training program or course that provides continuing education; and

“(ii) attendance by law enforcement officers or covered mental health professionals at a certified training program or course, including a course provided by a law enforcement training academy of a State or unit of local government;

“(B) procure a certified training program or course or, subject to paragraph (2), a certified training program or course that provides continuing education on 1 or more of the topics described in section 1701(n)(1)(A);

“(C) in the case of a law enforcement agency of a unit of local government that employs fewer than 50 employees (determined on a full-time equivalent basis), pay for the costs of overtime accrued as a result of the attendance of a law enforcement officer or covered mental health professional at a certified training program or course for which the costs associated with conducting the certified training program or course are paid using amounts provided under this section;

“(D) pay for the costs of developing mechanisms to comply with the reporting requirements established under subsection (d), in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the total amount of the grant award; and

“(E) pay for the costs associated with participation in the voluntary National Use-of-Force Data Collection of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the total amount of the grant award, if a law enforcement agency of the State or unit of local government is not already reporting to the National Use-of-Force Data Collection.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR USE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered topic’ means a topic covered under the curricula developed or identified under clause (i), (ii), or (iv) of section 1701(n)(1)(A).

“(B) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE INITIAL TRAINING.—A State or unit of local government shall ensure that all officers who have been employed with the State or unit of local government for at least 2 years have received training as part of a certified training program or course on all covered topics before the State or unit of local government uses amounts received under a grant under

paragraph (1) for continuing education with respect to any covered topic.

“(C) START DATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a State or unit of local government may not use amounts received under a grant under paragraph (1) for continuing education with respect to a covered topic until the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—A State or unit of local government may use amounts received under a grant under paragraph (1) for continuing education with respect to a covered topic during the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 if the State or unit of local government has complied with subparagraph (B) using amounts available to the State or unit of local government other than amounts received under a grant under paragraph (1).

“(3) MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS.—A State or unit of local government that receives funds under this section shall establish and maintain relationships between law enforcement officers and local mental health organizations and health care services.

“(C) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Attorney General shall allocate funds to each State in proportion to the total number of law enforcement officers in the State that are employed by the State or a unit of local government within the State, as compared to the total number of law enforcement officers in the United States.

“(2) RETENTION OF FUNDS FOR TRAINING FOR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PROPORTIONAL TO NUMBER OF STATE OFFICERS.—Each fiscal year, each State may retain, for use for the purposes described in this section, from the total amount of funds provided to the State under paragraph (1) an amount that is not more than the amount that bears the same ratio to such total amount as the ratio of—

“(A) the total number of law enforcement officers employed by the State; to

“(B) the total number of law enforcement officers in the State that are employed by the State or a unit of local government within the State.

“(3) PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR TRAINING FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State shall make available to units of local government in the State for the purposes described in this section the amounts remaining after a State retains funds under paragraph (2).

“(B) ADDITIONAL USES.—A State may, with the approval of a unit of local government, use the funds allocated to the unit of local government under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) to facilitate offering a certified training program or course or, subject to subsection (b)(2), a certified training program or course that provide continuing education in 1 or more of the topics described in section 1701(n)(1)(A) to law enforcement officers employed by the unit of local government; or

“(ii) for the costs of training local law enforcement officers, including through law enforcement training academies of States and units of local government, to conduct a certified training program or course.

“(C) CONSULTATION.—The Attorney General, in consultation with relevant law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government, associations that represent individuals with mental or behavioral health diagnoses or individuals with disabilities, labor organizations, professional law enforcement organizations, local law enforcement labor and representative organizations, law enforcement trade associations, mental health and suicide prevention organizations, family advocacy organizations, and civil rights and civil liberties groups, shall

forcement labor and representative organizations, law enforcement trade associations, mental health and suicide prevention organizations, family advocacy organizations, and civil rights and civil liberties groups, shall develop criteria governing the allocation of funds to units of local government under this paragraph, which shall ensure that the funds are distributed as widely as practicable in terms of geographical location and to both large and small law enforcement agencies of units of local government.

“(D) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALLOCATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a State receives an award under paragraph (1), the State shall announce the allocations of funds to units of local government under subparagraph (A). A State shall submit to the Attorney General a report explaining any delays in the announcement of allocations under this subparagraph.

“(d) REPORTING.—

“(1) UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—Any unit of local government that receives funds from a State under subsection (c)(3) for a certified training program or course shall submit to the State or the Attorney General an annual report with respect to the first fiscal year during which the unit of local government receives such funds and each of the 2 fiscal years thereafter that—

“(A) shall include the number of law enforcement officers employed by the unit of local government that have completed a certified training program or course, including a certified training program or course provided on or before the date on which the Attorney General begins certifying training programs and courses under section 1701(n)(2), the topics covered in those courses, and the number of officers who received training in each topic;

“(B) may, at the election of the unit of local government, include the number of law enforcement officers employed by the unit of local government that have completed a certified training program or course using funds provided from a source other than the grants described under subsection (b), the topics covered in those courses, and the number of officers who received training in each topic;

“(C) shall include the total number of law enforcement officers employed by the unit of local government;

“(D) shall include a description of any barriers to providing training on the topics described in section 1701(n)(1)(A);

“(E) shall include information gathered through—

“(i) pre-training and post-training tests that assess relevant knowledge and skills covered in the training curricula, as specified in section 1701(n)(1); and

“(ii) follow-up evaluative assessments to determine the degree to which participants in the training apply, in their jobs, the knowledge and skills gained in the training; and

“(F) shall include the amount of funds received by the unit of local government under subsection (c)(3) and a tentative plan for training all law enforcement officers employed by the unit of local government using available and anticipated funds.

“(2) STATES.—A State receiving funds under this section shall submit to the Attorney General—

“(A) any report the State receives from a unit of local government under paragraph (1); and

“(B) if the State retains funds under subsection (c)(2) for a fiscal year, a report by the State for that fiscal year, and each of the 2 fiscal years thereafter—

“(i) indicating the number of law enforcement officers employed by the State that have completed a certified training program or course, including a certified training pro-

gram or course provided on or before the date on which the Attorney General begins certifying training programs or courses under section 1701(n)(2), the topics covered in those courses, and the number of officers who received training in each topic, including, at the election of the State, a certified training program or course using funds provided from a source other than the grants described under subsection (b);

“(ii) indicating the total number of law enforcement officers employed by the State;

“(iii) providing information gathered through—

“(I) pre-training and post-training tests that assess relevant knowledge and skills covered in the training curricula, as specified in section 1701(n)(1); and

“(II) follow-up evaluative assessments to determine the degree to which participants in the training apply, in their jobs, the knowledge and skills gained in the training;

“(iv) discussing any barriers to providing training on the topics described in section 1701(n)(1)(A); and

“(v) indicating the amount of funding retained by the State under subsection (c)(2) and providing a tentative plan for training all law enforcement officers employed by the State using available and anticipated funds.

“(3) REPORTING TOOLS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Attorney General shall develop a portal through which the data required under paragraphs (1) and (2) may be collected and submitted.

“(4) REPORTS ON THE USE OF DE-ESCALATION TACTICS AND OTHER TECHNIQUES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, relevant law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government, associations that represent individuals with mental or behavioral health diagnoses or individuals with disabilities, labor organizations, professional law enforcement organizations, local law enforcement labor and representative organizations, law enforcement trade associations, mental health and suicide prevention organizations, family advocacy organizations, and civil rights and civil liberties groups, shall establish—

“(i) reporting requirements on interactions in which de-escalation tactics and other techniques in curricula developed or identified under section 1701(n)(1) are used by each law enforcement agency that receives funding under this section; and

“(ii) mechanisms for each law enforcement agency to submit such reports to the Department of Justice.

“(B) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) specify—

“(I) the circumstances under which an interaction shall be reported, considering—

“(aa) the cost of collecting and reporting the information; and

“(bb) the value of that information for determining whether—

“(AA) the objectives of the training have been met; and

“(BB) the training reduced or eliminated the risk of serious physical injury to officers, subjects, and third parties; and

“(II) the demographic and other relevant information about the officer and subjects involved in the interaction that shall be included in such a report; and

“(ii) require such reporting be done in a manner that—

“(I) is in compliance with all applicable Federal and State confidentiality laws; and

“(II) does not disclose the identities of law enforcement officers, subjects, or third parties.

“(C) REVIEW OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Attorney General, in consultation with the entities specified under subparagraph (A), shall review and consider updates to the reporting requirements.

“(5) FAILURE TO REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity receiving funds under this section that fails to file a report as required under paragraph (1) or (2), as applicable and as determined by the Attorney General, shall not be eligible to receive funds under this section for a period of 2 fiscal years.

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit a State that fails to file a report as required under paragraph (2), and is not eligible to receive funds under this section, from making funding available to a unit of local government of the State under subsection (c)(3), if the unit of local government has complied with the reporting requirements.

“(e) ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORTS.—

“(1) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and each year thereafter in which grants are made under this section, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress on the implementation of activities carried out under this section.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, information on—

“(A) the number, amounts, and recipients of awards the Attorney General has made or intends to make using funds authorized under this section;

“(B) the selection criteria the Attorney General has used or intends to use to select recipients of awards using funds authorized under this section;

“(C) the number of law enforcement officers of a State or unit of local government who were not able to receive training on the topics described in section 1701(n)(1)(A) due to unavailability of funds and the amount of funds that would be required to complete the training; and

“(D) the nature, frequency, and amount of information that the Attorney General has collected or intends to collect under subsection (d).

“(3) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—A report under paragraph (1) shall not disclose the identities of individual law enforcement officers who received, or did not receive, training under a certified training program or course.

“(f) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE STUDY.—

“(1) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the first grant award using funds authorized under this section, the National Institute of Justice shall conduct a study of the implementation of training under a certified training program or course in at least 6 jurisdictions representing an array of agency sizes and geographic locations, which shall include—

“(A) a process evaluation of training implementation, which shall include an analysis of the share of officers who participated in the training, the degree to which the training was administered in accordance with the curriculum, and the fidelity with which the training was applied in the field; and

“(B) an impact evaluation of the training, which shall include an analysis of the impact of the training on interactions between law enforcement officers and the public, any factors that prevent or preclude law enforcement officers from successfully de-escalating law enforcement interactions, and any recommendations on modifications to the train-

ing curricula and methods that could improve outcomes.

“(2) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE ACCESS TO PORTAL.—For the purposes of preparing the report under paragraph (1), the National Institute of Justice shall have direct access to the portal developed under subsection (d)(3).

“(3) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall not disclose the identities of individual law enforcement officers who received, or did not receive, training under a certified training program or course.

“(4) FUNDING.—Not more than 1 percent of the amount appropriated to carry out this section during any fiscal year shall be made available to conduct the study under paragraph (1).

“(g) GAO REPORT.—

“(1) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the first grant award using funds authorized under this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review the grant program under this section and submit to Congress a report assessing the grant program, including—

“(A) the process for developing and identifying curricula under section 1701(n)(1), including the effectiveness of the consultation by the Attorney General with the agencies, associations, and organizations identified under section 1701(n)(1)(C);

“(B) the certification of training programs and courses under section 1701(n)(2), including the development of the process for certification and its implementation;

“(C) the training of law enforcement personnel under section 1701(n)(3), including the geographic distribution of the agencies that employ the personnel receiving the training and the sizes of those agencies;

“(D) the allocation of funds under subsection (c), including the geographic distribution of the agencies that receive funds and the degree to which both large and small agencies receive funds; and

“(E) the amount of funding distributed to agencies compared with the amount appropriated under this section, the amount spent for training, and whether plans have been put in place by the recipient agencies to use unspent available funds.

“(2) GAO ACCESS TO PORTAL.—For the purposes of preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall have direct access to the portal developed under subsection (d)(3).

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

“(2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 4003.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 4003, the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022, is bipartisan legislation that

would improve training for law enforcement officers, including using alternatives to force and de-escalation tactics. It also includes training and support for officers working with mental health professionals and crisis intervention teams.

This bill would empower police and the mental health professionals working with them to link individuals to services in their community.

Law enforcement officers are often the first responders to individuals in crisis. While we have worked to develop and implement non-law-enforcement crisis response services, there continues to be a need to train and equip law enforcement officers to de-escalate interactions and divert individuals to appropriate mental and behavioral health services.

Additionally, there is a need to provide officers and crisis response teams the tools they need to understand and respond to individuals with disabilities. One study found that disabled individuals make up one-third to one-half of all people killed by law enforcement officers.

Reforms to law enforcement, including de-escalation training, both improve public safety and reduce crime. A study of the Louisville, Kentucky, police department found that de-escalation training reduced use-of-force incidents by 28 percent and community member injuries by 26 percent. Officer injuries were reduced by an even larger margin of 36 percent.

S. 4003 will require the Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to consult with a broad range of stakeholders in developing the training curriculum, including law enforcement and behavioral health groups, as well as civil rights and civil liberties groups and associations that represent individuals with disabilities.

This bill also requires the National Institute of Justice and the Government Accountability Office to evaluate the implementation of the program and the effect of the training to ensure that the curricula have a tangible impact on law enforcement encounters with people in crisis and to identify possible changes that would further improve outcomes.

This bipartisan bill improves public safety by developing and implementing evidence-based de-escalation training for law enforcement officers. I thank Senator CORNYN for introducing the bill and Congresswoman KAREN BASS for leading the House version of this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 4003 creates a new Federal grant program to provide training for law enforcement officers

on de-escalation techniques, participation in crisis intervention teams, making referrals to community-based service providers, safely responding to individuals in a behavioral or mental health crisis, and alternatives to use of force.

It requires the Department of Justice to develop training curriculum in collaboration with mental health providers, law enforcement agencies, civil rights organizations, and other stakeholders.

It also authorizes \$133 million in new money over the next 4 years with no offsets.

There are several problems with this legislation.

First, the COPS Office at the Justice Department currently funds programs that already do what this bill purports to support. For instance, the COPS Office funds the Community Policing Development De-Escalation Training Program through two different mechanisms.

Through one mechanism, the COPS Office provides \$3 million over the next 2 years for the expansion of a network of regional centers to provide nationally certified de-escalation training opportunities for law enforcement. The other mechanism, law enforcement agency de-escalation grants, provides nearly \$12 million in grant funding over the next 2 years to support whole agency de-escalation, implicit bias, and duty-to-intervene training efforts.

These programs are appropriated and up and running as we speak. We should not be creating new programs that are duplicative of current programs without at least examining the efficacy of the currently funded programs.

Second, this legislation represents a departure from traditional law enforcement techniques, one that advances a soft-on-crime approach. In recent years, these kinds of approaches to fighting crime have been a boon to criminals and have led to our current crime epidemic.

We need to seriously address the crime epidemic, not fund duplicative programs that would keep cops in cars.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to counter my good friend and indicate that this is important legislation. It is documented to be important legislation, and the documentation is clear because of the widespread support of such a wide range of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor to support S. 4003. I thank my colleagues, Senator CORNYN from Texas and Congresswoman BASS.

As this legislation came out of the Judiciary Committee as well, this is legislation that fits very well under the Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee, which I chair. Our

responsibilities are to address the question of crime but also to address the question of social justice and reform.

We have heard over the last couple of months—many of us have been in the mode of campaigning—challenges against Democrats, as to whether or not we are tough on crime or whether or not we can work to protect our communities. One thing that protects our communities is strong law enforcement that knows how to engage with the community and is given the tools that will help them do so, and to help the community engage with law enforcement so that they can collectively solve crime.

This legislation is a bipartisan bill that would improve public safety and strengthen public trust in law enforcement, one of the first steps toward bringing down crime.

S. 4003 would require the Department of Justice to develop a de-escalation training curriculum in collaboration with mental health providers, law enforcement agencies, civil rights organizations, and associations representing individuals with mental health diagnoses.

□ 1530

How many times have mothers and fathers had to deal with the loss of a child because they were having a mental health episode?

This legislation continues to be a need to improve the practices that law enforcement officers can use to reduce use-of-force incidents and also protect themselves.

When individuals are in crisis, police are often the first to respond. We understand that is not their total responsibility, but because of our lack of access to mental health resources, they have been on the front lines; and so, without training necessary to recognize a mental health crisis, someone winds up injured or dead. Interactions between law enforcement and civilians can escalate to potentially deadly consequences.

As the country faces an epidemic of violence committed by officers and the disproportionate impact that this violence has on people of color, we remember the lives lost to police violence, including Nicolas Chavez, who was killed by law enforcement, among others in cities across the land.

Just this week, we learned that two Colorado deputies that killed Christian Glass in June have been indicted. That was a sad circumstance. We wish it had not happened, and it did not need to happen.

This legislation will give us the opportunity, again, to do what we want to do; to keep America safe; to bring down crime; and to protect our officers and to give them the training that helps them to be able to engage in de-escalation tactics.

Somewhat similar to the overall bill that I introduced, and John Conyers before me, I introduced the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act,

which I hope to reintroduce again, and seeking bipartisan support; this would authorize \$70 million in annual grant funding for training that includes improving community officer relations and engage in training on use of force or de-escalation scenario-based exercises.

In addition, this bill would provide support to law enforcement agencies to train and equip officers. This legislation, of course, is widely supported.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. This legislation is widely supported. It is bipartisan; and I thank Mayor-Elect, Congresswoman KAREN BASS for her leadership on the companion bill.

I also thank my colleague, Senator CORNYN from Texas for his commitment and concern.

Mr. Speaker, I quickly want to acknowledge that the faith community is squarely in support of this, and they certainly care about law enforcement and bringing down crime.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter signed by Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Center for Public Justice, Jesuit Conference, Office of Justice and Ecology, National Association of Evangelicals, National Latino Evangelical Coalition, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Coalition, and Prison Fellowship; a letter from CPAC; a letter from National Fraternal Order of Police; and a letter from Major Cities Chiefs Association.

NOVEMBER 29, 2022.

Senator JOHN CORNYN,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS CORNYN AND WHITEHOUSE: Our faith-based organizations write to urge for broad co-sponsorship among your colleagues and the swift passage of the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act of 2022 (S. 4003) as it would help police officers better serve vulnerable populations and keep our communities safe. Furthermore, this bill would promote a more restorative justice system that respects the God-given dignity of each person and promote safe communities for both law enforcement officers and residents. The bill would also provide law enforcement officers with the skills and tools needed to respond appropriately to the needs of the communities they protect and serve.

Police officers respond every day to calls for service for men and women grappling with grave mental and behavioral health challenges. However, they are not consistently trained to address these situations effectively. Inadequate training can undermine law enforcement officers' wellbeing and job satisfaction, and increase incidents of excessive use of force that erodes public trust. Policymakers must better equip law enforcement officers with evidence-based training for interactions with people in crisis that

fosters community partnership, promotes understanding of mental illness, and prioritizes the lowest level of force necessary to keep communities safe.

Several key provisions position the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act (S. 4003) to be a catalyst for modernizing American policing. The legislation would create a new federal funding stream to provide training for law enforcement agencies on de-escalation techniques, on participation in crisis intervention teams, on making referrals to community-based service providers, on safely responding to individuals in a behavioral or mental health crisis, and on alternatives to use of force. Furthermore, the bill would advance transparency and accountability to best practices through strong reporting and evaluation requirements from the Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, and Government Accountability Office. To foster public trust, the Department of Justice will develop training curriculum in collaboration with mental health providers, law enforcement agencies, civil rights organizations, and other stakeholders. The legislation would provide funding for continuing education for law enforcement officers to further refine their knowledge and tactical skills beyond initial training requirements.

We support the passage of the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act of 2022 as it would provide law enforcement officers the training needed to carefully respond to the needs of the community in a way that would promote human dignity and strengthen public trust.

Sincerely,

Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Center for Public Justice, Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, National Association of Evangelicals, National Latino Evangelical Coalition, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Coalition, Prison Fellowship.

AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION,
CPAC,
September 29, 2022.

Re S. 4003—Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER AND RANKING MEMBER JORDAN: The American Conservative Union (“ACU”) is the nation’s oldest grassroots advocacy organization. Founded in 1964 by William F. Buckley, we have a 50-plus-year track record of advancing policies that reduce the size and scope of government, advance liberty, and reduce burdens on families. Criminal justice reform, if done properly, fits squarely within this rubric.

ACU also strongly supports law enforcement. We have asked our police officers to do more and more in recent years. Today, our men and women in blue are not only cops putting their lives on the line every day; they also serve as family, marriage and addiction counselors, mental health responders, and social workers, too. As a result, officers have day-to-day interactions with people in crisis, and this often escalates to the point that a use of force is necessary. De-escalation is an important skillset for officer safety as well as for those in crisis when they encounter law enforcement.

Accordingly, we support the efforts of Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) to ensure that funding for

de-escalation training is expanded. S. 4003 establishes funding through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) program totaling \$90 million for two years to help state and local law enforcement obtain de-escalation crisis intervention training. This funding will be targeted to smaller law enforcement departments that would otherwise lack resources for this type of training.

It is notable that the curriculum will leverage the “train the trainer” model to allow a significant increase in training opportunities by having officers train their colleagues. Not only is this an efficient use of resources, it helps inculcate the lessons and values of de-escalation in the culture of the departments funded by this program.

Finally, S. 4003 includes strong reporting and evaluation requirements on grants for the Department of Justice, the National Institute of Justice, and the Government Accountability Agency. ACU believes the justice system must be accountable for a wise use of tax dollars, and these requirements will ensure that state and local law enforcement are effectively using their grants to serve their communities well.

We believe S. 4003 would be a prudent use of taxpayer resources and as such, urge you to take this important legislation up as soon as possible. Should S. 4003 come to the floor, we will recommend to our colleagues at our sister organization, the ACU Foundation’s Center for Legislative Accountability, to score this bill positively.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

DAVID H. SAFAVIAN,
General Counsel.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER
OF POLICE,
April 8, 2022.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN III,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS CORNYN AND WHITEHOUSE: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 4003, the “Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act.”

Law enforcement officers face numerous challenges when responding to threats against public safety, and not all of these threats are necessarily criminal in nature. Police are on the front lines and are often called to deal with individuals experiencing mental illness, substance abuse issues, or similar psychological impairments who may become dangerous to themselves or to the public. Recent studies found that as many as ten percent of all law enforcement encounters involve individuals experiencing these issues. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has estimated that over 2 million individuals arrested each year are struggling with a serious mental illness.

Your legislation would address this issue by providing \$70 million in annual grant funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) to State and local law enforcement agencies to train officers in de-escalation tactics and alternatives to the use of force. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), through consultation with State and local law enforcement agencies, would be required to develop a curriculum of relevant training topics, including de-escalation tactics, use of force alternatives, establishing and main-

taining crisis intervention teams, as well as how to safely respond to mental and behavioral health crises using public benefits programs, housing assistance programs, and other relevant services. The funding from this bill will be used to cover the cost of training, attendance, overtime fees, and the procurement of certifications. Additionally, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) would study and evaluate the impacts of the training. This would ensure that the training has a meaningful, tangible impact on law enforcement encounters with individuals in crisis.

The implementation of de-escalation techniques would have a tremendous positive impact on public safety and the relationship between the public and law enforcement officers. Numerous studies have shown that civilians base their perceptions of law enforcement on their last encounter. Providing officers with the skills and training to avoid needless escalation of calls for service enable officers to protect the public more effectively. This improved communication will create a better police force and safer communities.

On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, we thank you both for your leadership on this important issue. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, DC office.

Sincerely,

PATRICK YOBS,
National President.

MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION,
April 5, 2022.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CORNYN AND SENATOR WHITEHOUSE: I’m writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 4003, the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The MCCA is a leader in national policy debates on policing reform and, in January 2021, released a comprehensive report that addressed a number of topics, including training. This report recommended that all law enforcement officers undergo training on de-escalation tactics.

De-escalation training is already a part of many MCCA members’ standard training curriculums. Law enforcement training is quite expensive, however, and the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act will provide critical grant funding to help offset the costs associated with de-escalation training. Furthermore, MCCA members will also be able to use these resources for continuing education, which will help further enhance existing de-escalation training programs.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and your continued support of law enforcement. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

JERI WILLIAMS,
Chief, Phoenix Police Department,
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association.

OCTOBER 14, 2022.

Hon. KAREN BASS,
Washington, DC.
Hon. DAVID TRONE,
Washington, DC.
Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Washington, DC.
Hon. STEVE CHABOT,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES BASS, ISSA, TRONE, AND CHABOT: Thank you for championing America's mental health. The undersigned national organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and substance use treatment providers, advocates, and payers committed to strengthening access to mental health care and substance use treatment write to voice our strong support for H.R. 8637, the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our country's public safety officers and to improving behavioral health crisis response.

This legislation comes at a moment of crisis in American life. According to CDC data from August 2020 to February of 2021, over 4 in 10 adults reported experiencing anxiety or depression. From 2009 to 2019, the number of high school students reporting feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased by 40%, the number of those seriously considering suicide increased by 36%, and the share of high school students creating a suicide plan increased by 44%. Nearly one in twenty American adults (4.9%) report having had serious thoughts of suicide in the last year. Providing law enforcement with tools and resources to handle these mental health crises is a common-sense solution to supporting our officers and first responders while they carry out their duty of protecting the public, as 6 to 10% of encounters with law enforcement involve individuals dealing with a mental illness.

As you know, the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act will direct the U.S. Attorney General to develop training curricula to help educate law enforcement officers and covered mental health professionals about how best to respond to behavioral health crises. Such curricula will be developed with the goal of promoting awareness of de-escalation tactics, alternatives to use of force, and best practices to safely respond to an individual experiencing a mental health or suicidal crisis.

Through the existing Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, this legislation will help state and local law enforcement agencies train public safety officers to respond to mental health or suicidal crises. This training will place an emphasis on scenario-based exercises, testing, and follow-up evaluative assessments to ensure that officers have the simulated experiences needed to respond in real-life situations appropriately and effectively. It also encourages collaboration between law enforcement units, local mental health organizations, and healthcare services to better integrate and plan training programs, and establishes pathways for evaluating what works.

Law enforcement are a key partner in ensuring that every person experiencing a mental health or suicidal crisis is connected to the care they need. Training officers to identify and de-escalate crises while avoiding use of force will help improve outcomes for crisis situations. It is for these reasons that we give H.R. 8637 our strong support.

We respectfully urge the swift passage of H.R. 8637, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues to improve public safety responses to behavioral health crises.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom, American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, American Associa-

tion for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists, American Association on Health and Disability, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, American Group Psychotherapy Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, Anxiety and Depression Association of America, Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare (AABH), Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health, National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), National Council for Mental Wellbeing, National Eating Disorders Association, National Federation of Families, National Network of Depression Centers, RI International, Sandy Hook Promise.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4003, the "Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act of 2022," a bipartisan bill that would improve public safety and strengthen public trust in law enforcement.

S. 4003 would require the Department of Justice to develop de-escalation training curriculum in consultation and collaboration with mental health providers, law enforcement agencies, civil rights organizations, and associations representing individuals with mental health diagnoses and with disabilities.

There continues to be a need to improve the practices of law enforcement officers and reduce use of force incidents. When individuals are in crisis, police are often the first to respond. Without the training necessary to recognize a mental health crisis, interactions between law enforcement and civilians can escalate to potentially deadly consequences.

As the country faces an epidemic of violence committed by officers and the disproportionate impact that this violence has on people of color, we remember the lives lost to police violence, including in my community of Houston, Nicholas Chavez, who was killed by law enforcement in 2020 while experiencing a mental health crisis.

Just this week we learned that two Colorado deputies who killed Christian Glass in June have been indicted. Christian was experiencing a mental health crisis when officers received a "motorist assist" call and is said to have posed no danger to the officers.

We must remember these lives and countless others as we stand ready to pass this legislation, which would reduce use of force incidents, keep our communities safe, and save the lives of civilians and law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement officers must be equipped with the skills necessary to interact with people with mental or behavioral health issues safely and with compassion.

The numerous officer-involved encounters that ended badly, which we know all too well, might have led to better outcomes if the officers involved had known: 1) how to recognize that the individuals were in crisis and suffering from the effects of mental health issues or disabilities; 2) how to communicate with such individuals; and 3) how to maximize officer and subject safety.

The Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act would authorize \$70 million in annual

grant funding for training that includes improving community-officer relations, deescalation and use of force, scenario-based exercises, and follow-up evaluative assessments.

In addition, this bill would provide support to law enforcement agencies to train and equip officers to respond to individuals in crisis and connect them with the necessary mental and behavioral health services.

It would also promote transparency by requiring grantees to evaluate and provide reports on the application of deescalation tactics acquired through the training by officers in the field.

S. 4003 is bipartisan legislation that would take meaningful steps toward improving policing practices in America, increasing public safety, and restoring trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

I thank Representative (Mayor-elect) KAREN BASS for her leadership on the House companion—which I am proud to cosponsor along with a bipartisan coalition of members—and encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

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

MR. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

S. 4003 is bipartisan legislation that would improve training for law enforcement officers, including using alternatives to force and de-escalation tactics. This training will reduce use-of-force incidents and improve officer and community safety.

I cannot imagine how anybody can think this will somehow increase crime. Senator CORNYN, who is not known to be soft on crime, is the major Senate sponsor.

I urge all Members to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4003.

The question was taken.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

MR. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

MR. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3846) to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3846

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 "Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION PROGRAM

Section 2991(b)(5) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651(b)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “teams and treatment accountability services for communities” and inserting “teams, treatment accountability services for communities, and training for State and local prosecutors relating to diversion programming and implementation”;

(B) in clause (v)—

(i) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subclause (IV), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(V) coordinate, implement, and administer models to address mental health calls that include specially trained officers and mental health crisis workers responding to those calls together.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES.—Funds may be used to develop, promote, and implement comprehensive suicide prevention programs and services for incarcerated individuals that include ongoing risk assessment.

“(vii) CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—Funds may be used for case management services for preliminary qualified offenders and individuals who are released from any penal or correctional institution to—

“(I) reduce recidivism; and

“(II) assist those individuals with reentry into the community.

“(viii) ENHANCING COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND LINKS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE.—Funds may be used to support, administer, or develop treatment capacity and increase access to mental health care and substance use disorder services for preliminary qualified offenders and individuals who are released from any penal or correctional institution.

“(ix) IMPLEMENTING 988.—Funds may be used to support the efforts of State and local governments to implement and expand the integration of the 988 universal telephone number designated for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system under section 251(e)(4) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(4)), including by hiring staff to support the implementation and expansion.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(K) TEAMS ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH CALLS.—With respect to a multidisciplinary team described in subparagraph (I)(v) that receives funds from a grant under this section, the multidisciplinary team—

“(i) shall, to the extent practicable, provide response capability 24 hours each day and 7 days each week to respond to crisis or mental health calls; and

“(ii) may place a part of the team in a 911 call center to facilitate the timely response to mental health crises.”.

SEC. 3. EXAMINATION AND REPORT ON PREVALENCE OF MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS.

Section 5(d) of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416; 122 Stat. 4355) is amended by striking “2009” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. 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. 3846.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 3846, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act of 2022, is bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize and make necessary improvements to the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, or JMHCP, within the Department of Justice.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across the country have grappled with worsened mental health. There continues to be a need to adequately address the mental health needs of our communities and to redirect people in crisis away from the criminal justice system and into the healthcare system.

State and local governments use JMHCP grants for critical services to address the mental health needs of their communities, including by establishing diversion programs, creating or expanding community-based treatment programs, supporting the development of curricula for police academies and orientations, and providing in-jail treatment and transitional services.

Additionally, grant funds are used to train law enforcement on identifying and improving their responses to people experiencing a mental health crisis. This program, which was first created in 2004, was reauthorized in 2008 and again in 2016 with bipartisan support.

S. 3846 will make needed improvements to the grant program by strengthening support for mental health courts and crisis intervention teams; supporting diversion programming and training for State and local prosecutors; strengthen support for responder teams; and supporting the integration of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system into the existing public safety system.

This bill will also increase allowable uses for grant funds to include suicide prevention in jails and clarify that crisis intervention teams can be placed in 911 call centers.

This bipartisan bill improves the efficacy of the JMHCP grant program and is supported by a wide range of stakeholders, including the Addiction Policy Forum, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and many others.

I thank Senator CORNYN for introducing the bill and Congressman BOBBY SCOTT for introducing the House version of this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 3846 makes a number of changes to the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program.

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program is a Department of Justice program that assists States, local governments, and Indian Tribes with providing treatment to individuals with mental health problems and substance abuse disorders that come into contact with the criminal justice system.

This bill allows funds under this program to be used for crisis intervention team and co-responder teams made up of law enforcement officers and mental health professionals. These teams can be placed within 911 call centers to better respond to individuals facing mental health challenges.

It also allows funds under this program to help State and local governments implement the 988 universal telephone number, which is the national suicide prevention and mental health hotline.

This legislation also authorizes \$2 million for each of the next 5 years for the Department of Justice to report on the prevalence of mentally ill offenders in the criminal justice system.

While this bill is well-intentioned, more needs to be done to address the surge of violent crime this Nation has seen over the past 3 years.

Violent crime is especially bad in Democrat-run cities with rogue leftist prosecutors who don’t enforce the laws on the books and in cities that have demonized and defunded their police departments. I would point you to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

It is no wonder that 27 of the 30 cities with the highest homicide rates have Democratic mayors. We need to keep violent criminals behind bars and put an end to soft-on-crime policies that are wreaking havoc on our communities.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise, first of all, to thank the chairman and to thank the sponsor, my friend from Virginia, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT.

As I think of my dear friend from Virginia, let me also acknowledge my deep sadness for the loss of our dear friend, Congressman McEachin, and acknowledge the beauty of his service and, of course, his compassion and his true spirit, a true American hero.

Mr. Speaker, I will quickly say that any of us who have been engaged in the criminal justice arena, who have engaged with police officers, whether they are local, State, or Federal, those of us who have served as judges, understand the value of this important legislation. It is bipartisan and will build on

the success of the JMHCP grant program and make necessary improvements to enable State and local governments to better serve their communities.

This reauthorization will make critical improvements to the JMHCP program which supports services for individuals with mental health issues who are involved in the criminal justice system, including expansions in suicide prevention in jails and prisons, co-responder programs that pair law enforcement with mental health professionals and, of course, recognizing that though we give them this responsibility, law enforcement needs to have wraparound services and those that have the expertise to work with those suffering from mental health crises.

With the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across the country have suffered increased challenges in addressing mental health. We, as Democrats, have consistently said that we need a holistic approach.

Again, I said that we take no back seat to fighting crime and being successful, but we understand public safety and civil rights.

I thank Chairman SCOTT for this work and for acknowledging where we are at a loss; that is, with people who are suffering mental health issues.

Now, we have had a series of mass murders, mass killings, of course using the weapon of choice for young men who espouse hatred, but many have been determined or assessed to have had mental health crisis issues, at least that has been the defense. We now need to really invest in this program and ensure that this is a national program.

In 2018, Harris County Jail, mental health division expanded as an alternative to jail, diverting individuals with mental health illnesses away from incarceration. I want to see this program grow. The updated diversion program allows law enforcement to direct individuals with mental illness over to these programs; those picked up for low-level, nonviolent offenses. Many of us know that these are sometimes homeless persons, and many of these persons are veterans. By the way, we have a veterans' court in Harris County.

So I am excited about this bipartisan legislation that would also support State implementation of the newly established 988 suicide crisis hotline. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support from the National Fraternal Order of Police, the Conference of Chief Justices Conference of State Court Administrators, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER
OF POLICE,
April 29, 2022.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN III,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CORNYN: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order

of Police to advise you of our support for S. 3846, the "Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act."

According to recent studies, one in ten calls for service to law enforcement involve a person suffering from a mental illness. One in three people taken to a hospital emergency room for psychiatric reasons are transported there by law enforcement. Our officers respond to these calls for service with care, compassion, and professionalism. While we have come a long way in our ability to handle these incidents safely and effectively, law enforcement officers need the training and resources this legislation provides.

The legislation would reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) through 2026. First authorized in 2004, JMHCP grants have funded mental health courts, other court-based initiatives, diversion and deflection programs, crisis intervention teams, training for local police departments, and other programs to improve outcomes for people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use conditions who come into contact with the justice system. In addition to adding \$10 million to program funding, this legislation would also expand the allowable uses of grants to include the funding of crisis response teams, suicide prevention in jails, and the hiring of community health workers.

Law enforcement officers have one of the toughest and most dangerous jobs in the United States. They are tasked with keeping our streets and neighborhoods safe from crime, ensuring that every citizen can live free and without fear. By putting funding and resources into improving mental health outcomes across the criminal justice system, this bill ensures that law enforcement officers will have a reduced risk of encountering dangerous situations on a day-to-day basis.

On behalf of the more than 364,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I am pleased to offer our support for this legislation. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

PATRICK YOES,
National President.

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES,
CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT AD-
MINISTRATORS,

November 23, 2022.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN,

U.S. Senate,

Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT C. SCOTT,

Washington, DC.

Hon. AMY KLOBUCHAR,

U.S. Senate,

Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE CHABOT,

Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) represents the highest judicial officer and court executive of each state, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. Together with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Conferences work to improve the administration of justice throughout the United States. State courts are our nation's primary court system handling over 95 percent of the nation's litigation. It is in this capacity that we write as the presidents of the Conference to express our support for your legislation, S. 3846/H.R. 8166. If enacted, this legislation would reauthorize and further expand the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) to provide resources for mental health courts, veterans

treatment courts, crisis intervention services, and other key interventions to improve the justice system's response to individuals with mental illness.

The prevalence of mental illness in the United States has an enormous impact on communities and a disproportionate impact on our state and local courts. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness—over 50 million in 2020—and over 13 million adults live with serious mental illness. Individuals with mental illnesses in the U.S. are 10 times more likely to be incarcerated than they are to be hospitalized. On any given day, approximately 380,000 people with mental illnesses are in jail or prison across the U.S., and another 574,000 are under some form of correctional supervision. For too many individuals with serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or both, the justice system is the *de facto* provider of treatment services. Except for self-referral, state courts are the number one referrer in the nation for treatment services.

In March 2020, the CCJ, COSCA, and NCSC established the National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness to assist state courts in their efforts to respond to the needs of court-involved individuals with severe mental illness more effectively. The task force recently released its national report, which provides examples of successful programs from across the nation and shares recommendations for change that call for action by all state and local court leaders, behavioral health and other community partners, and other state and federal agencies to more effectively to meet the needs of justice-involved individuals with serious mental illness. The report can be found at: MHTF State Courts Leading Change.pdf (ncsc.org).

Recommendations from the Task Force include:

Examine the continuum of behavioral health deflection and diversion options available in each community to promote deflection and diversion to treatment options at the earliest point possible.

Convene justice and behavioral health system partners to identify opportunities to collaboratively improve our responses to individuals with behavioral health disorders.

Proactively promote processes to identify and divert individuals with behavioral health disorders at every stage of system involvement towards treatment and away from further penetration into the criminal justice system.

Examine current case management and calendaring practices for all types of cases and implement strategies to more quickly and effectively address issues presented in cases involving individuals with behavioral health needs.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to helping each intercept point in the criminal justice system improve our response to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Please feel free to direct your staff to Chris Wu if there is any way we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

CHIEF JUSTICE LORETTA
RUSH, PRESIDENT,
Conference of Chief
Justices.

KARL HADE, PRESIDENT,
Conference of State
Court Administrators.

NOVEMBER 10, 2022.

DEAR LEADERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We are writing today to strongly urge you to bring up and swiftly pass H.R. 8166/S. 3846, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act of 2022 on suspension when the House of Representatives returns for the lame-duck session. This bipartisan legislation makes critical improvements to the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP), which supports jurisdictions creating collaborative responses to people with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders in the criminal justice system. We applaud the work of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which unanimously approved the bill in May. The Senate has already shown their strong support for the bill by passing it by unanimous consent in June. Now it is time for the House to show their support for state and local governments that are working on this complex issue by bringing the bill to the floor.

Since its inception, JMHCP has supported initiatives across the country to reduce contact with the criminal justice system and increase access to treatment and supports for people with behavioral health needs. JMHCP was created by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in 2006 as a critical way to support the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA), which was signed into law in 2004 by then-President George W. Bush. JMHCP's mission, then and now, has been to unify justice and health partners around a common goal: reducing criminal justice involvement for people with mental illness.

Collectively, state and local governments use JMHCP grants for a broad range of activities, including establishing diversion programs, creating or expanding community-based treatment programs, supporting the development of curricula for police academies and orientations, and providing in-jail treatment and transitional services, and training programs to teach criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, mental health, and substance use personnel how to identify and appropriately respond to incidents involving veterans. Additionally, grant funds may be used to train law enforcement on identifying and improving their responses to people experiencing a mental health crisis. The program was reauthorized in 2008 and again in 2016 with bipartisan support.

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act of 2022 will:

Strengthen support for mental health courts and crisis intervention teams (CITs); Support diversion programming and training for state and local prosecutors; Strengthen support for co-responder teams; Support the integration of 988 into the existing public safety system;

Amend allowable uses for grant funds to include suicide prevention in jails and information-sharing between mental health systems and jails/prisons;

Amend allowable uses to include case management services and supports; and

Clarify that crisis intervention teams can be placed in 911 call centers.

The law enforcement, training and treatment components of JMHCP will help law enforcement better handle calls involving people with mental health and substance use challenges. Jurisdictions across the country are implementing strategies to improve the outcomes of these encounters, which includes providing specialized training and tools that can yield a response that prioritizes treatment over incarceration, when appropriate. CITs, along with other practices authorized under the legislation, have been proven to be effective in reducing recidivism, enhancing public safety, and

freeing up criminal justice resources for traditional crime fighting purposes.

With the responsibility of treating people with mental illness often falling on an already strained criminal justice system, it is imperative that we provide resources to help law enforcement officers, judges, corrections officers, and mental health professionals develop more thoughtful and cost-effective programs. We strongly urge the House to support law enforcement and our communities better serve individuals with mental health disorders and to increase public safety by passing the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act in the lame-duck session.

Sincerely,

National Fraternal Order of Police; National Sheriffs Association (NSA); Major County Sheriffs of America; Conference of Chief Justices; Conference of State Court Administrators; Wounded Warrior Project; Addiction Policy Forum; National Association of Counties; National League of Cities; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; National District Attorneys Association; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Association of Police Organizations; American Jail Association.

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors; The Council of State Governments Justice Center; Major Cities Chiefs Association; American Probation and Parole Association; Faith & Freedom Coalition; Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute; Leslie County Sheriffs Office; Elliot County Sheriffs Office; Union County Sheriffs Office; Grayson County Sheriffs Office; Knox County Sheriffs Office.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3846, the "Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act of 2022," a bipartisan bill that would build on the success of the JMHCP grant program and make necessary improvements to enable state and local governments to better serve their communities.

This reauthorization would make critical improvements to the JMHCP program—which supports services for individuals with mental health issues who are involved in the criminal justice system—including expansions in suicide prevention in jails and prisons; co-responder programs that pair law enforcement with mental health professionals; and crisis intervention teams within 911 call centers.

With the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across the country have suffered increased challenges in addressing mental health. We know that individuals suffering from mental illness belong in our health care system and not our criminal justice system.

Democrats have worked consistently throughout this Congress to address issues of public safety from a holistic approach, one that does not require us to choose between our rights and our safety. We know that public safety and respect for civil rights can coexist and that supporting interventions to respond to individuals in crisis with compassion rather than force builds stronger and safer communities.

This bill would improve existing programs within the Department of Justice that divert individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system towards treatment and health care.

Since 2006, JMHCP grants have funded 620 awardees across 49 states and territories. With these funds law enforcement agencies have established co-responder teams, mobile

crisis teams, and crisis intervention teams to improve encounters with individuals in crisis and connect them with the services they need.

JMHP supports 14 law enforcement mental health learning sites, including both the Harris County Sheriffs Department and the Houston Police Department, that serve as peer resources to grantees and communities throughout the country.

In 2018, the Harris County Mental Health Jail Diversion Program expanded as an alternative to jail—diverting individuals with mental illness away from incarceration and into the health care and treatment that they need. The updated diversion program allows law enforcement to direct individuals with mental illness, who have been picked up for low-level, non-violent offenses, to more appropriate mental health interventions.

These initiatives at the state and local level have been successful and S. 3846 would provide an opportunity for the federal government to increase support to these programs and build on what we know works.

This bipartisan legislation would also support state implementation of the newly established 988 Suicide and Crisis hotline, which is a lifeline for individuals in suicidal crisis or emotional distress seeking help.

This bill would also provide additional resources for law enforcement as they work to keep communities safe and respond effectively and appropriately to individuals in mental health crisis.

S. 3846 is a common-sense bipartisan bill that would improve public safety and strengthen our communities. I thank Representative BOBBY SCOTT for taking the lead on the House companion, of which I cosponsored along with Representatives STEVE CHABOT and TOM EMMER. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Reauthorization Act. The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program is authorized through the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, what we call MIOTCRA, legislation that I was proud to work on nearly 20 years ago as the then-ranking member of the Crime Subcommittee of Judiciary Committee.

This legislation has proven to successfully connect State and local governments with necessary resources to plan and implement initiatives designed to increase public safety, save tax dollars on ineffective or even counterproductive incarceration, and improve the lives of people with mental illness and their families.

These grants for States and localities allow for the development of programming that connects those with mental illness and substance use issues with evidence-based and comprehensive treatment within the criminal justice system. Each year there are about 2 million people with serious mental illnesses admitted to jails across the country.

In fact, according to the National Alliance of Mental Illness, 44 percent of those in jail and 37 percent of those in prisons have a history of mental illness.

□ 1545

Furthermore, once incarcerated, individuals with mental illness tend to stay in jail longer, and upon release are more likely to return to incarceration than those without mental illnesses.

These grants encourage collaboration between law enforcement and healthcare providers. The reforms to this program included in this reauthorization are centered on reducing suicide, increasing access to case management services, bolstering the roles of co-responder and crisis intervention teams, and continuing the strong support of mental health courts. This bill recognizes that prevention is the best investment in the criminal justice system for long-term success and cost savings.

This legislation is the result of the hard work of many, including State government organizations, mental health organizations, and law enforcement organizations. I thank all of those and my colleagues who have led this effort with me, including Representatives CHABOT, JACKSON LEE, and EMMER; the chairman of the committee, Mr. NADLER; as well as Senators CORNYN, KLOBUCHAR, MORAN, DURBIN, GRASSLEY, WHITEHOUSE, TILLIS, and CORTEZ MASTO.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the reauthorization of this legislation so we can get it to the President's desk before the end of the year.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program funds a variety of essential services to support the mental health needs of communities across the country and redirect people in crisis away from the criminal justice system and into the healthcare system.

This legislation would reauthorize and strengthen this important program so that it can continue to serve those in need of its services.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3846, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PRO BONO WORK TO EMPOWER AND REPRESENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3115) to remove the 4-year sunset from the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3115

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 “Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2021” or the “POWER 2.0 Act”.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF SUNSET.

Section 3(a) of the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-237; 132 Stat. 2448) is amended by striking “for a period of 4 years”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3115.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, nearly 25 percent of women suffer from domestic violence at some point in their lives. Domestic violence and related offenses destroy lives and shatter families. Among the many challenges that victims face is a lack of legal representation when seeking assistance from the court system.

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in just one day in September 2014, domestic violence assistance programs received more than 10,000 requests for services, including legal representation, that were not met. The effect of this lack of representation is devastating. Research has shown that 83 percent of victims represented by counsel were able to obtain protective orders, while only 32 percent of unrepresented victims were able to do so.

That is why in 2018, Congress stepped in by enacting the POWER Act, which requires the chief judge of every judicial district to hold an annual public event, in partnership with a State, local, Tribal, or domestic violence service provider or volunteer attorney project, in promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way to empower survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The act also requires that events be held every 2 years in areas

with high numbers of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, with a focus on addressing the specific issues facing Native populations.

We recognize that pro bono legal assistance would not only provide critical representation in court, but it would also help provide survivors with access to services such as emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare. We also recognize that legal summits mandated by the act would raise awareness of the horrors of domestic violence and sexual assault while inspiring others to devote their efforts to helping survivors in their communities.

In addition to providing for these pro bono programs, the 2018 act requires the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to report to Congress about each public event conducted in the previous fiscal year.

The programs authorized under the original POWER Act have been extremely successful. In 2021, 73 pro bono legal summits were held across the Nation, reaching more than 11,000 attorneys. In the years since we passed the POWER Act, we have amassed an army of thousands of lawyers who are helping survivors, including children, get out of dangerous situations, giving them a measure of justice and a ray of hope.

But as effective as they have been, the programs created and authorized by the 2018 POWER Act are set to sunset at the end of this year. Meanwhile, the crisis of domestic and sexual violence continues.

S. 3115, the POWER 2.0 Act, would ensure the continuation of the critical programs we enacted in 2018 by removing the sunset date for these programs, helping to deliver essential legal services and to bring hope and healing to many more survivors across the country. We have already planted the seeds, and by removing the 4-year sunset provision from the original POWER Act, we will allow these pivotal programs to continue to grow and thrive, helping more and more survivors every year.

I thank Senator DAN SULLIVAN for introducing this important and time-sensitive legislation and the gentlewoman from Alaska (Ms. PELTOLA) for leading the House version of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the POWER 2.0 Act permanently authorizes the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018, which is scheduled to sunset at the end of this year.

It requires the chief judge for each district to conduct public events to promote pro bono legal services for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

In addition, the bill requires the chief judge for a district that includes an Indian Tribe to conduct a public event to promote pro bono legal services for Indian or Alaska Native victims of these crimes every 2 years.

Research has shown that survivors of domestic abuse have significantly better outcomes, such as successfully obtaining a protective order, when represented by an attorney.

This bill will hopefully assist victims in accessing quality representation through pro bono services.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is an enormously important initiative, and I rise today to support the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2021, or the POWER 2.0 Act. This has to be one of the more important bills on the floor, among many.

This is a bill that saves lives, and I certainly want to, at the very beginning, acknowledge certainly the Senator, but as well, I want to acknowledge our friend and colleague in the House and thank her so very much, Congresswoman PELTOLA, for her great work that has generated something that is very close to my heart.

The POWER Act will give a lifeline to domestic violence sufferers, those who have been abused by domestic violence.

As the author of the Violence Against Women Act in the House over a number of Congresses, I know how important any legislation is dealing with domestic violence and domestic abuse.

I speak to law enforcement and often say to them that domestic violence calls are the most dangerous that law enforcement engage in.

Remember, as I started on this floor, I indicated that as Democrats, we know how to bring down crime and also engage in social justice. We understand that it is extremely important that those in the criminal justice system deserve due process. But the victims of domestic violence, more often than not women, suffer greatly.

In Texas, 40.1 percent of women and 34 percent of men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes. Thousands of incidents are reported every day. On a single day in 2020, domestic violence hotlines across the country receive 21,321 calls.

The provision of legal services through the southern district or through the various Federal districts that train over 600,000 lawyers and then send them out to be able to give assistance to State and local governments is a lifeline. It is a lifesaver.

Less than one-third of domestic violence victims successfully obtain protective orders. Protective orders can be the cause of saving life, keeping a mother to protect her children, keeping an aunt or a grandmother. The POWER Act has an indelible impact on the lives of the most vulnerable Ameri-

cans, and I stand here in grand support of this important effort.

As a former board member of the Houston Area Women's Center, I know what it means to get calls late into the night and calling the executive director and asking for relief for a woman who is running for her life.

Over this past Thanksgiving weekend, unfortunately, in my own community, there were a series of domestic violence killings of women who suffered at the hands of an ex.

It is important to eliminate the sunset of this provision and to be able to say that no one should be left alone without the idea or the help of ensuring that there is legal protection and that you have access to legal protection.

Again, I want to commend Congresswoman MARY SATTLER PELTOLA, a friend and someone who I appreciate her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following articles, The Justice in Government Project and HAWC.

[From the Justice in Government Project]
KEY STUDIES AND DATA ABOUT ABOUT HOW
LEGAL AID ASSISTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that in the U.S., 36.4 percent of women and 33.6 percent of men experience sexual or physical violence or stalking perpetrated by an intimate partner in their lifetimes. Individuals who have experienced domestic violence display a multitude of legal needs. They may require assistance with filing protection orders, custody issues, housing, identity theft, and employment (Lee & Backes, 2018; Allen et al., 2004).

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Providing civil counsel in divorce, custody, and protective order proceedings can significantly improve outcomes for DV [domestic violence] and IPV [intimate partner violence] victims and their children as well as serve as a cost-effective strategy for reducing violence and generating positive social norms" (Lee & Backes, 2018).

In a study of survivors of IPV, researchers concluded that "[c]ivil legal services can most directly address economic self-sufficiency in two ways: by increasing income and decreasing economic liability" (Hartley & Renner, 2016).

"83 percent of victims represented by an attorney successfully obtained a protective order, as compared to just 32 percent of victims without an attorney" (Institute for Policy Integrity, 2015).

In custody matters, "attorney representation, particularly representation by legal aid attorneys with expertise in IPV cases, resulted in greater protections being awarded to IPV victims and their children. Improved access of IPV victims to legal representation, particularly by attorneys with expertise in IPV, is indicated" (Kernic, 2015).

"DV/SA [sexual assault] victims reported an aggregate total of 3,446 separate legal problems in areas identified in the survey instrument with an average of 19.69 legal problems per household/respondent. This is 2 times higher than an average of 9.3 problems per household/year documented for the general low-income population of Washington" (Social & Economic Sciences Research Center, 2014).

"In 2003, for example, requests for restraining orders in Dane County were granted approximately 55 percent of the time. With the

aid of a legal advocate provided by DAIS, however, that number increased to 69 percent" (Elwart et al., 2006).

Women living in counties with shelters, hot-lines, safe homes, emergency transportation, programs for batterers, children's programs, and counseling are not significantly less likely to be victims of intimate partner abuse than women who live in counties without these services. However, women who live in counties with legal assistance programs to help battered women are significantly less likely to report abuse" (Allen et al., 2004).

... [T]he overwhelming fraction of our study participants did not achieve the goal of terminating their marriages unless they had lawyers" (Degan et al., 2019).

Most services provided to help battered women do not impact the likelihood of abuse, but the provision of legal services significantly lowers the incidence of domestic violence" (Farmer & Tiefenthaler, 2003).

NARRATIVE OVERVIEW RE: ASSISTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Domestic violence (DV) is defined as violent, often aggressive, behavior used by one partner in a relationship that incites fear and intimidates the other partner or among family members. The U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics differentiates between DV (violence from family members and former or current partners) and IPV (violence only from current or former partners). Experiencing violence can leave a profound impact. Those who have been directly victimized report higher rates of depression, are at higher risk for repeat victimization, are at higher risk for perpetrating DV in their lifetime than those who have not experienced violence.

Experiencing IPV/DV is common: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that in the U.S., 36.4 percent of women and 33.6 percent of men experience sexual or physical violence or stalking perpetrated by an intimate partner in their lifetimes. In 2017, data from the National Crime Victimization Survey found that 1,237,960 Americans had experienced DV in the six months prior to the survey.

IPV/DV has disproportionate effects on elderly, disabled, LGBTQ, minority and low-income people due to increased social risks associated with violence and decreased access to services. One study found that, while 6 to 12 percent of older adults self-identify as being abused, the actual number of participants reporting indicators of abuse was about five times greater. A published review reported that, in comparison to non-Hispanic White women, Black, Latina, and Native American/Alaska Native women experienced higher lifetime rates of IPV associated with various mental health disorders, reproductive health outcomes, and barriers to services. These barriers are often the result of trauma, housing, instability, employment needs, and compounding mental and physical health needs experienced in historically marginalized communities. Additional evidence shows that even when survivors in vulnerable populations have access to legal interventions intended to reduce future risk of harm, they may be less protected from revictimization. For example, Benitez, McNeil & Binder (2010) found that Black women were at elevated risk of renewed abuse after legal intervention (i.e., obtaining a protection order or the arrest of their abusive partner following a DV incident) compared to white women.

DATA AND STUDIES SHOW LEGAL AID HELPS

Individuals who have experienced domestic violence often display a multitude of legal needs: from assistance with filing protection orders, custody issues, housing, identity

theft, and employment (Lee & Backes, 2018; Allen et al., 2004). Domestic violence survivors and sexual assault survivors are likely to report more legal needs than the average low-income household (Social & Economic Sciences Research Center, 2014). Studies show how access to legal aid can both reduce domestic violence and mitigate some of its collateral consequences. Kernic (2015) found that when DV survivors have access to legal representation in child custody cases, they are granted greater protections and visitation decisions when compared to those who are not represented. Another study agrees. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (2017) found in their survey of 1,762 shelters that DV survivors without legal representation are more likely to be later victimized than those without access to legal representation.

Having access to legal representation reduces the likelihood of future violence. In their seminal study, Farmer and Tiefenthaler (2003) found that increased access to legal representation and services is partly responsible for the decrease in domestic violence observed in the 1990s. More recently, Hartley and Renner found that with legal representation to obtain a protective order or on a family law issue, survivors of domestic violence in Iowa saw increases in monthly income and personal growth and support (2018). They also found that, while receiving free civil legal services for intimate partner violence, depression and PTSD decreased significantly over one year (Renner & Hartley, 2018).

The Institute for Policy Integrity (2015) also found that providing legal services to DV survivors reduced domestic violence, as well as the societal costs of domestic violence. Elwart and colleagues (2006) found that when state funding of domestic violence service providers was at \$9.1 million, the maximum benefits were \$27.3 million.

SEVEN REASONS WHY ABUSE VICTIMS NEED LEGAL SERVICES—HAWC

On average, survivors have multiple legal problems associated with their abusive situation, and many cannot afford the assistance of an attorney. Agencies like HAWC (Healing Abuse Working for Change) seek to ensure all abuse survivors can have access to the appropriate legal services they need to secure and maintain their utmost safety. Why legal assistance helps:

It dramatically increases the likelihood of obtaining a protective order. Research from the Institute for Policy Integrity shows that 86 percent of abuse, or domestic violence, victims who were represented by an attorney were successful at obtaining a protective order. The rate for abuse survivors without legal representation was only 32 percent.

Hundreds of thousands who need help are turned away every year. Each year, hundreds-of-thousands of domestic violence victims and abuse survivors are turned away from help, including legal services. This often leads to victims feeling helpless and, in some cases, going back to their abuser, each day from various domestic violence services, including shelters. Lack of funding and donations are the primary cause for the decreasing lack of services for victims.

3. Fifty-eight percent of victims need additional and transitional services. Legal representation doesn't end in the court room. Attorneys and legal advocates assist in everything from divorce proceedings to property protection, when related to the abuse.

4. Legal problems are complex. A domestic violence survivor will, on average, have at least three legal problems to resolve after obtaining safety and during any criminal proceedings. In many instances, survivors

don't realize how many separate legal issues will arise when initially trying to escape their abuser.

5. Without legal representation, a victim's voice often goes ignored. Domestic violence victims without legal representation often report that police, hospital staff, and judges do not take their claims "seriously," going as far as to ignore them completely.

6. Immigrants and adolescents are the most underserved. Obtaining legal services is an uphill battle for all victims of abuse. However, immigrants, adolescents, and their family are at the highest risk of not obtaining the appropriate legal representation because of various barriers to service.

7. The likelihood of losing custody of children increases without an attorney present. Thousands of abuse victims lose custody of their children each year because they could not afford an attorney. The same research shows that, without an attorney, children may not receive the therapy and other psychological support they need during such a traumatic period.

HOW HAWC HELPS

Our trained legal advocates provide advice, assistance, and, depending on availability, representation for abuse survivors who seek a life free from fear and violence. Part of our mission is to make these services immediately available for everyone who needs them.

By supporting our legal service efforts you're giving thousands of domestic violence victims the chance to be safe from physical, emotional, and economic harm. Specifically, each donation goes towards:

Abuse and harassment prevention for survivors,

Access to clinics with our team of pro-bono attorneys,

Referrals for other services like individualized safety plans, and

Legal representation for high risk clients.

HAWC offers immediate, comprehensive support to those experiencing domestic violence. By expanding our legal service offerings, we can ensure that all victims of domestic violence get access to the legal support they need.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this bill must be passed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3115, the "Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2021," also known as the "POWER 2.0 Act," which extends the authorization of vital programs that help victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence receive free legal assistance—without which they would be unlikely to receive any semblance of justice, let alone safety and security.

No community is safe from domestic violence. It touches people of every socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity—in red states and blue states.

Nearly a quarter of women in this country experience domestic violence or sexual assault at some point in their lives. Many victims of domestic violence are poor, helpless, and living in underserved communities. Many are mere children.

In Texas, 40.1 percent of women and 34.9 percent of men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.

Thousands of incidents are reported daily. On a single day in 2020, domestic violence hotlines across the country received 21,321 calls—an average of almost 15 calls every minute.

The provision of legal services following the first occurrence of domestic violence can be a

proactive solution that minimizes the likelihood of victims experiencing further incidents of abuse. But without access to legal representation, those most in need of protection—which our courts can provide—are often unable to receive the help they need to escape the cycle of violence.

Unfortunately, less than one third of domestic violence victims successfully obtain protective orders if they seek one on their own, without the assistance of counsel.

That is why in 2018, Congress enacted the Power Act, which requires every judicial district within the United States and its territories to hold annual public pro-bono summits to recruit and encourage attorneys to provide free legal services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault. It also requires targeted programs in areas with large populations of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The Power Act has had an indelible impact on the lives of the most vulnerable Americans. From 2019 to 2021, our courts have held nearly 250 pro bono summits, reaching more than 60,000 attorneys—educating them about the need for their services and letting them know how they can help.

While that is a promising start, it is only the beginning. An innumerable number of domestic and sexual violence victims still need legal assistance to survive. Yet the programs authorized under the Act are set to expire in just a few short weeks.

That is why it is imperative we pass the POWER 2.0 Act, which would remove the 4-year sunset provision from the original legislation and allow us to continue growing an army of capable, volunteer attorneys available to represent, protect, and provide a lifeline to victims and survivors, who so desperately need their help.

I commend Representative MARY SATTLER PELTOLA for her work on the POWER 2.0 Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alaska (Mrs. PELTOLA), the House sponsor of the bill and a worthy successor to our late colleague, DON YOUNG.

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on S. 3115, the POWER 2.0 Act. This bill is the Senate companion to my bill of the same title, H.R. 9113.

Both bills address the same flaw in our system, that survivors of intimate partner-related violence and intimidation often lack the legal resources they need to protect themselves from future injury. In this paradigm, victims are too often unable to escape their perpetrators, often to devastating effect.

Thankfully, in 2018, Congress offered an avenue to relief. The Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act, sponsored by my Senate colleague, Senator SULLIVAN, authorized a pilot project calling for each district court to hold at least one event annually in concert with domestic violence service providers to promote pro bono legal services for victims of partner-related violence and intimidation.

Additionally, to address the appalling victimization rates among Alaska

Natives and American Indians in particular, the bill also mandates partnerships between district courts and Tribes and Tribal organizations.

Since its enactment, the POWER Act has brought together dozens of service organizations and tens of thousands of lawyers, all with the aim of combating our skyrocketing rates of violence and intimidation endemic across many parts of our country.

As one of my first legislative actions in Congress, I am proud to introduce the POWER 2.0 Act. This bill removes the sunset on the POWER Act and will ensure more victims have the ability to protect themselves from further violence and intimidation.

I am both grateful and filled with anticipation to see this body act so uniformly in favor of this bill, S. 3115, today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there are an untold number of victims of domestic and sexual violence in this country, including young children, who are without legal recourse to escape their abusers, to protect themselves and their families, and to obtain the services they need to rebuild their lives.

The POWER Act has started the hard work of incentivizing and encouraging thousands of lawyers to provide pro bono legal services to the victims and survivors that are most in need. But we need more attorneys to join the cause.

By removing the sunset date from the POWER Act, S. 3115 will allow us to continue and expand the critical programs we created in 2018, while ensuring that there is no gap in access to services for those who need them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this crucial legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHNEIDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3115.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TERRY TECHNICAL CORRECTION ACT

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5455) to amend the First Step Act

of 2018 to permit defendants convicted of certain offenses to be eligible for reduced sentences, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5455

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 “Terry Technical Correction Act”.

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF FAIR SENTENCING ACT OF 2010.

Section 404 of the First Step Act of 2018 (21 U.S.C. 841 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “covered offense” means and inserting the following:

“covered offense”—

“(1) means”;

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) includes a violation, involving cocaine base, of—

“(A) section 3113 of title 5, United States Code;

“(B) section 401(b)(1)(C) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)(C));

“(C) section 404(a) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 844(a));

“(D) section 406 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 846);

“(E) section 408 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 848);

“(F) subsection (b) or (c) of section 409 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 849);

“(G) subsection (a) or (b) of section 418 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 859);

“(H) subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 419 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 860);

“(I) section 420 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 861);

“(J) section 1010(b)(3) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)(3));

“(K) section 1010A of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960a);

“(L) section 90103 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12522);

“(M) section 70503 or 70506 of title 46, United States Code; or

“(N) any attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit an offense described in subparagraphs (A) through (M).”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting “A motion made under this section that was denied after a court determination that a violation described in subsection (a)(2) was not a covered offense shall not be considered a denial after a complete review of the motion on the merits within the meaning of this section.” after the period at the end of the second sentence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5455.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5455, which would clarify that the retroactivity provision of section 404 of the First Step Act of 2018 is available to all offenders who were sentenced for a crack offense before the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 became effective, including individuals convicted of offenses involving small quantities of crack.

After decades of unfair sentences that swept too broadly, most often applied to low-level dealers and impacted minorities disproportionately, Congress has worked to right some of the wrongs of the misguided war on drugs, often on a bipartisan basis. This legislation continues that important effort.

In 1986, in response to a surge in the use of crack cocaine and several high-profile cocaine-related deaths, Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, which created mandatory minimum penalties for drug offenses and introduced a 100-1 sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses.

This meant that a person who distributed 5 grams of crack cocaine received the same 5-year mandatory minimum sentence as a person who distributed 500 grams of powder cocaine, and the person who distributed 50 grams of crack cocaine received the same 10-year mandatory minimum sentence as the person who distributed 5,000 grams of powder cocaine.

It soon became evident that this sentencing disparity had also created a significant racial disparity. Four years after Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, the average Federal sentence for African-American defendants was 49 percent higher than the average for White defendants.

In 2010, Congress passed the Fair Sentencing Act, which did not eliminate the disparity but which significantly reduced the ratio from 100-1 to 18-1. Unfortunately, that legislation applied only to pending and future cases, leaving thousands of inmates without a path to petition for relief.

In 2018, the bipartisan First Step Act made the Fair Sentencing Act retroactive if an inmate received “a sentence for a covered offense,” as defined in section 404 of the Act, providing a pathway to relief for some but not all individuals affected by the sentencing disparity.

Three years later, after roughly 4,000 motions for sentence reductions had been granted, the Supreme Court, in *Terry v. United States*, limited the availability of sentence reductions under the Fair Sentencing Act, contrary to the intent of Congress.

Based on a narrow reading of the meaning of “covered offense,” the Court held that individuals convicted of crack offenses are only eligible for a sentence reduction under the First Step Act if their convictions triggered mandatory minimum penalties.

That means that individuals like Mr. Terry, who possessed less than 4 grams

of crack, are unable to seek sentence reductions, while individuals convicted of sentences involving much larger quantities of crack can seek a sentence reduction, and many have already done so, which is simply absurd and unfair.

The First Step Act was meant to make retroactive sentencing relief available to all individuals sentenced for crack cocaine offenses before the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 took effect.

As Justice Sotomayor's concurring opinion in *Terry* reminds us, Congress has numerous tools to correct this injustice, and H.R. 5455, the Terry Technical Correction Act, is one of these tools.

The bill provides a new, expanded definition of "covered offense" that includes a list of drug offenses in the criminal code that do not trigger mandatory minimum sentences.

The bill also ensures that no person seeking a sentencing reduction under section 404 will be barred from filing a new petition on the grounds that a judge had previously denied relief based on a determination that the offense of conviction was not a "covered offense" under the meaning provided in the First Step Act.

I thank Crime Subcommittee Chairwoman JACKSON LEE, Representatives CICILLINE, JEFFRIES, OWENS, MASSIE, and Delegate HOLMES NORTON for introducing this important bipartisan bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5455 responds to a Supreme Court ruling that held certain low-level drug offenders do not qualify for resentencing under the retroactive provisions of the First Step Act. That was not Congress' intent in adopting the First Step Act.

This problem dates back to the drug epidemic of the 1980s. At that time, Congress enacted harsh penalties for Federal drug offenses, including mandatory minimum sentences.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 created a 100-1 sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, meaning an individual convicted of selling 5 grams of crack cocaine would receive the same sentence as someone convicted of selling 500 grams of powder cocaine.

In 2010, Congress passed the Fair Sentencing Act, which reduced the sentencing disparity between crack and powder from 100-1 to 18-1.

In 2018, Congress passed, and President Trump signed, the First Step Act into law. The First Step Act made the sentencing disparity provision retroactive, allowing individuals convicted of or sentenced for Federal drug offenses related to cocaine to move for a resentencing.

However, that law did not specifically address individuals whose crimes did not trigger the mandatory minimums. As a result, some of those individuals are serving longer sentences than those whose offenses triggered the

mandatory minimums. This legislation today makes technical corrections and brings parity to crack-related offenses.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the full committee, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 5455, the Terry Technical Correction Act, which has widespread support from really the people who count that deal with these issues day after day, our law enforcement officers and attorneys general across America.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from several attorneys general, as well as the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2021.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
*Senate Majority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
*Senate Minority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER SCHUMER, LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER PELOSI, AND LEADER MCCARTHY: As our jurisdictions' Attorneys General, we are responsible for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our residents. Although our jurisdictions vary in size, geography, and political composition, we are united in our commitment to an effective criminal justice system that safeguards the communities of our states. To that end, a bipartisan coalition of Attorneys General supported the passage of the First Step Act of 2018—landmark legislation that brought common sense improvements to myriad aspects of the criminal justice system. Central to these reforms was retroactive relief for individuals sentenced under the discredited 100-to-1 crack-to-powder cocaine ratio that Congress abolished in 2010. Following the Supreme Court's recent opinion in *Terry v. United States*, however, the lowest level crack cocaine offenders remain categorically ineligible for resentencing. We write today to urge Congress to amend the First Step Act, and to clarify that its retroactive relief applies to all individuals sentenced under the prior regime.

Congress enacted the historic First Step Act of 2018 to modernize the criminal justice system, implementing comprehensive reform in areas such as corrections, criminal charging, community re-entry, and beyond. The product of a unique bipartisan consensus, the Act passed with overwhelming support from organizations across the ideological spectrum, including the Heritage Foundation, the American Civil Liberties Union, Freedomworks, the National Urban League, the American Conservative Union, the Public Defender Association, Americans for Prosperity, and the Center for American Progress, among many others. Over three dozen Attorneys General supported the Act as a critical tool for strengthening our criminal justice system and better serving the people of our states.

One of the First Step Act's key pillars was sentencing reform. This reform included Section 404, which provides retroactive relief for individuals sentenced under the discredited 100-to-1 crack cocaine-to-powder-cocaine ratio that Congress repudiated through the

Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. That earlier legislation abolished the 100-to-1 ratio going forward, reflecting the overwhelming consensus that treating crack cocaine and powder cocaine radically differently exacerbated racial inequality in the criminal justice system and resulted in unjustly severe sentences for low-level crack cocaine users.

But the Fair Sentencing Act applied only to sentences imposed after the Act's passage. As Senator Cory Booker explained, it left thousands of "people sitting in jail . . . for selling an amount of drugs equal to the size of a candy bar" based solely on their sentencing date, underscoring the need, in Senator Mike Lee's words, to apply the law "equally to all those convicted of cocaine and crack offenses regardless of when they were convicted." Congress therefore included Section 404 in the First Step Act, which allowed individuals sentenced under the discredited 100-to-1 ratio to seek discretionary resentencing.

Unfortunately, that critical work remains incomplete. In *Terry v. United States*, the Supreme Court concluded that while Section 404 clearly authorized certain mid- or high-level crack cocaine offenders to seek resentencing, it did not extend relief to the lowest-level offenders sentenced under the prior regime. Specifically, the Court relied on Section 404's definition of a covered offense as any "violation of a Federal criminal statute, the statutory penalties for which were modified by" the Fair Sentencing Act. The Court reasoned that because the Fair Sentencing Act did not formally change the elements or penalties for the lowest level era offenses—it merely changed the quantities needed to trigger mid- and high-level charges—the Act failed to modify the "statutory penalties" for the lowest category of offenders. As a result, these individuals are now the only ones sentenced under the earlier crack cocaine quantities that remain categorically ineligible for the First Step Act's historic relief.

We urge Congress to close this gap. There is no reason why these individuals—and these individuals alone—should continue to serve sentences informed by the now-discredited crack-to-powder ratio. Discretionary relief is unambiguously available to serious dealers and kingpins sentenced under the prior regime; extending Section 404's scope would simply allow individual users and other low-level crack cocaine offenders to have the same opportunity for a second chance. We therefore urge Congress to clarify that Section 404 of the First Step Act extends to all individuals convicted of crack cocaine offenses and sentenced under the 100-to-1 ratio—including the lowest level offenders.

We thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Karl A. Racine, District of Columbia Attorney General; Rob Bonta, California Attorney General; William Tong, Connecticut Attorney General; Leevin Taitano Camacho, Guam Attorney General; Tom Miller, Iowa Attorney General; Brian Frosh, Maryland Attorney General; Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General; Aaron D. Ford, Nevada Attorney General; Hector Balderas, New Mexico Attorney General; Sean D. Reyes, Utah Attorney General; Phil Weiser, Colorado Attorney General; Kathleen Jennings, Delaware Attorney General; Kwame Raoul, Illinois Attorney General; Aaron M. Frey, Maine Attorney General; Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General; Keith Ellison, Minnesota Attorney General; Andrew Buck, Acting New Jersey Attorney General; Letitia James, New York Attorney General; Ellen F. Rosenblum, Oregon Attorney General; Peter F. Neronha, Rhode Island Attorney General; Mark R. Herring, Virginia Attorney General; Joshua L. Kaul, Wisconsin Attorney General;

Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania Attorney General; T.J. Donovan, Vermont Attorney General; Robert W. Ferguson, Washington Attorney General.

MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION,
October 20, 2021.

Hon. DICK DURBIN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CORY BOOKER,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE LEE,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN, RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY, SENATOR BOOKER, AND SENATOR LEE: I write on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 2014, the Terry Technical Corrections Act. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

In 2010, Congress reduced the federal sentencing disparity for crack versus powder cocaine offenses. However, due to an unclear definition in statute, the Supreme Court recently held in *Terry v. United States* that individuals convicted of some of the least serious crack cocaine offenses are ineligible to be resentenced under the reduced disparity. The Terry Technical Corrections Ad will address this issue by clarifying that all offenders sentenced for a crack cocaine offense before the disparity was reduced are eligible to be resentenced. While the MCCA believes Congress should eliminate the federal sentencing disparity, until that happens, this legislation will help address inequities in our criminal justice system related to sentencing for crack cocaine offenses.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

CHIEF JERI WILLIAMS,
Chief, Phoenix Police
Department, Presi-
dent, Major Cities
Chiefs Association.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As Justice Thomas noted in his opinion in *Terry v. United States*, citing my introduction of H.R. 4545, the Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act of 2007, I have long worked to address the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses, introducing legislation to eliminate the disparity completely.

Mr. Speaker, I include this opinion that cites this legislation, among others, for the RECORD.

141 S.Ct. 1858

Supreme Court of the United States

Tarahrick TERRY, Petitioner

v.

UNITED STATES

No. 20-5904

Argued May 4, 2021

Decided June 14, 2021

THOMAS, J., delivered the opinion of the Court, in which ROBERTS, C.J., and BREYER, ALITO, KAGAN, GORSUCH, KAVANAUGH, and BARRETT, JJ., joined. SOTOMAYOR, J., filed an opinion concurring in part and concurring in the judgment.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Attorneys and Law Firms

Elizabeth B. Prelogar, Acting Solicitor General, Counsel of Record, Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

Opinion

Justice THOMAS delivered the opinion of the Court.

In 1986, Congress established mandatory-minimum penalties for cocaine offenses. If the quantity of cocaine involved in an offense exceeded a minimum threshold, then courts were required to impose a heightened sentence. Congress set the quantity thresholds far lower for crack offenses than for powder offenses. But it has since narrowed the gap by increasing the thresholds for crack offenses more than fivefold. The First Step Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-391, 132 Stat. 5194, makes those changes retroactive and gives certain crack offenders an opportunity to receive a reduced sentence. The question here is whether crack offenders who did not trigger a mandatory minimum qualify. They do not.

I

In the mid-1980s, the United States witnessed a steep surge in the use of crack cocaine, and news of high-profile, cocaine-related deaths permeated the media. Witnesses before Congress, and Members of Congress themselves, believed that a “crack epidemic” was also fueling a crime wave. Crack, they said, was far more addictive and dangerous than powder cocaine; it was cheaper and thus easier to obtain; and these and other factors spurred violent crime.

In response to these concerns, Congress quickly passed a bill with near unanimity. The new law created mandatory-minimum penalties for various drug offenses, and it set much lower trigger thresholds for crack offenses. The Act included two base penalties that depended on drug quantity: a 5-year mandatory minimum (triggered by 5 grams of crack or 500 grams of powder) and a 10-year mandatory minimum (triggered by 50 grams of crack or 5 kilograms of powder). 100 Stat. 3207-2, 3207-3. The Act also created a third penalty—possession with intent to distribute an unspecified amount of a schedule I or II drug—that did not treat crack and powder offenses differently, did not depend on drug quantity, and did not include a mandatory minimum.

Petitioner was convicted under this Act and subjected to the third penalty. In exchange for the Government dropping two firearm charges, petitioner pleaded guilty in 2008 to possession with intent to distribute an unspecified amount of crack. At sentencing, the District Court determined that his offense involved about 4 grams of crack, a schedule II drug.

It also determined that petitioner was a career offender under the Sentencing Guidelines. The career-offender Guidelines controlled because they recommended a higher sentence than the drug-quantity Guidelines. The District Court sentenced petitioner to 188 months, the bottom of the career-offender Guidelines range.

All this occurred while Congress was considering whether to change the quantity thresholds for crack penalties. In 1995, the Sentencing Commission issued a report to Congress stating that it thought the 100-to-1 ratio was too high. In particular, it stressed that the then-mandatory Guidelines helped make the ratio excessive because the Guidelines, which were not yet in effect when Congress created the ratio, addressed some of Congress’ concerns about crack. Addressing those concerns through both the ratio and

the Guidelines, the Commission said, “doubly punished” offenders. United States Sentencing Commission, Special Report to the Congress: Cocaine and Federal Sentencing Policy 195-197 (Feb. 1995). Separately, although the Commission thought that it was reasonable to conclude that “crack cocaine poses greater harms to society than does powder cocaine,” it determined that the ratio overstated the difference in harm. Finally, the Commission noted that persons convicted of crack offenses were disproportionately black, so a ratio that was too high created a “perception of unfairness” even though there was no reason to believe “that racial bias or animus undergirded the initiation of this federal sentencing law.” Members of Congress responded to this and similar reports. For example, Senators Sessions and Hatch introduced legislation in 2001 to lower the ratio to 20 to 1. S. 1874, 107th Cong., 1st Sess. Representative Jackson-Lee led a similar effort in the House, but would have created a 1-to-1 ratio. H. R. 4545, 110th Cong., 1st Sess. (2007).

Two years after petitioner was sentenced, these attempts to change the ratio came to fruition. In the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, 124 Stat. 2372, Congress reaffirmed its view that the triggering thresholds should be lower for crack offenses, but it reduced the 100-to-1 ratio to about 18 to 1. It did so by increasing the crack quantity thresholds from 5 grams to 28 for the 5-year mandatory minimum and from 50 grams to 280 for the 10-year mandatory minimum. §2(a). 124 Stat. 2372. These changes did not apply to those who had been sentenced before 2010.

The Sentencing Commission then altered the drug quantity table used to calculate Guidelines ranges. The Commission decreased the recommended sentence for crack offenders to track the statutory change Congress made. It then made the change retroactive, giving previous offenders an opportunity for resentencing. Courts were still constrained, however, by the statutory minimums in place before 2010. Many offenders thus remained sentenced to terms above what the Guidelines recommended. Congress addressed this issue in 2018 by enacting the First Step Act. This law made the 2010 statutory changes retroactive and gave courts authority to reduce the sentences of certain crack offenders.

Petitioner initially sought resentencing under the new, retroactive Guidelines. But because his sentence was based on his recidivism, not his drug quantity, his attempt was unsuccessful. After Congress enacted the First Step Act, petitioner again sought resentencing, this time contending that he falls within the category of crack offenders covered by that Act. The District Court denied his motion, and the Eleventh Circuit affirmed, holding that offenders are eligible for a sentence reduction only if they were convicted of a crack offense that triggered a mandatory minimum. 828 Fed.Appx. 563 (2020) (per curiam). We granted certiorari. 592 U.S. —, 141 S.Ct. 975. 208 L.Ed.2d 511 (2021).

On the day the Government’s brief was due, the United States informed the Court that, after the change in administration, it would no longer defend the judgment. Because of the timeline, the Court rescheduled argument, compressed the briefing schedule, and appointed Adam K. Mortara as amicus curiae to argue in support of the judgment. He has ably discharged his responsibilities.

II

An offender is eligible for a sentence reduction under the First Step Act only if he previously received “a sentence for a covered offense.” §404(b), 132 Stat. 5222. The Act defines “covered offense” as “a violation of a Federal criminal statute, the statutory penalties for which were modified by” certain provisions in the Fair Sentencing Act.

§404(a), *ibid.* Here, “statutory penalties” references the entire, integrated phrase “a violation of a Federal criminal statute.” And that phrase means “offense.” Black’s Law Dictionary 1300 (11th ed. 2019) (“A violation of the law”). We thus ask whether the Fair Sentencing Act modified the statutory penalties for petitioner’s offense. It did not.

The elements of petitioner’s offense are presented by two subsections of 21 U.S.C. §841. Subsection (a) makes it unlawful to knowingly or intentionally possess with intent to distribute any controlled substance. Subsection (b) lists additional facts that, if proved, trigger penalties.

Before 2010, §§841(a) and (b) together defined three crack offenses relevant here. The elements of the first offense were (1) knowing or intentional possession with intent to distribute, (2) crack, of (3) at least 50 grams. §§1841(a), (b)(1)(A)(iii). This subparagraph (A) offense was punishable by 10 years to life, in addition to financial penalties and supervised release. The elements of the second offense were (1) knowing or intentional possession with intent to distribute, (2) crack, of (3) at least 5 grams. §§841(a), (b)(1)(B)(iii). This subparagraph (B) offense was punishable by 5-to-40 years, in addition to financial penalties and supervised release. And the elements of the third offense were (1) knowing or intentional possession with intent to distribute, (2) some unspecified amount of a schedule I or II drug. §§841(a), (b)(1)(C).

Petitioner was convicted of the third offense—subparagraph (C). Before 2010, the statutory penalties for that offense were 0-to-20 years, up to a \$1 million fine, or both, and a period of supervised release. After 2010, these statutory penalties remain exactly the same. The Fair Sentencing Act thus did not modify the statutory penalties for petitioner’s offense.

Petitioner’s offense is starkly different from the offenses that triggered mandatory minimums. The Fair Sentencing Act plainly “modified” the “statutory penalties” for those. It did so by increasing the triggering quantities from 50 grams to 280 in subparagraph (A) and from 5 grams to 28 in subparagraph (B). Before 2010, a person charged with the original elements of subparagraph (A)—knowing or intentional possession with intent to distribute at least 50 grams of crack—faced a prison range of between 10 years and life. But because the Act increased the trigger quantity under subparagraph (A) to 280 grams, a person charged with those original elements after 2010 is now subject to the more lenient prison range for subparagraph (B): 5-to-40 years. Similarly, the elements of an offense under subparagraph (B) before 2010 were knowing or intentional possession with intent to distribute at least 5 grams of crack. Originally punishable by 5-to-40 years, the offense defined by those elements is now punishable by 0-to-20 years—that is, the penalties under subparagraph (C). The statutory penalties thus changed for all subparagraph (A) and (B) offenders. But no statutory penalty changed for subparagraph (C) offenders. That is hardly surprising because the Fair Sentencing Act addressed “cocaine sentencing disparity.” §2, 124 Stat. 2372, and subparagraph (C) had never differentiated between crack and powder offenses.

To avoid this straightforward result, petitioner and the United States offer a sleight of hand. Petitioner says that the phrase “statutory penalties” in fact means “penalty statute.” The United States similarly asserts that petitioner is eligible for a sentence reduction if the Fair Sentencing Act changed the “penalty scheme.”

But we will not convert nouns to adjectives and vice versa. As stated above, “statutory penalties” references the entire phrase

“a violation of a Federal criminal statute.” It thus directs our focus to the statutory penalties for petitioner’s offense, not the statute or statutory scheme.

Even if the “penalty statute” or “penalty scheme” were the proper focus, neither was modified for subparagraph (C) offenders. To “modify” means “to change moderately.” MCI Telecommunications Corp. v. American Telephone & Telegraph Co, 512 U.S. 218, 225, 114 S.Ct. 2223, 129 L.Ed.2d 182 (1994). The Fair Sentencing Act changed nothing in subparagraph (C). The United States notes that prosecutors before 2010 could charge offenders under subparagraph (B) if the offense involved between 5 and 28 grams of crack; now, prosecutors can charge those offenders only under subparagraph (C). But even before 2010, prosecutors could charge those offenders under subparagraph (C) because quantity has never been an element under that subparagraph. See, e.g., United States v. Birt, 966 F.3d 257, 259 (CA3 2020) (noting that an offender charged under subparagraph (C) had possessed 186 grams of crack). It also defies common parlance to say that altering a different provision modified subparagraph (C). If Congress abolished the crime of possession with intent to distribute, prosecutors then would have to bring charges under the lesser included offense of simple possession. But nobody would say that abolishing the first offense changed the second.

In light of the clear text, we hold that §2(a) of the Fair Sentencing Act modified the statutory penalties only for subparagraph (A) and (B) crack offenses—that is, the offenses that triggered mandatory-minimum penalties. The judgment of the Court of Appeals is affirmed.

It is so ordered.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. That is why I introduced H.R. 5455, the Terry Technical Correction Act, which reaffirms Congress’ intent to provide retroactive sentencing relief to all individuals convicted of crack cocaine offenses before the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 took effect; and now I support Mr. JEFFRIES’ EQUAL Act, which we hope will be on the President’s desk.

With the declaration of the war on drugs in the early 1970s began a dramatic rise in the U.S. prison population. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it was teeming over, fueled largely by excessive, unwarranted drug sentences, some for minimal drug sentences and actions, putting particularly young African-American men in incarceration for decades.

The Federal Government played a pivotal role in America’s era of mass incarceration. During the 1980s and 1990s, Congress passed several pieces of legislation that moved away from rehabilitation toward excessive punishment.

One such example is the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, which created mandatory minimum penalties for most drug offenses and established the 100-1 cocaine to crack disparity. We have found that that does not bring down drug use. It does not bring down crime. What brings down crime is an effective rehabilitation system so that law enforcement officers do not have to confront recidivists ever again because we have given them a pathway to enter into society.

As Justice Sotomayor acknowledges in her concurring opinion in *Terry*, Af-

rican Americans “bore the brunt of the disparity.”

Between 1992 and 2006, roughly 80 to 90 percent of those convicted of crack offenses were African American. There were many who sounded the alarm during this time, including the U.S. Sentencing Commission, which repeatedly called upon Congress to revisit the mandatory minimum sentencing structure because of the racial disparities in cocaine versus crack sentencing. Sadly, Congress refused to listen for many years, and they did not see any strong impact on that approach.

Thankfully, Members of Congress, on an increasingly bipartisan manner, have worked hard to reduce the harmful impact of the failed policies of the war on drugs, including putting an end to the crack to powder sentencing disparities.

Those who are supporting us—law enforcement officers, attorneys general—are Republicans and Democrats alike. Through our efforts, we have learned that there is no greater danger to public safety from crack offenders than powder cocaine offenders, and that the 100-1 ratio overstated the relative harmfulness of the two forms of cocaine and diverted Federal resources away from prosecuting the highest level of traffickers.

In 2010, Congress began the process to eradicate the devastating consequences of the poorly conceived war on drugs and the punitive response to the crack epidemic.

We have had circumstances where false warrants were used to enter people’s homes under the false premise that they were using drugs. That didn’t bring down crime. That didn’t help eliminate those who were doing ill to people. That was not the right approach.

The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 reduced the sentencing disparity to 18-1, and the First Step Act of 2018 made the Fair Sentencing Act retroactive.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, although the Terry decision bars crack offenders convicted of offenses involving small amounts of crack—like the 3.9 grams of crack that the petitioner possessed—that do not trigger the mandatory minimum penalties, Congress can address this injustice.

H.R. 5455, aptly named the Terry Technical Correction Act, would guarantee the ability to seek a sentence reduction to all individuals who have unfairly lost years of freedom under the unfounded 100-1 disparity, including those whose requests for sentence reduction was previously denied based on the narrow interpretation of the First Step Act.

While I continue to look forward to the day that we will fully eliminate the powder-to-crack disparity, I thank Representatives CICILLINE, JEFFRIES,

OWENS, MASSIE, and Delegate HOLMES NORTON for working with me on this crucial bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this. It is long overdue. I also include for the RECORD a press release from the Maryland Attorney General.

[Press Release from Brian E. Frosh, Maryland Attorney General, Sept. 2, 2021]

ATTORNEY GENERAL FROSH CALLS ON CONGRESS TO CLARIFY FIRST STEP ACT AND APPLY FAIR SENTENCING REFORMS TO LOW-LEVEL DRUG OFFENSES

BALTIMORE, MD.—Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a bipartisan coalition of 25 attorneys general urging Congress to amend the First Step Act and extend critical resentencing reforms to individuals convicted of the lowest-level crack cocaine offenses.

The coalition is calling on legislators to take this needed step in the wake of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Terry v. United States*, which held that certain mid-level and high-level crack cocaine offenders could seek resentencing under the law, but low-level offenders were not eligible.

"The intent of the First Step Act was to correct disproportionately harsh sentencing. Ironically, this does not apply to low-level offenders," said Attorney General Frosh. "Congress needs to fix this oversight and ensure that the law provides relief to those who committed lower-level crimes and were subject to inequitable sentencing."

The First Step Act, a landmark criminal justice reform law, passed Congress with strong bipartisan support in 2018. One key reform aimed to correct injustices caused by the earlier crack cocaine vs. powder cocaine sentencing regime. That now-discredited regime punished users and dealers of crack cocaine much more harshly than users and dealers of powder cocaine, which disproportionately harmed communities of color.

In 2010, Congress passed the Fair Sentencing Act to reduce the disparity between sentences for crack cocaine and powder cocaine. However, the law did not help the many people sentenced for crack cocaine offenses before 2010 who remained in prison. The First Step Act then included a provision that made previous drug sentencing reforms retroactive, allowing those serving harsh sentences imposed under the former federal law to seek relief.

U.S. Senators Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Grassley, Cory A. Booker, and Mike Lee—the drafters of the First Step Act—confirmed in an *amicus* brief that the sentencing relief was intended to apply to all crack cocaine offenders sentenced before 2010. Nevertheless, in *Terry v. United States*, the Supreme Court concluded that while the First Step Act clearly authorized certain mid- or high-level crack cocaine offenders to seek resentencing, it failed to extend relief to the lowest-level offenders.

In today's letter, the attorneys general urge Congress to close that gap and clarify that the sentencing relief provided by the First Step Act extends to all individuals convicted of crack cocaine offenses under the earlier regime, including the lowest-level offenders. They argue that there is no reason that only these low-level offenders should continue to serve sentences informed by now-discredited standards, and that they should have an opportunity to seek a second chance.

Attorney General Frosh is joined in the letter by the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Guam, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,

Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5455, the "Terry Technical Correction Act."

As Justice Thomas noted in his opinion in *Terry v. United States*, citing my introduction of H.R. 4545, the "Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act of 2007," I have long worked to address the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine offenses—introducing legislation to eliminate the disparity completely.

That is why I introduced H.R. 5455, the "Terry Technical Correction Act"—which reaffirms Congress's intent to provide retroactive sentencing relief to all individuals convicted of crack cocaine offenses before the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 took effect.

With the declaration of the "War on Drugs" in the early 1970's began a dramatic rise in the U.S. prison population—fueled largely by excessive, unwarranted drug sentences.

The federal government played a pivotal role in America's era of mass incarceration. During the 1980s and 1990s, Congress passed several pieces of legislation that moved away from rehabilitation toward excessive punishment.

One such example is the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, which created mandatory minimum penalties for most drug offenses, and established the 100-to-1, cocaine to crack disparity.

And, as Justice Sotomayor acknowledges in her concurring opinion in *Terry*, African Americans "bore the brunt of the disparity."

Between 1992 and 2006, roughly 80 to 90 percent of those convicted of crack offenses were African American.

There were many who sounded the alarm during this time, including the U.S. Sentencing Commission, which repeatedly called upon Congress to revisit the mandatory minimum sentencing structure because of the racial disparities in cocaine versus crack sentencing. Sadly, Congress refused to listen for many years.

Thankfully, members of Congress, on an increasingly bipartisan basis have worked hard to reduce the harmful impact of the failed policies of the War on Drugs, including putting an end to the crack to powder sentencing disparity.

Through our efforts, we have learned that there is no greater danger to public safety from crack offenders than powder cocaine offenders, and that the 100-to-1 ratio overstated the relative harmfulness of the two forms of cocaine and diverted federal resources away from prosecuting the highest-level traffickers.

In 2010, Congress began the process to eradicate the devastating consequences of the poorly conceived War on Drugs—and the punitive response to the crack epidemic.

The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 reduced the sentencing disparity to 18-to-1, and the First Step Act of 2018 made the Fair Sentencing Act retroactive.

Although the *Terry* decision bars crack offenders convicted of offenses involving small amounts of crack—like the 3.9 grams of crack that the petitioner possessed that do not trigger the mandatory minimum penalties—Congress can correct this injustice.

H.R. 5455, aptly named the "Terry Technical Correction Act," would guarantee the ability to seek a sentence reduction to all indi-

viduals who have unfairly lost years of freedom under the unfounded 100 to 1 disparity, including those whose requests for sentence reductions were previously denied based on the narrow interpretation of the First Step Act.

While I continue to look forward to the day that we will fully eliminate the powder to crack disparity, I thank Representatives CICILLINE, JEFFRIES, OWENS, and MASSIE, and Delegate HOLMES NORTON for working with me on this crucial, bipartisan piece of legislation and ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5455, the Terry Technical Correction Act, is a straightforward bipartisan bill that advances our efforts to make our criminal justice system more fair. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5455, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1615

CONDEMNING THE USE OF HUNGER AS A WEAPON OF WAR AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND FAMINE

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 922) condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 922

Whereas, in 2021, 193,000,000 people experienced crisis levels of food insecurity, with nearly 139,000,000 people living in environments where conflict was the main driver of this crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened rising global food insecurity;

Whereas conflict acutely impacts vulnerable populations such as women and children, persons with disabilities, refugees, and internally displaced persons;

Whereas armed conflict's impacts on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, destruction of livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds, or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets, or indirect, such as disruptions to food systems, leading to increased food prices, including water and fuel, and the breakdown of a government's ability to enforce regulations or perform its judiciary functions;

Whereas aerial bombing campaigns targeting agricultural heartlands, scorched earth methods of warfare, and the use of landmines and other explosive devices have direct impacts on the ability of vulnerable populations to feed themselves;

Whereas effective humanitarian response in armed conflict, including in the threat of conflict-induced famine and food insecurity in situations of armed conflict, requires respect for international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, and allowing and facilitating the rapid and unimpeded movement of humanitarian relief to all those in need;

Whereas efforts to restrict humanitarian aid and the operational integrity and impartiality of humanitarian aid works and distribution efforts, including through blockades, security impediments, or irregular bureaucratic requirements is another means by which combatants employ starvation and food deprivation as a weapon of war; and

Whereas the United States Government has the tools to fight global hunger, provide and protect lifesaving assistance, and promote the prevention of conflict, including through the Global Fragility Act of 2019 (title V of division J of Public Law 116-94), the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-195), and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), and has the potential to hold accountable those using hunger as a weapon in conflict through the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) and other means: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns—

(A) the use of starvation of civilians as a weapon of warfare;

(B) the intentional and reckless destruction, removing, looting, blocking, or rendering useless objects necessary for food production and distribution such as farmland, markets, mills, food processing and storage areas, such as ports and hubs containing grain terminals, foodstuffs, crops, livestock, agricultural assets, waterways, water systems, drinking water installations and supplies, and irrigation works;

(C) the denial of humanitarian access and the deprivation of objects indispensable to people's survival, such as food supplies and nutrition resources; and

(D) the willful interruption of market systems to affected populations in need in conflict environments by preventing travel and manipulating currency exchange;

(2) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) prioritize diplomatic efforts to call out and address instances where hunger and intentional deprivation of food is being utilized as a weapon of war, including efforts to ensure that security operations do not undermine livelihoods of local populations to minimize civilian harm;

(B) continue efforts to address severe food insecurity through humanitarian and development response efforts, including in-kind food assistance, vouchers, and other flexible modalities, and long-term programming focused on agriculture support and resilient livelihoods;

(C) ensure existing interagency strategies, crisis response efforts, and ongoing programs consider, integrate, and adapt to address conflict by utilizing crisis modifiers in United States Agency for International Development programming to respond to rapid shocks and stress such as the willful targeting of food systems; and

(D) ensure that the use of hunger as a weapon in conflict is considered within the employment of tools to hold individuals,

governments, militias, or entities responsible such as the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656), where appropriate, and taking into consideration the need for humanitarian exemptions and the protection of lifesaving assistance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 922, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 922 to condemn the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognize the effect of conflict on global food security.

I thank Chair MEEKS for his support and my colleagues, Representatives PETER MEIJER, BOBBY RUSH, and TRACEY MANN, for co-leading this with me.

Even before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we have seen how climate change, the pandemic, and conflict fuel food crises around the world in Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, and now this war has exacerbated all of these crises.

In Ukraine, Russia's unprovoked war has left one in three families without enough food and disrupted critical supply chains in the country and around the world.

But we also have to recognize that we shouldn't only sound the alarm and mobilize aid and attention when and where humanitarian crises affect people who look like us. Around the world, especially in some of the poorest countries, millions of people are hungry and suffering as a direct result of Putin's relentless crusade for power.

In the Horn of Africa, the combined effects of climate change, conflict, and rising food prices from Russia's invasion of Ukraine have all exacerbated the rising food crisis, with more than 37 million people, including 7 million children, on the verge of famine as the region endures the longest drought in more than 40 years.

Afghanistan continues to face an acute humanitarian crisis this upcoming winter, where over 95 percent of the population cannot afford to feed themselves or their families.

Haiti imports 70 percent of its food, mainly from Russia and Canada, and is experiencing catastrophic hunger levels, with 4.7 million of the population facing acute hunger.

In Ethiopia, over 20 million people in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar are in dire

need of humanitarian assistance and rely on wheat imports from Ukraine and Russia.

In South Sudan, where I traveled earlier this year, 8.3 million people are experiencing severe food insecurity, the most extreme level of food insecurity in the country since it became independent in 2011.

But we have also seen the power of the U.N., diplomacy, and global cooperation in alleviating this crisis. The historic Black Sea Grain Initiative, which was recently extended, has facilitated the export of millions of tons of agricultural exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

I commend Ukraine's new humanitarian initiative, Grain from Ukraine, that came out of the first International Summit on Food Security. It will ship grain to African countries most in need. Governments around the world have already contributed \$150 million, with hopefully more to come.

The crisis in Ukraine has made clear why it is so important that we, as a body, recognize the consequences of war on food security, condemn starvation of civilians as a weapon of war, and call on the United States Government—here in Congress and in the administration—to continue addressing these crises and hold perpetrators accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to lead this important resolution today, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution authored by my colleagues, Congresswoman JACOBS and Congressman MEIJER. This resolution condemns the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizes the impact that conflict has on global food security and famine.

Around the world, over 300 million people are in urgent need of food assistance. Many are facing emergency food needs due to years of protracted conflict, whether in Syria, Yemen, the Sahel, Nigeria, or South Sudan.

But shockingly, we are also seeing the increasing use of hunger and starvation as a deliberate weapon of war, with worldwide effects. Ukraine just commemorated the solemn anniversary of the Holodomor famine, which killed millions of Ukrainians at Stalin's direction. Ninety years later, Putin is reviving this evil, targeting wheat fields and grain silos, deliberately seeking to destroy vital sources of food for the Ukrainian people and the world.

The Kremlin's propaganda machine is attempting to blame international sanctions for the worsening global food crisis, but that is a lie. In reality, this crisis is a direct result of Putin's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Russia uses its influence at the U.N. to exert control over the vital food aid that millions of Syrians rely on in an effort to bolster Bashar al-Assad's brutal grip on power.

In Yemen, Iran-backed Houthi rebels have weaponized food aid, using it for military gains and personal profit, while millions of Yemenis continue to face famine-like conditions.

These atrocities must be condemned by all people of goodwill. The administration should impose severe penalties on those responsible, including through sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives JACOBS and MEIJER, Chairman MEEKS, and Ranking Member MCCARTHY for introducing this measure and bringing it to the floor. An identical text unanimously passed the Senate in July.

Deliberately starving innocent civilians as a weapon of war must be condemned wherever it occurs. This resolution also condemns the acts of looting, diversion, or other denials of humanitarian access that impede the delivery of lifesaving assistance to populations who need it the most.

Finally, I take this moment to commend the humanitarians who put their lives at risk every day to get food to vulnerable children, women, and men who need it just to stay alive. Their efforts deserve our support, and so does this resolution.

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 922 is an important piece of legislation to put this body on record as condemning the weaponization of hunger around the world and the impact conflict has on global food security.

As the world works together to alleviate multiple crises, this resolution serves as an important reminder of the cost of war and the need to hold perpetrators of starvation accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me and support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 922, "Condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine Act".

This resolution condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a weapon of warfare. It also calls on the U.S. government to prioritize diplomatic efforts to call out and address instances where hunger and intentional deprivation of food is being utilized as a weapon of war, including efforts to ensure that security operations do not undermine livelihoods of local populations to minimize civilian harm.

The United States has always been a nation that espouses human rights. That's a central tenet on which we were founded.

So when we see starvation being used as a weapon of warfare, it is reprehensible to us.

Global food insecurity is of great importance to me because, not only am I a longtime Member of the House Hunger Caucus, I represent the same Congressional District that had been represented by iconic leaders who fought to end hunger in the U.S. and globally.

I am proud to continue the historic legacy of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who was a

champion for human dignity and fought for the rights of all people regardless of race, gender, heritage, or economic status, and Congressman MICKEY LELAND, who worked tirelessly to raise awareness of, and fight for, policies to end food insecurity around the globe and who, tragically, died in a plane crash while working to end world hunger on a relief mission in Ethiopia.

Starvation is a brutal and inhumane way to force someone to surrender. It's a slow and agonizing death, used by the immoral to gain leverage in a war of attrition and aggression.

Starvation tactics typically target innocent, vulnerable civilians who are not directly a party to the conflict; instead they are merely caught in the crossfire of conflict.

That is why we must adopt this legislation.

The United States government must prioritize diplomatic efforts to call out and address instances where hunger and intentional deprivation of food is being utilized as a weapon.

We must show the world that we do not condone this type of behavior and that we will not stand for it.

The United States should prioritize diplomatic efforts to call out and address instances where hunger and intentional deprivation of food is being utilized as a weapon.

We must do everything in our power to protect innocent civilians from this barbaric practice.

Starvation is a terrible thing. It's something that nobody should have to go through. And yet, there are people in this world who are starving right now as a consequence of war, or, perhaps worse, as a tool of warfare.

The people of Ethiopia's Tigray Province are being subjected to a truly vile and malicious use of food deprivation in this way. The region was already suffering from drought, and when compounded by forced starvation from denial of access to food as a weapon of war, the effect is heinous and the consequences are unforgiveable.

In Pakistan, food deprivation is compounded by the human toll from recent floods and other natural disasters. Using drought to strategically exacerbate starvation is unacceptable.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a global food insecurity tragedy on multiple levels. As Putin wages his war against the people of Ukraine, he uses food as a weapon by destroying the food production and transportation capacity of the country he invaded. At the same time, since Ukraine grows grains and crops that feed much of the world, Putin's devastation of Ukraine's food production infrastructure and takeovers of Ukrainian food exports cause food insecure populations of countless countries to suffer, especially in Africa.

Finally, I condemn the use of government blockades as a weapon of war to deliberately increase starvation.

Government blockades are nothing more than collective punishment, and they're a violation of the human rights of the people who are suffering under them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 922, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 744) condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 744

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2020, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith;

Whereas since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs;

Whereas the Baha'i International Community documented a more than 50-percent increase in hate propaganda directed against the Baha'i in the 12-month period ending in August 2020, compared to prior years, with more than 9,500 such articles, videos, or web pages appearing in Iranian government-controlled or government-sponsored media;

Whereas, on December 16, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/C.3/76/L.28) criticizing Iran for human rights abuses and calling on Iran to carry out wide-ranging reforms, including—

(1) "ceasing use of the death penalty and commuting the sentences for child offenders on death row";

(2) "ensuring that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment";

(3) "ceasing the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary arrests and detention";

(4) "releasing persons detained for the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms";

(5) "improving conditions inside prisons";

(6) "eliminating discrimination against women and girls"; and

(7) "eliminating discrimination against ethnic, linguistic, and other minorities";

Whereas in the 2022 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom issued in April 2022, it is reported that the Government of Iran—

(1) "arrested scores of Baha'i across Iran, many of whom were held incommunicado or taken to undisclosed locations";

(2) "sent Ministry of Intelligence agents to search the home of a Baha'i citizen and confiscated her belongings";

(3) “continued to deny university education to Baha’is on account of their faith”; (4) “closed six Baha’i businesses”; (5) “demolished the homes of three Baha’is without warning”; (6) “announced the auction of thirteen Baha’i farms”; and

(7) “continued to deny Baha’is the right to bury their deceased in empty plots at the Golestan Javid cemetery outside Tehran which the community has used for decades. Instead, Baha’is are being forced to use the Khaveran mass grave site where victims of the 1988 prison massacres are buried”;

Whereas the Iran section of the Department of State’s 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom issued in June 2022 provides, in part—

(1) “Security forces in Shiraz and Mazandaran Province conducted multiple arrests of Baha’is in their homes or workplaces in the last week of September without providing reasons or charges.”;

(2) “Authorities continued to confiscate Baha’i properties as part of an ongoing state-led campaign of economic persecution against Baha’is. Authorities issued an order in April denying Baha’is permission to bury their dead in empty plots at the Tehran-area cemetery designated for Baha’is, forcing them to bury them at a mass grave site.”;

(3) “Authorities reportedly continued to deny the Baha’i, Sabean-Mandaean, and Yarsani religious communities, as well as members of other unrecognized religious minority groups, access to education and government employment unless they declared themselves as belonging to one of the country’s recognized religions on their application forms.”; and

(4) “Government officials continued to disseminate anti-Baha’i and antisemitic messages using traditional and social media.”;

Whereas, on July 4, 2022, the Baha’i International Community noted “The Iranian government’s systematic campaign to persecute the Baha’i religious minority accelerated again this past week with the arrest, court hearing or imprisonment of at least 18 more Baha’i citizens across the country, bringing the June total to 44 people. Hundreds of others, meanwhile, also await summonses to court or to prison.”;

Whereas, on July 21, 2022, the Baha’i International Community announced “More than 20 Baha’is in Shiraz, Tehran, Yazd and Bojnourd, have been arrested, jailed or subjected to home searches and business closures since the beginning of July. Last month 44 Baha’is were arrested, arraigned or imprisoned, suggesting an escalating crisis in the Iranian government’s systematic campaign against the country’s largest non-Muslim religious minority. . .”;

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals who are “responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009”; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

(2) calls on the Government of Iran—

(A) to immediately release the imprisoned or detained Baha’is and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(B) to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha’is; and

(C) to reverse state-imposed policies denying Baha’is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices;

(3) calls on the President and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran’s continued violation of human rights, and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha’i community of Iran.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 744, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 744.

I thank Ted Deutch, an esteemed former Member of this House and the former chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee’s Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism Subcommittee, for reintroducing this important legislation that has passed the House multiple times.

I know that every member of our committee hopes the Iranian Government will immediately cease the abuse of its own people and specifically end its longtime persecution of the Baha’i people.

The last several years have been especially difficult for Iran’s Baha’i community, as the regime in Tehran has ramped up its persecution of the community.

The resolution before us today calls on the Iranian Government to release all Baha’i prisoners, end its campaign of state-sponsored persecution, and stop discriminatory policies against the Baha’i community.

As many of us know, those who practice the Baha’i faith have been persecuted in Iran since the religion’s founding but have suffered the most acute harassment since the Iranian revolution in 1979.

Hundreds of Baha’is have been executed and tortured. To this day, Iran denies Baha’is access to higher education, government jobs, and permits to work in 25 professions, and Iran subjects them to arbitrary harassment, arrest, and imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time for this religious persecution to end, so I strongly urge all Members to vote in support of this critical resolution.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan measure that condemns Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and calls for the release of all religious prisoners in Iran.

In recent months, the Iranian regime has responded to the Iranian people’s peaceful demands for change with violent suppression. The world has been a witness to that brutality.

Sadly, Iran’s Baha’i community is very familiar with the regime’s cruelty. For years, the Baha’i have been subjected to a campaign of state-sponsored persecution. Baha’is across Iran face arbitrary arrest, forced disappearance, property expropriation, and economic discrimination every day.

The regime’s deplorable treatment of the Baha’i shows how the Ayatollah denies Iranians access to basic human rights.

Persecution based on religious belief is abhorrent and warrants condemnation in the strongest possible terms. This resolution is a reminder of Congress’ continued commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in Iran, including freedom of worship and belief.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our former colleague, Ted Deutch, for his longtime work to support the Baha’i in Iran and for his original authorship of this bipartisan measure.

The House of Representatives will continue to work tirelessly to protect and defend the human rights of the Iranian people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Baha’i people of Iran have suffered enough at the hands of Iran’s regime since the revolution. The brutality of Iran’s Government has unfortunately been on display now for weeks for the entire world to see.

This body will always defend human rights in Iran and around the world, and we stand in solidarity with the people of Iran who are calling for justice, dignity, and respect. Women, Life, Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me and support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 744—Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Bahá'í minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

This resolution condemns Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Bahá'í minority and its continued violation of the international covenants on human rights.

Further, the resolution calls on Iran to immediately release all imprisoned or detained Bahá'ís, and it urges the President and the Department of State to impose sanctions on Iranian officials and others who are responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against Iran's Bahá'í community.

Persecution of religious minorities in Iran is rampant. For over 40 years, the Government of Iran has persecuted members of the Bahá'í faith, killing over 200 Bahá'í leaders, dismissing more than 10,000 from their government and university jobs, and using intimidation and violence to target them as enemies of the state.

The Iranian regime routinely arrests Bahá'ís and imposes lengthy prison sentences. Between 50 and 100 Bahá'ís were reported to be in prisons in Iran during 2020, despite the widespread prevalence of COVID-19.

Since 31 July 2022, Ministry of Intelligence agents have raided and confiscated dozens of Bahá'í properties and arrested at least 30 members of the Bahá'í community on account of their faith in various cities throughout Iran.

Iranian state-sponsored propaganda encourages citizens to avoid all dealings with Bahá'ís citing that they "create anxiety in the minds of the public and those of the Iranian officials."

The onslaught against the Bahá'í community is yet another example of the Iranian government's brutal and degrading treatment of minorities and women and is a vivid reminder of the regime's extremist and intolerant foundation.

Iranians from all socioeconomic backgrounds are desperate for a democratic government that respects the universal rights of all humans, basic respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

The arrest and murder of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman arrested by "morality police" in Tehran on September 13, 2022, for allegedly violating Iran's strict rules requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf, sparked massive protests around Iran and the world.

For the past two months, since the day of Mahsa Amini's funeral, women and men have taken to the streets, risking their lives for a free and democratic Iran.

Since the protests started in September, more than 350 protesters have been killed, and thousands have been arrested.

Two weeks ago, an Iranian court issued the first death sentence linked to the protests, convicting an unnamed person of "enmity against God" and "spreading corruption on Earth." Three more people have since been sentenced to death on the same charges, according to the Iranian government.

We are presented with evidence everyday of Iranians putting their lives at risk in pursuit of a better tomorrow.

To all the Iranian women, men, children, and protestors who are leading the fight for democracy, I say loud and clear that I stand with you.

The United States Congress will always support a democratic movement in Iran. We support the organized and peaceful resistance by women, students, and youth against this extremist regime.

Let us remain dedicated to advocating for a democratic secular government in Iran founded on universal respect for human rights, religious tolerance, and equality among all citizens.

I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 744—Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Bahá'í minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We must consistently demonstrate to the Iranian people and the entire world that we stand with them in solidarity for the atrocious injustices being committed by the Iranian Government, to give voice to the oppressed support human rights, and freedom in Iran, because freedom is a universal right.

I will always champion global democracy stand against human rights violations, and never shy away from speaking truth to power in the presence of oppression.

May the Iranian people soon enjoy all the rights and benefits of freedom and democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 744, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1630

UYGHUR POLICY ACT OF 2021

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4785) to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4785

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 "Uyghur Policy Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to repress the distinct Islamic, Turkic identity of Uyghurs and members of

other minority groups of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in northwestern China and other areas of their habitual residence.

(2) Uyghurs, and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities historically making up the majority of the XUAR population, have maintained throughout their history a distinct religious and cultural identity.

(3) Human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and respect for the Uyghurs' unique Muslim identity are legitimate interests of the international community.

(4) The People's Republic of China has ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and is thereby bound by its provisions. The PRC has also signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article One of both covenants state that all peoples have the right to self-determination.

(5) An official campaign to encourage Han Chinese migration into the XUAR has placed immense pressure on those who seek to preserve the ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of the Uyghur people. Chinese authorities have supported an influx of Han Chinese economic immigrants into the XUAR, implemented discrimination against Uyghurs in hiring practices, and provided unequal access to healthcare services.

(6) The authorities of the People's Republic of China have manipulated the strategic objectives of the international war on terror to mask their increasing cultural and religious oppression of the Muslim population residing in the XUAR.

(7) Following unrest in the region, in 2014, Chinese authorities launched their "Strike Hard against Violent Extremism" campaign, in which dubious allegations of widespread extremist activity were used as justification for gross human rights violations committed against members of the Uyghur community in the XUAR.

(8) PRC authorities have made use of the legal system as a tool of repression, including for the imposition of arbitrary detentions and for torture against members of the Uyghur community and other populations.

(9) Uyghurs and Kazakhs who have secured citizenship or permanent residency outside of the PRC have attested to repeated threats, harassment, and surveillance by PRC officials.

(10) Reporting from international news organizations has found that over the past decade, family members of Uyghurs living outside of the PRC have gone missing or been detained to force Uyghur expatriates to return to the PRC or silence their dissent.

(11) Credible evidence from human rights organizations, think tanks, and journalists confirms that more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs and members of other Muslim ethnic minority groups have been imprisoned in "political reeducation" centers.

(12) Independent accounts from former detainees of "political reeducation" centers describe inhumane conditions and treatment including forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, rape, forced sterilization, and food deprivation. Former detainees also confirmed that they were told by guards the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty to the PRC Government and the Chinese Communist Party.

(13) Popular discourse surrounding the ongoing atrocities in the XUAR and advocacy efforts to assist Uyghurs remains muted in most Muslim majority nations around the world.

(14) Both Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Former Secretary of State Michael Pompeo have stated that the PRC government has committed genocide and crimes

against humanity against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities in the XUAR.

(15) Government bodies of multiple nations have also declared that PRC government atrocities against such populations in the XUAR constitute genocide, including the parliaments of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Czechia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, and Canada.

SEC. 3. DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.

Congress—

(1) calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to open the XUAR to regular, transparent, and unmanipulated visits by members of the press. Members of Congress, congressional staff delegations, the United States Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues under section 4, and members and staff of the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China;

(2) calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to recognize, and seek to ensure the preservation of, the distinct ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in the XUAR;

(3) calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to cease all government-sponsored crackdowns, imprisonments, and detentions of people throughout the XUAR aimed at those involved in the peaceful expression of their ethnic, cultural, political, or religious identity;

(4) commends countries that have provided shelter and hospitality to Uyghurs in exile, including Turkey, Albania, and Germany; and

(5) urges countries with sizeable Muslim populations, given commonalities in their religious and cultural identities, to demonstrate concern over the plight of Uyghurs.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR UYGHUR ISSUES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be within the Department of State a United States Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues (in this section referred to as the “Special Coordinator”), to be designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State shall consult with the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives prior to the designation of the Special Coordinator.

(c) CENTRAL OBJECTIVE.—The Special Coordinator should seek to promote the protection and preservation of the distinct ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identities of the Uyghurs.

(d) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Coordinator should, as appropriate—

(1) coordinate United States Government policies, programs, and projects concerning the Uyghurs;

(2) vigorously promote the policy of seeking to protect the distinct ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic identity of the Uyghurs and seek improved respect for human rights in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR);

(3) maintain close contact with Uyghur religious, cultural, and political leaders, including seeking regular travel to the XUAR and to Uyghur populations in Central Asia, Turkey, Albania, Germany, and other parts of Europe;

(4) lead coordination efforts for the release of political prisoners in the XUAR who are being detained for exercising their human rights;

(5) consult with the United States Congress on policies relevant to the XUAR and the Uyghurs;

(6) coordinate with relevant Federal agencies to administer aid to Uyghur rights advocates; and

(7) make efforts to establish contacts with foreign ministries of other countries, especially in Europe, Central Asia, and members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, to pursue a policy of promoting greater respect for human rights and religious freedom for Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups persecuted in the PRC.

(e) SUPPORT.—The Secretary of State shall ensure the Special Coordinator has adequate resources, staff, and administrative support to carry out this section.

(f) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary of State has not designated the Special Coordinator by the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report detailing the reasons for the delay.

(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the designation of the Special Coordinator.

SEC. 5. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD ON THE UYGHUR SITUATION.

(a) FUNDING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the U.S. Speaker Program in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024 is authorized to be available for human rights advocates on behalf of the Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups persecuted in the PRC, whose names may be provided by the Department of State and the United States Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues in consultation with representatives of the global Uyghur community, to speak at public diplomacy forums in Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries and other regions on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups persecuted in the XUAR.

(b) UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Agency for Global Media should facilitate the unhindered dissemination of information to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries on issues regarding the human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups in the XUAR.

SEC. 6. ACCESS TO DETENTION FACILITIES AND PRISONS AND THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON POLITICAL RE-EDUCATION AND DETENTION FACILITIES.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should, in cooperation with other like-minded countries, develop a strategy to—

(1) pressure the People's Republic of China to immediately close all detention facilities and “political reeducation” camps housing Uyghurs and members of other ethnic minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR); and

(2) support the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights and numerous United Nations Special Rapporteurs’ urgent calls for immediate and unhindered access to detention facilities and “political reeducation” camps in the XUAR by independent international organizations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PRISON ACCESS AND PRISONER RELEASE.—It is the sense of Congress that the President and Secretary of State, in meetings with representatives of

the Government of the People's Republic of China, should—

(1) request the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners detained for their ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identities, or for expressing their political or religious beliefs in the XUAR;

(2) seek access for international humanitarian organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to prisoners in the XUAR to ensure such prisoners are not being mistreated and are receiving necessary medical care; and

(3) seek the immediate release of all prisoners who have been arbitrarily detained and sentenced without due process, including Ekipar Asat, who participated in the Department of State's International Visitors Leadership Program in 2016, was incarcerated after returning to the XUAR, and is now serving a 15 year prison sentence on charges of “inciting ethnic hatred and ethnic discrimination”.

SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT FOR UYGHUR LANGUAGE TRAINING.

The Secretary of State shall ensure that Uyghur language training is available to Foreign Service officers as appropriate, and that every effort is made to ensure that a Uyghur-speaking member of the Foreign Service (as such term is described in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903)) is assigned to United States diplomatic and consular missions in China.

SEC. 8. UYGHUR CONSIDERATIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Government should oppose any efforts to prevent consideration of the issues related to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in any body of the United Nations;

(2) the United States Government should oppose any efforts to prevent the participation of any Uyghur human rights advocates in nongovernmental fora hosted by or otherwise organized under the auspices of any body of the United Nations; and

(3) the Secretary of State should instruct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to support the appointment of a special rapporteur or working group for the XUAR for the purposes of monitoring human rights violations and abuses in the XUAR, and for making reports available to the High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Commission, the General Assembly, and other United Nations bodies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4785.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4785, the Uyghur Policy Act of 2021, sponsored by my committee colleague, Representative YOUNG KIM.

The world has watched in horror as the People's Republic of China has continued its genocide and crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and members of other religious and ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang region.

The size and scale of the PRC's human rights abuses is horrific. As many as 1.8 million people have been arbitrarily detained in mass internment camps, prisons, and detention centers. They have shown no limits to their cruelty and depravity—subjecting people to forced labor, torture, political indoctrination, suppression of religious practices, forced sterilizations and abortions, family separation, sexual abuse, and so much more.

While we have seen graphic images and heard testimony revealing the truth of these camps, the PRC continues to hide behind disinformation.

We know that the PRC is actively trying to stamp out the unique ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of minorities in the Xinjiang region.

Despite outrage from the global community, these gross atrocities have only increased in their severity and cruelty.

Evidence collected from journalists, human rights defenders, and scholars, as well as harrowing firsthand accounts from survivors and their families, point to the continued oppression of Uyghurs and Muslims.

During this Congress, this body has taken multiple steps to condemn these atrocities and hold the PRC accountable for perpetrating these heinous crimes. But we need to do more to protect the millions of Uyghurs and their way of life.

By passing this important bipartisan legislation, we would strengthen U.S. Government efforts to protect and promote the distinct ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic identity of the Uyghur people.

This legislation furthers a whole-of-government approach to combat the PRC's egregious human rights violations. It also takes steps to bolster international support towards promoting greater respect for human rights in the Xinjiang region.

Most importantly, this legislation signals that the U.S. Congress unequivocally stands with the Uyghur people and will continue speaking out until this genocide and crimes against humanity ends.

I thank Representative KIM for authoring this important bipartisan legislation, which I was proud to vote for in the Foreign Affairs committee.

I support swift passage of this timely and urgent bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my bill, H.R. 4785, the Uyghur Policy Act.

I thank Chairman AMI BEREA of the Subcommittee on Asia, The Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation for

leading this with me, as well as the 79 bipartisan cosponsors—Ms. SARA JACOBS from California being one of them. They all made consideration of this important bill possible.

The Uyghur Policy Act comes at a critical time as the world is seeing past the Chinese Communist Party's censorship filters and sharing videos of thousands of people in China standing up and speaking out against strict lockdowns and against the CCP.

Since Xi Jinping solidified his rule during the Communist Party Congress last month, anti-lockdown protests have erupted all over China, including in Xinjiang, where at least 10 people under COVID lockdown were killed in an apartment fire with their doors locked from the outside.

The people of China are waking up to the CCP's oppression and are demanding basic freedoms. Whether it is lockdown of protestors in Shanghai, or Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, the United States must show through words and through actions that we will have their backs in their fight against the CCP's tyranny.

The People's Republic of China continues to deny carrying out genocide against the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, and we have verified reports of forced sterilization, forced labor, brainwashing, and gang rape in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

The Uyghur Policy Act will help us lead from a position of strength and will address several shortcomings in our existing approach to responding to these human rights abuses. It authorizes the State Department to appoint a special coordinator for Uyghur issues, which will consolidate the State Department's diplomatic strategy to ensure that department-wide resources being used to respond to the Uyghur genocide are better coordinated.

H.R. 4785 will also mandate Uyghur language instruction at the Foreign Service Institute and require the State Department to station a Uyghur-fluent officer at Mission China locations.

The bill also authorizes support for Uyghur human rights activists and directs the U.S. Agency for Global Media to disseminate news and information regarding Uyghur genocide.

We must act now to leverage U.S. soft power, garner international support for Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, and equip the State Department with the tools it needs to better respond to Xi Jinping's genocidal campaign.

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is a champion for human rights around the world, including for Uyghurs in China.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding me time.

I am especially grateful that she has introduced the Uyghur Policy Act, which is particularly timely given the mass spontaneous protests we see arising in China.

It is particularly pertinent, given that the spark for the popular demands for freedom was a horrific incident that occurred in Urumqi in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, where due to Xi Jinping's draconian zero-COVID lockdown policy, at least 10 people were burned to death with many, many more injured.

The bill follows, I would point out, upon an amendment that I had offered at the House Committee on Foreign Affairs markup on June 30, 2021, to the EGLE Act that called for the creation of a special envoy for the Xinjiang region. Such focus is particularly necessary, given the amount of repression directed by the Chinese Communist Party at the Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim Central Asian people, including the Kazakhs and the people from Kyrgyzstan.

Xi's genocide—and it is Xi Jinping's genocide; he is directly responsible for this. We know that there are recordings of him saying, "show no mercy," as people are being dragged into concentration camps, as my two previous colleagues pointed out. Forced abortion, forced sterilization, and a whole host of human rights abuses are being committed each and every day, right up to this very moment, and it shows no signs of abatement.

In short, this bill is timely. I believe it is necessary, and I urge my colleagues to give its strongest support.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and for her management of this very important legislation as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

It is my honor to stand on this floor today in support of the Uyghur Policy Act and to join my colleague, Mr. SMITH. For decades, Mr. SMITH and I—as well as Frank Wolf and so many others—have been working together for human rights throughout the world. I thank him for his leadership and his remarks on this important legislation. Again, a strong step in our continued work to counter the genocide of the Uyghur people.

In Xinjiang and across China, millions of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities are enduring outrageous and barbaric abuses, from mass surveillance and discriminatory policing to mass incarceration in forced labor camps to mass torture, including solitary confinement and sterilization.

In its latest Human Rights Report, our own State Department has unequivocally declared that the Chinese

Communist Party's persecution of the Uyghurs amounts to genocide and crimes against humanity.

It is often said that one of the most sinister and cruel forms of torture employed by authoritarian regimes is to tell the oppressed: "Nobody even remembers you." They don't even know what the fuss is about.

This Congress remains bipartisan, bicameral, unbreakable in our commitment to shining a bright light on the persecution of the Uyghurs.

With this legislation, we send a powerful signal to the Uyghur people: America sees you; we stand with you; and we are fighting for you.

And we send a resounding message to Beijing: This genocide must end now.

My remarks go on to talk about the Uyghur Policy Act and what it does, in addition to what we passed in 2020, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act; in 2021, the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act. It includes the establishment of a Special Coordinator at State to spearhead the effort, which will ensure a laser focus on the brutal conditions facing the Uyghurs.

For decades, the Chinese Communist Party has waged a campaign of cruelty, terror, and repression, from cracking down on the culture, religion, and language of Tibet, intimidating the people of Taiwan, to restricting basic freedoms in Hong Kong, to jailing journalists and dissidents; and more.

We support and salute the courageous citizens across mainland China who are in the streets today speaking out for their freedom.

I join freedom-loving people around the world supporting the Chinese people for exercising this Fundamental right to make their voices heard.

Yet let us not forget how the government of China has often responded to these demonstrations with a heavy hand: whether in Tiananmen in 1989 or more recently against those marching for their rights in Hong Kong.

The past must not be precedent for Beijing's response to this wave of peaceful protests.

As I always say: if we do not speak out for human rights in China because of commercial interests, we lose all moral authority to speak out for human rights anywhere.

This is America's moral imperative—and today, we take another step to honor this charge today with the legislation before us.

I urge a strong, bipartisan yes vote on the Uyghur Policy Act.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of legislation, H.R. 9308, honoring a legendary leader in Congress, Susan Davis, my dear colleague from San Diego.

Susan Davis began her career in public service in her beloved San Diego: First in social work, then on the historic school board, then the State Assembly; and now, the Armed Services Committee, Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong bipartisan "yes" for this bill honoring Susan Davis, and also for the Uyghur Policy Act.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank our colleagues for bringing these pieces of legislation to the floor, and I urge a "yes" vote on both.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, seeing no other Members on my side, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Asia Subcommittee Chairman AMI BERA, Speaker PELOSI, my colleague, Representative SMITH, and the many cosponsors who helped bring this legislation to the floor.

I am pleased that the House of Representatives, in the spirit of bipartisanship, is taking a significant step in defending the human rights of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities subject to the CCP's oppression and genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting "yes," and I urge the Senate to immediately take up this critically important legislation.

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, passing H.R. 4785, the Uyghur Policy Act of 2021, would send a message loud and clear that the PRC's inhumane policies to dilute and destroy the identity of the Uyghur people have no place in today's world.

The United States stands firmly with the Uyghur people and we will continue pushing to end the PRC's horrific and inhumane behavior.

We need to show strong bipartisan House support to the administration to use its tools to help protect the Uyghur culture and identity and promote respect for human rights and religious freedom of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups in China.

The House also stands in strong solidarity with the Chinese people protesting all over China in recent days.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4785, the Uyghur Policy Act of 2021, a bill that addresses the human rights issues concerning the Uyghurs and other minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China.

The Uyghur Policy Act would authorize the establishment of a Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues position within the Department of State.

The bill would also allow the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs make certain funds available to human rights advocates working on behalf of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups.

The funds, if made available, shall be used to facilitate the presence of such human rights advocates at public diplomacy forums to speak on issues related to the human rights and religious freedoms of minority groups in Xinjiang.

Mr. Speaker, in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China has, since 2017,

arbitrarily detained as many as 1.8 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other Muslim minority groups in a system of extrajudicial mass internment camps.

Additionally, the Chinese government has arbitrarily detained many in formal prisons and detention centers, and has subjected detainees to forced labor, torture, political indoctrination, and other severe human rights abuses.

Forced labor exists within the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region's system of mass internment camps, and throughout the region.

These assertions have been confirmed by the testimony of former camp detainees, satellite imagery, official media reports, publicly available documents, official statements, and official leaked documents from the Government of the People's Republic of China as part of a targeted campaign of repression of Muslim ethnic minorities.

These atrocious acts are indicative of a state sponsored systematic effort to eradicate the ethnic and cultural identity and religious beliefs of religious minorities in China.

Recent reports have also indicated that the Chinese Government is aiming to prevent the births of, Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, and members of religious minority groups.

Recent data has shown a significant drop in birth rates among Uyghurs due to enforced sterilization and enforced abortion.

Indeed, the birth rate in the Xinjiang region fell by 24 percent in 2019 compared to a 4.2 percent decline nationwide.

In addition, there are credible reports of the Peoples Republic of China's Government campaigns to promote marriages between Uyghurs and Han and to reduce birth rates among Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims.

It has also been reported that many Uyghurs have been assigned to factory employment under conditions that indicate forced labor, and some former detainees have reported food deprivation, beatings, suppression of religious practices, family separation, and sexual abuse.

Reporting from international news organizations has found that over the past decade, family members of Uyghurs living outside of China have gone missing or been detained to force their return to China or silence dissent.

Mr. Speaker, on January 19, 2021, the Department of State determined the Peoples Republic of China's Government, under the direction and control of the Chinese Communist Party, has committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang.

The Chinese government must answer for the barbaric acts of terror they have afflicted on their own people.

H.R. 4785 the Uyghur Policy Act of 2021 call for the Government of the People's Republic of China to open the XUAR to regular visits by United States Members of Congress, Congressional staff delegations, the United States Special Coordinator for Uyghur Issues under section 4, and members and staff of the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China to monitor the human rights violations and abuses occurring in Xuar.

As members of the United States Congress, we must use our voice to condemn, monitor and oppose the atrocities occurring in China.

I and this chamber stand with the Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, and members of

other religious minority groups in China being terrorized by their own governments.

I encourage all my colleagues to support H.R. 4785—Uyghur Policy Act of 2021 to promote justice globally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4785, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1645

SUSAN A. DAVIS POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9308) 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”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9308

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

SECTION 1. SUSAN A. DAVIS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6401 El Cajon Boulevard in San Diego, California, shall be known and designated as the “Susan A. Davis Post Office”.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9308, 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.

Ms. Susan Davis was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but spent most of her life in California. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and went on to receive a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She became active in politics through the local branch of the League of Women Voters. In 1994, she was elected to the California State Assembly where she chaired the Committee on Consumer Protection, Government Efficiency, and Economic Development.

In 2000, Ms. Davis was elected as a Member of Congress representing California's 53rd District, a position she held for 20 years. During her career, she became a prominent member of the Armed Services and Education and Workforce Committees. Throughout her tenure, she authored several bills and amendments which were enacted into law.

After years of public service, Ms. Davis announced that she would not seek reelection in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring former Representative Davis and her accomplishments by naming a Post Office in San Diego, California, after her, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 9308 honors former Congresswoman Susan Davis who served in this House for 20 years from 2001 to 2021. She proudly represented San Diego's 53rd Congressional District and became a prominent member of the House of Representatives' Armed Services and Education and Workforce Committees.

She was only the second woman ever elected to Congress in San Diego County and the first to serve more than one term. Prior to her time in the House, she served as a member of the San Diego Unified Board of Education and in the California State Assembly.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS), who is the distinguished vice chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations and Global Corporate Social Impact.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise to recognize my friend, mentor, and predecessor, Congresswoman Susan Davis, and her decades of public service to Rolando and the San Diego community.

From serving on the San Diego Unified Board of Education to the California State Assembly to the Halls of Congress, Congresswoman Davis worked tirelessly to advocate and deliver for her constituents.

As chairwoman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, she championed our service-members, leading the repeal of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, increasing military pay and benefits, expanding access to mental health care, and shining a light on military sexual assault. She didn't forget about military families. She fought to ensure they had housing that was safe and affordable and quality healthcare.

Everyone who knows Susan knows that she doesn't give up. Term after term, she re-introduced legislation to expand women's access to healthcare. Because of her unwavering dedication, women across the country no longer need prior approval or a referral to receive OB/GYN care. For young women like me, that is essential because for years, my OB/GYN was the only doctor I saw.

Susan cared so deeply about our Nation's children and introduced many bills to protect children and ensure they have every door open to them, so they have a successful, thriving future.

She pushed to address child hunger, expand access to childcare and early learning opportunities, and strengthened our education programs. Through her work on the Education and Labor Committee, she advocated for more registered apprenticeships and for making college more affordable and accessible.

For me, Susan has been one of my biggest cheerleaders. When I wasn't sure I was ready to run for Congress, she called me every day to convince me that I was. She has always strived to bring more people to the leadership table and make way for people with new voices and experiences to lead.

For all these reasons and so many more, I am proud to honor Congresswoman Susan Davis' decades of service to the Rolando community and all of San Diego by naming the Rolando post office after her.

I am so grateful to have the support of all of my California colleagues and many more who served with Susan. This is the culmination of a community-led effort, powered by the people of Rolando and Council President Sean Elo-Rivera's office.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman Davis for all she has done for San Diego and all she continues to do. Her kindness, selflessness, leadership, and service continue to be an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. In closing, I urge passage of H.R. 9308 to name a post office after Ms. Susan Davis, who is a very good friend and former colleague, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House

suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9308.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MARTIN OLAV SABO POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8025) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 South 1st Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the ‘‘Martin Olav Sabo Post Office’’.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8025

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

SECTION 1. MARTIN OLAV SABO POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 South 1st Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the ‘‘Martin Olav Sabo Post Office’’.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8025, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 South 1st Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the Martin Olav Sabo Post Office.

Mr. Martin Olav Sabo was born in Crosby, North Dakota, to Norwegian immigrant parents. In 1959, he received a bachelor’s degree from Augsburg College in Minneapolis and later pursued graduate studies at the University of Minnesota.

At the age of 22, Mr. Sabo was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives where he later served as minority

leader and was the first Democrat to serve as House Speaker from 1973 to 1978.

In November of 1978, he was elected to the House of Representatives and served for eight terms. During his tenure, he chaired the House Budget Committee where he guided the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 through the House.

During the 109th Congress, he was a member of the House Appropriations Committee and served as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

After retiring from Congress, Mr. Sabo was the cochair of the national transportation policy project at the Bipartisan Policy Center. In 2016, at the age of 78, Mr. Sabo passed away.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring former Representative Sabo and his accomplishments by naming a post office in Minneapolis, Minnesota, after him, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8025 honors former Congressman Martin Olav Sabo, a long-time Representative from Minnesota. The Congressman served 28 years in the House of Representatives, eventually becoming chair of the House Budget Committee.

One of his proudest achievements was putting together a Federal budget and a deficit reduction package in 1993 which later would result in budget surpluses. Prior to his election to Congress in 1978, he served 18 years in the Minnesota State Legislature including serving as house minority leader and speaker.

He passed away, sadly, in 2016 at the age of 78.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), who is the distinguished vice chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 8025, which designates a U.S. Post Office facility in Minneapolis as the Martin Olav Sabo Post Office.

I am proud to have the opportunity to honor the late Representative Martin Olav Sabo, a man who dedicated his life to public service and represented my district, the Fifth District of Minnesota, for nearly three decades.

Representative Sabo graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1960 and served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1960 until 1978, the year he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the great State of Minnesota and represented the people of the Fifth District.

Representative Sabo served 28 years in the House rising to chair of the House Budget Committee. He built a

career standing up for low-income families and the middle class and invested in critical infrastructure and cared for our veterans.

He also delivered millions of dollars in housing and transportation projects to our district, including the Hiawatha Avenue light rail line and the Minneapolis Veterans Medical Center. After a long successful career, the Minneapolis Democrat announced his retirement in 2006 and was succeeded by my predecessor, Keith Ellison.

Sadly, Representative Sabo passed away in 2016 in his beloved home State after a lifetime of public service. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Minnesotans like Martin Sabo who represented our State with honor and distinction.

This bill is supported by the whole Minnesota delegation and has bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge passage of H.R. 8025, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LAWRENCE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8025.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

BOB KRUEGER POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8203) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 651 Business Interstate Highway 35 North Suite 420 in New Braunfels, Texas, as the ‘‘Bob Krueger Post Office’’.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8203

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

SECTION 1. BOB KRUEGER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 651 Business Interstate Highway 35 North Suite 420 in New Braunfels, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ‘‘Bob Krueger Post Office’’.

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

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8203 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 651 Business Interstate Highway 35 North Suite 420 in New Braunfels, Texas, as the Bob Krueger Post Office.

Mr. Robert Charles Krueger was born on September 19, 1935, in New Braunfels, Texas. He received a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University in 1957, a master's from Duke University in 1958, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Oxford in 1964.

From 1975 to 1979, Mr. Krueger served two terms in the House of Representatives for the 21st Congressional District of Texas. Following his loss in a bid for the Senate, he served in President Jimmy Carter's administration as Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Mexican Affairs in the State Department.

In 1993, he was selected by Governor Ann Richards to fill Lloyd Bentsen's vacated Senate seat. He served only 5 months after losing a special election to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Mr. Krueger was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Ambassador to Burundi, and after 2 years, he became Ambassador to Botswana, serving until 1999.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Krueger's life of public service by naming a post office in New Braunfels, Texas, after him, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I am opposed to this bill for procedural reasons. The House Oversight and Reform Committee's agreed-upon procedures for considering postal naming bills clearly dictate several requirements for such measures to advance through the House. Among those is the requirement that postal naming bills be cosponsored by the entire State delegation before it will be considered in the Oversight Committee, and then they proceed to the floor.

There are very good reasons for these requirements. This is to ensure that the State's collective representation

agrees that such a local hero deserves this high honor and the attention of the full Congress.

Unfortunately, this bill is only co-sponsored by 34 of the 36 Members of the Texas delegation, which means it is not ready for consideration here today.

Furthermore, this bill has not even been marked up by the committee of jurisdiction in the House Oversight Committee, which means it is bypassing regular order to come straight to the House floor. This is a departure from past precedent and procedure.

Following regular order and past practice on these measures prevents wasting valuable time and resources here on the House floor. There are dozens of other bills that have earned the support of their entire State delegations and have also been unanimously approved by the House Oversight Committee. We should be spending the valuable time on this floor that we have remaining in this Congress considering these other bills that are higher in the queue, some of which were introduced in the first half of last year.

For these reasons, I cannot support H.R. 8203, which breaks with our agreed-upon process.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), the chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a true Texas statesman, Bob Krueger. Decades ago, Bob and I were fierce political adversaries, but since then we have joined on behalf of our State and our Nation in common cause. Now I join so many of his former colleagues and many Texans in recognizing his remarkable contributions.

He is a proud native of New Braunfels, which remained his home in recent decades. He once served here in this House in a district that many parts of had more cattle than constituents that stretched from San Antonio to San Angelo and almost to El Paso.

After studying at Duke and Oxford, Bob served Duke as vice provost and dean before returning to Texas to win a rather improbable election and reelection as a Congressman. He was voted the most effective Member of his freshman class by colleagues here in the House.

He voted to prolong the life of the Voting Rights Act and extend its application to Texas, he supported the admission of women to the service academies, and supported an increase in the minimum wage, among other matters.

In those elections and a subsequent race for the U.S. Senate, he attracted talent like Land Commissioner Gary Mauro, media legend Roy Spence, and future Deputy Energy Secretary and Mayor of Houston, Bill White, among many others.

When the Senate race was unsuccessful, Bob was named by President Carter

as Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Mexican Affairs. In 1990, he won a statewide election to serve in the important position on the Texas Railroad Commission. A few years later, Governor Ann Richards appointed him to fill a Senate vacancy, but within a few months he was defeated by Kay Bailey Hutchison. Yet, Bob never let these setbacks get in the way of lifelong civic engagement and public service.

After Senator Hutchison's victory, President Clinton appointed him as Ambassador to Burundi, which he described as the most fulfilling period of his life. There he met with Rwandan refugees fleeing massacres, which he documented, putting him at personal risk, as one of the first Western voices to report the genocide.

He discovered villages where children were massacred and livestock was left alive. Even after the front pages of two local newspapers there in Burundi called for his death, he continued this mission: Sounding the alarm, documenting the genocide and the atrocities. He survived an assassination attempt, and only after it became too unsafe for his family to remain there, he was evacuated and then appointed as Ambassador to Botswana.

He cut a singular figure: a Shakespeare-quoting, former East Coast professor who connected with Texas ranchers, a busy public servant, who nevertheless valued a few days of daily meditation.

Throughout all his types of service, whether he was driving a pickup truck around West Texas or in an armored vehicle in Burundi, he always was driven by the same values, the same faith, and the same guiding light: his family.

His partner for almost four decades, Kathleen Tobin Krueger, meant the world to him, they traveled it together. Recently, she has been involved in continuing their work in advocating for their close friend and San Antonian, Paul Rusesabagina.

Paul, who inspired "Hotel Rwanda," and who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in saving people in Rwanda, remains wrongly imprisoned in Rwanda today.

Bob's wonderful daughter, Mariana, an accomplished photographer, who shares his love of Duke as both an undergrad and graduate of Duke, and now lives in Austin, continues his legacy.

His daughter, Sarah, a double Duke alumna, works as a senior reporter for WRAL in Durham, living there with her husband Will and their son Brooks.

His son, Christian, who worked here in the House recently as a legislative assistant for Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO, lives in Texas with his wife Marion.

At the memorial service this spring after Bob passed away at 86 years of life well-lived, former Ambassador Scott DeLisi, who worked with Bob in Botswana, said Krueger had "the most finely tuned moral compass of any man

that I worked with in over four decades of public service."

A true gentleman and a scholar, it is a mark of Bob's character that after completing such important public service, it was Bob, as a visiting professor at Texas State in San Marcos back in 2004, who, despite our previous personal differences, graciously presented me a public service award rather than the other way around.

Today, by authoring this bill, I recognize his truly award-worthy service.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, this legislation provides a modest way for us to honor one who did so much in so many ways to benefit so many people. So let's name the post office in the heart of the community that he called home, just a block away from a twist and turn of the great Guadalupe River, in honor of the great, late Bob Krueger, honoring his memory and make his rich legacy—his values, his grace, his kindness, his commitment to service—a part of our future.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her leadership and for our Republican colleague, as well.

Madam Speaker, I would just address for the RECORD the comment that was made about the sponsorship. There were 34 of the 36 Members of the Texas delegation who have indeed cosponsored this bill. The other two Members who chose not to cosponsor have indicated they have no objection to the bill.

We are, by presenting this bill, applying the same standard that will apply to the next bill up honoring properly our former colleague, Mr. Wright, in legislation sponsored by Mr. CORNYN and by House Members here, treating them the same way. I think both are well-justified pieces of legislation, and I look forward to their approval.

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, again, for procedural reasons, I encourage my colleagues to vote against this bill so we may return to regular order in consideration of postal naming in the naming measures going forward this year and into the 118th Congress.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 8203, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8203.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NEAL KENNETH TODD POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4899) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Broadway Street West, in Akeley, Minnesota, as the "Neal Kenneth Todd Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4899

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

SECTION 1. NEAL KENNETH TODD POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Broadway Street West, in Akeley, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "Neal Kenneth Todd Post Office".

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4899 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Broadway Street West, in Akeley, Minnesota, as the Neal Kenneth Todd Post Office.

Mr. Neal Kenneth Todd was born in Akeley, Minnesota. After graduating from high school in 1938, he joined seven of his brothers in the U.S. military.

At the age of 22, he was assigned to the USS *Oklahoma* as a Navy fireman first class. On December 7, 1941, while stationed at Pearl Harbor, the ship was attacked by the Japanese air force.

Mr. Todd was serving with his brother, Wesley, who was able to escape the ship. Unfortunately, months later, Neal Todd was pronounced dead and awarded the Purple Heart. He is honored at the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial

and Honolulu Memorial of the Courts of the Missing.

On February 11, 2021, Mr. Todd's remains were successfully matched, and he was reunited with his brother in Akeley, Minnesota.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Todd and his service to our country by naming a Post Office in Akeley, Minnesota, after him.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4899, which honors Neal Kenneth Todd, a former World War II U.S. servicemember and Purple Heart recipient.

At the age of 22, Todd was assigned to the USS *Oklahoma* as a Navy Fireman First Class, where he was stationed on December 7, 1941, which President Roosevelt, standing right below where you are, Madam Speaker, said, a day which will live in infamy, when the ship was attacked by the Japanese Air Force at Pearl Harbor.

The USS *Oklahoma* capsized, and Todd's fate was unknown to his family for months. He was eventually pronounced dead. His remains, along with the remains of other servicemembers, were recovered in the months following the attack but did not begin to be identified by the U.S. Department of Defense until 2015.

At long last, on February 11, 2021, Todd's remains were successfully identified and reunited with his brother, Orville, and his sister, Karen.

Todd was laid to rest with full military honors alongside his younger brother, Alfred, who also served in the Navy.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American servicemember and hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our great Nation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4899, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4899.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RON WRIGHT POST OFFICE
BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3825) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, as the “Ron Wright Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3825

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

SECTION 1. RON WRIGHT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, shall be known and designated as the “Ron Wright Post Office Building”.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3825, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, as the Ron Wright Post Office Building.

Former Representative Ron Wright was born on April 8, 1953, in Jacksonville, Texas, and went on to attend the University of Texas at Arlington for 2 years, studying history, psychology, and political science.

From 2000 to 2008, he served on the Arlington City Council and as Mayor Pro-Tem of Arlington from 2004 to 2008. He then served as district director for Congressman Joe Barton for 9 years.

In 2018, Representative Wright ran for Texas’ Sixth Congressional District. During his tenure, he served on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Education and Labor.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Representative Wright by naming a Post Office in Arlington, Texas, after him.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3825, which honors the late Congressman Ron Wright of Texas, a great American and a gentle soul. Many of us in the House of Representatives today served with Congressman Wright in the 116th and 117th Congresses.

A native Texan, Congressman Wright proudly represented Texas’ Sixth Congressional District, stretching from Arlington down past Mansfield toward Corsicana. He kept up rigorous work schedules in D.C. and back in Texas, in his district, and he was fondly received; while simultaneously serving in Congress, he was being treated for lung cancer.

Prior to his election to Congress he served North Texans as the Tarrant County Tax Collector, Chief of Staff for Congressman Joe Barton, and Mayor Pro-Tem of the city of Arlington, Texas.

He was reelected to Congress for a second term in November of 2020 but, sadly, died February 7, 2021, just 1 month into this new Congress.

Congressman Wright was a true public servant, a good friend, and a loyal American. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY), my good friend, a Naval aviator, a former Texas House member, a Southwest Airlines pilot, a great American, and one heck of a flag football player.

Mr. ELLZEY. Madam Speaker, I thank Madam Chair for the kind remarks, as well as my friend, Congressman FALLON, for those kind remarks about my predecessor.

It is with a great deal of pride that I get to hear Ron Wright’s name spoken on the floor in order to support this renaming. So I rise to address the House in support of S. 3825, designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, as the Ron Wright Post Office Building.

I thank Senator CORNYN for authoring this bill, as well as my friend, Senator CRUZ, for cosponsoring.

Congressman Ron Wright dedicated his life to the people of Texas. While starting his career working for Ceramic Cooling, it did not take him long to begin serving his community.

In 2000, he was elected to the city council in Arlington, Texas. During that time, he served as Congressman Joe Barton’s district director and later, as his Chief of Staff. From there, he was appointed Tarrant County Tax Assessor Collector, where he served from 2011 to 2018, before beating me and getting elected to Congress.

Congressman Wright was a pillar in the community that he served, and there is not an event in Tarrant Coun-

ty in which his name is not mentioned today.

So I thank Ron for all that he has done for the people of Texas and for the people of the United States. We will all miss Ron; and I hope that Susan, his bride, and his children and grandchildren will take a great deal of pride in the fact that this will be named after him. He was a gentleman and a gentle man, and we will all miss him.

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

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I encourage all of our colleagues to support this bill honoring a loyal, public servant, and as Representative ELLZEY just said, a gentleman and a gentle man, Ron Wright.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3825, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3825, led by Senator CORNYN in the Senate, to name a Post Office in Arlington in honor of my dear friend, former Congressman Ron Wright, who was sadly taken from us last year as he served his second term as a member of this body.

Congressman Wright had a passion for public service. He served as the District Director and Chief of Staff to another dear friend of mine, former Congressman Joe Barton, before stepping into the spotlight and utilizing the valuable experience he gained in local government to be the face of the federal government to hundreds of thousands of North Texans residing in Tarrant, Ellis, and Navarro Counties. He worked hard as a staffer and member to be a positive force and ensure bills passed in Congress that he believed would benefit the constituents of the Sixth Congressional district of Texas, regardless of politics or party affiliation.

Having a Post Office named after Congressman Wright in Arlington, where he’s spent so much of his life, from attending the University of Texas at Arlington to serving on the Arlington City Council, is a fitting way to honor the life and legacy of a public servant who has meant and done so much for his community. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so President Biden can sign this into law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3825.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

passing of our colleague, Congressman A. Donald McEachin.

Throughout his life of public service, Donald was a relentless champion for all Virginians, serving in the House of Delegates, the Senate of Virginia, and then here in the House of Representatives. He was the son of an Army veteran and a public schoolteacher. Donald graduated from American University, earned his law degree from the University of Virginia, and received his Master of Divinity from the Virginia Union University.

As many in this Chamber know, Donald was a thoughtful and principled legislator respected by Members on both sides of the aisle. He was also a trailblazing figure in Virginia politics. He was the first African-American nominee of a major party for Virginia Attorney General and only the third African American elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Donald was resolute in pushing Virginia to lead the way in climate policy. He recognized the climate crisis as a moral issue and was a champion for environmental justice, using his skills as a trial lawyer to fight to ensure that the voices of our most vulnerable communities were heard and heeded. May we all seek to honor Donald's life and legacy by working to build a future in which everyone has access to clean air, water, and soil.

Madam Speaker, this body has lost one of its most dedicated public servants and fiercest advocates for justice and equality, and he will be deeply missed. I want to offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Colette, their three children, his beloved grandchildren, his friends, his staff, and the countless individuals positively impacted by his life of service.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Mr. SCOTT for yielding and join him in our condolences in the passing of Donald McEachin. I would like to thank our colleagues today for joining us in this remembrance.

Donald was indeed an incredible leader. He was a dedicated father, a dedicated husband, and he loved serving others. He truly was passionate about his job. He was passionate about the people of the Fourth District.

I got to know Donald actually from our years when we were young, when we were in high school. We were in rival high schools in Richmond. I met him in passing there and got to serve with him in the Virginia General Assembly.

What an individual, a person of integrity, a person of passion, dedicated to the people that he served. He loved being a legislator. He loved solving problems for people. He loved interacting with people. He loved the whole idea of giving of himself and putting others first. That truly was what Donald was about. I know we all dealt with him through the years, and he was a person of the utmost integrity and the

utmost passion. He really wanted to get things done.

While there were political differences among the different members of our Virginia delegation, for Donald it was always about getting things done, and you could always depend that Donald would be very thoughtful and forthright with you. He was looking for solutions to problems. That is what legislating is about. Donald was indeed the quintessential public servant, the quintessential leader, an example for all of us in the Virginia delegation.

It is with a heavy heart today that we mourn his passing, but let's all remember his legacy, his legacy of service, what he has done to uplift all of us, to make us all better as Members of this legislative body.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE HONORABLE A. DONALD MCEACHIN

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all of those present in the Chamber, as well as Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to please rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of the late Honorable A. Donald McEachin of Virginia.

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3846) to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 389, nays 22, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 487]

YEAS—389

Adams	Bice (OK)	Cammack	Cline	Houlihan	Nehls
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Carbajal	Cloud	Hoyer	Newhouse
Aguilar	Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Clyburn	Hudson	Newman
Allen	Blumenauer	Carey	Comer	Huffman	Norcross
Allred	Blunt Rochester	Carl	Connolly	Huizenga	O'Halleran
Amodei	Bonamici	Carson	Conway	Issa	Obertone
Armstrong	Bost	Carter (GA)	Cooper	Jackson	Ocasio-Cortez
Arrington	Bourdeaux	Carter (LA)	Correa	Jackson Lee	Omar
Auchincloss	Bowman	Carter (TX)	Costa	Jacobs (CA)	Owens
Axne	Boyle, Brendan	Cawthorn	Courtney	Jacobs (NY)	Pallone
Babin	F.	Chabot	Craig	Jayapal	Palmer
Bacon	Brown (MD)	Casten	Crawford	Jeffries	Panetta
Baird	Brown (OH)	Castor (FL)	Crenshaw	Johnson (GA)	Pappas
Balderson	Brownley	Castro (TX)	Crow	Johnson (LA)	Pascarella
Banks	Buchanan	Cawthorn	Cuellar	Johnson (OH)	Payne
Barr	Bucshon	Chabot	Curtis	Johnson (SD)	Peltola
Barragán	Budd	Cherifilus-	David	Johnson (TX)	Perlmutter
Bass	Burchett	McCormick	Davidson	Jones	Peters
Beatty	Burgess	Chu	Davis, Danny K.	Jordan	Pfluger
Bentz	Bush	Cicilline	Davis, Rodney	Joyce (OH)	Phillips
Bera	Bustos	Clark (MA)	Dean	Joyce (PA)	Pingree
Bergman	Butterfield	Clarke (NY)	DeFazio	Kahale	Pocan
Beyer	Calvert	Cleaver	DeGette	Kaptur	Porter
			DeLauro	Katko	Posey
			DelBene	Keating	Pressley
			Demings	Keller	Price (NC)
			DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)	Quigley
			DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Raskin
			Diaz-Balart	Khanna	Reschenthaler
			Dingell	Kildee	Rice (SC)
			Doggett	Kilmer	Rodgers (WA)
			Donalds	Kim (CA)	Rogers (AL)
			Doyle, Michael F.	Kim (NJ)	Rogers (KY)
			Dunn	Kind	Rose
			Ellzey	Kirkpatrick	Rouzer
			Emmer	Krishnamoorthi	Royal-Allard
			Escobar	Kuster	Ruiz
			Eshoo	Kustoff	Ruppersberger
			Espaiatl	LaHood	Rush
			Estes	LaMalfa	Rutherford
			Fitzgerald	Lamb	Ryan (NY)
			Fitzpatrick	Lawrence	Ryan (OH)
			Fleischmann	Lawson (FL)	Salazar
			Fletcher	Lee (CA)	Sánchez
			Flood	Lee (NV)	Scarbones
			Ferguson	Larson (CT)	Scanlon
			Fischbach	Latta	Schakowsky
			Fitzgerald	Lawrence	Schneider
			Fitzpatrick	Lawson (FL)	Schrader
			Fleischmann	Lee (CA)	Schrier
			Fletcher	Lee (NV)	Scalise
			Flood	Leger Fernandez	Scanlon
			Flores	Lesko	Schweikert
			Foster	Letlow	Scott (VA)
			Foxx	Levin (CA)	Scott, Austin
			Frankel, Lois	Levin (MI)	Scott, David
			Franklin, C.	Lieu	Sempolinski
			Scott	Lofgren	Sessions
			Fulcher	Long	Sewell
			Gallagher	Loudermilk	Sherman
			Gallego	Lowenthal	Sherrill
			Garamendi	Lucas	Simpson
			Garbarino	Luetkemeyer	Sires
			Garcia (CA)	Luria	Slotkin
			García (IL)	Lynch	Smith (MO)
			García (TX)	Mace	Smith (NE)
			Gimenez	Malinowski	Smith (NJ)
			Golden	Malliotakis	Smith (WA)
			Gomez	Maloney	Smithucker
			Gonzales, Tony	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Soto
			Gonzalez (OH)	Maloney, Sean	Spanberger
			Gonzalez,	Mann	Speier
			Vicente	Manning	Stansbury
			Good (VA)	Mast	Stanton
			Gooden (TX)	Matsui	Steel
			Goodeiner	McBath	Stefanik
			Granger	McCarthy	Steil
			Graves (LA)	McCaull	Steube
			Graves (MO)	McClain	Stevens
			Green (TN)	McCollum	Stewart
			Green, Al (TX)	McGovern	Strickland
			Griffith	McNerney	Takano
			Grothman	Meeks	Tenney
			Guest	Meijer	Thompson (CA)
			Guthrie	Meng	Thompson (MS)
			Harder (CA)	Meuser	Thompson (PA)
			Harris	Mifune	Tiffany
			Harshbarger	Miller (WV)	Timmons
			Hartzler	Miller-Meeks	Titus
			Hayes	Moolenaar	Tlaib
			Hern	Mooney	Tonko
			Herrell	Moore (UT)	Troha
			Herrera Beutler	Moore (WI)	Troha
			Higgins (LA)	Morelle	Trone
			Higgins (NY)	Moulton	
			Hill	Mirvan	
			Himes	Nadler	
			Hinson	Napolitano	
			Hollingsworth	Neal	
			Horsford	Neguse	

Kirkpatrick (Pallone)	Peltola (Stevens)	Sewell (Cicilline)
LaHood (Smucker)	Phillips (Neguse)	Simpson (Fulcher)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Pocan (Cicilline)	Sires (Pallone)
Lowenthal (Huffman)	Pressley (Neguse)	Smith (WA) (Correa)
Luria (Wexton)	Royal-Allard (Correa)	Strickland (Butterfield)
Newman (Correa)	Rush (Evans)	Welch (Pallone)
Palazzo (Bilirakis)	Ryan (OH) (Correa)	Wilson (FL) (Cicilline)
	Schrier (Schneider)	

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE A. DONALD MCEACHIN

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1496

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable A. Donald McEachin, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE
CONSIDERED AS PRIMARY SPONSOR OF H. RES. 744

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the primary sponsor of H. Res. 744, a resolution originally introduced by Representative Ted Deutch of Florida, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

non-disparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230 and House Resolution 1496, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late A. Donald McEachin.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at 9 a.m., as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late A. Donald McEachin.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 4524—An act to limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 4601, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 4772, the Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 4772

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—										
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	
Statutory Pas-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 7158, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 7158

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032		
Statutory Pas-As-You-Go Impact	8	12	14	17	19	2	0	0	–84	0	70	–12

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-5972. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Prohibition on Award to Contractors That Require Certain Nondisclosure Agreements (DFARS Case 2021-D018) [Docket DARS-2022-0013] (RIN: 0750-AL36) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public

Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5973. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Reporting Tax Information on Certain Foreign Procurements (DFARS Case 2021-D029) [Docket DARS-2022-0014] (RIN: 0750-AL51) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5974. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Requirement for Firms Used To Support Department of Defense Audits (DFARS Case 2019-D010) [Docket DARS-2021-0021] (RIN: 0750-AK47) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5975. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Removal of Pilot Program for Acquisition of Military-Purpose Nondevelopmental Items

(DFARS Case 2022-D022) [Docket DARS-2022-0027] (RIN: 0750-AL71) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5976. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Removal of Passive Radio Frequency Requirements (DFARS Case 2022-D020) [Docket DARS-2022-0024] (RIN: 0750-AL73) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5977. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Major final regulations — Pell Grants for Prison Education Programs; Determining the Amount of Federal Education Assistance Funds received by Institutions of Higher Education (90/10); Change in Ownership and Change in Control [Docket ID: ED-2022-OPE-0062] (RIN: 1840-AD54, 1840-AD55, 1840-AD66, 1840-AD69) received November 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5978. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627) and 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5979. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5980. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic that was declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5981. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under section 7071 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2022, pursuant to Public Law 117-103, div. K, title VII, Sec. 7071; (136 Stat. 682); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5982. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under section 7071 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2022, pursuant to Public Law 117-103, div. K, title VII, Sec. 7071; (136 Stat. 682); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5983. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the National Gallery of Art's Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act) report for FY 2022, including audits, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5984. A letter from the Senior Policy Advisor, National Wildlife Refuge System,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2022-2023 Station-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2022-0055; FXRS12610900000-223-FF09R20000] (RIN: 1018-BF66) received November 10, 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-5985. A letter from the General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Self-Regulation of Class II Gaming (RIN: 3141-AA72) received November 16, 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-5986. A letter from the Supervisory Fishery Management Specialist, International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Modification of Deadlines Under the Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act [Docket No.: 221017-0216] (RIN: 0648-BK06) received November 16, 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-5987. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Flight Attendant Duty Period Limitations and Rest Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0770; Amdt. No.: 121-386] (RIN: 2120-AL41) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5988. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Establishment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; South Central United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0436; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ASW-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5989. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Report for Fiscal Year 2019; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5990. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31452; Amdt. No.: 4030] received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5991. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31451; Amdt. No.: 4029] received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5992. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31450; Amdt. No.: 4028] received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

proach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31449; Amdt. No.: 4027] received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5993. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31450; Amdt. No.: 4028] received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5994. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Update to Investigative and Enforcement Procedures and General Rulemaking Procedures; Technical Amendments [Docket No.: FAA-2018-1051; Amdt. No.: 13-40A] (RIN: 2120-AK85) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5995. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31453; Amdt. No.: 568] received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5996. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Norway and Oxford, ME [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0903; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANE-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5997. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-278; Sisters Island, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2021-1153; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-76] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5998. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-26 and V-63; Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-464; and Revocation of the Wausau, WI, Low Altitude Reporting Point; in the Vicinity of Wausau, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0243; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5999. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-380; Emmonak, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0245; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-49] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6000. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-377; Sitka, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0281; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-46] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6001. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-24, V-78, V-181, and V-398; and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-462; in the Vicinity of Watertown, SD [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0248; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6002. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D Airspace; Chicago/Romeoville, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0167; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6003. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-266; Juneau, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2021-1106; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-70] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6004. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-371; Kodiak, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0230; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-40] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6005. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-269; Yakutat, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2021-1152; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-72] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6006. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ellsworth, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0132; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ACE-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6007. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Jet Route J-591; Bellingham, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0416; Airspace Docket No.: 21-ANM-30] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Com-

mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6008. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-374; Kotzebue, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0852; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-43] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6009. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-241; Level Island, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2021-1132; Airspace Docket No.: 19-AAL-66] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6010. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-36; Northcentral United States [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0333; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AGL-6] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 10, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6011. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Determination Letter Program for Individually Designed Qualified and Section 403(b) Plans (Rev. Proc. 2022-40) received November 16, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. House Resolutions 1378. Resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Agriculture to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Resolution Copper mine, adversely; with an amendment (Rept. 117-585). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. Nadler: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5455. A bill to amend the First Step Act of 2018 to permit defendants convicted of certain offenses to be eligible for reduced sentences, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-586). 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. MANN:

H.R. 9357. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require congressional approval of certain actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 9358. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a review process for adverse national coverage determinations with respect to drug coverage under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 9359. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States more flexibility with respect to using contractors to make eligibility determinations on behalf of the State Medicaid plan; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. COURTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 9360. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to certain members of the Armed Forces eligibility to transfer unused Post-9/11 educational assistance to family members; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 9361. A bill to establish criminal penalties for failing to inform and warn of serious dangers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 9362. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Mr. SEMPOLINSKI:

H.R. 9363. A bill to revise the composition of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution so that all members are individuals appointed by the President from a list of nominees submitted by the leadership of the Congress, to amend the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to apply the requirements of such Acts to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, 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 Mr. PAYNE:

H.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution to provide for a resolution with respect to the unresolved disputes between certain railroads represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee of the National Railway Labor Conference and certain of their employees; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PELOSI:

H. Con. Res. 118. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the United States Capitol Police and others who protected the Capitol on January 6, 2021; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H. Con. Res. 119. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.J. Res. 100; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 1494. A resolution permitting official photographs of the House of Representatives to be taken while the House is in actual session on a date designated by the Speaker; to the Committee on House Administration; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H. Res. 1495. A resolution designating the caucus room in the Cannon House Office Building as the “Speaker Nancy Pelosi Caucus Room”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H. Res. 1496. A resolution expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable A. Donald McEachin; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Ms. DEAN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. SHERRILL, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H. Res. 1497. A resolution recognizing the contributions of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial (“the Military Women’s Memorial”); to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. COLE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mrs. PELTOLA):

H. Res. 1498. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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. MANN:

H.R. 9357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 9358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 9359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 9360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 Clause 14

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 9361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 9362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. SEMPOLINSKI:

H.R. 9363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 1 of article I, and clause 18, section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.J. Res. 100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: “The Congress shall have Power To . . . regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 917: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1111: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1309: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 1379: Ms. ROSS, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1551: Mr. VARGAS and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1945: Mr. RYAN of New York and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1959: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 2126: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2252: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 2489: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 2521: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 2549: Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 2565: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MANNING, and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 2923: Mr. DUNN.

H.R. 2974: Mr. MOORE of Utah and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 3172: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 3259: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3425: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 3555: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3587: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 3941: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4185: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 4239: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4277: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4379: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4422: Ms. SEWELL and Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 4601: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 4612: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 5008: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 5029: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 5227: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 5232: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 5631: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 5874: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 5888: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 5905: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 6008: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 6152: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 6160: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 6161: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 6402: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 6421: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 6492: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 6532: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 6544: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 6687: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 6759: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 6852: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 6934: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 7079: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 7158: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 7213: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 7249: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 7346: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 7394: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 7474: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 7513: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 7580: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 7687: Mr. JONES and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 7896: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 7902: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 8229: Mr. LIEU, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 8246: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 8352: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 8433: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 8494: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 8524: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 8581: Mr. KATKO, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 8596: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 8616: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 8637: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CROW, Mr. CASE, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 8643: Mr. MORELLE and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 8685: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 8800: Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 8868: Mr. McCaul.

H.R. 8906: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 8918: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 8943: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 8948: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 8972: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 9020: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 9021: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 9049: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 9059: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 9069: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 9104: Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BALDNESSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 9164: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 9202: Mr. TONKO and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 9223: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 9245: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 9247: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 9282: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 9291: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 9314: Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 9334: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 9348: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H. Con. Res. 81: Ms. NORTON.

H. Con. Res. 110: Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. MENG, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 174: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 404: Mr. TONKO and Mr. STEWART.

H. Res. 922: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H. Res. 1199: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 1390: Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 1397: Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 1474: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MAST, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H. Res. 1481: Ms. TITUS and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 1488: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. JONES, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 1493: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 19 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

November 29, 2022

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H8649

OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-

structure in H.J. Res 100 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax bene-

fits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.