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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TORRES of New York).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 8, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RITCHIE TORRES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Receive, O Lord, our best intentions for this day. Receive them, redeem them, and be present in them, that in whatever we do, Your will would be done.

Should we miss the mark, transform our efforts, that they would achieve the best outcomes for the people You have called us to serve. And when we are successful in meeting the expectations we have set for ourselves, set our sights even higher that we would strive to meet the potential You have called us to discover. Then may our work be fruitful and of benefit to Your creation.

In all that we set forth to do, may we heed Your direction and do what You desire for us without grumbling or questioning. But with joy and enthusiasm may we choose to follow Your will for us.

Whatever we do this day—what we eat or drink, what we say or think, where we go and where we are—may it reflect our love for You.

We offer ourselves to You, praying in Your most merciful name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. SPANBERGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NONCITIZEN VETERANS DESERVE PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the passage of the Veteran Service Recognition Act.

Shockingly, many noncitizen veterans have been unjustly deported after honorable service. This is wrong. It is cruel, and it must stop.

Veterans risk their lives to protect our Nation, and now it is up to us to honor their service regardless of their immigration status.

The historic passage of the Veteran Service Recognition Act honors noncitizen veterans and servicemembers by giving them a fair shot at a pathway to citizenship.

It puts veterans over politics. It honors service over politics. It is fair, and it is the American way. That is why I was so proud to strongly support this bill that passed on Tuesday.

It is now up to the Senate to show noncitizen veterans and servicemembers the respect and dignity they deserve by passing the Veteran Service Recognition Act.

TCU HORNED FROGS HEADED TO CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, from given no chance in the preseason polls to making it to the Big 12 championship game, the TCU Horned Frogs have come a long way and are officially headed to the College Football Playoff game.

I am tremendously proud of the team for an incredible season, with 12 consecutive wins, ranking third in the Nation, and making history with being the first team in the State of Texas to make it to the College Football Playoff.

Needless to say, this has been a historic year for TCU, and it could not have been possible without our first-year coach and coach of the year, Sonny Dykes; our quarterback, Max Duggan; all the players and staff who work tirelessly on the sidelines and on the field to make the team one of the best in the country; and most importantly, all the fans, the best in the Nation, who showed up to every game decked out in TCU purple to cheer and support the Horned Frogs.

As a proud alumnus and trustee of the university, I look forward to watching the fighting TCU Horned Frogs take the field on December 31 at the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix, Arizona.

Printed on recycled paper.

As Coach Dykes says, I can't wait to watch you play.

So riff, ram, bah zoo, go Frogs.

In God we trust.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE A. DONALD MCEACHIN

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, a day after we celebrated the life of A. DONALD MCEACHIN, to again on the House floor remember the life and legacy of my friend, my mentor, and, as he used to call me, his neighbor. When I was first running for Congress, Mr. McEachin, Donald, used to tell people: I need a new neighbor in Virginia.

I had the privilege of working closely with him, learning from him, and being his friend throughout our service together in Congress and our work across our shared communities.

He was a good man who endeavored to make others feel heard throughout his career, whether he was in the courtroom, in the Virginia General Assembly, or here in Congress.

For decades, he served his community each day with a passion for people, a sense of humor, and an abiding faith in God. He was a relentless advocate for those who needed a voice, our natural resources, and every Virginian.

His passing leaves a hole in the hearts of so many. I will miss my friend, my brother, my mentor, and I stand here on the House floor to give my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Colette; his wonderful, adored children, Mac, Briana, and Alexandra; and his beloved grandbaby.

He will be missed. We will continue to do right in his memory and in his honor.

CONGRATULATING DR. BRIAN TROOP

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Brian Troop of Ephrata Area School District in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District for being selected as the 2023 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

With over 500 districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dr. Troop's selection speaks to the excellence he brings to Ephrata Area School District.

Dr. Troop was described as an exemplary, forward-thinking leader by PASA Executive Director Dr. Sherri Smith. I would certainly agree with those words.

I have had the pleasure of visiting the school district as a Member of Congress, and I was able to see firsthand the work that they are doing to prepare students in STEM technologies as fifth-grade students were participating in a computer coding project. It was encouraging to see the district offer such an outstanding opportunity to their students.

I thank Dr. Troop for all of his work to provide an excellent education to students in the Ephrata Area School District. I congratulate him on being named the 2023 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year.

STOP POLITICAL FUNDRAISING SCHEMES

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, getting Congress to enact widespread campaign finance reform feels as likely as getting snow in Orange County this Christmas. However, it shouldn't take a once-in-a-century holiday miracle to get Washington to stop political fundraising scams.

Con artists are exploiting loopholes in our election laws by fraudulently misrepresenting themselves as collecting donations meant for causes and candidates. These scam PACs actually use the money to line their own pockets. Worse, they target older Americans and veterans.

As a consumer protection attorney, I will always work to hold fraudsters accountable. With a Republican colleague, I have introduced legislation to help the Federal Election Commission punish these bad actors.

Americans of all political ideologies who participate in our democracy by donating shouldn't have to fear being cheated. I urge passage of my bipartisan bill to stop scam PACs.

YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, American families are ready for a joyous holiday season. Unfortunately, the Biden administration is the grinch that stole Christmas, as its failed Green New Deal agenda is forcing folks to pay record-high costs to heat their homes, fuel their cars, and feed their families.

From diesel to fuel oil, energy prices have skyrocketed. Households will pay an average of $1,359 on energy bills this winter, the highest in 25 years.

Diesel prices are up 50 percent, and we shouldn't be surprised. President Biden likes to say: ''I guarantee you, we are going to end fossil fuel.'' He has worked with the Pelosi majority to continue to push anti-energy policies.

Just last week, the Biden White House doubled down, saying they are still committed to phasing out fossil fuels. Well, they should look at what is happening over in Europe. After the European Union struck a deal to ban new fossil fuel cars and speed up the switch to electric vehicles, Switzerland is now going to ban electric vehicles if it faces blackouts this winter. You can't make it up.

It is time for this administration to end its war on American energy. If we are going to regain our energy independence, we need an all-of-the-above approach.

HONORING ALBRIGHT COLLEGE'S TOTAL EXPERIENCE LEARNING MODEL

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as students across this country are readying to take their finals and midterms, I want to recognize Albright College's work to innovate education in the United States.

Albright's Total Experience Learning Dual Enrollment program lets high school juniors and seniors enroll in college courses and allows them to complete an entire semester of coursework before they even begin college. As a former high school chemistry teacher and leader of a literacy nonprofit myself, I am so proud of this successful program.

Next week, the president of Albright College will be at the United Nations, where Albright will be recognized by a science subcommittee of the United Nations as the innovative K–12 educator model for the United Nations International Year of Glass.

Without a doubt, the students and staff of Albright's Total Experience Learning are force multipliers, and it is my honor to represent and support all the forward-thinking constituents, businesses, and academic institutions like Albright within our Sixth Congressional District.

HIGHLIGHTING HELLS CANYON COLLABORATIVE

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, our country is blessed with abundant natural resources that are the envy of the world. The governance of those resources is the responsibility of all of us to make our outdoor spaces manageable and accessible for enjoyment of all.

I am pleased to highlight the Hells Canyon Recreation Collaborative in my home State of Idaho. This collaborative was formed in December 2016 after a fee for boaters was proposed on the Snake River through Hells Canyon. Rafters, jet boaters, aviators, motorized recreation users, and others came together for its formation. As a 501(c)(3), they identified and raised separate resources so access could be maintained without a user fee increase.

Additionally, the collaborative was able to build boat rigs, complete the building of administrative and recreation facilities for the Forest Service and an airstrip for aviators, as well as provide road maintenance for administrative sites.

I am so proud to highlight the men and women who stepped up and made a difference for the benefit of all in the Hells Canyon river area. I look forward to hearing about more good work from them.

□ 0915

CONGRESS MUST ADDRESS THE DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a looming crisis facing our country. This one is a man-made crisis, one born out of cruel political calculations.

Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the threat of some of our Republican colleagues to refuse to raise the debt ceiling next year, unless their most extreme demands are met, and they have made clear what those demands are.

They believe this threat is how they can finally force cuts to the Social Security benefits that millions of Americans have earned. This threat is how they are going try to raise the retirement age. This is how they want to force cuts to Medicare.

They are prepared to force a default and create catastrophic consequences for our economy and America's standing in the world, so they can slash Social Security and Medicare.

We can't let that happen. We must address the debt ceiling. The consequences if we don't act are too grave.

To all of my colleagues, we must not hold Social Security and Medicare hostage. We must address the debt ceiling as soon as possible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID ''WALLY'' WALLER

(Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of David ''Wally'' Waller, a Polk County, Florida, native who passed away last month at the age of 67 following a courageous battle with cancer.

Wally was a hero to our community in more ways than one, beginning with his 25-year career in law enforcement. After retiring, he became a hero to countless children while serving as program coordinator for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program.

Under Wally's leadership, Polk County's Toys for Tots was named the top program in the United States last year with more than 57,000 toys collected for over 14,000 children. Those who volunteered with him said he was the heart and soul of Toys for Tots, a title he richly deserved.

On behalf of our community, thank you, Wally and ''Well done, thy good and faithful servant.''

RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1510, I call up the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Respect for Marriage Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family.

(2) Diverse beliefs about the role of gender in marriage are held by reasonable and sincere people based on decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises. Therefore, Congress affirms that such people and their diverse beliefs are due proper respect.

(3) Millions of people, including interracial and same-sex couples, have entered into marriages and have enjoyed the rights and privileges associated with marriage. Couples joining in marriage deserve to have the dignity, stability, and ongoing protection that marriage affords to families and children.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF SECTION ADDED TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE, BY SECTION 2 OF THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT.

Section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, is repealed.

SEC. 4. FULL FAITH AND CREDIT GIVEN TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

Chapter 115 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 1738B the following:

''§ 1738C. Certain acts, records, and proceedings and the effect thereof

''(a) IN GENERAL.—No person acting under color of State law may deny—

''(1) full faith and credit to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other State pertaining to a marriage between 2 individuals, on the basis of the sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin of those individuals; or

''(2) a right or claim arising from such a marriage on the basis that such marriage would not be recognized under the law of that State on the basis of the sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin of those individuals.

''(b) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in the appropriate United States district court against any person who violates subsection (a) for declaratory and injunctive relief.

''(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any person who is harmed by a violation of subsection (a) may bring a civil action in the appropriate United States district court against the person who violated such subsection for declaratory and injunctive relief.

''(d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'State' has the meaning given such term under section 7 of title 1.''.

SEC. 5. MARRIAGE RECOGNITION.

Section 7 of title 1, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 7. Marriage

''(a) For the purposes of any Federal law, rule, or regulation in which marital status is a factor, an individual shall be considered married if that individual's marriage is between 2 individuals and is valid in the State where the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside any State, if the marriage is between 2 individuals and is valid in the place where entered into and the marriage could have been entered into in a State.

''(b) In this section, the term 'State' means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

''(c) For purposes of subsection (a), in determining whether a marriage is valid in a State or the place where entered into, if outside of any State, only the law of the jurisdiction applicable at the time the marriage was entered into may be considered.''.

SEC. 6. NO IMPACT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND CONSCIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to diminish or abrogate a religious liberty or conscience protection otherwise available to an individual or organization under the Constitution of the United States or Federal law.

(b) GOODS OR SERVICES.—Consistent with the First Amendment to the Constitution, nonprofit religious organizations, including churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, nondenominational ministries, interdenominational and ecumenical organizations, mission organizations, faith-based social agencies, religious educational institutions, and nonprofit entities whose principal purpose is the study, practice, or advancement of religion, and any employee of such an organization, shall not be required to provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges for the solemnization or celebration of a marriage. Any refusal under this subsection to provide such services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges shall not create any civil claim or cause of action.

SEC. 7. STATUTORY PROHIBITION.

(a) NO IMPACT ON STATUS AND BENEFITS NOT ARISING FROM A MARRIAGE.—Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to deny or alter any benefit, status, or right of an otherwise eligible entity or person which does not arise from a marriage, including tax-exempt status, tax treatment, educational funding, or a grant, contract, agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, claim, or defense.

(b) NO FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGES.—Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to require or authorize Federal recognition of marriages between more than 2 individuals.

SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision to any person, entity, government, or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or any amendment made thereby, or the application of such provision to all other persons, entities, governments, or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Nadler of New York moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1510, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. 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. 8404.

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 strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act. I first introduced a version of this legislation in 2009, and I am very proud that after a long journey it will soon be headed to the President's desk and marriage equality will be enshrined in law.

The House took an important step in July when it passed the bill with the support of 47 Republican Members. Now that the Senate has passed an amended version, also with bipartisan support, it is up to us to finish the job.

I find it deeply poignant that as we prepare to bring the 117th Congress to a close, we are on the cusp of a great bipartisan moral victory in defense of a fundamental right of all Americans, a victory that will provide stability and reassurance to the millions of LGBTQ and interracial families that have come to rely on the constitutional right to marry.

The Respect for Marriage Act does three things: First, it repeals the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, which blatantly discriminates against same-sex couples, and which still officially remains on the books.

Second, it enshrines marriage equality for Federal law purposes, requiring the Federal Government to consider a person to be married if the marriage is valid in the State where it was performed.

Finally, it prohibits anyone acting under color of State law from denying full legal effect to a valid out-of-state marriage based on the sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin of the two individuals in the marriage.

The Senate amendment does not change any of these substantive provisions. Rather, it adds language that explicitly affirms that existing constitutional and other legal protections for religious liberty remain in effect. The Senate amendment does not create any new substantive legal rights, but rather, it clarifies that the bill does not affect the existing legal rights or benefits of religious persons or entities. It also explicitly clarifies that the bill does not require or authorize the Federal Government to recognize polygamous marriages.

It is because of this compromise—the result of the hard work of Senators TAMMY BALDWIN and SUSAN COLLINS—that the amended bill passed the Senate by a vote of 61–36 with 12 Republican Senators voting in support.

While marriage equality remains constitutionally protected today, we have learned in recent months that rights once thought to be fundamental and forever secure can, in fact, be taken away. Indeed, in the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization—a decision overturning nearly 50 years of precedent recognizing a constitutional right to abortion—Justice Clarence Thomas went out of his way to write a separate concurrence calling on the Court to reconsider all of its substantive due process decisions, including Obergefell v. Hodges, the decision recognizing a right to marriage equality.

In light of this concurrence, even if one accepts the Dobbs majority's assurances that the constitutional right to marriage equality is settled law, Congress must use this opportunity to provide additional reassurance to the many American families who have come to rely on this guarantee. After all, we were told that the right to abortion was settled law.

The Respect for Marriage Act cements respect for married couples, which all Americans—including those in this Congress—should support and value.

I thank the co-chairs of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, the chairs of the Congressional Tri-Caucus, and incoming House Democratic leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES for joining me in introducing this legislation. I also thank my chief of staff, Amy Rutkin, who helped to do so much to guide this legislation through the House.

I urge all Members to support this Senate amendment to H.R. 8404, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats want Americans to believe that the Supreme Court at any moment—in fact, the chairman just referenced this—at any moment could step in and overturn its opinions in Obergefell and Loving. It is just not true. The Supreme Court is not poised to overturn its opinions in either of those decisions.

Just look at what the Court has said. The Dobbs opinion does not undermine other substantive due process rights in any way. Just in case anyone is not clear on the meaning of does not undermine them in any way, the Court later reiterated that the Dobbs decision should not be misunderstood or mischaracterized '' . . . to cast doubt on precedents that do not concern abortion.''

The Court condemned the alarmist idea that the Dobbs decision would lead to the overturning of other cases as ''perhaps . . . designed to stoke unfounded fear that our decision will imperil those other rights . . . ''

It is that unfounded fear that brings us here today.

Democrats have conjured up this nonexistent threat based on one line in Justice Thomas' concurrence in Dobbs, and they are misunderstanding or deliberately misrepresenting what Justice Thomas wrote.

Justice Thomas made the same point that he has made for years: that the collection of rights secured by the doctrine of substantive due process is better understood as being a function of the Constitution's privileges and immunities clause. That is it.

From his statement that a body of law should flow from one place in the Constitution instead of another comes the hyperbolic arguments that we have heard about the necessity of this bill.

After the House last considered this bill in July, the Senate was forced to make significant changes to the bill. Unfortunately, those changes do not go far enough in protecting religious liberty.

For example, the Senate amendment does not protect a private entity that is determined to be a State actor as a result of the services they provide on behalf of a government. These entities could be adoption agencies, shelters, or other service providers operated by a religious organization under contract with a city or State.

Across the country, people of faith serve their neighbors and their communities through these charitable efforts, but this bill could force them to abandon their faith or abandon the service. That is an unacceptable outcome in the United States.

For years, the Democrats have been playing a dangerous game with the Court. They want Americans to believe that the Court lacks transparency and struggles with its ethics. That is simply not true.

This bill is simply the latest installment of the Democrat's campaign to intimidate the highest court in our land. They have engaged in a smear campaign against sitting Justices and nominees. Democrats have stood on the steps of the Court and threatened Justices by name for not ruling the way they want in high-profile cases. Democrat members of the Judiciary Committee, including the chairman, have introduced a bill to pack the Court; to add four Justices to our highest court—not one, not two, not three, but four, because they simply want to take it over.

Democrats have held hearings to showcase fringe legal and conspiracy theories about the Court and its rulings.

In fact, later today, the Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing to again suggest that the Court has somehow been compromised based on a totally unsubstantiated allegation that Justice Alito leaked information 8 years

ago about an opinion in the Hobby Lobby case.

There is just one problem: Justice Alito denies this allegation. The individual who allegedly was the conduit for the leak denies it ever happened. Even the media admits there are holes in the story.

Politico said this:

> We spent several months attempting to corroborate the allegation but was unable to locate anyone who heard about the decision directly from Alito or his wife before the release of the case.

The New York Times reported that there are ''gaps'' in the allegation. The New York Times is the one who broke the story. They reported there are gaps in this allegation about a leak from Justice Alito 8 years ago. Gaps in an allegation.

Do you know what that is? That is liberal-speak for that story doesn't add up. But the Democrats are determined to not let the truth get in the way of their story and their intimidation tactics on the Court.

This is not the way we are supposed to operate. I hope that we can vote this bill down. I hope it does not pass because I think it is dangerous and takes the country in the wrong direction.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote for equality and against discrimination by finally overturning the exclusionary, homophobic Defense of Marriage Act and guaranteeing crucial protections for same-sex and interracial marriages.

By passing the Respect for Marriage Act, we will ensure that all Americans continue to be afforded the same rights by the government—no matter what the Supreme Court may decide in the future.

As we take this vote, we can take pride in the progress that we have made but also must acknowledge the work that lies ahead.

The idea of marriage equality used to be a farfetched idea; now it is the law of the land and supported by the vast majority of Americans. Marriage bans used to be a partisan tool. Now, the Respect for Marriage Act has received strong bipartisan votes in both Chambers.

Protecting marriage equality is now a bipartisan idea that I hope all my colleagues will embrace. I urge all those here today who previously voted against this bill to reconsider, be part of history, and join us in voting for its passage today.

Today's vote is a monumental win in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality, but the work does not stop here. We remain the only minority group in America where in a majority of States it is still legal to discriminate against us in several key areas of life.

We must continue to work for full equality for the LGBTQ+ community, including by enacting additional protections at the State level and finally passing the Equality Act to ensure explicit Federal protections against anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.

I want to end by thanking Chairman NADLER for his extraordinary leadership. He has been a champion of this bill for more than 13 years. I was proud to join him and others in introducing the Respect for Marriage Act again this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' vote for equality, and vote to be certain that we live in a country where all Americans have equal access to the important institution of marriage.

□ 0930

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the great State of Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to adamantly oppose H.R. 8404, the disrespect for marriage act. This unnecessary and misguided legislation not only disrespects the importance of traditional marriage for the health of a family, but also disrespects people and organizations of faith who have the constitutional right to carry out their mission in accordance with their most deeply held beliefs.

With a crisis at the border, inflation skyrocketing, and a Federal budget that is nowhere to be seen just a week before Christmas, Democrats have made it abundantly clear that this disrespectful policy is their priority.

Let's be clear: Obergefell is not in danger, but people and institutions of faith are.

This bill only serves to further demonize biblical values by establishing a private right of action against organizations who believe in natural marriage, opening the floodgates for predatory lawsuits against people of faith. The bill's only purpose is to hand the Federal Government a legal bludgeoning tool to drive people of faith out of the public square and to silence anyone who dissents.

Sadly, the Senate rejected three amendments that would have eliminated the private right of action and prevented the government from infringing on the freedom of religion.

Instead, a flimsy amendment that includes vague language unlikely to protect anyone was included.

Unfortunately, and likely intentionally, this hollow amendment provides no tangible protections for religious schools, no protections for faith-based adoption and foster care agencies, no protections for Christian businesses who contract with the government, and no protections for civil servants who justly believe marriage is between one man and one woman.

The bill's implications: submit to our ideology or be silenced.

This is yet another step toward the Democrats' goal of dismantling the traditional family, silencing voices of faith, and permanently undoing our country's God-woven foundation. This is the Democrats' priority.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you my priority: Protect religious liberty, protect people of faith, and protect Americans who believe in the true meaning of marriage.

I hope and pray that my colleagues will find the courage to join me in opposing this misguided and dangerous bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED).

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to say that we received amazing news this morning. Brittney Griner is coming home.

This is a huge relief for her, her wife, Cherelle, and her family after months of uncertainty in Russia's sham justice system. I thank President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and all at the State Department who made this happen.

Today, in a strong symbol of the stark differences in the freedoms between our two Nations, the U.S. Congress will vote in a bipartisan way to pass the Respect for Marriage Act enshrining marriage equality into Federal law and protecting marriages just like Brittney's.

I am proud to vote today to say that love is love no matter who you are or where you live and no matter what any future extreme or out-of-touch Supreme Court may say.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting ''yes'' and standing up for freedom.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the so-called Respect for Marriage Act. Honestly, this bill should be called the disrespect for marriage act.

This bill certainly disrespects God's definition of marriage, a definition that has served His creation well for more than 5,000 years of recorded history. And His definition is the only one that really matters.

This bill would codify into Federal law the Supreme Court's wrongly decided Obergefell decision and ensure that the marriage laws in the most liberal State—irrespective of how more radical they might become in the future, think polygamy, bestiality, child marriage, or whatever—must be legally recognized in all States.

It was wrong when the Supreme Court made law in the Obergefell decision requiring that the marriage law in Massachusetts had to become the law of the whole country when Massachusetts approved gay marriage.

This was overriding the will of the people and their elected Representatives as no other State to that point had been able to pass through referendum or State legislature a gay marriage law.

The fact is that traditional, biblical marriage is the foundation of a strong society and a strong culture.

I will say it once again: almost everything that plagues our society is a failure to follow God's design for marriage, morality, and the family. The perfect, omniscient, and immutable God knows what He is doing.

But this legislation repeals the correct definition of marriage in Federal code and requires the Federal Government to recognize any marriage if the marriage was valid in the State where it was performed.

Perhaps even worse, this bill eliminates all religious freedom protections for churches or other faith-based organizations and requires everyone to participate in and recognize gay marriage.

It empowers the IRS with their newly hired 87,000 agents who apparently need something to do to go after the religious institutions that simply seek to operate according to their beliefs. In fact, the bill does nothing to prevent the IRS from attacking and harming the religious organizations that have made an incredible impact in our communities across our Nation.

It is simply designed to undermine marriage as a union between one man and one woman. God's perfect design is, indeed, marriage between one man and one woman for life, and it doesn't matter what you think or what I think. That is what the Bible says.

This proposal is yet another Democrat attempt to undermine the fundamental values which formed our Nation and continue to hold our country together: recognition of the institution of marriage as between one man and one woman and respect for the freedom to operate according to your sincerely held religious beliefs.

The legislation we are considering today is a sobering indication of the erosion of the moral values that made this Nation great.

As President Reagan once said: ''America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.''

All great nations in societies fall from within. With Democrats threatening all sense of values and decency and family today by sexualizing kids in school, redefining sex and gender, and trans-surgery and mutilation of minors, it makes no sense for any Republican to support their efforts to codify their views on marriage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues in this body to join me in strongly opposing this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, it is never too late to do the right thing. Thanks to bipartisan work in the Senate, the Respect for Marriage Act comes back to the House with added language that should allay anyone's fears or misunderstandings, yet still ensure we can legally recognize marriage as it is currently recognized in this country.

It would be wrong to say that my husband, Phil, and I have a marriage that is any different from anyone else's marriage here in this body. My workplace health insurance should extend to my husband just like yours extends to your spouse. I should be able to visit my husband in the hospital, if need be, just like you can visit your spouse. My earned benefits for retirement, Social Security, our property rights, our benefits through our taxes, and so much more should be no different, regardless of if your spouse is named Samuel or Samantha.

That is what we will do today. With the revised Respect for Marriage Act, denying legal recognition to any legally married couple would be so far out of the mainstream that it would actually be discrimination. I am sure no one here would intend to discriminate against me and my spouse, as I would never against you and yours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone's support for this bill.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Respect for Marriage Act. Over my time in Congress as the first openly gay Member of color elected in history, the fight for LGBTQ equality has remained a critical and personal focus of mine. Last week, the Senate took long-overdue action to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, and when my colleagues and I pass the Respect for Marriage Act in the House today, it will mean the world to me, my loved ones, and to millions of Americans.

Nearly 10 years ago, at the start of my career in Congress, the Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges that marriage equality is a fundamental protected right. We took to the streets in fervent celebration of this cornerstone victory for our community.

This bill will pass today, but it is a reminder of the necessity of our vigilance in the fight for human rights and the need to hold the judicial branch accountable. We must rise to the challenge, and we will prevail.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to what I believe is the inappropriately named Respect for Marriage Act because if what my colleagues have just said were actually all that was here, it would be a different story to some degree. But that is not what we are talking about.

The bill betrays our country's commitment to the fundamental right of religious liberty by depriving religious and faith-based organizations of their tax-exempt status and depriving individual people of faith of being able to carry out fully their faith without repercussions. Licenses and government contracts are also put at risk here with this legislation.

As a result, religiously affiliated and faith-based organizations will be at risk of being compelled to make hiring decisions in contradiction to their tenets. And I am not just talking about Christian religions. We are talking about all that are impacted by this.

It puts us at risk for Catholic Charities' ability to find foster and adoptive homes for children in need; or a gospel rescue mission's ability to serve the homeless; and it would likely be the end of the school choice initiatives that rely on religious schools—schools of faith—to serve at-risk children trapped in failing schools. Additionally, businessowners across the country who conduct their businesses based on their sincerely held faith, beliefs, and principles would be subject to lawsuits simply because they have a traditional view of marriage.

Again, if all that my colleagues have just even recently said were the only thing about this legislation, it would be another story; but it isn't, it goes way beyond. A deep appreciation for and commitment to following science in the positive endeavor of continuing the human race is important.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for opposition to this legislation and a more thoughtful approach.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, my wife, Cheryl, and I were married 14 years ago when one of the first States in our country allowed us to do so. It took years and a Supreme Court ruling to acknowledge and grant the legal protections that come with marriage across this great land. In the ensuing years, we raised our four sons, and we expanded our family of six to nine, adding two daughters-in-law and a grandson to that mix.

I am standing here today because in the year 2022, families like mine are, once again, concerned that an activist, out-of-step Supreme Court is going to take those rights away. Just so we are clear, that Supreme Court and the Members in opposition of this legislation today are out of step with the American people.

Today, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the Respect for Marriage Act, a bill that takes the longstanding and overdue step of repealing DOMA and ensures that same-sex and interracial marriage is recognized in every State, no matter who is sitting on the Supreme Court.

We have made progress. Mr. Speaker, let's not go back.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I would just first say, the previous speaker talked about being out of step with the American people.

Are you kidding me?

The Democrats are the party who think men can use women's restrooms; the Democrats are the party who think boys can participate in girls' sports; the Democrats are the party who think you can take the life of an unborn child

right up until their birthday; and the Democrats are the party who actually had a witness in committee who said that she thought men could get pregnant.

And we are the ones who are out of step?

You have got to be kidding me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, what is our job here?

We are going to take an oath in a couple of weeks here really outlining our job: supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic.

I took that oath as a member of the military; I have taken that oath numerous times as member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The U.S. House of Representatives, a bicameral body, 435 of us, are meant to do the work of protecting we the people of the United States of America who elect us, and I want to quote our colleague on the other side, Ms. SCANLON, who was talking about what we don't have time for here as our colleague, CHIP ROY, was asking for amendments to ensure that we the people's religious freedom was not prohibited, that the free exercise thereof was not prohibited.

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Adopting an amendment by our colleague, CHIP ROY, she said, would unsettle the Senate. God forbid the work that we do here in the House of Representatives unsettles the work that is done in the Senate. Our job must be to just do their bidding of what they decide in the Senate and not represent as 1 of 435.

But, no, that is not the real case. Our job is to represent our constituents, we the people, not to worry about whether we unsettle or don't unsettle the Senate.

Let me give you another quote from our colleague about why we don't have the time to prohibit or to prevent prohibiting the free exercise thereof. She said that this Congress is coming to a close, and we don't have time to make changes to this legislation.

We don't have the time? Wait a second. In the U.S. House of Representatives, our oath is to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. It is our singular job here, and we don't have the time to do it?

That is what the majority is telling us: We don't have time to make changes to the bill, to ensure that the free exercise thereof, of our people's religions, is not infringed upon. They are saying we don't have time.

What the hell are we doing here if we don't have the time to do it? What the hell are we doing?

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, why are we here this morning? We are here because dignity should be part of life in America. We are here because the Founding Fathers, imperfect as they were, said we are here to create a more perfect union.

We are specifically here because a Justice on the United States Supreme Court, Justice Clarence Thomas, appallingly stated that other cherished, fundamental rights should be subject to abrogation, writing: ''In future cases, we should reconsider all of this Court's substantive due process precedents, including Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell.''

It is shameful that we would have to be here today, but I proudly stand with my community, those who understand and recognize that it is crucial for the Respect for Marriage Act to pass so that respect can go for the loving relationships, the families, the daughters, the sons, the aunts and uncles, and all the husbands and wives that come as family.

Let me be very clear: I am the only Member in the Texas delegation that voted against the Defense of Marriage Act. I voted against it.

DOMA was wrong then, it is wrong now, and I continuously stand with all of you to pass H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support for H.R. 8404, the ''Respect for Marriage Act'' and the collaboration in the Senate last week that enabled it to pass the Senate and return to the House for today's vote.

I am very concerned that the archaic dictum that the Supreme Court used in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization to justify overturning the well-established and reaffirmed right to abortion could be further weaponized in the future to strip away other fundamental rights, including the right to marriage equality.

Specifically, in his concurring opinion to the Dobbs decision, Clarence Thomas appallingly stated that other cherished, fundamental rights should be subject to abrogation, writing, ''. . . in future cases, we should reconsider all of this Court's substantive due process precedents, including Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell.''

Thomas left no doubt about his regressive, byzantine intentions, adding, ''. . . we have a duty to 'correct the error' established in those precedents, Gamble v. United States, 587 U.S. ____* ____ (2019) (THOMAS, J., concurring) (slip op., at 9). After overruling these demonstrably erroneous decisions, the question would remain whether other constitutional provisions guarantee the myriad rights that our substantive due process cases have generated.''

To prevent Thomas's dream scenario from inflicting a nightmare on the rest of the country, the Respect for Marriage Act would codify in federal law our essential rights conferring marriage equality for same sex and interracial couples, protecting the rights of Americans to marry who they choose.

It would also repeal the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) of 1996 that problematically defined marriage as being between one man and one woman.

I am always concerned when someone's rights are being infringed, which is why I wholeheartedly supported the version of this bill that passed the House earlier this year.

Even with the Senate amendment, I still recognize the great strides that will be achieved with passage of this bill in its current form. The Senate's embrace of this legislation, with strong bipartisan support, demonstrates the bill's alignment with bedrock American values and its strong support among the American people, across political ideologies.

After witnessing the Senate's passage of the Respect for Marriage Act, I am proud to say that we are on a path to guaranteeing marriage equality for every American.

The Supreme Courts' rulings in Loving v. Virginia, and Obergefell v. Hodges were founded on the promise of unenumerated rights and due process for all American people as guaranteed in the 9th and 14th amendments of our nation's Constitution.

The 9th Amendment states that the federal government does not retain final authority over rights not listed in the Constitution—which, in effect, includes the right to marry someone regardless of their sex or race. That very personal and intimate right is retained by the people.

Additionally, the 14th Amendment ensures that no right afforded to the American people can be taken away without due process of law, while also guaranteeing to all Americans that they shall have equal protection under the law.

The same law that applies to a Black man wishing to marry a Hispanic woman must be applied equally to an Indigenous woman wishing to marry a White woman, a nonbinary individual wishing to marry a man, and so on.

That is the Constitutional promise in the United States.

Marriage Equality is not a right that can be stripped away by a conservative faction of the United States Supreme Court, nor by extremist Republican legislators.

It is a fundamental aspect of our democracy.

The assurances of the 14th Amendment became part of our national governing documents as a protection against those who would use their power to wipe away the freedoms of others without restraint or consent of the governed.

It is unfortunate that we must rely on its strength again today.

We cannot and will not allow Republican lawmakers and conservative Justices to continue to toy with the rights of the American people.

That is why I strongly support the Respect for Marriage Act and commend my friends in the Senate for garnering bipartisan support for this act.

This Act would ensure that an individual be considered married as long as the marriage was valid in the state where it was performed.

This ensures that same-sex and interracial couples would continue to enjoy equal treatment under federal law—as the Constitution requires.

This bill would go further by officially repealing the Defense of Marriage Act.

While the Supreme Court effectively rendered DOMA inert with its decision in Obergefell, this unconstitutional and discriminatory law still officially remains on the books.

H.R. 8404 would repeal DOMA once and for all.

The Respect for Marriage Act would also prohibit any person acting under color of state

law from denying full faith and credit to an out-of-state marriage based on the sex, race, ethnicity or national origin of those in the marriage.

It would also authorize the U.S. Attorney General to enforce these protections and would allow recourse for any person harmed by a violation of this provision.

We will not back down from demanding marriage equality.

We will not back down from demanding racial justice.

We will not back down from demanding equal rights for all of the American people.

I strongly support H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act, and encourage my colleagues to pass this bill.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give my strongest support for the Respect for Marriage Act.

It is hard to believe that today, in 2022, we are still fighting to protect the right of all Americans to marry the person they love.

The Supreme Court's actions this summer have shown us that we cannot take our rights for granted. No one should have to live in fear that a Supreme Court decision could invalidate their marriage in the blink of an eye.

The Respect for Marriage Act enshrines the right to marry the person you love, regardless of gender, race, or identity, into Federal law.

It finally repeals the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act from our lawbooks, and it reaffirms our commitment to a promise of equality for all by ensuring critical Federal and State protections for same-sex and interracial marriages.

I have spent my career fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, both at the State and Federal levels, and so I am proud to stand on the House floor today in support of the Respect for Marriage Act.

Sending this bill to the President's desk sends a powerful message that love is love, that family is family, and that this Congress stands together against hate and discrimination.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA), a member of the committee.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support people's right to love and their equal protection under the law. The Respect for Marriage Act will reaffirm marriage equality as the law of the land.

All Americans, no matter who they are and who they love, deserve dignity and equal treatment under the law.

Madam Speaker, back home in my State of Texas, people are literally scared. Entire families are considering fleeing Texas for fear of what the MAGA GOP will do to their partners and their loved ones.

Earlier this year, the far-right Texas GOP declared homosexuality as an abnormal lifestyle choice in their official platform. Yes, they put it in their platform.

Last month, Texas Republicans prefiled 17 bills targeting the LGBTQ+ community for our next legislative session in Texas.

To my LGBTQ constituents and neighbors back home, know that I am here for you. House Democrats will not waver in our fight for human dignity and equality under the law.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS).

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Respect for Marriage Act.

Growing up in New Hampshire as a gay person, I wasn't sure if there would be a place for me or if I would be able to have a family of my own. I was lucky to be surrounded by people who embraced me for who I am and to live at a time when hearts, minds, and laws were changing for the better.

Next year, I will marry the love of my life. It is unthinkable that if the Supreme Court heeds Justice Thomas' call that our marriage might be recognized in New Hampshire where we live but not across the country.

That is the reality that many couples fear, one that will jeopardize their ability to visit a spouse in the hospital or access all the benefits that couples do, one that would strip millions of Americans of their rights and their dignity.

That is a threat that we can't ignore. I hope my colleagues will heed the calls of their constituents and the call of history and cast a vote in favor of the Respect for Marriage Act to say that love is love and to respect people's individual freedoms in this country.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW).

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act, a bill to ensure critical protections for same-sex and interracial marriages.

Madam Speaker, 19 days ago, Coloradans woke up to the news of yet another mass shooting impacting our community. This violence was the direct result of intolerance and discrimination. It was the direct result of efforts by some elected officials to seize on hate and villainize the LGBTQ+ community.

Today, we have the opportunity to reject the ugly vitriol and stand with the LGBTQ+ community in Colorado and nationwide. Today, we have the opportunity to protect all Americans, regardless of how they identify or whom they love.

The Respect for Marriage Act will uphold marriage equality under Federal law, repealing the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act. This bill ensures that the Federal Government won't stand in the way of a person's right to marry whom they love.

I thank Chairman NADLER for leading this effort and the Congressional Equality Caucus for their ongoing work to promote equality for all, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I dedicate my remarks to two civil rights icons, Edith and Judith Windsor.

Today, we repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, which degraded marriage under the pretense of defending it. Today, we put the equality of same-sex love in its rightful place under the protection of Federal law.

We will not leave it to the forces of hate and the relics of the past to be the final word on the fate of love.

We, in the LGBTQ community, will be the arbiters of our own legal equality and the authors of our own marital destiny, our equal right to marry the people that we love in the country that we love with the pride that we love.

Today, that right makes America a more perfect union.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Respect for Marriage Act.

In all my decades of public service, I have never wavered in my support for the LGBTQ+ community. In 1990, I introduced the first legislation in New York State history to grant legal recognition to same-sex couples.

When the Defense of Marriage Act was introduced in 1996, I was one of 67 House Members to vote against it. I knew then what I know now: DOMA was a bigoted, discriminatory solution to a problem that never existed.

It never made sense that I, or anyone in this body or in this country, could get in a cab and marry the cabdriver that same day or some stranger on the street, but a bold, brave New Yorker and a friend of mine named Edie Windsor could not have her marriage recognized.

She sued. She won in court. Today, this law will codify her court case. I dedicate my remarks to her and thank her for her lifelong commitment to LGBTQ rights and equality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Respect for Marriage Act because every American deserves to have their union recognized and respected in law.

Since the Obergefell and Loving decisions, millions of families rely on the constitutional guarantee that marriage equality affords. Yet, we just saw what happens when half our population relies on this High Court to protect our sacred rights.

Recent far-right Court nominees broke their pledges to respect the precedent of Roe, and look at the legal chaos, unequal treatment, and financial and physical ruin they have unleashed.

We can no more rely on their word than we can their apologists who say these legal extremists will uphold marriage equality.

This bill ensures that by guaranteeing that same-sex and interracial couples have a legal right to build a life with someone who shares their love.

I am honored to stand with the LGBTQ+ community to make this a more just, equal, and perfect union. Without these rights and this legislation, America can never truly aspire to that.

Madam Speaker, I remind all of my colleagues that history is watching, and I urge them to vote ''yea'' on the Senate amendment.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Respect for Marriage Act. Today, we celebrate equality, fairness, and love.

Since the Supreme Court's ruling in Obergefell, all loving couples have had a right to marry across our country. However, if the Supreme Court won't protect Americans, especially in light of the repeal of Roe, we in Congress must do everything in our power to defend those freedoms.

The Respect for Marriage Act ensures Federal marriage equality by guaranteeing the Federal rights, benefits, and obligations of marriages. Today's legislation provides certainty for those couples, and all future couples, that the Federal Government will continue to recognize their marriages, no matter where they live or who they are married to.

I am proud to support this historic bill alongside members of both parties to protect the rights of San Diegans and Americans across the country.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of marriage equality.

The bills we write and pass regularly affect millions of lives. Rarely is the legislation we vote on so personal as the bill we are voting on today, the Respect for Marriage Act.

My daughter and her wife are two of the estimated 26 million Americans whose freedom to marry will be protected by this bill. Their son, my 1-year-old grandson, Reza, can now grow up without risk to his family. Love is a precious thing.

Madam Speaker, I know my daughters will now know our Nation respects their marriage. You cannot legislate love, but you can give love the protection of our laws. I thank the gentleman and I urge my colleagues to vote for this.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community who have fought for equal dignity under the law for decades.

For far too long our LGBTQ neighbors have been discriminated against simply for being who they are and loving who they love. Today, if that case is overturned, same-sex couples would not be allowed to marry in the State of Michigan.

Every single American, no matter their faith, race, gender identity, or sexual orientation has the right to marry the person they love.

I am proud to be here today in the people's House as Congress takes this historic vote to send this legislation to President Biden's desk.

Today, we take one more step toward equality and justice for all. May we continue to build upon this progress by ensuring that all LGBTQ+ neighbors have what they need to thrive and be protected under law.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), a member of the committee, and the soon-to-be Democratic leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding and for his leadership.

The founding document of this country, the Declaration of Independence, reads:

> We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equally, entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Those words were eloquent in their articulation and complete in their application.

As the great Barbara Jordan once pointed out, initially they didn't apply to enslaved Africans or women, Native Americans, poor people of every race, and certainly it didn't apply to the LGBTQ+ community. But through a process of constitutional amendment ratification, court decision, and legislation, those words have increasingly been brought to life as we journey toward a more perfect union.

That is the work that is being done today with the Respect for Marriage Act, particularly because of a radical, right-wing, reckless, and regressive Supreme Court majority that threatens freedom and marriage equality.

Madam Speaker, that is why I urge my colleagues to support the Respect for Marriage Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CRAIG). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I support the Respect for Marriage Act, I respect freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), a member of the committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong and joyful support of the Respect for Marriage Act.

As the mother of an incredible trans daughter, I am here to fight for her rights and those of all LGBTQ+ people, who for too long have been denied the dignity and the respect that they deserve. And as someone who is myself in an interracial marriage, it is far past time that we codify those rights.

An extremist Supreme Court and hateful State legislators want to roll back the hard-won progress that we have made. But we are here to say in a bipartisan way, we will not tolerate this, we will codify these rights once and for all.

This is the beginning. I also call on the Senate to pass the Equality Act to ensure that LGBTQ+ people can enjoy the same rights as everyone else in the country.

But today, Madam Speaker, let's get this bill done. Vote ''yes'' on codifying the right to marry the one you love. Vote ''yes'' on the Respect for Marriage Act.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader of the House of Representatives.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I am going to miss this 1 minute, let me tell you that.

This bill was passed with a very bipartisan vote in this House this past July. I rise in strong support of the Respect for Marriage Act, which this bill has been slightly amended and sent to us.

Like many Americans across the country, I was sickened and deeply sorry by the violent attack on an

LGBTQ+ nightclub in Colorado Springs just a few weeks ago. It was a manifestation of hate, a manifestation of prejudice, a manifestation of bigotry, a manifestation of thinking one is better than the other, that somehow we are not all equal in the eyes of our Constitution and in the eyes of God.

It was a somber reminder of how safe spaces still are not safe for so many. One of the Club Q survivors, a young man named Anthony, said that as he lay wounded on the floor his first thought—not surprisingly, which he believed may be his last thought—was of his husband of 14 years, Jeremy.

What the Justices said some years ago and what we have said in our legislation is that who you love is your choice. One of the first votes I cast in the Maryland State Senate in 1967 was the repeal of the miscegenation statute. The Supreme Court, that same year, had ruled that unconstitutional. That because a Black male wanted to marry a White woman or a White woman wanted to marry a Black male or an Asian or of some other ethnicity or race, that somehow we would interpose our own judgment denying that all people are created equal, endowed by their creator—not by us, not by the Constitution—by their creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Certainly, the pursuit of happiness means that you can love whom you chose.

The love that Anthony felt for his husband in that moment reflected a basic emotional instinct that makes us all human.

Madam Speaker, I rise today for the millions of people like Anthony and Jeremy who deserve to continue living proudly and happily and safely in same-sex and interracial marriages.

In doing so, I stand for all Americans who cherish the liberty, equality, and justice promised to them under our Constitution.

Last summer, the Supreme Court, largely the Republican faction of the Supreme Court—they will resent that phrase, I am sure—violated that sacred promise with their radical ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson, breaking nearly 50 years of precedent, contrary to what some of those Justices said to the United States Senate their premise would be. They deprived women of their constitutional right to reproductive healthcare, to control their own bodies, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

In the process, they also opened the door for future challenges to Obergefell v. Hodges, United States v. Windsor, and Loving v. Virginia, which dealt with you couldn't marry a person of another color.

The Obergefell and Windsor precedents protecting same-sex marriage have stood for 7 and 9 years respectively, not the half a century that the others had, but the same proposition. It is not your business. I am shocked that conservatives who have a libertarian bent believe that somehow we ought to get involved in this.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this.

I remember the most conservative member of the State Senate, in which I served for 12 years, got up in talking about a woman's right to choose, and said: It is not my business. It is not government's business. It is not the legislators' business. It is my business. It is her business.

The Loving precedent protecting interracial marriage has stood for 55 years. Justice Thomas perhaps would opine that it is not a right that is found in the Constitution.

After the Supreme Court disregarded decades of precedent to overturn Roe v. Wade, we have no reason to expect it won't do the same to marriage equality. We believe that all men are created equal and all women, and men and women together.

Americans have grown accustomed to knowing that they have a constitutional right to equal marriage. Those living in same-sex and interracial marriages should not have to live with the fear that their government could rescind legal recognition of their families at any moment. That is not America. That is not content of character, as Martin Luther King urged us to pursue—character.

They must be able to live confidently, knowing that their marriages will be recognized wherever they go in America—no matter the city, county, or State.

Our Democratic House majority knows that no State ought to be able to deny full faith and credit to legal marriage between consenting American adults, and a lot of Republicans agree with us.

This is not a partisan issue. I hope it is not a partisan issue in this vote. It certainly was not a partisan issue when we passed it to the Senate. It was not a partisan vote in the United States Senate.

We know the best way to protect that most basic right to marriage equality is to enshrine it in Federal statute. That is why we took swift action last summer to pass the Respect for Marriage Act through the House and why I am proud to bring it to the floor again today.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER and the staff of the committee. I thank Representative CICILLINE and all the co-chairs of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus. This is not a caucus issue; this is a country issue. This is a constitutional issue. This is a fairness issue. This is justice for all.

I thank Chairman RUIZ and the Democratic Caucus chairman, Mr. JEFFRIES, who has been very involved in this bill, and Chairwoman BEATTY, they all have worked hard on this bill.

Similarly, I appreciate the House Republicans who joined us in supporting this bill—a significant number of House Republicans. I would hope that all Republicans would do it on the theory that this is not our business, that people are free to make their own decisions, not the government making these decisions.

I also thank the 62 Senators, including 12 Republicans that came together to advance this critical legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, all 435 of us, to stand up and say this is a free country. It is a country that believes in equality for all. This is a country that the representatives of our Constitution, our Declaration, and of our laws would stand up united in saying: You are free to love who you choose. It is not our choice.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, what happened in Colorado, as the gentleman referenced, was wrong as wrong could be. We all understand that.

But you know what else is wrong?

The 100 churches and crisis pregnancy centers that were attacked in the aftermath of the Dobbs decision—actually, when the leak happened. Dozens and dozens of those attacks happened between the leak of the opinion and the opinion itself, all designed to intimidate the Supreme Court.

And what did this body do while that was happening and Supreme Court Justices' homes were being—protests, harassed, all kinds of things said about their family, an assassination attempt on one of those justices, Justice Kavanaugh—what did this body do?

They waited a month to pass legislation to give our highest court members the protection they needed. This body did that.

There is no place for violence. But let's be clear: Let's condemn all of it. Let's do what we can to protect against it, and let's not stay on this concerted effort to intimidate the Court.

By the way, Madam Speaker, we have yet to have a hearing on the leak of the Dobbs decision, but in 1 hour and 15 minutes we are going to have a hearing on the fake leak that was brought up about Justice Alito in the Hobby Lobby case.

Why can't we get to the bottom of what happened earlier this year with the Dobbs decision that resulted in all that violence—over 100 churches and crisis pregnancy centers attacked?

I would like to have a hearing on that. I hope at some point the chairman will—we will look into doing that next year when we convene the new Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

□ 1015

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I just want to make clear, the gentleman indicated that we did nothing. The Justices of the Supreme Court had full protection. The issue was the families and the families of Members, but it ought to be on the public record that

the Supreme Court Members were protected.

Mr. JORDAN. Reclaiming my time, the fact is, the Senate passed the bill and you guys waited a month before we passed it on the House floor, and you know that is accurate.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman will continue to yield, you represented that the Justices were unprotected. That is not accurate, sir.

Mr. JORDAN. Justices' families; I will correct that. But you guys waited a month to do that when they were being threatened. That is my point.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I have been listening to this debate on the Republican side and it is self-contradictory. On the one hand, don't worry about it. Obergefell is not threatened. It is the law of the land. The Supreme Court has decided it. There is no threat. You guys are exaggerating the threat to Obergefell.

On the other hand, this bill is catastrophic. My God, it will change things.

Well, how will it change things if Obergefell is going to keep going? This bill will threaten the institution of marriage somehow.

Really? I don't think it will threaten the institution of marriage, especially since it is irrelevant since Obergefell is going to continue. You can't argue out of both sides of your mouth.

I would also point out, as I will in my closing statement, that contrary to the fears expressed about religious liberty, almost every church group in the United States has endorsed this bill. I will read a list in my closing statement.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the Respect for Marriage Act, an historic step forward in Democrats' fight to defend the dignity and equality of every American.

Let us salute those who have legislated and advocated relentlessly to make this bill the law of the land. I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, JERRY NADLER, Equality Caucus Chair DAVID CICILLINE, and all of the members of the Equality Caucus, and the grassroots activists out there, without whose mobilization so many pieces of legislation to expand freedom in our country would not be possible.

I say that because when I came to this floor 35 years ago, my first speech on the floor, after I was sworn in, was to talk about—say that I came here to fight HIV and AIDS. What I learned after that is we had to fight against discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS.

Two people who were so significant in that are Phyllis and Del, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, champions in our country. Well, I will talk about them in a moment.

First, I want to salute the Senate for its strong bipartisan legislation, the leadership of Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER and Senator TAMMY BALDWIN, and the bipartisan, strong support that this House gave the legislation to send it over to the Senate.

Marriage equality has been law across our country since 2015 and, proudly, even longer in the State of California. Indeed, my thoughts today are with Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, two dear friends and iconic trailblazers. I have brought their picture to the floor time and time again to talk about freedom and dignity and respect so many times.

Nearly two decades ago, their enduring love made history as they joyfully, joyfully said their vows in San Francisco City Hall, the first. In the years since, the same euphoria has blessed couples and bonded families in every corner of America.

Yet, since the Supreme Court's monstrous decision overturning Roe v. Wade, rightwing forces have set their sights on this basic personal freedom.

In his concurrent opinion, Clarence Thomas explicitly called on the Court to reconsider its ruling in Obergefell. While his legal reasoning is twisted and unsound, we must take Justice Thomas at his word and the hateful movement behind him at their word.

We must act now, on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, to combat bigoted extremism and uphold the inviolability of same-sex and interracial marriages.

Once signed into law, the Respect for Marriage Act will help prevent rightwing extremists from: Upending the lives of loving couples, traumatizing kids across the country, and turning back the clock on hard-won progress.

This legislation takes several steps to uphold marriage equality under Federal law.

First, it tears the bigoted, unconstitutional Defense of Marriage Act off the books for good. When that bill was passed, our colleagues understood that it was not constitutional. Why else would they have tried to strip the judicial review of the Defense of Marriage Act if they thought it could take the test of judicial review?

Today's vote will codify a legal reality already handed down by the Supreme Court and ensure DOMA can never again be used to justify hateful discrimination.

Second, the Respect for Marriage Act will enshrine married couples' right to equal protection under Federal law, from tax filings to Social Security, to bereavement and veterans' benefits.

Third, this legislation will require that every State recognize all valid out-of-state marriages, regardless of any heinous restrictions imposed by particular State law.

This legislation is the latest step in House Democrats' fight to win full equality for LGBTQ Americans and forge a more perfect union that our children and their children, all of our children deserve.

Fighting alongside tireless advocates, we transformed the fight against HIV/AIDS, here at home and around the world; and I thank President Bush for his leadership in that regard as well, all of our Presidents—well, up until a certain point.

We tossed Don't Ask, Don't Tell into the dustbin of history. We enacted fully inclusive Federal hate crimes legislation, protecting Americans from the scourge of bigoted violence, with the Matthew Shepard Act; our friend, Barney Frank, our former colleague, was so instrumental in passing that legislation.

Today, we will include marriage equality into Federal law now and for generations to come.

I am just going to speak personally for a moment because, as I mentioned earlier, my first words on the floor of this House were about fighting against HIV and AIDS and discrimination that goes with that.

My final bill as Speaker the first time, one of the final bills that I signed was the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Now, one of the final bills that I will sign in the enrollment will be this beautiful legislation, the Respect for Marriage Act that we are passing today.

Today, we stand up for the values the vast majority of Americans hold dear, a belief in the dignity, beauty, and divinity, divinity, spark of divinity in every person, an abiding respect for love so powerful that it binds two people together.

San Francisco's—when we talk about freedom, I think of Harvey Milk. He once told his supporters: ''I have tasted freedom. I will not give up that which I have tasted.''

Thus, today, this Chamber proudly stands with the forces of freedom, not going back, and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a resounding bipartisan ''aye'' vote in favor of the Respect for Marriage Act in loving memory of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, my dear friends, and iconic pioneers, and I urge a strong bipartisan vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I would urge a ''no'' vote based on arguments we have made on the floor today. I think this is—I just urge a ''no'' vote. I think this is the wrong way to go.

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

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

The Senate amendment to the Respect for Marriage Act represents a carefully negotiated compromise that

maintains all of the bill's substantive protections for marriage equality, while affirming that the religions liberty and conscience protections available under current law remain unaffected by the bill.

For these reasons, leading national organizations have endorsed the bill as amended by the Senate, including the ACLU, GLAD, PFLAG, Human Rights Campaign, and Lambda Legal.

In addition, a broad interfaith coalition that includes the Interfaith Alliance, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church USA Office of Public Witness, the Union for Reformed Judaism, the Anti-Defamation League, the Hindu American Foundation, Muslims for Progressive Values, and the Sikh Coalition, all endorse the Senate amendment to this bill.

This is a long-overdue bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it with a big vote.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I am in strong opposition of H.R. 8404, the so-called Respect for Marriage Act.

I remain steadfast in my longstanding belief that marriage, as has been the tradition in this nation and around the world, is between one man and one woman.

To my colleagues who may be swayed by the inadequate attempts made in the Senate to increase religious protections in this flawed piece of legislation: The changes simply do not do enough to protect those that could face the harmful effects of this bill.

The overly vague provisions of this bill leave far too much to be interpreted and decided by the courts. We, as Members of Congress, should be compelled to protect the religious freedom of Americans and should not leave this cornerstone of our Constitution to the whim of the courts.

''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . .''

In passing this bill, our government IS making a law that prohibits the free exercise of religion. These are not just words. They are fundamental to our country and who we are as a people.

Moving forward, court cases concerning private entities exercising their religious freedom, much like cases heard this week at the Supreme Court, will face new challenges. They will now be litigated under the rubric of a national policy in which the court could interpret someone not recognizing same-sex marriages, or even abstaining from providing website design services for a same sex marriage, as akin to racial discrimination.

This bill goes far beyond the protection of same-sex marriage. Instead, it exposes private entities to government discrimination based solely on their deeply held religious beliefs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no on this legislation before us today.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of The Respect for Marriage Act because everyone should be able to marry who they love. This important law will protect same-sex and interracial marriages.

When I was serving in the Oregon State Legislature in 2007, I helped pass the Oregon Family Fairness Act to give same-sex couples many of the rights afforded to married couples. In 2014, a federal district court judge found that Oregon's ban on same-sex marriages violated the Oregon Constitution, and in 2015 the United States Supreme Court held in Obergefell that all people have the right to marry who they love.

It is imperative that we pass the Respect for Marriage Act because Justice Thomas cast doubt on rights grounded in privacy, including same-sex and interracial marriages, in his concurring opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The Respect for Marriage Act will enshrine this fundamental right into law and so it continues to be protected.

Although it is essential that we pass the Respect for Marriage Act, this legislation is a compromise. The bill as passed includes an overly expansive exemption for faith-based nonprofit organizations. This exemption is disappointing because it will allow legalized discrimination and undermine the fundamental principles of fairness this legislation is intended to uphold.

As Vice Chair of the Congressional LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, I am proud to continue standing with members of the LGBTQI+ community and their allies as we pass the Respect for Marriage Act. I remain committed to continue fighting against discrimination, including by enacting the overdue Equality Act to close gaps in civil rights protections.

No one should face prejudice and violence because of who they are or who they love. I urge my colleagues to support the Respect for Marriage Act and swiftly send this bill to President Biden's desk.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to underscore the crucial importance of the religious liberty provisions in the Respect for Marriage Act and to ensure the legislative intent behind these provisions is crystal clear.

As you know, the United States Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell v. Hodges from 2015 established a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. When Obergefell was argued, then-Solicitor General Verrilli was asked whether recognizing a constitutional right to same-sex marriage would lead to churches, religious organizations and other not-for-profits potentially having their tax-exempt status reconsidered, in light of the Supreme Court's decision in Bob Jones University v. U.S. Solicitor General Verrilli responded that ''it's certainly going to be an issue.'' In recognizing a constitutional right to same-sex marriage in 2015, the United States Supreme Court did not reconsider the Bob Jones University precedent, leaving this ''issue'' unresolved.

The Senate Amendment to the Respect for Marriage Act that we are voting on today, answers this question, and a number of others, providing strong protections for religious liberty, especially when combined with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

It is my understanding that section 2 of the Respect for Marriage Act, in light of the Supreme Court's Bob Jones v. United States decision in 1983, would prevent the Internal Revenue Service from successfully arguing that the United States now ''national policy'' favoring same-sex marriage use this national policy to deny tax-exempt status to religious organizations.

Section 2 of the bill states that a variety of reasonable views on the role of gender in marriage exist today, based on both decent and honorable religious and philosophical beliefs. The bill states that all views are due proper respect by the Federal Government.

Furthermore, Section 2 of this bill states that the Federal Government recognizes religious liberty as an integral component of our national policy regarding marriage. Section 2 of this bill was explicitly included to ensure that the provisions of the Bob Jones case relating to the tax-exempt status of organizations are not applicable to this bill.

Bob Jones University v. U.S., decided in 1983 before Congress enacted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, upheld the IRS' decision to rescind Bob Jones University's tax exemption on the basis of a ''firm and unyielding'' national policy against racial discrimination. Section 2 affirms that diverse beliefs about the role of gender in marriage are held by reasonable and sincere people based on decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises. This finding preempts an analogy between the Court's analysis in the Bob Jones University case about race and beliefs about marriage, and is a statement of policy respecting diverse views about the role of gender in marriage.

I'd like to discuss another provision which is central this bill—section 4, which grants ''full faith and credit'' under Article IV, Section 1 of the United States Constitution to marriages performed in each of our states, strengthening federalism and making our constitutional structure work.

Section 4 of the bill states that no person ''acting under color of State law'' may deny full faith and credit to any ''public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other State pertaining to a marriage between 2 individuals, on the basis of the sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin of those individuals.'' The phrase ''acting under color of State law'' is also used in our civil rights statutes to refer to the actions of state and local government officers and employees with respect to rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Federal law.

It is my understanding that use of this phrase in section 4 of the bill is intended to incorporate the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of this term, including but not limited to the Rendell-Baker v. Kohn and NCAA v. Tarkanian cases.

I'd like to now turn to section 6 of the bill, which provides that no church or religious non-profit will be forced to solemnize or conduct a marriage ceremony under this bill.

It is my understanding that section 6(b) bars any civil claim or cause of action relating to a nonprofit religious organization's refusal under that section to solemnize or celebrate a marriage and that such a refusal cannot create a civil claim or cause of action.

The text of section 7 also makes no reference to ''compelling governmental interests.'' Section 7 provides that nothing in this bill should be construed to deny or alter the benefit, status or right of an otherwise eligible individual or legal entity in relation to tax-exempt status, tax treatment, contracts, loans, scholarships, licenses and other agreements not arising from a marriage.

It is my understanding that, in conjunction with section 2, which eliminates a successful analogy to the Bob Jones case, section 7 would prevent the Internal Revenue Service from using the Respect for Marriage Act to

alter or remove the tax-exempt status of an entity for expressing beliefs in opposition or support of same-sex marriage. This bill is intended to enshrine a national policy of respect for all views surrounding marriage, and to enact some of the strongest religious liberty protections since the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 1993. This legislation also ensures that religious liberty will have more of a central role in future debates in our courts and in the halls of Congress.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to underscore the crucial importance of the religious liberty provisions in the Respect for Marriage Act and to ensure the legislative intent behind these provisions is crystal clear.

As you know, the United States Supreme Court's decision in Obergefell v. Hodges from 2015 established a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. When Obergefell was argued, then-Solicitor General Verrilli was asked whether recognizing a constitutional right to same-sex marriage would lead to churches, religious organizations and other not-for-profits potentially having their tax-exempt status reconsidered, in light of the Supreme Court's decision in Bob Jones University v. U.S. Solicitor General Verrilli responded that ''it's certainly going to be an issue.'' In recognizing a constitutional right to same-sex marriage in 2015, the United States Supreme Court did not reconsider the Bob Jones University precedent, leaving this ''issue'' unresolved.

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Section 2 of the bill states that a variety of reasonable views on the role of gender in marriage exist today, based on both decent and honorable religious and philosophical beliefs. The bill states that all views are due proper respect by the Federal Government.

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I'd like to discuss another provision which is central to this bill—section 4, which grants ''full faith and credit'' under Article IV, Section 1 of the United States Constitution to marriages performed in each of our States, strengthening federalism and making our constitutional structure work.

Section 4 of the bill states that no person ''acting under color of State law'' may deny full faith and credit to any ''public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other State pertaining to a marriage between 2 individuals, on the basis of the sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin of those individuals.'' The phrase ''acting under color of State law'' is also used in our civil rights statutes to refer to the actions of State and local government officers and employees with respect to rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Federal law.

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The SPEAKER. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1510, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 258, nays 169, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 513]

YEAS—258

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

NAYS—169

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks

Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Conway
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Flores
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hudson
Huizenga
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sempolinski
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Steube
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Owens

NOT VOTING—4

Brady
Hollingsworth
Kinzinger
Zeldin

□ 1111

Ms. LEE of California changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Pappas)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Cicilline)
Beatty (Neguse)
Brooks (Fleischmann)
DeFazio (Pallone)
Doyle, Michael F. (Pallone)
Gibbs (Smucker)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Moore (UT))
Gosar (Weber (TX))
Hayes (Neguse)
Herrera Beutler (Stewart)
Huffman (Levin (CA))
Jacobs (NY) (Sempolinski)
Johnson (LA) (Graves (LA))
Johnson (OH) (Fulcher)
Johnson (TX) (Pallone)
Kahele (Correa)
Kildee (Pappas)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawrence (Garcia (TX))
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Long (Fleischmann)
Meeks (Meng)
Napolitano (Correa)
Newman (Correa)
O'Halleran (Pappas)
Palazzo (Fleischmann)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Peltola (Correa)
Pressley (Neguse)
Ruppersberger (Sarbanes)
Rush (Beyer)
Simpson (Fulcher)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Cicilline)
Swalwell (Correa)
Titus (Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)
Wexton (Beyer)
Williams (GA) (McBath)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

□ 1115

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER VOTE ON CONCURRING IN THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8404, RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. PERLMUTTER of Colorado moved to reconsider the vote on concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Cicilline of Rhode Island moves to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 164, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 514]

YEAS—224

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

NAYS—164

Aderholt
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Carl
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Flores
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Luetkemeyer
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sempolinski
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NOT VOTING—44

Allen
Buchanan
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Cawthorn
Cohen
Conway
Cooper
Crow
Espaillat
Evans
Foster
Garamendi
Gohmert
Golden
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gosar
Grothman
Harder (CA)
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Joyce (PA)
Khanna
Kinzinger
Lawson (FL)
Lucas
McCaul
McHenry
Miller (IL)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Salazar
Schrader
Spartz
Stansbury
Steube
Tlaib
Torres (CA)
Trone
Wilson (FL)
Zeldin

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1139

Messrs. POSEY, FULCHER, and WESTERMAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 514.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Pappas)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Cicilline)
Beatty (Neguse)
Brooks (Fleischmann)
Doyle, Michael F. (Pallone)
Gibbs (Smucker)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzalez (OH) (Moore (UT))
Hayes (Neguse)
Herrera Beutler (Stewart)
Huffman (Levin (CA))
Jacobs (NY) (Sempolinski)
Johnson (LA) (Graves (LA))
Johnson (OH) (Fulcher)
Johnson (TX) (Pallone)
Kahele (Correa)
Kildee (Pappas)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawrence (Garcia (TX))
Lieu (Beyer)
Long (Fleischmann)
Meeks (Meng)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Mace)
Newman (Correa)
O'Halleran (Pappas)
Palazzo (Fleischmann)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Peltola (Correa)
Pressley (Neguse)
Ruppersberger (Sarbanes)
Rush (Beyer)
Simpson (Fulcher)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Cicilline)
Swalwell (Correa)
Titus (Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)
Wexton (Beyer)
Williams (GA) (McBath)

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 129, nays 227, not voting 75, as follows:

[Roll No. 515]

YEAS—129

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Balderson
Bentz
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Burchett
Cammack
Carey
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Cline
Cloud
Comer
Conway
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Duncan
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hinson
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Mann
Massie
McCarthy
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Mullin
Nehls
Norman
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Rodgers (WA)
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Salazar
Schweikert
Sempolinski
Sessions
Sherrill
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Yakym

NAYS—227

Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bush
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Clyde
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crow
Cuellar
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Flood
Flores
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Hill
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luria
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Peltola
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan (NY)
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sewell
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—75

Adams
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Banks
Barr
Bass
Beyer
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Carter (GA)
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
Cicilline
Cohen
Craig
Davids (KS)
Davis, Rodney
Dingell
Donalds
Dunn
Escobar
Fallon
Ferguson
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Higgins (NY)
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Jones
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kim (NJ)
Kinzinger
Krishnamoorthi
Lamb
Lieu
Luetkemeyer
Lynch
Maloney, Sean
Mast
McCaul
Meuser
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Newhouse
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Omar
Owens
Pappas
Rice (SC)
Rose
Rush
Scalise
Schneider
Sherman
Steel
Steube
Suozzi
Takano
Thompson (PA)
Torres (NY)
Waters
Wenstrup
Wexton
Zeldin

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1159

Mses. CLARK of Massachusetts and NEWMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Messrs. SWALWELL and BERGMAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. GOOD of Virginia changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 515.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, during rollcall Vote Number 515 on Mr. ROY's motion to adjourn, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yea" when I should have voted "nay."

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Beatty (Neguse)
Brooks (Fleischmann)
Doyle, Michael F. (Pallone)
Gibbs (Smucker)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gonzales, Tony (Gimenez)
Gosar (Weber (TX))
Hayes (Neguse)
Herrera Beutler (Stewart)
Huffman (Levin (CA))
Jacobs (NY) (Sempolinski)
Johnson (LA) (Graves (LA))
Johnson (OH) (Fulcher)
Johnson (TX) (Pallone)
Kahele (Correa)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawrence (Garcia (TX))
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Long (Fleischmann)
Meeks (Meng)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Mace)
Newman (Correa)
Palazzo (Fleischmann)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Peltola (Correa)
Pressley (Neguse)
Ruppersberger (Sarbanes)
Simpson (Fulcher)
Sires (Pallone)
Swalwell (Correa)
Titus (Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)
Williams (GA) (McBath)

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 the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

PERMISSION TO INSERT EXPLANATORY MATERIAL ON H.RES. 1512, JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and I may each insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than December 12, 2022, such material as we may deem explanatory of the Senate amendment and the motion to concur with the amendment on H.R. 7776.

(The contents of this submission will be published in Book III of this RECORD.)

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

There was no objection.

JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1512) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

(Text of H. Res. 1512, see Book II of this RECORD.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1512.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise to urge Members to support this piece of legislation. I thank everyone who worked on this process. All told, from the beginning of it, to now, over 2,000 Member requests were considered in some form or another, either in committee, on the House, or as we worked with the Senate.

With that open, collaborative, and bipartisan process, we have produced, I think, an excellent product. First, and foremost, we support the men and women who serve in the United States military in this bill. Most specifically, we serve the people who are economically struggling the most by a 4.6 percent pay raise, increase in the basic housing allowance, increase in the basic needs allowance, making sure that the price of items at the commissary do not go up so much as to price people out of it.

We support the men and women who serve in the military in this bill, and that is the number one most important role that we have.

This bill also continues on the work that we did on last year's efforts to reform how sexual assault is handled in the military by including sexual harassment in the portions that are under the jurisdiction of the special victim prosecutor.

There is a laundry list of things we do to really improve the quality of life for servicemembers and to exercise our oversight.

This bill also contains a number of other oversight bills; the Intelligence oversight bill, the Foreign Affairs oversight bill, the Coast Guard authorization bill—authorization was the word I was looking for—as well as the Water Resources Development Act.

All told, this bill is Congress exercising its authority to authorize and do oversight of the executive branch on behalf of the American people; and I think that is enormously important.

We are a coequal branch of government. It is our responsibility to exercise that oversight and represent the people.

Now, obviously, the most direct, sort of blunt force way that we do it is through appropriations, the money we spend. That is incredibly important as well.

But the authorizing portion of what we do matters a great deal. It is our opportunity, as individual Members of Congress, to set policy for this country at the Department of Defense, first and foremost but, as I said, also in this bill on intel and foreign affairs and the Coast Guard and elsewhere. It is really important that we get that job done and we do it really, really well.

I can't go through every single item that is in this bill, but I can tell you that just about every Member of this House has something in this bill that is important for policy, important to their district. I know because they have been talking to me for the last 6 months about it.

This is important policy that makes a huge difference for the people of this body and the people of this country, and I would urge us to support it.

I want to say two more quick things before I yield to my partner—actually, three more quick things before I yield to my partner, Mr. ROGERS, on this.

First of all, I really want to thank him, the staff, and everybody involved in all of that. To field that many requests takes a lot of time. The staff on the Armed Services Committee has been outstanding, and we are a bipartisan staff. We work together in a collaborative process.

All of the committee members, Republican and Democrat, have worked well together. Heck, in this moment I will even say something good about the Senate. They worked well with us also in a bipartisan, bicameral way. I really thank them for putting that process together.

Second, I do want to just briefly address, there is always a lot of controversy about issues not within our jurisdiction and whether or not they go into the bill. What has to happen on that is the committees of jurisdiction have to agree. Democrat, Republican, House, Senate, you have got to get all four. If you get all four, great, we are happy to carry it. If you don't, we can't.

I know it is important to you. I know you wish we could, but we can't because we don't have the votes for it. So I hope people understand that as we work with them on those outside issues.

Lastly, I do want to address the vaccine issue, and I want to make a couple of things perfectly clear. Number one, the policy that the Department of Defense put in place in August of 2021 requiring servicemembers to be vaccinated was the absolute right policy.

It saved lives and it improved readiness for the United States military while it was in place because it was absolutely clear that that vaccine made an enormous difference in protecting people from the disease. It was the absolute right policy; that is number one.

Number two, servicemembers who refused to follow that order had to be disciplined. Orders are not optional in the United States military. You cannot function that way, and we are not going to undo that.

But number three, right now, today, what is it, December whatever, in 2022, a policy that says you have to have gotten the first shot, and that is what the policy is that we are undoing in this bill. It says that you have to have gotten that first shot way back in 2021, either one Johnson & Johnson shot or the two-shot Pfizer or Moderna deal.

Right now, the science does not support that that makes you any safer today; it just doesn't.

I urge the Department of Defense to go back now and look at that policy and think about what the right and best policy would be. But it does make sense to repeal that order from August of 2021.

Personally, I would have preferred the Department of Defense do it on their own rather than the legislature telling them to. But since they didn't, I think this makes sense, and I think we ought to do it.

Again, let me just conclude by saying this has been an excellent process. We have a nearly 4,000-page bill that exercises the authorizing and oversight authority of the United States Congress on behalf of the American people. We did it very well.

We have accomplished a lot in this bill. I think every Member of this body can vote for it and feel really good about that. So I urge you to vote ''yes,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7776, the JAMES INHOFE National Defense Authorization Act.

Providing the authorities and resources our warfighters need to defend our Nation and defeat our adversaries is the greatest responsibility that we have in this Congress. We fulfill that responsibility with this NDAA.

We put our servicemembers first, providing a 4.6 percent pay raise and expanding benefits for military spouses and families.

To counteract the effects of record inflation on our military families, this bill increases housing allowances and lowers prices at commissaries, which offset the skyrocketing costs for rent and food; and it expands eligibility for low-income military families to receive additional allowances to cover basic needs.

This bill also ends the COVID–19 vaccine mandate. The mandate has been needlessly forcing out thousands of talented and experienced servicemembers. I am pleased that we have reached an agreement on this.

This bill is also focused on ensuring our warfighters are the best equipped and trained in the world.

We increase funding for readiness, reversing cuts in military construction and housing projects; expanding training availabilities for servicemembers; and improving the safety of the ships, aircraft, combat vehicles, and facilities where our warfighters serve.

We also divest of over $6 billion in the legacy systems that do little or nothing to deter China, or our other adversaries.

We reinvest those savings in emerging technologies, such as IA, quantum computing, hypersonic weapons, and autonomous systems. These are the technologies we need to ensure our warfighters prevail in future battlefields. The threats against us are rapidly evolving.

H.R. 7776 is laser-focused on preparing our military to counter threats from China and our other adversaries. It makes critical investments in new systems capable of surviving in contested environments.

It includes provisions that will further harden our supply chain and industrial base against filtration from China; and it reaffirms our support to allies in the region, especially Taiwan.

Finally, it strengthens our European alliance, as these democracies face grave threats from that crackpot in the Kremlin.

I am very proud that we have, once again, come together in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to fulfill our constitutional duty and produce a fiscal year 2023 NDAA. I urge all Members to support it.

Also, like the chairman, I thank our staff for doing an incredibly good job of helping pull this together. I couldn't have a better partner in running this committee than Chairman SMITH. So I thank him very much for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member ROGERS, and Ranking Member BANKS for their leadership on this critical legislation.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, I am proud of all of the work that we have done in this year's bill, from cyber, to research and development, to artificial intelligence, as well as our efforts to combat climate change, including shifting towards developing sustainable alternative aviation fuels. It is this subcommittee, in particular, that works to deliver cutting-edge technologies into the hands of the warfighter. For the past 22 years, it has been my job to ensure that our troops never enter a fair fight.

As I prepare to depart from Congress at the end of this year, I will always cherish the opportunity I have had to work across the aisle to provide for our national defense. I thank my colleagues and staff, without whom many of these accomplishments would not be possible. But most of all, I would like to thank each and every servicemember and civilian who has dedicated their life to the U.S. military and protecting our way of life.

To honor their sacrifice, I urge all of my colleagues to support the NDAA.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the James N. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, there are several provisions I am excited about. The bill directs the establishment of a national hypersonic initiative and requires a strategy to use unconventional capabilities to defeat hypersonic threats.

The bill also fully funds nuclear triad modernization, restores funding for the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile, and prohibits retirement of the B–83 gravity bomb.

It funds two additional Patriot batteries in the Guam defense system, and it advances planning for an East Coast missile defense site.

The NDAA also requires a public strategy for the protection of satellites and directs the establishment of resilient and responsive space capabilities. Additionally, it replenishes American stocks of munitions that have been provided to Ukraine and have begun to be depleted.

Finally, I am very supportive of the provision to rescind the COVID–19 vaccine mandate and end separations, protecting the rights of our servicemembers.

I conclude with one final public thank you to my good friend and colleague, JIM COOPER, for his service and steadfast partnership.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan fiscal year 2023 NDAA.

Madam Speaker, as you know, Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution mandates that Congress ''shall provide and maintain a Navy.'' The Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee's work does exactly that.

Our mark increased the number of battle force ships from 8 requested to 11 and invests in the workforce and supply chain necessary for their construction. The bill also authorizes the Maritime Administration, for the first time, to buy 10 new-build sealift vessels to recapitalize our National Defense Reserve Fleet built in American shipyards by American workers.

Also included is the first congressional action in support of the AUKUS security agreement between the U.S., Australia, and U.K. which establishes joint nuclear training for U.S. and Australian naval officers, which is critical for an Australian nuclear-powered submarine fleet of their own.

I thank my colleagues on the subcommittee, particularly Ranking Member ROB WITTMAN, our outstanding

staff: Jay Vallario, Kelly Goggin, Dave Sienicki, and Naajidah Khan, and our defense fellow, Lieutenant Logan O'Shea, all who contributed so much to this measure.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' and join Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member ROGERS in fulfilling our constitutional duty to our Nation.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROGERS for yielding.

Yesterday, we remembered the 81st anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The United States was surprised by the audacious Japanese attack and our national security was placed in peril. Times have changed, though, and Japan is now a bedrock ally of the United States today. I can't help but wonder if we learned the hard-earned lessons of Pearl Harbor or whether we are drifting into strategic malaise and will be caught unprepared by another attack on our national security.

Frankly, we are not ready. With a Navy fleet that continues to tread water in overall force structure and an Air Force that continues to cede combat firepower, I am not confident of our trajectory.

That is why I am pleased to have rejected a multitude of reckless national security objectives proposed by the Biden administration. This bill authorizes a 20 percent increase in ship construction, partially rejects an ill-advised divest-to-invest strategy and blocks a multitude of poison pills that were haphazardly tacked on to this legislation.

While this is a good bill worthy of support, I look forward to the next Congress where we can assert with greater certainty a revised trajectory for our national security. We need to better assure our partners and allies and avoid our pre-World War II hubris by decisively deterring future aggressors. We have much work to do.

I thank Ranking Member ROGERS and his leadership during the top-line debate this year. We are adopting his budget vision today, a vision that ensures real growth for defense. I also particularly thank Chairmen SMITH and COURTNEY for their desire to reach bipartisan consensus.

My friends, this is a good bill that advances the national security of the United States. I urge all Members to support the bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Readiness continues its works to ensure that our bases and our personnel are prepared for anything, from climate change to floods, fires, housing, and the like.

Mr. Speaker, as I look at you there on the podium, I am saddened. I am going to miss you. I am going to miss the work that you have done and the extraordinary efforts you have made over your many, many years.

Behind me is another woman who I am also going to miss, JACKIE SPEIER, and JIM COOPER, who is not with us this morning. An extraordinary group of people, the three of you. You have carried this committee. You have carried all of us, and we thank you.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will concur with my friend and colleague from California. You are going to be missed, not only as a member of our committee but as a Member of this body. We have been fortunate to have had the privilege of serving with you.

Similarly, I would like to recognize my friend and colleague from Missouri, who is also going to be sorely missed. She has been a very valuable member of our committee for a long time and a leader on our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, it has been the honor of my life to serve on this committee.

I rise in strong support today of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.

I thank Ranking Member ROGERS and Chairman SMITH for the work in developing this comprehensive bill. I also thank the TAL subcommittee chairman, Representative NORCROSS, for his leadership and collaboration, not only for this NDAA but over the past several years. This legislation would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the entire committee staff, including Kelly Repair; my chief of staff, Chrissi Lee; and Defense Fellow Steve Azab. I appreciate all of their efforts.

The NDAA is always a bipartisan product, and it has been an honor to contribute to the development of these bills for the past 12 years.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, I am pleased this bill reverses President Biden's cuts to our national security and restores funding for the procurement of vital platforms needed to continue to rebuild and modernize our military.

Specifically, I am pleased that this bill authorizes funding for 8 F/A–18 Super Hornets, to address the Navy's severe strike fighter shortfall; 24 F–15EX aircraft, to ensure the Air Force has both the capability and capacity to meet both current and future threats; and continued investments in Army ammunition facility modernization. This has been a top priority of mine since coming to Congress, and I am pleased at the progress Chairman NORCROSS and I have made in working with the Army to ensure proper investments are made for our ammunition facilities.

Additionally, I am pleased this bill includes language to protect CID training at Fort Leonard Wood, language to ensure chaplains can use their resources for resiliency and suicide prevention programs, and several programs to combat the threat posed by China.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this with a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER), the chair of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, this NDAA moves us forward in reforming the military justice system. We took sexual assault out of the chain of command last year in the NDAA. This year, we take sexual harassment out of the chain, and we require trained investigators who will investigate cases outside the brigade. Both are critical for the safety of military personnel because sexual harassment begets sexual assault.

Suicide in the military is a crisis. This year, I visited bases in Alaska twice that were hit hard by suicide deaths. This bill expands the military and civilian behavioral health workforce. It authorizes cold-weather pay and offers each servicemember stationed in Alaska a paid trip home in 2023.

We need to increase the pay of military childcare center workers. We have 19,000 families on waiting lists and are only using a third of the capacity in our facilities. This bill provides for a study. I hope we will do the right thing and make sure that these childcare providers are making more than those who are flipping burgers at the local restaurant. This bill also preserves crucial leave and paid travel for servicewomen who must go to another State to receive an abortion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this measure. I thank my committee and the personal staff.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I do want to say, I am going to miss the gentlewoman from California. She has been a great member of our committee and has really championed some important issues that she just addressed. We will miss her.

I do want to respond to her last remark and make a point. There is nothing in this bill that authorizes leave and paid travel for servicemembers to get an abortion. There is no policy in place in the Department for this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Jim Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act. He is my friend, and he will be missed. He also will be missed as the former chairman and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member ROGERS for their hard work and my subcommittee friend,

RUBEN GALLEGO, who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations.

We have done many things in the area. We have gotten new authorities for them to operate. We have gotten resources for them to operate throughout the world, to help us both in the counterterrorism fight and global power struggle with some of our competitors.

Our Nation faces unprecedented challenges. I am very proud that this includes the COVID mandate being removed, that we will not be losing any more soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines; that we also will not keep recruiting to stay low; that we will have more people who join a force that now is not hitting its commitment goals.

I am committed to free-cost healthcare for all of our servicemembers, which includes our National Guard and Reserve.

I thank Ms. SPEIER, who I served with on the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. We are going to miss her and also you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), the chair of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member ROGERS for what they have done in ushering this through.

The Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee portion of this year's NDAA manages our Nation's security risk and keeps America's land and air forces the best in the world.

I especially thank our ranking member, Mrs. HARTZLER—this will be her last NDAA—for her partnership and always putting America above all others.

Certainly, this is an issue before us. It is a bipartisan bill, and we have the oversight of many programs, including the F–35, while reducing risks to the industrial base, particularly when it comes to munitions.

□ 1230

I can't adequately express my frustrations once again that the buy American provisions that would have strengthened our industrial base have been left out.

Finally, I thank the professional staff who made it possible for what we do here each and every day, and I thank the men and women who built and maintain this great industrial base, the finest military in the world.

Certainly, without my professional staff—Bill, Liz, Heath, Carla, Mike, and Payson—and my personal staff of Katie and Kevin, it wouldn't be possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote for this bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER), my friend and colleague.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this Chamber today in strong support of this bipartisan defense bill that will help protect this country and take care of the young men and women who sacrifice for our freedom on a daily basis.

We got a lot of good things done in this year's process. We have an $858 billion top line, an increase of $45 billion over President Biden's defense budget request. We continue to support and improve the lives of our servicemembers and military families by authorizing a military basic pay raise of 4.6 percent. We also have $500 million for additional housing allowances to counteract the skyrocketing cost of rent.

I also support the repeal of DOD's COVID–19 vaccine mandate.

We have a number of provisions looking at improving mental health services for servicemembers and their families.

The conference agreement also reinforces that parents of children attending DOD schools have the right to review curriculum, instructional materials, and disciplinary policies.

Also critically important is ensuring that our professional military education is geared toward warfighting.

I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER), our chair, for her work with me on looking into the state of our professional military education enterprise and for all the work that we have done together over the last 2 years.

I will end by thanking the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), as well, for his remarkable service. We worked together on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission. As I like to say, Jim was sounding the alarm about cyberspace before it was cool. He is a remarkable intellectual leader in that regard.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LANGEVIN). The gentleman from Washington State has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the chair of the Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7776, the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

First off, the bill is a win for servicemembers, providing a 4.6 percent pay raise, increased funding for basic housing allowances, and improved women's healthcare.

The bill also authorizes a range of critical provisions to address strategic challenges from China and Russia.

We provide $6 billion for the European Deterrence Initiative, $800 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, and $225 million for the Baltic Security Initiative, all of which is much-needed support for Ukraine and our NATO allies and partners.

As chair of the Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee, I am proud of the bipartisan work of our subcommittee members, including historic reforms to the defense intelligence enterprise, Special Operations Forces, and our approach to the issue of civilian harm.

The bill authorizes up to $50 million to support NATO Special Operations Headquarters, an effort that will improve relationships among Special Operations Forces of NATO countries.

It also establishes an oversight framework for information operations, ensuring that Congress is notified no later than 48 hours after DOD approves a new military information support operation, and the bill delivers on our commitment to address civilian harm.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, it requires the establishment of a civilian protection center of excellence and provides $25 million to implement the civilian harm mitigation response plan.

Finally, and more importantly, I thank my subcommittee ranking member, TRENT KELLY, for his contribution to this bill and his strong bipartisan work.

I also thank my subcommittee staff, Shannon Green, Craig Greene, Will Braden, and Patrick Nevins, and, of course, my MLA Michelle Shevin-Coetzee and defense fellow Charlie Juhl.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not just to support the NDAA but some other provisions that are contained therein, one of which is very important to this country, as well, and that is the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, or WRDA, as we know it.

Continuing the bipartisan, biennial tradition, in May, WRDA 2022 passed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by a voice vote. Later in June, it passed this Chamber with an overwhelming vote of 384–37. Since then, of course, we have been working with our Senate colleagues to finalize this very important piece of legislation.

WRDA came together with input from Members from all across the country and is an example of what can happen when Congress works together to find solutions for their constituents and the American public.

This year's WRDA authorizes several Chief's reports, studies, and environmental infrastructure projects. It brings focus and priority to many important projects in my home State of North Carolina and throughout the country to better protect our communities from flooding.

The legislation also supports fundamental Corps missions, such as navigation and storm damage reduction,

which in turn support our economy and help keep the supply chain moving, literally.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to help craft this important bill, with critical input from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I especially want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Chair NAPOLITANO, as well as Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman CARPER and Ranking Member CAPITO, for their leadership and work on this vital, very commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I appreciate their doing so.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), the vice chair of the Armed Services Committee.

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this year's National Defense Authorization Act. This is a product of bipartisan work, from all across Congress, and especially within our Armed Services Committee.

It is a historic investment in our defense. It makes a strong step forward in our important priorities within the Pacific, for some of our most challenging areas of the world, the investments in the Pacific; the continuing assistance to Ukraine; as well as making advancements in shipbuilding and preventing the decommissioning of some ships and platforms that remain relevant in this very challenging time.

We can and should continue to do more in the future, and I trust my colleagues to make those investments as we move forward.

As I wrap up my term here on the Armed Services Committee and in the House, I thank the committee staff on both sides of the aisle, as well as my staff in my congressional office and district office, for their unrelenting focus on the issues that are covered in the NDAA. I am proud to say that we had 23 items in this year's bill that provide significant, tangible results for our national defense, for the Navy, and for the Hampton Roads region.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), my friend and colleague.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation. I first thank the chairman and the ranking member for focusing our efforts with this piece of legislation on the threats, the most complex threat environment that we have faced, I believe, in our history, and getting rid of things that distracted us, like a vaccine mandate where we saw elite military forces having to make a choice that I believe was unconstitutional. I believe that focus is so necessary right now.

For those that are in Killeen, Texas, in the Fort Hood area, which is home to the largest Active-Duty armored military installation in the free world, you have much-needed military construction funds that are coming to you to enhance your readiness.

For those at Goodfellow Air Force Base, we are proud of the 12,000 airmen, soldiers, sailors, marines, and guardians that are trained there every year in the preparation of intelligence.

We have to remain focused. It is a complex threat environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation and the most solemn duty that we face, which is supporting our military men and women and their families.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the chairman of the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day for our water resources and for bipartisan and bicameral work in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a joint explanatory statement to accompany the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 and a letter to Chairman SMITH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2022.

Hon. ADAM SMITH,
Chair, House Committee on Armed Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am writing to further explain the intentions of Section 11252, Strategy for Retention of Cuttermen, of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

In 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in Bostock v. Clayton County (590 U.S._(2020)) that the term ''sex'' included sexual orientation and gender identity for purposes of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Specifically, the Court determined that ''homosexuality and transgender status are inextricably bound up with sex. Not because homosexuality or transgender status are related to sex in some vague sense or because discrimination on these bases has some disparate impact on one sex or another, but because to discriminate on these grounds requires an employer to intentionally treat individual employees differently because of their sex.''

This rationale is applicable to a range of laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or gender. Indeed, federal courts both prior and subsequent to the Court's decision in Bostock have determined that our nation's federal laws that prohibit sex or gender discrimination also prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. The Supreme Court in numerous decisions, such as United States v. Virginia (518 U.S. 515 (1996)), has used the terms sex and gender interchangeably.

Our nation's nondiscrimination laws must be construed broadly to achieve Congress' aim of eradicating discrimination. In keeping with these cases and the current understanding of gender, I want to explicitly state on the record that the reference to discrimination based on gender in Section 11252(c) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 also includes discrimination on the basis of gender identity. I understand that the Coast Guard shares this view and understanding of Section 11252(c).

It is critical that the Coast Guard attract and retain a qualified workforce serving on Coast Guard cutters and that such a workforce includes underrepresented minorities and servicemembers from rural areas. I thank you for including this important section in the NDAA and look forward to reading the Commandant's strategy for retention of cuttermen.

Sincerely,

PETER DEFAZIO,
Chair.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY TITLE LXXXI OF DIVISION H OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7776, WITH AN AMENDMENT, THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022—JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

H.R. 7776, the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 2022) as passed by the House of Representatives and amended by the Senate is the legislative vehicle for the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2023. This joint explanatory statement, submitted on behalf of Chair Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Chair Tom Carper and Ranking Member Shelly Moore Capito of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, reflects the view of the bicameral Chairs and Ranking Members responsible for managing negotiations to develop a final version of WRDA 2022, hereafter in this statement referred to as ''the managers.'' This statement of the managers describes the intent of the final legislation and the manner in which provisions in disagreement between the House of Representatives and the Senate have been resolved.

BACKGROUND

WRDA 2022 primarily addresses the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The bill supports the nation's global economic competitiveness and environmental resilience by authorizing the Corps to undertake projects, programs, and initiatives in their Civil Works program relating to navigation, ecosystem restoration, flood and coastal storm risk management, hydropower, recreation, emergency management, and water supply.

A water resources development act (WRDA) is the authorizing legislation for the programs and projects of the Corps' Civil Works program. Ideally enacted every two years, such an act is the main vehicle for authorizing water resources development projects to be studied, planned, and developed by the Corps. WRDAs typically authorize new water resources development projects pursuant to completed feasibility study reports from the Chief of Engineers, modifications to existing projects pursuant to reports from the Director of Civil Works, other modifications to existing projects, study authorizations for new projects, the authorization of miscellaneous projects consistent with the Corps' programs that also demonstrate a Federal interest, and other programmatic changes to the Corps' authorities. Projects and programs contained in WRDAs fall within one or more of the Corps' Civil Works' missions and authorities, which include navigation, ecosystem restoration, flood and coastal storm risk management, hydropower, recreation, regulatory, emergency management, and water supply.

GENERAL OVERVIEW WRDA 2022

TITLE LXXXI OF DIVISION H IS BROKEN DOWN INTO FOUR SUBTITLES:

Subtitle A addresses general policy changes to the Civil Works program authorities. These changes include, among others:

increased support for coastal-related restoration and infrastructure; enhanced authority for the Corps to modernize projects during the performance of maintenance and emergency repair activities; greater flexibility for non-Federal sponsors of Corps projects; changes to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of water resources development projects, programs, and other assistance, including assistance to Tribal communities, economically disadvantaged communities, and states with water supply concerns; improved accessibility to Corps expertise and increased affordability of Corps projects for economically disadvantaged, rural, and Tribal communities; and increased support for research and development, technical assistance, and planning assistance to states.

Subtitle B authorizes critical new feasibility studies to be conducted by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (Secretary), who jointly implements the projects and programs of the Corps with the Chief of Engineers and directs certain existing studies to be expedited to completion. The Secretary is also authorized or directed to complete assessments or reports pertaining to, among other things, dredge capacity, reservoir sedimentation, socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, and the economic valuation of preservation of open space, recreational areas, and habitat associated with project lands.

Subtitle C identifies antiquated or outdated projects, and parts of projects, that are no longer needed for a Federal purpose for deauthorization. This subtitle also modifies existing projects and related provisions, including environmental infrastructure authorities, and calls upon the Secretary to expedite the completion of specified projects and studies.

Subtitle D authorizes 25 new projects and six project modifications based on reports submitted to Congress by the Secretary or the Chief of Engineers. These projects address various mission areas of the Corps, including ecosystem restoration, flood and coastal storm risk management, navigation, and water storage for water supply.

DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC WRDA 2022 PROVISIONS

2. The transformative nature of the last four WRDA bills on the Corps' Civil Works program has provided the Corps and non-Federal interests (sponsors) with a tremendous number of new opportunities for advancing projects more quickly. The managers expect the Corps to issue implementation guidance on the new provisions contained within WRDA 2022 in an expeditious and transparent manner, and where appropriate, to solicit the views of, and consult with, a wide array of stakeholders in the formulation of implementation guidance. In that light, the managers direct the Corps to provide periodic, bipartisan briefings to the staffs of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on the status of implementation of WRDA 2022, and any other unimplemented WRDA provision enacted by Congress since 2014, with the first briefing to be hosted no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of WRDA 2022.

Generally, WRDA 2022 authorizes or directs the preparation of several assessments. The managers intend for the Secretary to conduct these assessments at Federal expense. Additionally, it is the managers' expectation that studies included in WRDA 2022 to modify authorized projects prior to or during construction, including studies to extend Federal participation in periodic nourishment, will continue to be initiated without a new start designation, in accordance with well-established budget policy.

WRDA 2022 includes several provisions intended to increase support for economically disadvantaged communities in both rural and urban areas. The managers included this direction to ensure that the Secretary gives equal consideration to economically disadvantaged communities in rural areas and in urban areas when implementing the applicable authorities. The managers do not intend for this direction to affect the Corps' ongoing rulemaking to define the term ''economically disadvantaged community.''

In addition, in each of the last few WRDAs, Congress has directed the Corps to make greater use of natural and nature-based features and other measures to enhance resilient solutions through all the Corps' missions and authorities. However, despite this clear direction, which is enhanced through additional policy provisions authorized in WRDA 2022, the managers are concerned that these enacted provisions are not being fully implemented by the Corps and directs the Secretary to ensure that the availability and suitability of these approaches are explored in each of the Corps' Districts and Divisions.

WRDA 2022 includes several significant provisions intended to enhance the Corps' authority to formulate, construct, maintain, and repair projects in a manner that holistically addresses the impacts of sea level rise and increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather events. Section 8102 of WRDA 2022 provides the Corps with increased flexibility to modify federally authorized hurricane and storm damage reduction projects during the performance of emergency repair and restoration activities to ensure that they perform adequately in response to changing conditions. In relation to this provision, the managers note that they received a request to authorize the construction of enhancements, including additional gulf side breakwaters, to improve the performance of the Grand Isle and Vicinity, Louisiana Beach Erosion and Hurricane Protection Project, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Accordingly, the managers direct the Secretary to consider the changes to section 5(a)(1) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the Flood Control Act of 1941) made by this section when repairing or restoring this project to account for increased storm damage.

Section 8103 of WRDA 2022 includes amendments to section 212 of WRDA 1999 that streamline the authority and incorporate shoreline protection and restoration into its scope. The managers intend for the Secretary to use this authority to give priority consideration to the protection and restoration of shorelines, riverbanks, and streambanks from erosion and other damaging impacts of extreme weather events. While the managers intend for the Secretary to address these hazards using nonstructural measures, natural features, and nature-based features to the maximum extent practicable, the formulation of projects that rely primarily on structural solutions is not precluded. Such solutions, however, must meet traditional economic or life safety justification standards if they do not otherwise satisfy the alternative standard in section 212(d) of WRDA 1999. Finally, while section 212, as amended, provides general authority for the Secretary to initiate studies, the managers do not intend for individually authorized studies, or studies carried out under programmatic authorities such as section 118(b) of WRDA 2020, to be excluded from implementation under the terms of section 212 if such studies otherwise fall within the scope of the section.

Section 8106(a) of WRDA 2022 requires the Corps, when requested by a non-Federal sponsor for a study for flood or hurricane and storm damage reduction, to expand the scope of the study to include the formulation of measures to address damages attributable to all drivers of flood risk in the study area. When section 8106(a) is applied to a study for flood damage reduction, the federal interest in the formulation of measures to address flood risk in the study area will no longer be limited by the Corps' policy on minimum flows. When section 8106(a) is applied to a study for hurricane and coastal storm damage reduction, the Federal interest in the formulation of measures will extend to drivers of flood risk that do not coincide with coastal storm events, including flooding and erosion associated with sea level rise and so-called ''sunny day tides.'' Further, the managers expect the Secretary to continue to account for the effects of sea level rise, including an increase in the extent, magnitude, and frequency of tidal flooding, in the formulation of both flood and coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration projects by fully implementing existing authorities such as section 113 of WRDA 2020.

Additionally, section 8106(b) of WRDA 2022 expands the Secretary's authority to formulate alternatives for any water resources development project, at the request of the non-Federal sponsor for such project, in a manner that increases a community's resilience to drought conditions. This provision will allow the Secretary to include individual measures for water supply and water conservation in a recommendation for a water resources development project as well as to design the water resources development project itself in a manner that maximizes the project's incidental benefits for those purposes.

WRDA 2022 includes several provisions to enhance support for Tribal communities. Section 8111 of WRDA 2022 amends the Tribal Partnership Program established by section 203 of WRDA 2000. The amendments clarify that coastal storm risk management and erosion control projects fall within the program's scope. Additionally, section 8111 provides an alternative standard for justifying flood and coastal storm risk management projects, including erosion control and streambank stabilization projects, when such projects do not otherwise satisfy traditional standards for justification on the basis of economics or life safety.

Section 8113 of WRDA 2022 clarifies the Secretary's authority to develop a comprehensive plan to replace Indian villages, housing sites, and related structures impacted by construction of The Dalles Dam, Bonneville Dam, McNary Dam, and John Day Dam in Washington and Oregon. The managers intend for the Secretary to work with the affected Tribes to develop the plan. With the clarifications made in this Act, section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 should no longer be interpreted as restricting the Corps' authority to provide housing assistance at multiple village sites to mitigate impacts from construction of The Dalles Dam or from the construction of any of the other three dams.

Further, section 8114 of WRDA 2022 amends section 1156 of WRDA 1986 to clarify that the cost share waiver for Tribes and territories is to be applied to reduce only the non-Federal share of study and project costs. In response to this amendment, the managers intend for the Secretary to correct the implementation guidance for section 1119 of WRDA 2016, which mistakenly provides for the waiver amount to be applied to shared study costs instead of the non-Federal share of study costs.

Section 8130 of WRDA 2022 directs the Secretary to develop a strategic plan that identifies opportunities and challenges relating to furthering the policy of the United States to maximize the beneficial use of sediment

obtained from the construction and operation of the Corps' water resources development projects. In carrying out this section, the managers are aware of ongoing scientific research into the use of nutrient-rich dredged materials as a potential source of fertilizer for plant growth. The managers encourage the Corps, through its Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), to undertake an assessment on the beneficial use of sediment for such purposes, including an assessment of whether such use is cost-effective, sustainable, and safe for human health and the environment.

Section 8146 of WRDA 2022 authorizes the Secretary to carry out capital improvements for the Washington Aqueduct. The managers intend that the definition of customers found in this section means the existing legal entities that purchase potable water from the Washington Aqueduct, namely the Fairfax County Water Authority, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, and Arlington County, Virginia.

Section 8152 of WRDA 2022 authorizes the Secretary to provide assistance to pump stations when the failure of such pump stations would demonstrably impact the function of the federally authorized flood or coastal storm risk management project, which includes the impairment to water drainage from areas interior to a federally authorized flood or coastal storm risk management project. Congress directs the Secretary to consider this authority to provide such assistance to the Pointe Celeste Pump Station in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Section 8154 of WRDA 2022 authorizes the Secretary to carry out a pilot program to evaluate the extent to which the provision of temporary relocation assistance enhances the completeness, effectiveness, efficiency, acceptability, and equitable implementation of nonstructural flood and coastal storm risk management projects involving the elevation or modification of residential structures. The managers intend for the Secretary to offer the non-Federal interest for each project covered by the section an equal opportunity to participate in the program.

Section 8155 of WRDA 2022 directs the Secretary to continue construction projects that exceed or are expected to exceed maximum project cost limits during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2024. Though the Corps is still required to submit all relevant documentation to the House and Senate as required under section 902 of WRDA 1986, section 8155 ensures that supply change disruptions, inflation, and other factors contributing to rapid and unavoidable cost increases do not jeopardize the Corps' ability to execute the increased amounts of funding provided to the agency during this Congress to reinforce the nation's water infrastructure. Finally, in light of the number of Corps projects potentially requiring statutory cost increases that have only recently come to the attention of Congress, section 8155(b) establishes a new, permanent requirement that the Corps notify the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works of any water resources development project that exceeds or is expected to exceed its maximum cost under section 902 of WRDA 1986.

Section 8158 of WRDA 2022 directs the Secretary to establish a Western Water Cooperative Committee to help mitigate the potential for conflict between the operation of Corps projects and state water rights. A bipartisan coalition of 19 Western Senators wrote to the Office of Management and Budget on September 17, 2019, in opposition to the proposed rulemaking entitled ''Use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Projects for Domestic, Municipal & Industrial Water Supply'' (81 Fed. Reg. 91556 (December 16, 2016)), describing the rule as counter to existing law and court precedent. On January 21, 2020, the proposed rulemaking was withdrawn. The Corps should consult with the participating Western States to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that operation of flood control projects in such States is consistent with the principles of the first section of the Act of December 22, 1944, and section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958. Furthermore, the Western Water Cooperative Committee shall make recommendations that only apply to the defined list of Western States and ensure that any recommended changes or modifications to policy or regulations for Corps projects would not adversely affect water resources within other states.

Section 8160 of WRDA 2022 modernizes the Corps' authority to carry out research and development activities. Included in this section is a temporary authority for the Corps to utilize transactions other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants for purposes of prototype projects. The managers intend for the Corps to expedite implementation of this authority by relying on, to the maximum extent practicable, existing U.S. Department of Defense guidance on other transaction authority.

WRDA 2022 includes several provisions to support and enhance the delivery of public recreation benefits at Corps projects. The Corps operates more recreation areas than any other Federal or State agency, apart from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Nationally, visitors to nearly 600 Corpsmanaged dams and lakes spend an estimated $12 billion per year and support 500,000 jobs. Lakes managed by the Corps are economic drivers that support local communities. The managers remain concerned with the costs of ongoing operation and maintenance of these public recreation sites, which provide an enormous benefit to the country. Specifically, section 8161 of WRDA 2022 expresses the sense of Congress that the Secretary spend at least 80 percent of the revenue generated by each site on activities for the operation, maintenance, and upkeep of such site to encourage their continued use and economic benefit.

Section 8212 of WRDA 2022 directs the Corps to provide the County of San Luis Obispo, California, with right of first refusal for any potential conveyance of the project for Salinas Dam, California. The managers are aware that the County and the Corps have engaged in negotiations for several years regarding the disposition of the Salinas Dam project and associated infrastructure and reservoir. The managers direct the Corps to engage in a collaborative process with the County with the goal of transferring the facility to the County as expeditiously as possible under conditions that are acceptable to all parties. Further, the managers direct the Corps to not take any action that would preclude the Corps from serving as the Federal agency solely responsible for disposal of the facility unless the County agrees with an alternative approach and the managers are satisfied that all parties are best served by the alternative approach. In addition, the managers direct the Corps to not take any action that would in any way assign responsibility for the facility to any military installation or other Federal agency until collaborative negotiations are complete, and all parties are in agreement with a disposal plan.

Section 8303 of WRDA 2022 includes additional locations to an existing pilot program to utilize forecast informed reservoir operations (FIRO) at Corps owned dams and reservoirs. Additionally, the section authorizes a new pilot program in the North Atlantic Division. The managers urge the Secretary to ensure that sufficient budgetary resources are allocated to FIRO projects to more fully utilize this process in appropriate situations and to provide for the update of existing water operations control manuals to incorporate FIRO at reservoirs identified under the two pilot programs.

The final version of Section 8327 of WRDA 2022 substantially incorporates the language contained in the original section 309 of the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776. Although an authorization of appropriations has been added to subsection (c) of section 8327 for future major maintenance, the managers do not intend for this paragraph to impose a requirement for additional funds to be appropriated to implement this subsection for the currently planned major maintenance if sufficient amounts are available in the existing allocation for major maintenance of the Indian River Inlet navigation project.

Section 8346 of WRDA 2022 authorizes and directs the Corps to carry out water level management activities as part of the operation and maintenance of the navigation channel projects on the Upper Mississippi River and on the Illinois River (also called the Illinois Waterway) to help redress sedimentation and to improve the quality and quantity of habitat available for fish and wildlife. Because studies have shown that water level management activities carried out by the Corps produce important ecosystem benefits, the managers intend that such activities be routinely carried out and conducted as part of the operations and maintenance of the navigation channels as quickly as possible, and prior to the routine update of water control manuals for the covered projects.

Section 8363 of WRDA 2022 states that the non-Federal interest for the project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Colleton County, South Carolina, may be eligible to receive credit for construction and design work carried out by the non-Federal interest before a partnership agreement is executed for the specified project. The managers have agreed to this language based on the understanding from the Corps that all applicable laws and regulations, including the Davis-Bacon Act, would need to have been complied with for the work of the non-Federal interest to be creditable.

WRDA 2022 authorizes significant new Federal investments in environmental infrastructure for communities across the nation. The managers intend for the Secretary to interpret all environmental infrastructure authorities to include, at a minimum, assistance for water supply storage, distribution, and treatment; wastewater collection and treatment; drainage; stormwater management; surface water resource protection and development; and water quality enhancement. Additional purposes may be expressly authorized for individual programs. With respect to implementation of specific programs, the managers intend for the additional appropriations authorized under section 8376(b)(8) for the environmental infrastructure authority authorized under section 594 of WRDA 1999 to be administered in a manner consistent with the previous funding authorized under section 594. Further, the managers intend for the Water Replenishment District of Southern California to be eligible for assistance under Section 219(f)(93) of WRDA 1992, as amended by section 8375(b)(2)(C) of the WRDA 2022.

OTHER POLICY MATTERS

Both the House and Senate committee reports on the chambers' respective WRDA 2022 bills include direction on implementation of previously enacted authorities. To the extent consistent with the Act and this statement, the managers intend for the Secretary

to follow the direction on previously enacted authorities provided in those reports.

In addition to the direction in the House and Senate committee reports on previously enacted authorities, the managers encourage the Corps to continue to explicate comprehensive documentation of benefits in project planning. As the Secretary implements the Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies, as directed by section 110 of WRDA 2020, the managers expect these agency-specific procedures to foster a comprehensive, consistent, and clear assessment in project planning documents that allows for full participation by project sponsors.

Further, the managers seek to clarify the scope of existing authorities for periodic renourishment and mitigation of shore damages attributable to Federal navigation projects.

To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary is directed to provide periodic nourishment in accordance with subsection (c) of the first section of the Act of August 13, 1946, and subject to section 156 of WRDA 1976, for projects and measures carried out for the purpose of restoring and increasing the resilience of ecosystems to the same extent as periodic nourishment is provided for projects and measures carried out for the purpose of coastal storm risk management.

For all future projects to mitigate shore damage attributable to navigation projects under section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, the Secretary is instructed that shores damaged by navigation features and projects for which the Corps has assumed responsibility through any method, including the Cape Cod Canal, are eligible for assistance under the section. Although the Cape Cod Canal jetties were initially constructed by private interests, the Cape Cod Canal project has been under Federal control for over 100 years. The Federal Government owns the project and has reconstructed, operated, maintained, repaired, and rehabilitated the project numerous times since acquiring the channel. The project does not have a non-Federal sponsor. This section provides clear authority for the Secretary to implement mitigation measures to address the shore damage caused by the Cape Cod Canal jetties at full Federal expense. The Secretary is directed to exercise this authority without further delay. Further, the Secretary is directed in the future to apply this section in a manner that does not preclude Federal participation in the cost to mitigate damages caused by a navigation project or feature solely because the project or feature was initially constructed by a nonFederal entity.

The managers remain concerned about the impacts of drought to the nation's water supply, including the current drought in the State of California and other arid States. Section 221 of WRDA 2020 directed the Corps to submit a report to Congress on the benefits and consequences of including water supply and water conservation as a primary mission of the Corps. Section 221 of WRDA 2020 directed this report be transmitted to Congress by June 2022; however, the Corps has now significantly missed this statutory deadline on an issue of critical importance to communities concerned about long-term water supply availability. The managers direct the Corps to prioritize and expedite completion of this report, and to provide a bipartisan briefing to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works within 90 days of the date of enactment of this Act on the status of such report.

During consideration of WRDA 2022, the managers received a request related to public safety at federally authorized hurricane and storm damage reduction projects, such a the project at Cape May Beach in Cape May, New Jersey. The managers encourage the Secretary to work with the State of New Jersey, the non-Federal sponsors of similar hurricane and storm damage reduction projects in the region, and other interested stakeholders and public safety officials to examine whether the rate of head, neck, and spine injuries sustained at Cape May Beach as reported by the New Jersey Department of Health and the City of Cape May Beach Patrol is similar to or differs from those reported at other federally authorized projects in the region.

The managers received a request related to the Corps' use of its existing authority to perform advance maintenance of the nation's federally authorized navigation channels. These channels are essential to keeping the international supply chain open and operating efficiently during this period of economic recovery. The managers strongly urge the Corps to make optimum use of available authorities to ensure that these waterways are adequately maintained and able to accommodate global shipping needs and generate economic benefits during this critical time. The use of advance maintenance can be particularly impactful in channels with high shoaling areas. Over time these areas naturally silt in and are especially vulnerable to the advent of more intense storms, and repeated advance maintenance efforts may be necessary to guard against depth reductions which can lead to draft restrictions for larger global vessels. The managers encourage the Corps to maintain Federal channels at their approved advance maintenance depth.

The managers are aware that the Corps utilizes a wide range of platforms, sensors, and other technologies to conduct a range of research and monitoring activities, including the use of uncrewed platforms and sensor packages. The managers encourage the Secretary, in coordination with the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), to consider establishing an Uncrewed Systems Innovation Center to ensure the appropriate development and utilization of innovative uncrewed technologies, including autonomous, remotely operated airborne, terrestrial, and maritime vehicle systems.

The managers received a request to consolidate the management of all active Miami-Dade County water resource projects into the Jacksonville District. The managers encourage the Corps to transfer project management of the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Feasibility Management from the Norfolk District to the Jacksonville District.

The managers received several requests related to the potential modification of lock and dam structures on the inland waterways system to allow for remote operations, including concerns with the vulnerability of remote operations to cyber-attacks and the potential impact of remote operations on current Corps' employees. The managers remind the Secretary that section 222(b)(1)(B)(V) of WRDA 2020 set forth a security framework for studies carried out by the Corps. Results from that effort should be used to address cyber security concerns for Corps structures, particularly locks and dams, that utilize remote supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) type products for automation control systems as part of the Corps' national security interests. The managers request a bipartisan briefing on these activities. The managers also recognize that remote lock operations along commercial and recreational waterways can increase the availability and capacity of the locks, especially in lower-use waterways, and can support other economic drivers in counties throughout America. The managers received a request to consider potential expansion of remote operations to additional locations, such as in the Upper Allegheny Locks in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. However, the managers remind the Secretary of recent Congressional action to statutorily declare Corps' lock and dam employees as inherently governmental and direct the Secretary to report to the managers on any potential workforce impacts of any proposed automation and remote operations activity before they are carried out, and to ensure that any recommendations in a completed study will not result in the loss of jobs for current lock and dam employees.

As part of the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project in Kern County, California, the Corps is building the U.S. Forest Service a new visitor center to replace a facility that was demolished due to this project. The managers note discussion on this visitor center started a decade ago, but understands the Corps is now in the process of acquiring private property on which to build this facility from a willing seller. Accordingly, the managers support the Corps efforts on this project and direct the Corps to continue to work expeditiously to bring this visitor center to fruition.

The managers direct the Corps to consult with the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake to validate proposed solutions to resolve water supply needs and eliminate overdraft in the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin in California. This validation effort shall review and develop measures needed to provide water supply resiliency in the basin and for the critical Federal defense assets that overlie it, including, but not limited to, the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, implementation, utilization, conservation, or importation of water, infrastructure needs, and related land resources in the basin. Such plans shall consider the potential and projected water supply needs of the critical defense assets and future growth within the basin. The Corps is directed to report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works within 180 days of enactment of this Act on the validation effort.

The Success Reservoir Enlargement Project was authorized by section 101(b)(4) of WRDA 1999 to improve both flood damage protection and water supply in Tulare County, California. In House Report 116–460, the managers previously encouraged the Corps to advance this project. The managers note their support for this project and continue to encourage the Corps to expedite this project through completion.

The managers received a request related to completion of the Comite Diversion project, Louisiana, authorized as part of the project for flood control, Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, pursuant to section 101(11) of WRDA 1992. The managers direct the Secretary and any other relevant agencies to take all steps necessary to ensure completion of the project as quickly as possible. The managers request, within 90 days of the date of the filing of this report, that the Secretary provide a bipartisan briefing on the status of completion of the project.

The Port Fourchon, Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, navigation project, authorized in WRDA 2020, features as a key component 100 percent beneficial use disposal of project dredge material. The managers are encouraged that progress has been made between the Corps and the non-Federal sponsor in designating a beneficial use disposal site

that will meet National Economic Development goals, as well as satisfy the local community's need for beneficial use disposal at impacted coastal areas. The Corps is expected to provide the non-Federal sponsor with a revised Project Management Plan (PMP), delineating tasks and costs associated with addressing remaining conditions contained in the Port Fourchon, Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, authorization, including a revised dredge material disposal plan that will designate the beneficial use disposal site. As such, the managers direct the Secretary to negotiate and complete a PMP that is satisfactory to the Secretary and the non-Federal sponsor, including the selection of a beneficial use disposal site agreed upon by the nonFederal sponsor, as soon as possible.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes history as the fifth consecutive water resources development bill, the first time in the history of the United States Congress this has been done.

It authorizes 25 construction reports of the Chief of the Corps of Engineers, essential to Portland, Oregon; Tacoma, Washington; Selma, Alabama; and right here in Washington, D.C.

The bill also meets the challenge of climate change, even though some deny it exists, by rebuilding and maintaining critical navigation jetties and breakwaters to dimensions necessary to address sea-level rise and extreme weather events, impacts of coastal storms, and inland flooding. It also addresses future water supply needs in the arid West and works to make communities more resilient.

For the first time in over a decade, it significantly expands the Corps' environmental infrastructure authorities to assist more communities in addressing their drinking water and wastewater needs.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Finally, it also includes the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022, authorizing $13.6 billion and $14.5 billion for the next year for much-needed shoreside infrastructure.

It also authorizes a third polar security cutter. The Russians have 20 icebreakers. The Arctic is opening up. We need a third cutter, and then we need the smaller cutters.

I thank Ranking Member GRAVES, Chair NAPOLITANO, Ranking Member ROUZER, Chair CARBAJAL, Ranking Member GIBBS, and all of my staff for their tremendous work on this committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. DEFAZIO on those icebreakers. It is just inexcusable that we don't have that capability.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time until the chairman is ready to close.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I know how hard the chairman works. I would have preferred the mark of the President's budget, but this is hard fought and hard won.

I thank the chairman for the raise that has been given to our servicemen, their housing allowances. Let me thank him for this important research stream to the historically Black colleges and for Ukraine.

Let me also thank him for what we have fought for in the name of Vanessa Guillen, and that is a new protocol for the sexual assault that occurs in our military branches. Let me not point out a particular one.

Let me also stand on this floor and say hostage Brittney Griner has come home. That is a testament to what America is all about. I thank all those who played a role and indicate that, as she has come home and her family is ecstatic, I remind everyone that former marine Paul Whelan should be brought home, as well.

I thank President Biden for working on making sure there is an authorization bill that really responds to the people of the United States military. I am delighted that the amendments dealing with breast cancer that I offered were included, $10 million for triple-negative breast cancer. I am delighted for the PTSD funding, $2.5 million, that I offered, as well, to ensure that the people of the military are taken care of. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize the importance.

Brittney Griner is home.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to express my support for the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2023.

Congress has the solemn duty to ensure that those who wear the uniform of the United States—and those civilians who provide logistical and operational support—have the equipment, training, and resources needed to carry out and complete their mission.

And we must never forget that a grateful nation has a sacred obligation, in the words of President Lincoln, "to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

This legislation rises to meet that mandate admirably in myriad ways, from providing a 4.6 percent pay raise for service members to increasing funding for housing, childcare, and improved food for service members.

Importantly, the bill provides over $131 million in funding for research at HBCUs—a 22.8 percent increase—which improves integration of HBCUs into our country's national defense research and development infrastructure.

These are important measures because, as the DoD is the largest federal agency, the wide scope of activities covered by the NDAA impact every sector of our economy and every facet of American life. The activities funded by the NDAA are, in effect, a microcosm of the activities of the United States, and, as such, they must set the tone for how these issues are to be addressed in our country's other industries and communities.

Of course, the main purpose they serve is to protect our country and strengthen our national defense. So, I am pleased that this bill reinforces our capacity to meet the challenges posed by Russia's aggression in Ukraine, China's increasing agitation in the South China Sea, non-state terrorist groups, cyber-attacks, and other threats to our country.

I am especially pleased that this bill adopts a modern yet long-term approach to our national defense by embracing innovative strategies, emerging technologies, workforce diversity and inclusion, preparation for asymmetric combat, and operational continuity and resilience.

In furtherance of these essential principles and methods, I offered amendments to the NDAA when it came to the floor of the House in July, and I am very pleased that the legislation before us today includes my amendments which I would like to summarize.

My amendment #191 authorizes a $2.5 million increase in funding to combat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and I thank my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for adding the full $2.5 million increase into this legislation.

PTSD was first brought to public attention in relation to war veterans, but it can result from a variety of traumatic incidents, such as torture, being kidnapped or held captive, bombings, or natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes. According to the NIH, an estimated 3.6 percent of U.S. adults had PTSD in the past year.

People with PTSD may startle easily, become emotionally numb (especially in relation to people with whom they used to be close), lose interest in things they used to enjoy, have trouble feeling affectionate, be irritable, become more aggressive, or even become violent.

Most people with PTSD repeatedly relive the trauma in their thoughts during the day and in nightmares when they sleep. These are called flashbacks. A person having a flashback may lose touch with reality and believe that the traumatic incident is happening all over again.

My amendment recognizes that the soldiers afflicted with PTSD are, first and foremost, human. They carry their experiences with them. Ask a veteran of Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan about the frequency of nightmares they experience, and one will realize that serving in the Armed Forces leaves a lasting impression, whether good or bad.

My amendment will help ensure that "no soldier is left behind" by addressing the urgent need for more outreach toward hard-to-reach veterans suffering from PTSD, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas of our country.

My amendment #194 authorizes a $10 million increase in funding for increased collaboration between the DoD Office of Health and the National Institutes of Health to research and combat Triple Negative Breast Cancer. I am very pleased that my colleagues added the full $10 million increase into the bill.

As a Member of Congress, a mother, a sister and a spouse, and a breast cancer survivor, I feel a special responsibility to do all I can to ensure that every American can defeat all types of cancer, and especially triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). We must increase our efforts to protect women in the military, and women who are spouses of service members, from this virulent and lethal illness.

The 13–25 percent of breast cancers that are triple-negative disproportionately afflict

Black women. Although the rate of all breast cancers is 10 percent lower in Black women than white women, Black women are 3 times more likely to suffer from triple negative breast cancer than are white women. In 2013, the American Cancer Society estimated that 27,000 Black women are diagnosed with the illness annually.

African American women who are diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer—an especially aggressive type of cancer which often occurs at younger ages than other breast cancers—have a five year survival rate of 78 percent after diagnosis as compared to 90 percent for white women.

The key to beating this cancer is early detection, and the DoD's health care system for women service members and women who are spouses of service members can enable early detection.

A 2007 study of more than 50,000 women with all stages of breast cancer found that 77 percent of women with triple-negative breast cancer survived at least 5 years, versus 93 percent women with other types of breast cancer. Another study of more than 1,600 women published in 2007 found that women with triple-negative breast cancer had a higher risk of death within 5 years of diagnosis.

By prioritizing this very lethal condition, the DoD can make great strides in protecting women from triple negative breast cancer's worst effects.

My amendment #199 directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that candidates granted admission to attend a military academy undergo screening for speech disorders and be provided appropriate opportunities and supportive services.

Academy students should have the option of undergoing speech therapy to reduce speech disorders or impediments.

I am pleased that Report Language was added that cites the DoD's recent attention to this issue, and states, in part, that the DoD is now ''noting the availability of medical waivers in certain circumstances for physical or medical standards, providing the Reading Aloud Test administered to applicants,'' and very importantly, ''describing the availability of speech therapy.''

My amendment #195 directs the Secretary of Defense to audit current practices for the administration of sexual harassment claims and submit a report detailing efforts to prevent sexual harassment and protect service members, and compiling data and research on sexual harassment prevalence in the military, cases reported, legal proceedings, and convictions.

Sexual assault is endemic in our military, especially for female service members. Streamlining and auditing the process of reporting sexual assault protects victims and is a necessary step in weeding out abusers.

I am very pleased that this bill advances key reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice to prevent sexual harassment and abuse by:

placing sexual harassment and related sexual offenses in the jurisdiction of the Special Trial Counsel;

requiring independent trained investigators outside of the immediate chain of command to investigate claims of sexual harassment;

requiring the randomization of court-martial panels;

expanding reporting requirements on the implementation of the New Special Trial Counsel program; and

permitting the Secretary of Defense to expand restricted reporting of sexual assault for civilian employees rather than relegating them to only filing unrestricted reports with the military.

In light of these measures to reform the enforcement process against sexual offenses, I am pleased that, as a result of my amendment, Report Language has been added, stating that, ''. . . the matters addressed in this provision are routinely addressed in the Department's Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military.''

My amendment #190 requires a report to be submitted to Congress within 240 days following enactment on the risks posed by debris in low earth orbit and to make recommendations on remediation of risks and outline plans to reduce the incident of space debris.

Man-made objects in Earth's orbit that become space debris no longer serve a useful function, yet their impact can pose serious risks to personnel in orbiting spacecraft, satellites, and essential systems since they travel at speeds up to 17,500 miles per hour. Space debris includes nonfunctional spacecraft, abandoned launch vehicle stages, mission-related debris, and fragmentation debris.

I am very pleased that my amendment led to inclusion of bill language requiring the Secretary of Defense to respond to a reporting requirement regarding space debris that was included in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 specific to defense and national security space assets.

My amendment #198 requires the National Guard Bureau, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to submit to Congress and others in 2023, 2024, and 2025 a report identifying the personnel, training, and equipment needed by the non-federal National Guard to prevent, mitigate, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

Hurricane Harvey's impact in Texas was so severe that it lingered for years. The storm's footprint covered over 9,000 square miles, including the city of Houston. Hurricane Harvey dropped over 52 inches of rain in the Houston area. At its peak, one-third of Houston was underwater, leaving 34,575 evacuees in shelters across Texas.

The scope and magnitude of these dueling disasters tested the National Guard and Reservists in unprecedented ways. To prepare for major natural disasters in the future, this amendment requires a readiness report by the National Guard and Reservists to make sure they have what they need to assist communities in need of disaster assistance.

My amendment will help the National Guard help communities prepare for disasters, respond to them, and rebuild from them. It will improve the ability to support the important mission of the National Guard and Reservists to engage in disaster response.

Thus, I am pleased that bill language was included to require the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to include in the National Guard Bureau unfunded priorities list any unfunded priorities related to non-Federal National Guard responsibilities in connection with natural and man-made disasters.

My amendment #197 requires the Secretary of the Navy, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, to submit to Congress a report on desalinization technology's application for defense and national security purposes to provide drought relief to areas impacted by sharp declines in water resources.

I am pleased my amendment resulted in Report Language stating that, ''We are aware of the importance of expeditionary desalinization capabilities to crisis scenarios, including natural disasters. Accordingly, we direct the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than August 1, 2023, outlining the current inventory and usage of desalinization systems, planned future investments into technologies and systems, and any current and projected future needs for expeditionary water purification that may not be met by current and planned capabilities.''

My amendment #189 requires a report to be submitted within 220 days following enactment on the Capacity to Provide Disaster Survivors with Emergency Short Term Housing.

As we witnessed in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, as well as other major natural disasters, enormous swaths of the population are displaced, communities are unlivable with no prospect for near-term rebuilding or restoration, and there is an enormous unmet need for emergency housing.

Because of the need to prepare for the consequences of future major natural disasters, I thank my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for including bill language that effectuates my amendment by directing the development and submission of a report that will help enable disaster survivors to access emergency short term housing.

My amendment #59 recognizes that Black men and women have played an integral role in our nation's defense: from the bravery of Crispus Attucks, an escaped slave, during the Boston Massacre, to today. The amendment would address the historical and current barriers to Black Americans' participation and equal treatment in the Armed Services.

The racial inequality and mistreatment of Black men and women that has historically permeated our military continues to this day, with more than 750 complaints of racial or ethnic discrimination from service members in fiscal year 2020 alone.

But discrimination doesn't exist just within the military rank-and-file, as in FY2020, civilians working in the financial, technical and support sectors of the Army, Air Force and Navy filed 900 complaints of racial discrimination and over 350 complaints of discrimination by skin color, as data from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reveals.

According to a report by the Defense Department's Diversity and Inclusion Board, while the enlisted ranks of the active and reserve military were ''slightly more racially and ethnically diverse than its U.S. civilian counterparts,'' the opposite was true for the officer corps.

We owe it to those brave men and women who have proven time and time again to be an integral part of our military to examine the Armed Services' history of discrimination and to determine the necessary steps to repair the harm caused by these inequities.

I am very pleased by the inclusion of report language acknowledging the history of inequities and stating in part, ''Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than May 1, 2023, on those current and future efforts in support of a more inclusive force. The brief

shall include resources allocated, lessons learned, how such efforts advance our strategic national security and readiness postures in support of the National Security Strategy and the Department's National Defense Strategy, and any such other information as the Secretary deems appropriate.''

My amendment #193 condemns the actions of Boko Haram and directs that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General, submit a report on efforts to combat Boko Haram.

I am pleased that, as a result of my amendment, report language was included stating that, ''We direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than June 1, 2023, to brief the congressional defense committees on the activities and initiatives undertaken by the Department of Defense to assist the Government of Nigeria and countries in the Lake Chad Basin to combat Boko Haram, al-Qaeda affiliates, and other terrorist organizations while respecting and protecting human rights and promoting respect for the rule of law.''

My amendment #192 requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress about programs and procedures that ensure students studying abroad through Department of Defense National Security Education Programs are trained to recognize, resist, and report against recruitment efforts by agents of foreign governments.

Because of the need for American students who are studying abroad to be protected from risks and dangers presented by agents of foreign governments, I am pleased that my amendment has resulted in bill language that effectuates my amendment by requiring that a report developed and submitted to Congress about the programs and procedures that are being undertaken to protect these Americans studying abroad.

My amendment #196 directs the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress in not less than 180 days the actions taken to protect U.S. armed service personnel from armed attacks conducted by militants and terrorists in pursuit of bounties and inducements the agencies, organizations, or entities aligned with the Russian Federation.

I am pleased that my amendment resulted in the inclusion of report language stating in part, ''. . . we direct the Secretary of Defense, not later than June 1, 2023, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on actions taken to protect servicemembers and U.S. personnel from armed attacks conducted in pursuit of bounties or inducements offered by agencies, organizations, or entities aligned with Russia.''

Madam Speaker, I applaud my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee, as well as their Senate counterparts, and the committee staff in each chamber for their extraordinary work crafting this extensive, multi-faceted, visionary legislation that will strengthen our national defense both in the current fiscal year and for many years to come.

I would also like to express my appreciation to my colleagues on the committee for recognizing the value that my amendments bring to our national defense infrastructure and maintaining them in the final language that is before us today.

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

□ 1245

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

There are so many people to thank in this process, and we have done that, and there are a number of Members who are leaving committee, staff members who are leaving, as well. But I do want to take just a moment to thank three Members in particular on the Democratic side: certainly, Mr. LANGEVIN, who is presiding over this appropriately; Ms. SPEIER; and Mr. COOPER, who are our three subcommittee chairs.

During the 4 years that we were in the majority, all three chaired subcommittees, and delivered as much consequential legislation on the Armed Services Committee as I have seen.

The leadership on all the different areas has just been invaluable. It will be very difficult to replace. Certainly, Jim's leadership on the Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems Subcommittee—the only thing about it is your subcommittee is a mouthful to keep up with. I would just say ''CITI,'' trying to remember what exactly it all stands for, but it is information technology, it is cyber, it is the guts of what makes our national security apparatus run, basically; the information systems that we have to make sure they are robust, effective, and protected.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to myself.

Mr. COOPER, of course, more than anything brought us the Space Force, and his leadership on space has been invaluable.

Ms. SPEIER's leadership on personnel; I cannot imagine a more tenacious advocate for protecting the men and women who serve in our military than JACKIE SPEIER. Her leadership has delivered real results and made a very strong statement.

All three of you will be sorely missed.

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 gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his tremendous leadership to protect and defend the American people and our Constitution. I thank the gentleman for his kind words about my colleague from San Francisco, JACKIE SPEIER, for her leadership on behalf of the men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, what an honor it is to speak on this important legislation with you in the chair, a champion for the security of the American people, whether on the Armed Services Committee, the Intelligence Committee, other initiatives, whether it is cybersecurity or the rest, you have been a leader. You have taught us a lot about your areas of expertise and more, and because of you, we were able, on one of the anniversaries of the ADA, to change the infrastructure of the House so that you could preside.

Mr. Speaker, you were the first to preside, and now as we come to the end of your service and your leadership in the Congress—not in the world—that you should be in the chair is an honor for all of us. You bring honor to this Congress, to that position, and I thank you for your service and your leadership, Mr. LANGEVIN of Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this year's strong bipartisan, bicameral National Defense Authorization Act, the foundation of America's national security priorities.

This legislation honors our fundamental charge under the United States Constitution to provide for the common defense. That is why Democrats have fought tirelessly to invest in our Nation's greatest sources of strength, from our heroic servicemen and -women and their families to promoting American leadership around the globe.

Thanks to the distinguished chair of the Armed Services Committee, ADAM SMITH, as well as the ranking member, MIKE ROGERS, and all the members of the committee and staff for your tireless work assembling this bipartisan, bicameral legislative package. That is what makes it stronger, its bipartisanship.

I would like to talk about some of the things that are in the legislation because as our country grows and our needs are greater, the cost goes up, as well. But how those resources are prioritized is very important to our colleagues who are making their vote known to the public to whom we are accountable to understand our definition of strength.

That starts with the deeply deserved 4.6 percent pay raise to help ease the sting of inflation for our men and women in uniform. We are also empowering the Pentagon to raise the basic housing allowance, bringing down food prices by directing more funding to commissaries, and expanding support for childcare services; meaning the personal needs of our personnel are so very important, and this legislation does just that.

Building on the sweeping progress in last year's NDAA to combat sexual assault in the military, this year we require independently trained investigators outside the immediate chain of command to investigate claims of sexual harassment, as well. Our colleague JACKIE SPEIER was so important in all of that.

Importantly, we blocked an anti-choice demand to eliminate the right to travel to access legal abortion for servicemembers stationed in a State that criminalizes reproductive health. Because for Democrats, health freedom is a value for every woman everywhere.

Additionally, this legislation delivers a record amount of funding for research and development at America's HBCUs and steers additional funding to

other minority-serving institutions. This is so important because Democrats—and now Republicans—know that we must build a diverse, inclusive national security workforce, one reflective of our Nation.

By investing in these essential engines of opportunity, we expand the talent pipeline and make sure our Nation's brightest minds will help solve our toughest national security challenges with inclusiveness, with diversity, with our best.

At the same time, we are investing in America's global preeminence. It is a national security imperative to honor our troops with cutting-edge technologies, equipping them to tackle complex 21st century threats. You know this so well, Mr. Speaker, as does our chair and ranking member. We are harnessing the power of clean energy to ensure that our defense facilities and vehicle fleets are resilient to climate change.

Meanwhile, we are nurturing a growing semiconductor industry which we reinvigorated earlier this year with the CHIPS and Science Act.

Now, the NDAA will require government contracts to use chips that are made in America: creating good-paying jobs here at home, securing our supply chains, and bolstering our economic competitiveness.

This year's NDAA also makes robust progress to promote American leadership in the global arena. The safety of families here at home depends on international security and stability.

So with this legislation, we ensure that America and our allies maintain a military and qualitative edge in strategic regions across the world, investing more than $11 billion in the Pacific Deterrence Initiative; securing more than $6 billion for the European Deterrence Initiative; and further support for Ukraine's fight for freedom through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.

Indeed, Democrats know that the security of our Nation is not only measured in our military might, but also in the health, strength, and our well-being, and the respect we have for our partners.

As I draw to a conclusion—I didn't say close—I just want to salute the people of Ukraine and President Zelenskyy for their courage. In fighting for their democracy, they are fighting for our democracy and the democracies of their neighbors in Europe, as well, and really throughout the world. So, we have a moral responsibility, as well as a practical one, to support our Ukraine initiatives.

Importantly, there are two additional provisions the Democrats fought to attach to this legislative package. The first is a version of the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act, a long-sought Democratic priority to make it easier for Federally employed firefighters who contract certain diseases to qualify for Federal workers' compensation.

Our firefighters are our nobility. They risk their lives, putting their lives on the line to protect our families, our homes, our communities from devastation. With this provision, we take another step to deliver the benefits they are entitled to that they have earned.

The second initiative, and very consequential, is the oceans package. It is a very important and, I understand, bipartisan initiative closely negotiated with military leaders. This bipartisan legislation is a force for America's national security and economic competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, 4 in 10 Americans live in coastal counties, and the well-being of every family depends on strong, secure water sources. By taking action to conserve our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, we are protecting jobs and businesses, ensuring resilient access to clean water, and preserving invaluable aquatic life and their natural habitat.

Our military leaders repeatedly have told us that the climate crisis is a top threat facing our Nation. The climate crisis is a security issue. So we are also modernizing the NOAA Corps and securing more hurricane hunter aircrafts to help protect communities from extreme weather and climate disaster.

Mr. Speaker, today, we are confronting threats to democracy here and around the world. Again, I would, in closing, once again salute President Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine. Their fight for democracy is ours, as well. We have not only a moral but also a strategic responsibility to continue to support their fearless fight as we do in this legislation.

In order to uphold our sacred responsibility and ensure that Americans are safe and America is secure, I urge a strong bipartisan vote for the NDAA. Then, we will send it to the Senate and on to the President to become the law of the land. My understanding is that there is agreement between the House and the Senate in a bipartisan way as we send this on.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROGERS for his great leadership in all of this.

On a separate note, we are overjoyed that Brittney Griner is on her way home after the President's tireless and focused work to secure her release. Earlier today, we passed the Marriage Protection Act, and we are so happy that she will be joining her wife when she comes home.

Again, Congress remains firmly committed to supporting the administration as it continues to work to secure the release of Paul Whelan and all those who Putin has unjustly detained. I just saw on the news as I was coming over here that Paul Whelan said the President made the right decision to get Brittney, trade for that, and then keep the focus to get him free.

Again, I support Chair SMITH and Ranking Member ROGERS for their great leadership in accomplishing a bipartisan, strong bill that again keeps our country strong and measures our might in terms of our hardware, of course, but also, in terms of the people who keep us strong. We are deeply in their debt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong bipartisan vote.

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

I want to close by thanking Chairman SMITH. There is no better partner that I could have, and I am grateful for his leadership.

I also want to thank Chairman REED and Ranking Member INHOFE. As many know, JIM INHOFE is retiring at the end of this Congress. Throughout his decades of service, he has been a consistent champion for our men and women in uniform. It was very fitting and appropriate that we name this year's NDAA after JIM INHOFE.

Finally, I thank our staff on both sides of the aisle for their tireless work on this product. I thank the staff of legislative counsel and the CBO for their tremendous contributions, as well.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 81st anniversary of the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor. In its aftermath, we built the strongest military in the world with a mission to protect the greatest Nation on Earth. This bill before us today will ensure our military can continue to carry out that sacred mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I can't say it any better than the Speaker said. I think that was just an outstanding summary of the work we have done, why that work matters, and of the policy that we have put forward here.

Once again, we have come together in a bipartisan, bicameral way to pass an excellent piece of legislation that reflects our values and supports the men and women who serve in our military. It gives us the opportunity to meet our national security requirements. It has been an outstanding process with pretty much everybody in this body participating in it in one way or another and producing an outstanding product.

I will close by urging all Members to vote in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2023. I thank everyone for their work, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Chairman DEFAZIO, Ranking Member GRAVES, and Ranking Member ROUZER in bringing to the floor the bipartisan and bicameral Water Resources Development Act of 2022.

The Water Resources Development Act is our legislative commitment to investing in and protecting our communities from flooding events, restoring our environment and ecosystems, and keeping our Nation's competitiveness by supporting our ports and harbors.

Through the biennial enactment of WRDA legislation, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has addressed local, regional, and national needs through authorization of new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, studies, and policies that benefit every corner of the Nation.

We held 4 hearings in preparation for this bill including a Member Day hearing. We had a formal process to receive legislative, policy and project ideas from Members which resulted in over 1,500 ideas submitted to us by Members. I thank all Members for engaging with the Committee on this bill and advocating for the needs of your districts. We were able to incorporate most of the requests from Members into this bill.

I am particularly thankful that we were able to make a commitment in this WRDA to address the needs of tribal and disadvantaged communities. The bill requires the Army Corps of Engineers to improve outreach to these communities by creating liaison programs in each Corps district region across the country. WRDA includes provisions to develop technical assistance programs that provide guidance to tribal communities on water resource projects, identify opportunities and challenges on existing Corps projects, and provide planning assistance for future projects. The bill gives Corps personnel the training and tools to effectively address issues on tribal lands of ancestral, historic, and cultural significance, including burial grounds.

WRDA also continues the effort that we started 10 years ago to improve water supply at Corps dams by addressing managed aquifer replenishment so that dams can hold water for recharge to local ground water basins. The bill addresses the buildup and removal of sediment in reservoirs to improve the operations and capacity of dams. The bill requires the Corps to take a particular focus on infrastructure in the west to evaluate opportunities to improve water management, water supply, and address the impacts of climate change.

The bill continues congress's goal of improving dam safety by assessing the status of all dams maintained by the Corps and determining the needs for rehabilitation, retrofit, or removal.

The bill includes bipartisan legislation Ranking Member ROUZER and I introduced titled H.R. 7762, the Army Corps of Engineers Military Personnel Augmentation Act. It amends an outdated 1956 law, which is prohibitive against current soldiers who have the technical skills to provide engineering support to the civil works mission of the Army Corps.

In 1956, there were very few NCOs with advanced degrees, so it was presumed that only commissioned officers would be properly trained to handle Civil Works responsibilities. However, since that time and the development of the professional army, there are many NCOs, National Guard Officers, and Warrant Officers with advanced engineering and technical skills, and it no longer makes sense to exclude them from positions in Civil Works. This change is supported by the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Engineers, and the National Guard Association of the United States.

The bill also provides for hundreds of local concerns throughout the country. I am proud that this bill transfers the authorization of 31 debris basins in my region to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. These debris basins are locally owned, and have been successfully operated and maintained by Los Angeles County for decades. This provision will formalize the current operation of these debris basins.

WRDA includes authorizations for the development of stormwater, sewer, and ecosystem restoration projects in the San Gabriel Valley and greater Los Angeles County. This will improve flood protection and boost local water supply at the same time by investing in spreading grounds, dam infrastructure, and treatment operations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the many people who have helped this bill become a reality. Thank you to the leadership at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Assistant Secretary Connor, Lieutenant General Spellmon, and their incredible staff who have worked through over a thousand submissions we received for WRDA 2022.

I am very fortunate to have some of the best water leaders in the country in my district and Southern California who provided valuable input for this bill including Col. Julie Balten of the Los Angeles District, Los Angeles County Supervisors Hilda Solis and Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Public Works Director Mark Pestrella, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, and San Gabriel Valley Watermaster Tony Zampiello.

I would particularly like to thank the Subcommittee Ranking Member DAVID ROUZER for his friendship and collegiality through the hearings and meetings that led to this bipartisan accomplishment. And most importantly I would like to thank the incredible water subcommittee staff including Alexa Williams, Logan Ferree, Michael Bauman, Ryan Seiger, Ryan Hambleton, and the rest of the majority and minority staff.

I urge my colleagues to support WRDA 2022.

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). In addition to critical resources for our defense programs and our service members, this bill also includes two critical bills from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Don Young Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2022, and the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This bill also includes the Intelligence Authorization Act, including my new requirements to address the threat of hypersonic weapons.

The underlying bill also includes my amendment authorizing an increase in funding to fight pancreatic cancer, which sadly claimed the lives of our beloved colleagues John Lewis and Alcee Hastings. The $5 million dollar increase will help develop better and earlier detection of pancreatic cancer, which will help save lives.

Another provision included in this bill is my amendment to the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act, which improves access to benefits, and provides injured firefighters or their families more time to file documentation for assistance claims.

These are all important provisions, but I'd like to take a few moments now to highlight the long-overdue changes to safety requirements for passenger vessels.

The Coast Guard Reauthorization Act will increase maritime safety and efficiency, including my Duck Boat Safety Improvement Act, which is now Section 11502 in the NDAA. I am especially grateful to Chairman DEFAZIO for working with me over several years to develop this language, which will finally address the persistent problems with unsafe vessels, and including my Duck Boat Safety Improvement Act in today's NDAA.

My Duck Boat Safety requirements will finally implement safety regulations for amphibious passenger vessels, particularly those known as Duck Boats. These safety recommendations were made by federal agencies to address repeated problems associated with Duck Boats that have resulted in far too many injuries and fatalities that may have been prevented.

I learned about these problems when my constituents in Indianapolis, the Coleman family, were involved in a horrible Duck Boat accident on July 19, 2018 in Branson, Missouri. Tia Coleman was one of only two survivors from her family of 11, losing her husband Glenn, and her children Reece (nine years old), Evan (seven years old), and Arya (one year old). Tia's 13-year-old nephew, Donovan Coleman, was the other surviving family member, losing his mother Angela, his younger brother Maxwell (two years old), his uncles Ervin (76 years old) and Butch (70 years old), and his aunt Belinda (69 years old). Boarding a Duck Boat on Table Rock Lake started out as a fun outing for family members, but it turned into an unspeakable tragedy when the boat capsized and sank. Seventeen of the 31 passengers on board were killed.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and U.S. Coast Guard have separately investigated the incident and Congress must act now. We know from past incidents that more can and should be done to make these vessels safer. Since 1999, more than 40 people have died in Duck Boats accidents, the vast majority of them from drowning when the vessel sinks. In 2002, the NTSB issued recommendations to improve the safety of these vessels in flooding or sinking situations, but little has been done to implement those measures—until today.

Duck Boats are hybrid vehicles that can travel on roadways and waterways, so the safety measures must be updated for both land and waterborne operations.

The Duck Boat Safety Improvement Act will require vessel operators to implement common-sense boating safety measures, including:

Improving reserve buoyancy and watertight compartmentalization to prevent sinking,

Requiring more monitoring and adherence to severe weather alerts and warnings,

Requiring release of road safety seatbelts when Duck Boats become waterborne,

Requiring stronger crew safety training and certification,

Removing or reconfigure canopies and window coverings for waterborne operations,

Requiring personal flotation devices for waterborne operations,

Requiring installation of better bilge pumps and alarms,

Installing underwater LED lights that activate automatically in emergencies, and

Complying with other Coast Guard boating safety requirements.

These changes will help save lives and prevent future tragedies.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting today's bill to make common-sense corrections to the persistent safety problems facing Duck Boats. If we act today, we can help ensure that no other family has to suffer

the kind of tragedy faced by my constituents on Table Rock Lake.

I urge the House to support these safety provisions, and all of the reauthorizations in this year's NDAA.

□ 1300

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1512.

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. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1512 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1617.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 80, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—350

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bost
Bourdeaux
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Conway
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Flores
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Price (NC)
Quigley
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan (NY)
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sempolinski
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NAYS—80

Auchincloss
Barragán
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bowman
Brooks
Buck
Burchett
Bush
Cawthorn
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cohen
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
DeSaulnier
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Espaillat
García (IL)
Gohmert
Gomez
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Harris
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Jayapal
Jones
Khanna
Lee (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lowenthal
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Mann
Massie
McClintock
McGovern
Mooney
Moore (WI)
Nadler
Nehls
Newman
Norman
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Payne
Perry
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Raskin
Rice (SC)
Rosendale
Roy
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Steube
Takano
Tiffany
Tlaib
Van Drew
Velázquez
Watson Coleman
Welch
Williams (GA)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—2

Kinzinger
Zeldin

□ 1339

Messrs. SCHRADER and CAWTHORN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. FLORES, Messrs. CARTER of Texas, STANTON, and RESCHENTHALER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Pappas)
Baird (Bucshon)
Bass (Cicilline)
Beatty (Neguse)
Brooks (Fleischmann)
Burgess (Weber (TX))
Cuellar (Correa)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Dingell (Pappas)
Doyle, Michael F. (Pallone)
Ferguson (Kustoff)
Gibbs (Smucker)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gomez (Escobar)
Gonzales, Tony (Gimenez)
Gonzalez (OH) (Moore (UT))
Gosar (Weber (TX))
Hayes (Neguse)
Herrera Beutler (Stewart)
Huffman (Levin (CA))
Jacobs (NY) (Sempolinski)
Jayapal (Cicilline)
Johnson (LA) (Graves (LA))
Johnson (OH) (Fulcher)
Johnson (TX) (Pallone)
Kahele (Correa)
Khanna (Meng)
Kildee (Pappas)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawrence (Garcia (TX))
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lofgren (Takano)
Long (Fleischmann)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Maloney, Sean P. (Pappas)
Meeks (Meng)
Napolitano (Correa)
Neal (Beyer)
Nehls (Mace)
Newman (Correa)
O'Halleran (Pappas)
Palazzo (Fleischmann)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Peltola (Correa)
Porter (Neguse)
Pressley (Neguse)
Rice (SC) (Weber (TX))
Ruppersberger (Sarbanes)
Rush (Beyer)
Ryan (OH) (Correa)
Sewell (Cicilline)
Simpson (Fulcher)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Cicilline)
Swalwell (Correa)
Titus (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Welch (Pallone)
Wexton (Beyer)
Williams (GA) (McBath)

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3316. An act to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections.

S. 4577. An act to improve plain writing and public experience, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agree to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 3092) entitled ''An Act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.''

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1617) to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 8, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

YEAS—406

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Brady
Brooks
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Conway
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Flores
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Peltola
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan (NY)
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sempolinski
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NAYS—8

Biggs
Good (VA)
Hice (GA)
Loudermilk
Massie
Norman
Rosendale
Roy

NOT VOTING—17

Boyle, Brendan F.
Castor (FL)
Cohen
Curtis
DeFazio
Hern
Issa
Kinzinger
Luetkemeyer
Norcross
Price (NC)
Quigley
Speier
Steube
Webster (FL)
Yarmuth
Zeldin

□ 1354

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Pappas)
Baird (Bucshon)
Barr (Wagner)
Bass (Cicilline)
Beatty (Neguse)
Brooks (Fleischmann)
Burgess (Weber (TX))
Cuellar (Correa)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Dingell (Pappas)
Doyle, Michael F. (Pallone)
Ferguson (Kustoff)
Gibbs (Smucker)
Gohmert (Weber (TX))
Gomez (Escobar)
Gonzales, Tony (Gimenez)
Gonzalez (OH) (Moore (UT))
Gosar (Weber (TX))
Hayes (Neguse)
Herrera Beutler (Stewart)
Huffman (Levin (CA))
Jacobs (NY) (Sempolinski)
Jayapal (Cicilline)
Johnson (LA) (Graves (LA))
Johnson (OH) (Fulcher)
Johnson (TX) (Pallone)
Kahele (Correa)
Kelly (IL) (McBath)
Khanna (Meng)
Kildee (Pappas)
Kind (Beyer)
Kirkpatrick (Pallone)
Lawrence (Garcia (TX))
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lofgren (Takano)
Long (Fleischmann)
Loudermilk (Fleischmann)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (Meng)
Maloney, Sean P. (Pappas)
Meeks (Meng)
Napolitano (Correa)
Neal (Beyer)
Nehls (Mace)
Newman (Correa)
O'Halleran (Pappas)
Palazzo (Fleischmann)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Peltola (Correa)
Porter (Neguse)
Pressley (Neguse)
Rice (SC) (Weber (TX))
Ruppersberger (Sarbanes)
Rush (Beyer)
Ryan (OH) (Correa)
Sewell (Cicilline)
Simpson (Fulcher)
Sires (Pallone)
Suozzi (Cicilline)
Swalwell (Correa)
Titus (Pallone)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Welch (Pallone)
Wexton (Beyer)
Williams (GA) (McBath)

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL H.R. 7776

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

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 121

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 7776, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: Amend the long title so as to read: ''An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.''.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1400

GOOD NEWS FROM MCGREGOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a good news story from McGregor Elementary School in Toledo, Ohio. For her fourth grade class' end-of-the-year project, a 10-year-old student named Brooklyn dressed up as me, read up on congressional history, and shared all she had learned with her fellow students about Congress.

Just recently, I had the pleasure of visiting Brooklyn and her fellow students to hear all about how their fifth-grade year is going. What a surprise it was to open my mailbox the other day and discover so many thoughtful, handwritten notes mailed to me by these wonderful students.

I saw close-up, firsthand how bright, artistic, and precocious our aspiring generation in America really is. One young man named Henry wrote: ''I decided to write this letter because no one is going to tell me not to.''

This moment of winter wonderment is a good time to take stock of all that has occurred over the past year. As we enter this holiday season, I am reminded of so many very kind people for whom I am grateful, particularly the joy of the children at McGregor Elementary School in Toledo, Ohio.

Happy holidays to all, and may the upcoming year bring endless joy and light.

HONORING COACH SHARI CAMPBELL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Shari Campbell of Clarion, who was inducted into the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame for 2022.

Coach Campbell has a distinguished career of leading women's volleyball teams to victory as coach of both the Clarion Area Bobcats and the Clarion Limestone Lions volleyball teams.

Coach Campbell has also had a uniquely impressive coaching record, earning 437 wins for her team out of 507 games. Additionally, Shari Campbell's teams have won three PIAA state championships in 2012, 2020, and 2021.

Shari Campbell got her start in 1990 as a junior coach at Juniata College in Huntington, Pennsylvania. She later became an assistant coach at St. Bonaventure University in Allegheny, New York.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Shari Campbell on her outstanding achievement. Most importantly, I thank her for being a coach and mentor for the young women of Clarion. Her commitment to her students is not just demonstrated by her record of wins, but also by her dedication and commitment to seeing her players succeed on and off the court.

THANKING KASSIE STAGNER

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Kassie Stagner has served our committee both as a clerk and a research assistant. During her time on staff, she has also shown a willingness to go the extra mile, take on any job that needs doing, and to do so with incredible attention to detail. Her work proved invaluable to many of the committee's oversight investigations. Through long days and hard projects, Kassie brought a sense of humor and a Texas charm to everything she did.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and to support our veterans was made better by Kassie's service, and she will be deeply missed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RELEASE OF PAUL WHELAN

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we learned this morning of a prisoner swap with the Kremlin: basketball star Brittney Griner for the merchant of death, Viktor Bout.

Left behind once again by this administration was Michigander Paul Whelan.

While we rejoice with the Griner family, Paul's parents, constituents in my district, will soon have their fourth Christmas without their son.

Paul's family is doing their best to stay upbeat and is genuinely happy for the Griner family, as we all are. But it is hard to fathom the magnitude of disappointment with this latest lopsided swap.

We are keeping the Whelans in our prayers, just as we are keeping up the pressure. For years now, I have spoken about Paul's wrongful imprisonment on this floor. I was hoping the next time would be to celebrate his release. Sadly, it is not.

Today, once again, it is time for Paul Whelan to come home.

RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA SENATOR PAT BROWNE

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of, and to wish a happy birthday to, Allentown's outgoing State Senator Pat Browne.

Over the span of his 28 years in public service, Pat Browne represented the Lehigh Valley in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and in the Senate, ascending to chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

While we did not agree on every issue, Senator Browne's dedication to Allentown's school district and the city's revitalization earned him popularity with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike, something that is altogether too rare in today's political environment. It has been an honor to work with his office over the past 4 years to bring resources to our community, and I thank him for his service and wish him a very happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING ROSS SHEPPARD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ross Sheppard for his recent selection to the Georgia 40 Under 40 list.

Ross is a successful real estate agent who wants to help buyers and sellers understand the value that historic preservation brings to the housing markets.

While many people view historic preservation and real estate development as conflicting ideas, Ross sees it differently. His desire to show people that preservation is a sustainable economic path for real estate has led him into philanthropic pursuits.

A member of the Georgia Trust and the Historic Savannah Foundation, a board member of Georgia's Old Capital Heritage Center, and a former board member of the Flannery O'Connor Andalusia Foundation, Sheppard's passion for preservation is a leading force in his life.

He has renovated and rehabilitated several historic homes, with one of his projects being featured on HGTV's ''Life Under Renovation.''

He was chosen as Humanitarian of the Year by his alma mater, Georgia College, and has endowed a scholarship there.

Ross resides in Savannah's Landmark Historic District, one of the most beautiful parts of Georgia's First Congressional District. He leads a life dedicated to showing others the beauty that lies beneath the surface by championing historic preservation.

I, on behalf of the entire First Congressional District of Georgia, congratulate him for his outstanding service to this State and his selection to the Georgia 40 Under 40 list.

PROTECTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, this summer I officiated my brother's wedding, and it was one of the proudest moments of my life.

The love that Dylan and Kay share is incredibly special and deserves to be celebrated, recognized, and protected.

That is why I am so grateful to have voted for the Respect for Marriage Act, to honor their marriage and so many other marriages that have been created and affirmed in the 7 years since the landmark Obergefell ruling. This means so much not only to my family, but to the LGBTQ+ communities in San Diego and across the country.

This bill will take the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act off the books, so it no longer poses an existential threat to LGBTQ+ families.

It will protect marriage equality so that a valid marriage in one State is recognized by all other States. Importantly, it will protect kids from discriminatory State laws and ensure that LGBTQ+ families can stay together.

With the passage of this bill, our government is finally catching up to the American people. This is long overdue, but it is no less meaningful for my brother and sister-in-law and hundreds of thousands of other LGBTQ+ marriages across the country.

CONTINUING TO FIGHT FOR PAUL WHELEN

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Whelan family to urge the Biden administration to get United States Marine veteran, Paul Whelan, safely home from being held hostage and wrongfully detained by Russia.

While we are glad to welcome Brittney Griner safely home to her family, to make it happen, the Biden administration ceded leverage and released a dangerous, convicted arms dealer who was in prison for conspiring to kill Americans.

This poses tremendous national security risks and will embolden Vladimir Putin to take more Americans hostage in the future.

Meanwhile, Paul Whelan and other wrongfully detained Americans remain imprisoned. I will continue to fight for their safe return home.

ONE OF THE PROUDEST VOTES I WILL EVER CAST

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today, I cast one of the proudest votes I will ever cast in this body. I was a ''yea'' on the Respect for Marriage Act.

When I was elected to this body, I became one of the first two openly gay Black Members ever to serve in Congress. Growing up closeted, I never imagined that Congress would pass a bill like this, or I would be in a position to introduce it with Representative NADLER.

I was too young to remember Congress passing the Defense of Marriage Act, but I know exactly where I was when the Supreme Court struck it down in the United States v. Windsor. I had just graduated law school, and I was studying for the bar exam. At the time, because of moderates like Justice Kennedy, I still had faith that the Supreme Court was committed to protecting my basic civil rights as a gay American.

That was a different Supreme Court than the one we have today. The far-right supermajority on the Supreme Court is on a rampage against fundamental rights. As members of the LGBTQ+ community prepare to face the worst assault on our rights in a decade, Congress must do whatever it takes to protect our humanity.

This bill is a great first step. It ensures that the Federal Government will not discriminate against same-sex and interracial couples who have been legally married. But Congress must also pass other legislation to ensure marriage equality as the law of the land.

Mr. Speaker, I would conclude by simply saying that I am very grateful to this Congress and to be in this place.

BIG TECH CENSORSHIP

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in 2019, Hunter Biden foolishly abandoned a laptop at a computer repair store, a laptop that revealed Joe Biden was fully aware of his son's foreign corrupt business dealings. Not only that, but Hunter's business also profited President Biden financially and influenced foreign policy.

But the American people weren't allowed to know this before electing Joe Biden to the Presidency. Why? Because Twitter, one of the most influential distributors of content in the world, deliberately and arbitrarily suppressed news coverage to suit the political persuasions of its employees.

We have undeniable proof that Big Tech censored bad press for the Biden administration right before the 2020 election and may have even profited from doing so. This despicable collusion between liberal politics and social media, put on full display in the Twitter files, must end.

Informed voters, not biased Twitter truth manipulators, must decide the outcomes of elections.

We will never know how many voters would have changed their mind if they knew of the corruption of the Biden family and their activities. Suppression of information is the real threat to our republic, not asking questions.

Now that Republicans are back in the majority in the House, we will investigate this interference and hold Big Tech, the FBI, and the Biden family accountable.

VOTING TO PROTECT MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank this body for full support of, of course, H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act. I was so proud to support this bill.

I thank my good friend and colleague Chairman NADLER for his leadership and DAVID CICILLINE and Speaker PELOSI for bringing this important bill to the floor.

Today, I voted to protect marriage equality across the country. Following the Supreme Court's shameful decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, rightwing extremists, who have been visibly organizing for decades to curtail hard-won rights, have set their sights on other freedoms.

We cannot let Justice Clarence Thomas even consider overturning the constitutional right to marriage equality. What is coming next?

Today, the bipartisan Respect for Marriage Act will enshrine marriage equality into Federal law.

As one of the founding members of the Equality Caucus, along with my good friend Congressman Barney Frank, today, I am reminded of Martin Luther King's profound insight when he said that ''the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.''

I thank all those who voted for this. This is a historic day, and we did the right thing. Thank God we are moving forward in this country.

□ 1415

PAT SMITH WILL BE GREATLY MISSED

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there are many wonderful people who work in and around the House to help us do the people's business. Some are very visible, and some are less so. Often the less visible are some of the most valuable in many ways.

One of those people is Patricia Smith, Pat, who is a true patriot and works hard every day to serve others. Ms. Pat prepares and serves food in the Republican Cloakroom. She is unfailingly sweet and caring, not only to Members but to everyone.

In addition to her service in the House, Ms. Pat serves at her church and volunteers on weekends, feeding the homeless. She lives her faith every minute of every day.

As Saint Francis said: Preach a sermon every day. When necessary, use words.

Ms. Pat does not need to use words. She lives the Gospel every day. She will soon be retiring, and she will be greatly missed.

Congratulations, Ms. Pat, on a life well lived. I will miss you and your example more than you can know.

TODAY IS HISTORIC

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is a very historic day.

We overturned and dismissed the words of Justice Thomas that the rights of Americans should be denied.

We voted for the Respect for Marriage Act that will be signed by the President of the United States.

Then in the midst of darkness, Brittney Griner was swapped and is on her way home. Negotiations by the hostage negotiating team took months because Mr. Putin would not negotiate.

Finding our hostages and bringing them home is not a partisan issue. I love Paul Whelan and his family. We introduced legislation passed by the House that said to bring Brittney Griner home and bring Paul Whelan home.

I am happy for Cherelle, Brittney's mother and father, Houston, Phoenix, the Nation, and all the players in the WNBA, but we will continue to use the power of the sovereign United States to bring Paul Whelan home, as we did Trevor Reed and as we did those who came from Venezuela.

Let us unify together. Let us celebrate Brittney and fight to bring Paul Whelan home.

DARK DAYS OF SLAVERY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

At this time, prior to going into my message, I yield such time as he may consume to the Honorable MARK TAKANO, the pride of California's 41st District and the chair of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

THANKING TORIA SULLIVAN

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his generous yield.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Toria Sullivan brought a deep passion for helping veterans to my committee and always provided a kind and empathetic ear to those who contacted our office seeking assistance.

She brought calm and order to a fast-moving office, where the next urgent priority was always right around the corner. She was unfailingly helpful and went above and beyond expectations as part of the committee's communications team.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Toria's service, and she will be deeply missed.

THANKING HEATHER O'BEIRNE KELLY

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Dr. Heather O'Beirne Kelly brought 20 years of experience as a psychologist to her critical role with the Health Subcommittee. She spearheaded my committee's work on veterans' mental health and suicide prevention and drafted key portions of some of the most important legislation passed by the committee, including the Veterans COMPACT Act, the STRONG Veterans Act, and the VIPER Act.

Even as she grappled with incredibly difficult policy challenges, Heather was a joyful presence in our office who made every day better for her coworkers.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Heather's service, and she will be deeply missed.

THANKING ESTI LAMONACA

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Esti Lamonaca is an Army veteran who lives and breathes veterans advocacy and who brought deep insight and tireless passion to the committee's efforts to support women veterans.

As the lead for the Women Veterans Task Force during this Congress, Esti organized a series of important task force events. The oversight work they undertook will guide the committee's work on behalf of women veterans for years to come, and Esti's commitment to this work will continue to inspire those who worked with them.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Esti's service, and they will be deeply missed.

THANKING MATT TYRELL

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Matt Tyrell came to our committee from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and his experience within that organization proved invaluable to our work. He spent months engaging with stakeholders, drafting language, and laying the careful groundwork needed to pass the Honoring our PACT Act, one of the most important pieces of legislation to come out of this Congress. Even while accomplishing such a Herculean task, he never failed to bring collegiality and good humor to his work.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Matt's service, and he will be deeply missed.

THANKING PETER TYLER

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Peter Tyler is a former member of the Navy Reserve and an experienced Hill staffer who brought considerable skill and oversight experience to my committee. He led many of our efforts to make the Veterans Administration a welcoming place for all who served our Nation and to protect veterans and their families from abusive debt collection practices by improving administrative processes at the VA.

Peter's passion for good government shone through in every task he took on for the committee.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Peter's service, and he will be deeply missed.

THANKING MATT HOROWITZ

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Matt Horowitz brought real-world experience in technology and cybersecurity to my committee's work and broadened the scope of our oversight efforts into this important, complex, and often overlooked area.

His deep knowledge, patience, and good humor also helped my committee become a model to others as Congress adjusted to the need for remote work and virtual hearings during the pandemic. He expanded the work the committee does and helped us do it better during a very challenging time.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Matt's service, and he will be deeply missed.

THANKING JOEL WALSH

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a member of my staff on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who will not be continuing with us into the next Congress.

Joel Walsh has been an important part of my committee's oversight and investigations team, and he brought skills to his job that he honed while working as a journalist. His professionalism, writing and investigation skills, and work ethic proved invaluable to the committee as he helped lead hearings and draft important records.

Joel's sincerity and good humor made my committee a better place to work and also made our work better.

The work of my committee, this Congress, and our government to honor and support our veterans was made better by Joel's service, and he will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his generosity of spirit and for his collegiality.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid to speak truth to power as well as truth about power concerning the topic of slavery and the need for atonement.

Let's start with slavery and identify it for what it was. A proper identification of slavery would cause one to conclude that it was truly one of the greatest crimes ever committed against humanity.

Slavery was kidnapping. People were stolen from their homes. They were traversed across the oceans.

Slavery was murder because in the process of transferring persons, if they became unruly, unmanageable, they could simply be thrown overboard into the shark-infested waters. In fact, it is said that sharks would follow the ships knowing that, at some point, a body might be thrown over that they could feed upon.

Slavery was robbery. People had their identities stolen from them. People were put in a position such that they could not know who they were in terms of their connection to the past, and they could not get an education about what the world was all about.

Slavery was rape. It was not unusual for the masters to rape the women. It was not unusual for them to father the children, and then for those children to become slaves.

Slavery was about the enslavement of babies. What kind of people would do such a dastardly thing as to enslave babies?

The people who would do this were the people who didn't see the human beings, the human qualities associated with slavery. They just saw them as chattel, something to be traded, something to be used, and something to be discarded.

Slavery was also about forced labor. I would like to say more about this topic of forced labor and slavery because I happen to have the good fortune to be the chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Financial Services Committee.

I serve under the leadership of the Honorable MAXINE WATERS, who is one of the most courageous Members of Congress. Under her leadership, we have had hearings on this question of slavery and how this slavery, this evil, has impacted not only the people of that time when they were enslaved but also the people of this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is a very sensitive topic, and it deserves our attention. For those who desire not to give it attention, there are places for them to have their conversations off the floor. I beg that they would do so. It is a very sensitive topic.

□ 1430

We have held hearings on this topic, and at these hearings we have discovered that there are institutions that have a historical connection to slavery. These institutions include our mega banks. I will call them ''big banks.'' They include mega insurance companies. I will call them ''big insurance companies.''

These mega banks, these big banks, these big insurance companies have predecessor institutions, predecessor banks and insurance companies, that actually engaged in the slave trade by way of with banks insuring slaves as chattel, and the insurance companies would insure them, and the banks would make loans against slaves as chattel.

Let me give some examples. One big bank had a predecessor bank that was found to have had a connection to chattel slavery by accepting 8,149 enslaved people as collateral for loans and coming into possession of 437 enslaved people.

Another predecessor bank accepted approximately 13,000 enslaved people as collateral for loans as well as took possession of approximately 1,250 enslaved people upon default.

Mr. Speaker, it might be worthy of noting that these predecessor banks were located in our State. I was born in Louisiana. You represent a great Congressional District in Louisiana. Predecessor banks that took possession of approximately 1,250 enslaved people upon default on loans.

Another predecessor bank made a loan of $135,000 to a railroad company to use slave labor. Adjusted for inflation, $135,000 is worth approximately $4,776,840 in 2022.

Another predecessor bank accepted enslaved people as collateral in at least 24 transactions, took possession of enslaved people upon default on loans, and engaged in business and investments with the Confederacy that by 1862 exceeded $1.5 million. That amount is worth $44,000,230 in 2022.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud descendent of enslaved people, I cannot in good conscience allow these transgressions to go unchallenged, to allow them to continue without atonement. There are some things that we ought not allow to remain a part of our history without proper redress. The enslavement of people and the profits that were made off of these people as slaves is something that must be redressed. These big banks and these big insurance companies have a duty, responsibility, and an obligation to atone for their connectivity to slavery.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I plan to file a big banks' and big insurance companies' atonement legislation, a piece of legislation that will address the injustices that were perpetrated upon human beings, the greatest crime against humanity, that we call slavery.

This piece of legislation will require these big banks to assess whether their institutions, their predecessor institutions had direct or indirect ties to or profited from the institution of slavery. We already know that some did. They will have to issue a report containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the assessments required, and to the extent the institutions, these big banks and these big insurance companies, identify ties to or profits from the institution of slavery a disclosure of the steps these institutions have taken to reconcile such profits and ties shall be reported. This report will be made available to the public, including on a website of each of the institutions making the reports.

Further, this legislation will require a fine to be imposed on any institution that fails to issue a report as required or that reports false, misleading, or inaccurate information on such a report. They shall be fined $20,000 per day until the report is issued properly or until the report is corrected to not be false, misleading, or inaccurate.

Mr. Speaker, this is a part of the process necessary for great a nation—and ours is a great nation—to be an even greater nation after it has properly reconciled for its greatest sin, its seminal sin of slavery; as I have indicated one of the greatest crimes ever committed against humanity, a crime that has implications on this very day and will have implications on tomorrow in a very negative way.

We still have people who are suffering from these crimes that were committed centuries ago. Slavery didn't end all of the suffering. After slavery we had Black codes, which allowed Black people to be arrested and then forced to work as persons who were leased. It was called ''convict leasing.'' You could be arrested for something as simple as not having a job and then forced to work. Many people worked until they died; literally, they would work them to death.

In Texas we have discovered a grave of 95 such people known as the Sugar Land 95, a common grave with persons who were slave laborers.

It didn't end there. It went on to have persons who were discriminated against lawfully in this country because we had segregation. Segregation was another means of maintaining people of African ancestry as second-class citizens, people who were not entitled to the same privileges and opportunities as others.

But it didn't end there. We then suffered from—and still to this day—suffered from invidious discrimination. Yes, there are some people who say that it doesn't exist, but it does. There is invidious discrimination in the House of Representatives. Invidious discrimination, discrimination that keeps people from reaching their potential because of who they happen to be.

In fact, our failure to recognize marriage as we have voted to do so today was a form of invidious discrimination.

So it doesn't just consume people of African ancestry. I am making that the topic today. On some future occasion I will be talking about the invidious discrimination perpetrated against others, but today as it relates to African Americans there is still invidious discrimination in our country.

African Americans were not given the same opportunities to acquire wealth. Over the centuries, we have had circumstances where in this country you could acquire wealth by simply going out in the West and fencing in as much property as you could, buy a Winchester rifle, defend it, and it was yours. You could simply squat and acquire land. People of African ancestry were not given the opportunity to acquire land in this fashion.

When the GI Bill was passed, many people benefited from it. Very few of them were of African ancestry. People who fought, many of them died, but

people who fought and survived and came back could not get the same loans, the same grants, the same opportunities as others. So the opportunity to build wealth has been denied, and that opportunity denied has manifested in a wealth gap that is unimaginable with Black people having pennies on the dollar for the many dollars that White people have in terms of wealth.

This wealth gap is something that cannot be ignored, and atonement has to be a methodology by which we achieve a bringing together, a closing of the wealth gap, if you will. And until we close the wealth gap we have to continue to require atonement.

Now, there are many people who conclude that atonement and just talking about slavery is something that ought to be against the law.

In the State of Texas they have in our legislature imposed a law that as many read it would not allow teaching the truth about slavery in schools. There are people who don't want their children to be harmed by hearing about the suffering that people in this country had perpetuated upon them for centuries. They don't want their children to know. They want their children to believe that liberty and justice for all has always applied to all of the people in the country, and it hasn't. They want their children to believe that there has always been equal access to opportunity in this country, which is not true. They don't want their children taught the truth, but the truth is going to be told and taught. The truth will be known. Carlyle was right: ''No lie can live forever.'' William Cullen Bryant was right: ''Truth, crushed to Earth, shall rise again.'' Dr. King was right: ''The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.''

The truth will be told. You can't hide it from your children. They need to know the truth. It is only after the truth is known that we can then reconcile and have an even greater country than we have today.

The process of reconciliation requires atonement, and for this process of reconciliation I have legislation pending to have a department of reconciliation, a department with a secretary of reconciliation with undersecretaries of reconciliation who will have the responsibility to wake up each and every day and deal with the racial wealth gap, deal with the invidious discrimination that took place against persons who came here and built the railroads, persons of Asian ancestry, the invidious discrimination that took place with the Trail of Tears when people were forced to leave their homes, move across the country, and dwell in a foreign place as it related to them, and the invidious discrimination to deal with the Latino population that many years ago had land taken from them.

Yes, we need a department of reconciliation. I have the legislation for such a department.

But notwithstanding that, we still need this legislation to deal with the atonement of these big financial institutions that have profited from the labor of human beings who were treated as chattel.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I say every word that I have said today because I am the proud descendent of these humble hands that helped build this Capitol, the proud descendent of these humble hands that helped build the roads and bridges, laid the foundation for this country. They were the foundational mothers and fathers of this country. I am proud to be a descendent of the enslaved people who helped make America great. I am proud to say that I think these enslaved people who helped make America great deserve more than being reviled while the people who tried to maintain slavery are revered—the Confederacy—revered by this House of Representatives.

□ 1445

Slavery reviled. The slaves reviled.

Why do I say that the Confederacy was revered or is revered or has been revered by this House?

Because this House of Representatives granted a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldiers. Some things bear repeating. The House of Representatives in this Chamber passed legislation to accord a Congressional Gold Medal to Confederate soldiers. We revere the enslavers and revile the enslaved.

That hasn't changed. This Congress or the next should accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved people who built this country. If we could do it for the enslavers, then we can do it for the enslaved.

I will have legislation before this House to allow each and every person to go on RECORD as to whether you have the courage and the intestinal fortitude necessary to set the record straight, to do the right thing—no, more importantly—to do the righteous thing: give the people who built this country the same recognition that you gave to the people who would keep them in chains.

My dear brothers and sisters will have an opportunity. We will find out whether you put principle above politics or whether you are going to put the Confederacy above the enslaved. We will find out.

I assure you; the RECORD will be made known. We will know who voted for and who voted against.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, we will file this legislation. We will give Members an opportunity to demonstrate where they stand.

Dr. King was right: The truest measure of the person is not where you stand in times of comfort and convenience when all is well in your world. The truest measure of the person is where do you stand in times of great challenge and controversy?

I plan to bring the time of challenge to the floor of the House.

The question is: Where will the Members of this great House stand?

Will Members have the courage to accord a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved persons?

Will Members have the courage to pass a resolution asking for a department of reconciliation?

Will Members have the courage to vote for legislation to require these megabanks and mega-insurance companies to atone for their connectivity to the greatest crime committed against humanity?

We will find out because the legislation will be presented.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with this: Notwithstanding all that I have said, I still love my country. I still pledge allegiance to the flag, and I still sing the national anthem. I still support those who choose not to say the pledge of allegiance and refuse to sing the national anthem. But I do it because I believe in the Constitution. I believe in the words liberty and justice for all as extolled in the pledge of allegiance. I believe that we can be a country of the people, by the people, and for all of the people.

I believe these things in spite of the fact that my country hasn't always loved me as much as I love it. I just celebrated my 25th birthday for the third time, and my country hasn't always loved me as much as I love my country.

My country required me to drink from colored water fountains, Mr. Speaker. My country required me to sit in the back of the bus and to sit in the balcony of movies. My country required me to go to back doors and get my food. My country required me to step off the sidewalk when other persons of a different hue passed.

I still love my country. I am standing here today because I love my country, and I want my country to live up to the promise made in the Declaration of Independence and the promise made in the Constitution.

I want America to be America for all Americans, and until that day, I will still love my country, but I will remain a liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid to speak truth to power and truth about power.

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

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. 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 the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, reflecting on my time in Congress and in the

Pennsylvania General Assembly makes me think about how blessed I am, and we are as Americans. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve the outstanding people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District and Pennsylvania's 85th legislative district.

I am also thankful for all the lessons and people who God placed in my life. At a time when I needed guidance, God placed people before me to give me that guidance and that example, and then He gave me the wisdom to accept that guidance and put it to work.

My dad, at a very young age when I was very young, taught me a work ethic second to none. My grandmother taught me the importance of an education and how to be proper.

Max Bingaman, owner of Bingaman & Son Lumber in Kreamer, Pennsylvania, taught me business, leadership, and how to be an adult. I can't say enough about my wife and her family. My wife and brother-in-law are here today. I am so blessed to have them in my life. My wife and her family taught me kindness. My mother-in-law is the kindest person I have known. It is not always heard people talking about their mother-in-law so affectionately, but she was very kind. It is often said that behind every successful man there is a surprised mother-in-law. That is a little joke of mine that I say. But my wife's family is truly exceptional, and I am very blessed that I married into that family almost 38 years ago.

The list could go on, but the point is no one accomplishes anything alone. America is the greatest country on Earth. Nowhere else in the world can a poor kid like me go from picking up aluminum cans along the side of the road to owning his own home, running a business, starting a small business of his own, and get elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives or the United States Congress.

Growing up, we never were envious. If we wanted something for ourselves, we were taught that we had to work for it. Hard work and education is the way to succeed in America. We knew the American Dream was attainable no matter who you are or what you have.

We never used being poor as an excuse. In fact, my grandmother taught me many things at a very young age. I was about 12, she was about 75, and she sat us down at the table one day. I don't know what my brother and I had done. My brother was 1 year older than I. She said: Boys, people who make excuses are weak.

We never used an excuse. We never let anyone, or our government define us. In today's world, if we had grown up now, people probably would have tried to define us as at-risk or disadvantaged. No, we were just poor. Because if you believe in God, and you live in the United States of America, you are not disadvantaged or at-risk.

I have used the experience growing up and the examples that the many people taught me over my lifetime to shape me into the person and public servant I am today. It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the good people of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District over the past few years, and I thank them for having the confidence in me to do that job.

Our team worked to hold government accountable, create opportunities for workers and job creators, provide veterans with improved care, expand quality healthcare for rural communities, support our farmers, and bolster the Commonwealth's natural gas industry.

One of the best parts of representing Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District has been traveling the district and meeting the outstanding, intelligent, and hardworking people who live in our communities. That is where the real work happens and from where the solutions to our problems come. These are the people who make a difference.

As politicians, we all go out, we campaign for office, and we all talk about jobs and jobs and what we are going to do. My friend, Bob Garrett, the president of the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, reminded me of this one time. He said: You know, FRED, you can't be pro-jobs and anti-business.

I think that is a lesson that people in the Beltway could learn because the job creators and the workers who work in those jobs are the people who are put on the line every day to work and create the wealth in America.

I can say with confidence that every day our team brought their voice and the values of the people of PA–12 to Washington, D.C.

I am incredibly grateful and honored for the work that we have accomplished. It was made possible by the integrity, passion, and commitment of our entire team.

Mr. Speaker, what an outstanding group of individuals they are. In fact, our district director and chief of staff is here today, and I just want to give a shout-out to Ann Kaufman who is one of the hardest working and intelligent people I know. I thank her for her work. Jon Anzur and Nick Barley are here with me today. They are just great people. I appreciate the passion and the commitment of the entire team. Without their efforts, their contribution, and their service, we would not have been able to serve Pennsylvania's congressional district so well. It would not have been possible.

Though I will not be in Congress next year, I am reminded of a quote from Ronald Reagan. President Reagan said: ''There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.''

I see some of my friends. I thank Mr. KELLY so much, and I appreciate him being here, as well as Representative MILLER-MEEKS. I think I saw somebody else over here. Dr. FOXX is here. These are great individuals and public servants, but I would say these are people who have servants' hearts. They are people who have helped me throughout my time in Congress.

To the rest of the people here in the Beltway: America's greatness does not come from buildings and politicians. It comes from her citizens who are guided by our Lord God Almighty.

A personal example I can give to that, I mentioned a gentleman who has meant so much to me in my adult life and has been there to support my family whenever we needed it. His name is Max Bingaman. Max took this young kid, employed him, taught him business, and taught him how to behave and the taught him the right things to do. My life is better because of Max.

□ 1500

Max, our community, our Commonwealth, and our Nation are better because of you. You have touched so many lives and have been a great example to so many people.

Take that example of Max Bingaman, and there are many other people that do that. As I mentioned, it doesn't come from inside these walls. It comes from across our great Nation, and we need to make sure that we honor and respect those people for whom we work.

While our Nation still faces many challenges, I am more confident than ever that we will be successful if we continue to believe in the greatness of the American people.

Get government out of the way, protect our God-given freedoms, and allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money. In fact, they have earned it.

I am often asked what I plan to do next. The answer is, I do not know. Whatever the good Lord has in store for me next, I will build upon the work our team has accomplished to ensure America remains that shining city on a hill that forebearers saw from afar.

It looks like we have some other people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), my colleague.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Fred and I met several years ago. A mutual friend of ours by the name of Tom Marino had been elected and then decided to leave the Congress. We were really fortunate because the person who came in after Tom was Fred.

We formed kind of an instant friendship. I think a lot of it is because of who raised us, because we oftentimes talk about family.

I was looking at different things that people have said over the ages. This is Thomas Aquinas, over seven centuries ago, who summed up what Western civilization understood to be the natural debt of gratitude all human beings owe to God, family, and country.

Isn't that the truth for all of us? Who is it that we owe this incredible life we have? Those who came before us.

We talked today, as we talk often. Mr. Speaker, 1½ million men and women gave their lives. It wasn't so much that they gave time; they gave

their lives in order for us to practice this incredible form of government, this representative Republic.

People often get confused and talk about our democracy, our democracy, our democracy. We are truly a Republic, and every voice gets heard, every voice gets counted, and every person gets counted.

I think, for my friend and I, we spend a lot of time together. When I look up in the gallery, his family is here.

Where is Camrie? Camrie, stand up, honey. You are so little, I can't see you from down here. There she is.

She is my favorite source of energy. I have never seen a child with the energy she has. But you realize, she is just an offshoot of her grandma and grandpa.

Listen, we have had great fun together, but I think more than anything else, when you come to Washington, if you have never been here before, and you have not served the public before, one of the things when you come to Washington that you are told right away is, if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.

Well, for me, it wasn't getting a dog. It was getting a chance to serve with FRED KELLER. We do a lot of things together, mostly talk about family and faith and the opportunity we have to serve the people who sent us.

It is never about me; it is always about we. It is never about us; it is always about our families. It is about our wives. It is about our children. It is about our parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles.

You talk about your former employer so well that I feel I know Max. Although we have never met or shook hands, just from the way you have talked about him, I feel I know who he is, and I know how important he was in the whole being of FRED KELLER.

This is truly one of the most unselfish men I have ever known. He doesn't come here for himself. He comes here for his family. He comes here for the people he represents.

He comes here for those 1½ million men and women who have given their lives to give us the opportunity to practice this incredible form of government.

I know sometimes we get mixed up about what this is all about when we sit here and say this is the people's House, with the emphasis on the people. It is not FRED KELLER's House. It is not MIKE KELLY's House. It is not VIRGINIA FOXX's. It is not Dr. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS'. It is about the people we represent, and each of us represents about three-quarters of a million people.

I know that every week when we have the chance to come here and share time together and share the opportunity to actually bring about legislation, as do you, Mr. Speaker, we need to take a breather sometimes and forget about all the hyperbole and think about all the blessings we have because there is truly no place else in the world like this. There never has been, but it is up to us to make sure it is available for that next generation.

When I look up in the gallery, and I see Camrie up there, Fred doesn't come here for Fred. Fred comes here for Camrie and for Karsen and for all the other people he represents back in Pennsylvania.

I think that is the beauty of us, who are so fortunate and so honored to serve, because it is not about us. It is about our constituents. It is about all those who came before us.

I have to tell you, buddy. I hate to see you leave because we have had a lot of fun together. We shared a lot of meals. We shared a lot of stories.

You are great at entertaining my staff. They get bored with me from time to time. They always say, boy, I hope Mr. KELLER stops by today.

We have formed an incredible friendship. I have gotten to know Fred. I have gotten to know his wife and his family. He is truly one of the finest Americans you could ever be around.

It has been a wonderful time. It has been a wonderful life, not to coin any famous movies that are a favorite, but I have to tell you that it has been a great time, buddy.

The service you have given to God, to your family, and to your country is immeasurable. We are going to miss you being here, but I know this is not the end of the FRED KELLER story.

I am a phone call away, brother. Any time you need me, I am a phone call away. It has been a pleasure serving with you.

You have some fan favorites here with you that I think we should hear from.

One of my all-time favorite people is VIRGINIA FOXX, who is sitting beside me. Dr. Foxx is one of a kind, and you know from serving on her committee just how special she is.

Mr. KELLER. Thank you, MIKE, for your comments. Love you, pal.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Love you, too, buddy.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have to say, about Dr. Foxx, I remember when I first got here, and they were working out committees because I came in in a special election. I had to promise not to create any trouble for Dr. Foxx, I think is what it was. But I think what it really meant was you better work hard. I think that is what it meant. You better contribute. You better work hard.

There isn't anybody who runs a better ship when it comes to making sure that we accomplish the goals on behalf of the people we represent than a great mentor, a great person who has become a friend over the past few years, Dr. VIRGINIA FOXX.

Ms. FOXX. As we say here sometimes to save time, I certainly associate myself with the very eloquent words of Congressman KELLY. He is so good. You see that he needed no notes. He can just come up here and speak without anything.

This is a tough day for me to come in and talk about your leaving, Congressman KELLER, but we want to let you know how much we appreciate you. That is why we are here.

One thing I have learned about Representative FRED KELLER while serving with him in Congress is that he is someone who always shows up prepared to work on behalf of job creators and workers, and he is committed to upholding the Constitution.

I am so glad your staff and family are there in the gallery with us today because I know they have heard positive things about you before, but I think it is helpful for them to hear us come here today in this special place to say these things to you.

I have greatly appreciated and admired FRED'S strong commitment to conservative principles. As a businessman and job creator himself, he knows the free market works and is dedicated to protecting it.

It is clear why FRED recently received the Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Business.

His stalwart defense of limited government and fiscal responsibility will serve as an example to current and future lawmakers alike.

FRED has been an important leader on the Education and Labor Committee. As the Republican leader on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, FRED worked hard to protect the rights of workers and job creators.

He was well suited for this function because he has real-world experience in business. Managing a plant of 250 people for 25 years gave FRED the experience needed to serve our country's workforce. The committee and this Congress have benefited from his insight and wisdom.

I have also admired FRED'S commitment to the sanctity of life, which has been second to none in this body. I will never forget the story FRED told during a hearing that none of us had ever heard before and were not expecting to hear.

The story was about his son, Freddie, who suffered a traumatic brain injury at a young age. Doctors told FRED and his wife that there was zero chance his son would recover. Despite pressure from doctors, FRED and his wife refused to take their son off life support. Freddie recovered and is now in his thirties, working for the healthcare industry. What a victory for parents' love for their son and the principle of life.

FRED'S commitment to life didn't end back in his son's hospital room. It is something he has been dedicated to throughout his life.

No matter where he goes, FRED wears a pin on his collar that represents the exact size and shape of baby's feet at 10 weeks after conception. It is a daily reminder that life is sacred, and it is our duty to protect the most vulnerable.

It is no surprise that FRED received an A-plus rating on the Susan B. Anthony List National Pro-Life Scorecard.

As he said on the House floor: If my time in Congress is to be remembered for one thing, let it be that I fought to defend the sanctity of life.

You have certainly done that, FRED. Congressman KELLER, we will remember. We will remember that you stood against the Democrats' radical pro-abortion agenda. We will remember that you stood up for the conscience, rights, and religious freedoms of healthcare workers. We will remember that you gave a voice to the 63 million unborn babies killed in the womb before they had voices.

Today, when our first freedoms are called into question, we need leaders who will take a stand without wavering and defend our constitutional rights. That is exactly what FRED did when he introduced the Restoring Academic Freedom on Campus Act. Defending the freedom of expression on college campuses is imperative, and I appreciate FRED'S work on this issue.

The freedom to speak and think freely comes from God. Students should not have to sign away their First Amendment rights after enrolling in college, especially if those institutions accept taxpayer funds. It is time for colleges and universities to be held accountable when they refuse to protect the free speech of students and faculty.

I also greatly appreciate how FRED led the Congressional Review Act resolution against OSHA's tyrannical vaccine mandate. FRED used every legislative avenue to help nullify President Biden's emergency temporary standard that would have forced millions of workers to get the COVID–19 vaccine or face losing their jobs.

His commitment to protecting the individual liberties of every American stands out. When OSHA finally withdrew this authoritarian measure after losing at the Supreme Court, FRED and I celebrated.

This is a lesson to us all. Even when the hill is steep, we must fight on. In this case, standing up for the Constitution saved so many Americans from being coerced into making a medical decision they were uncomfortable with. We need leaders who have the courage of their convictions. FRED is such a leader.

Being a leader means having the prudence also to know which hills to fight on, which hills to abandon, and which hills are worth dying for. I believe FRED and I agree that the preservation of our God-given rights is worth any and every sacrifice, and that is why it has been an honor to serve alongside him.

Common cause always creates uncommon bonds, and I will miss you as a partner.

Lastly, FRED has something that far too many of our national leaders lack: humility. FRED has always cared more about service than the spotlight.

Saying FRED will be missed is an understatement. He is what every statesman should be: prudent, decisive, and gracious.

Congressman KELLER, we wish you the best in your future endeavors, knowing that whatever you do next will be in further service to the American people.

From a grateful country and from someone who is honored to call herself your friend, thank you for all you have done to protect freedom and constitutional government. You will be missed.

□ 1515

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. FOXX. I certainly wasn't anticipating my friends being here today, but I do want to say to Dr. FOXX that she is a great example, and, of course, we have Representative MILLER-MEEKS here.

But I would like to say to Dr. FOXX, if I can, as I told my friend, Max Bingaman, when I decided not to run again, I said, Max, I don't have to be elected to serve. Think of all the people we represent that make a difference every day.

When they take a kid like me and invest time and resources in them, that is what the people across America do. That is what you do, that is what MIKE KELLY does, that is what Representative MILLER-MEEKS does. I will stay in touch with all my friends that are here to make a difference. I thank them all for that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I am going to make it through this without a tear either, Dr. FOXX.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of spending the last 2 years across the hallway in the Longworth Building from our colleague, FRED KELLER. Throughout that time, I have been lucky enough to get to know FRED and his staff, and each was eager to lend a hand as my own staff and I adjusted to our new office, which was a little bit of a challenge because we had a contest and so we were a little late adding staff.

I think one of the easiest ways to judge a Member of Congress is by their staff and the team they assemble. Team Keller has always been helpful, insightful, talented, intelligent, kind, and thoughtful.

I also got to know FRED and his wife when we met for a longer period of time last summer at Nemacolin in Pennsylvania, his home State. He and his wife and my chief of staff enjoyed getting to know one another. I got to know FRED as a family man, who was elected in a special election, as a surprise to his wife when he let her know that he was going to run for Congress.

I got to know he and his family, and especially his family members that he would bring up to the Capitol, his granddaughters who can be found running up on the seventh floor or here in the Chamber.

When I asked his staff about FRED, one of the things they said struck me because it is also the reason that I ran for Congress. FRED wanted to make the American Dream accessible to everyone regardless of their background, their social status, their upbringing, their class, their race, or where they come from.

To do so, he spent his days bringing Pennsylvania to Washington and taking Washington back home. He believed, rightfully so, that D.C. could benefit from more hard work and fewer frills.

Now, I don't want you to think that FRED is only a serious person because that would underestimate another part of his personality. I also enjoyed spending time with FRED at the Education and Labor Committee, and being in the minority is no fun.

Once I caught FRED—more than once—thinking out loud and speaking under his breath. And because I sat next to him, when we were permitted to do so after the COVID requirements were lifted, I thought he raised some very salient, erudite points.

As the next Republican to speak, I added them to my own 5-minute speech. After I finished speaking, FRED turned to me, and said: You raised some really good points. I laughed, and said: I certainly hope so, they were the points that you made, and I stole them. He had no idea that he speaks out loud and under his breath, and that I would listen to him and hear him, but that was FRED.

He was and is full of great ideas. We were so very fortunate to have him as a colleague, and I was tremendously saddened the day he announced he would not run for reelection, and that I would miss him as a colleague and as a friend.

I really look forward to what is next for FRED because he will always be in service, he will always succeed, and he will always be a leader because what makes a leader isn't their title, it is not their position, it is not the pin they wear on their lapel.

What makes a leader is an individual, who, by their example, inspires and motivates others, who challenges others to go beyond what they think is their capacity, and reach heights that they did not know they could even reach. FRED does that for his children, for his grandchildren, and for all of us.

I have a feeling this isn't the last that we will see of FRED, and I look forward to future encounters with he and his family. I thank FRED so much for gracing me with all of his intellect, his ideas, his quiet comments under his breath, his salient points, and getting to know his family.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. MILLER-MEEKS for that, she is truly an outstanding individual, a veteran, one of the people that stood on the line to defend our freedom and our way of life. That is why we are here, so many fought, and so many cared about the idea that is America. There are so many people that will continue to do that, and for that I tell them thank you for your service.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), my friend and my granddaughter's friend's dad. When you have grandkids, you sort of lose your title.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, you got to admit, a lot of people love Representative KELLER. It has been fun, actually, watching them come up to the microphone and say actually sweet things about him. But the best thing is his granddaughter, my little girl just loves playing with her.

That is something I do hope this body does more of in the future—our kids. In the last couple of years they haven't been here. Before the pandemic, we would look out and people would have their families here. I will tell you, that helped in the relationships.

My little girl would go and jump on MAXINE WATERS' lap because she loved her necklace. I still have a great picture of that. Until this day, every time I see Ms. WATERS she asks about my little girl. In some ways, it is those family units and how you build human relations in this body.

Just a thought for what is left of the majority and those things. We need to sort of think about the things that bind us together once again as people.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. KELLER giving me a little bit of time here.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons we are doing this is we have been trying to do a series of presentations, and I keep being fussed at that I should do them shorter because we are trying to throw out lots of ideas.

For the last year, I have been coming behind the microphone and walking through just how terrified I am, and how terrified I believe all of us should be, on what is going on in the numbers. We are going to do the routine again. The beauty here is there is hope, and I am going to keep bringing ideas that do a couple things.

Number one: Make us freer, healthier, wealthier, but also show a path that we can grow, and we don't have to be crushed by the coming debt. Let's sort of walk through some of this.

We always start with this slide because this one really bothers everyone. This one makes everyone angry and it is the math. Today, we have $31 trillion of debt. In the next 30 years we add $114 trillion of borrowing. Every dime of that $114 trillion that is coming, 75 percent of it is Medicare, 25 percent is Social Security. The rest of the budget actually has a positive balance.

We got old.

Is the graying of America Republican or Democrat?

It is neither. It is just demographics; it is what we are. The unwillingness to deal with the reality that if you want to save the country—if you do not want my 5-month-old little boy that we are adopting, my 7-year-old little girl that plays together with others, if you want to save their future—do understand, today, 25 years from now we have to double their tax rates; we have to double your tax rates; we have to double corporations' tax rates just to maintain the baseline spending, and that is still with us going to like 140 percent of debt to GDP.

Do we understand how bad the numbers are?

It is demographics. So what do you do?

I am trying to pitch sort of a unified theory for us to think about. I am sorry this upsets people, but the math will always win. Instead of the craziness that goes on around here with where ''I got my feelings hurt,'' maybe the most powerful thing we can do is demonstrate we give a damn.

Growth is moral. Growth helps Democrats and Republicans, it helps poor people, it gives opportunity to the middle class. It is good for all of us. We are trying to say, okay, I have been spending lots of time behind the microphone talking about technology that can crash the price of healthcare. We are going to do a little more of that today.

But I am going to also talk about other ways we can do regulation that keeps us still healthy and safe but is much less bureaucratic and much faster. I am going to come back in the next couple weeks, if we get time, and talk about revolutionizing the tax system that incentivizes us to make things in America instead of functionally a tax system that incentivizes us to buy things made in other parts of the world because that is what we have today.

We are going to also talk about immigration—it is really uncomfortable to talk about, you are going to have to decide as a society: Do we keep the open borders that I have in Arizona where we functionally have a mass poverty movement into the United States? Or do we move to a system that maximizes economic growth?

You have got to decide, if you want us to have the money to be able to pay for Medicare, I have to have the economic growth.

Then the other thing is, what do we do to incentivize our brothers and sisters to stay in the labor market?

You just became 65. Are there things that we could do in a spiff on your Social Security, so you stay in the labor market?

How about if we let you keep your half of the FICA? What can we do?

There is a crazy piece of math out there for under 35, particularly males—they are not participating—there are numbers of them who have disappeared from the labor markets. This makes some of the math really difficult if you are trying to grow because it is not enough to have the disruption in the cost of the healthcare, if on the same side over here we don't have the economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to run through these fairly quickly because I want to keep the theme going. I am going to be dogged about this because we are going to save this country. We need to think a little bit differently because right now we are still having the same debates that we were having in the 1990s on this floor.

Last night, I mentioned this. Tonight, I thought I would bring the board with me. What would happen if I came to you tomorrow, and said: Hey, there is this thing that looks like a kazoo, and you blow in it and it almost instantly tells you you have a virus. It instantly bounces off your medical records. It instantly could order your antiviral. Oh, and by the way, the newest versions look like they can detect about 25 different dead cancer proteins.

Wouldn't that be really good for our constituents? Wouldn't that be—the ability for that hardworking family, that working mom, to not try to find a way to take the day off from work, to be able to organize the kids, to find out if she can go into an urgent care center, but functionally have a breath biopsy in her medicine cabinet?

I will argue that it is both moral, it is faster, it is healthier, and it crashes the price of healthcare. This body keeps that type of technology illegal. It is something that would save so much time for the working people in this country, and we keep it illegal because this place is so much like a protection racket. It is not utopian, there are a dozen different versions, and it exists. Much of it has already made it through the FDA. Our problem is we don't reimburse it and we don't make it legal so it can write the script.

If you don't reduce the cost, you can't do marginal—I have some people come in here and say, well, we have an idea. We can remove 2 or 3 percent out of healthcare costs if we do this. We had 16 percent healthcare inflation in many of our markets so far this year. Great, we can find a 1 or 2 percent rounding error.

Do you understand how much trouble we are in?

Your government functionally is an insurance company with an army. It is going to be an insurance company where the insurance side is going to start consuming every dollar and the army is going to have to get smaller. It is demographics. It is the reality where we are.

□ 1530

Why wouldn't this body take an experiment and say let's make it legal. If you can find insurance, if the manufacturer can find insurance for it, FDA approves it, why wouldn't we let this write a script? There are dozens and dozens and dozens of these things.

For those of that walk around with these smartwatches or your fancy supercomputer in your pocket, the fact of the matter is, we should be using every piece of technology to crash the price of healthcare.

Last night, I came and showed some slides about a path, and who knows, maybe it doesn't work. But there might be a path for a cure for diabetes. Diabetes is 33 percent of all healthcare

spending. It is 31 percent of all Medicare spending. It may be the leading contributor to income inequality.

You go, huh? Look at the data. Look at my data sets of who is suffering, who is going blind, who is having their feet cut off.

I represent a tribal community with the second highest per capita diabetes in the world. Is it moral not for us to go and throw every smart idea and sometimes the resources we need to cure it?

Wouldn't that be more moral than this crazy ass argument of, hey, let's go build more clinics so we can help people manage their misery, because that is what we do here. We are better than this. Well, no, we are not better than this, but we could be.

So let's go a little further down the crazy line of, what do you do to grow the economy? So think about what we did last week. We are going to stop this strike because we are going to fight for the way we move goods out of the port and put them on trucks and then put them on a rail car and move it over here.

Yes, we have all the environmental issues of, yes, it is really dirty, it is really filthy. Oh, but the Democrats in their inflation reduction—crazy name for what the bill actually did—bill, made it so if they are going to take the green money, they can't actually do certain innovation; they can't automate because they have to protect all their longshoremen union folks because that is who writes them checks.

So in one hand, we give great lip service; we have got to fix the supply chain; we have got to get greener in the economy. And then they make it illegal. It is in your legislation. You did it.

Yet, at the same time, we have brilliant innovators—and these things aren't Republican, they are just the next generation of innovation—of autonomous rail platforms. You take the container off; you put it on the platform. You hit the button and you say, go to the spur over here and dump this at the warehouse. Go take this and put at the manufacturing facility.

It is electric. The environmental load is dramatically cleaner. It would be a revolution of efficiency.

We keep saying, well, we have got to fix the supply chain. Well, damn it, you made parts of fixing the supply chain illegal.

Why does this place act like a barrier, a protection barrier of allowing innovation in the economy?

We do this over and over and over. Most of the Members don't know it is happening. But we have functionally made that disruption that grows the economy, that if we don't have that growth, we are absolutely—we are in real trouble. Go ahead.

Mr. KELLER. Can I just say you inspired me to think of something. This is the only place that does less with more; the only place that does it. I am sorry. You are talking about this efficiency and stuff, and I just look at this place.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. We make it illegal.

Mr. KELLER. And during COVID they talked about essential jobs.

Well, I tell you what: This is probably the only place on Earth where there are some jobs that are not essential.

But anyhow, sorry for taking your time, sir, but it just reminded me that this is the only place on the face of the Earth that does less with more.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. How many times—and you have some of this in your district—will we get the lobbyists and the folks come in—and this has been going on for 30 years, so this is sort of one of the running joke scams around here.

We need money for rural broadband. We do. I have—well, communities in Arizona—I don't represent them—they have been waiting 20 years for that line to get out to the chapter house on the Navajo reservation.

The fact of the matter is every inch of this country actually has broadband right now. They just happen to be satellites. We have what, five companies? A couple of them already have most of the satellites up.

Mr. KELLER. Actually, I have an F–150 that I can run seven devices from anywhere in PA–12.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. What is yours? I drive a long-bed pickup truck.

Mr. KELLER. 2022.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. When I had my midlife crisis, I didn't want a new wife or a Porsche, I just wanted a long-bed pickup truck; and mine is 10 years old.

Mr. KELLER. I got the F–150 so I didn't have to buy a generator because it has one in it. So that was my justification for that.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. But you think about this; if I really cared about that community—and you see where this ties in, this is back to that unified theory. I believe much of my healthcare I can use technology, but I need access to the broadband. But I am going to wait for the wire to show up because that is incredibly inefficient.

But I do have an option right now where something like the Starlink satellites, I could actually put up a little oval-shaped dish so they have the broadband, so they can use the healthcare technology, let alone the education technology and the other things. I need you to see this as a unified theory.

But, instead, we are going to take that tax that is on your cell phone bill, hand it out to companies, and then we are going to wait another decade for that wire to get out; and it never gets there, when they already have access to broadband.

This could be urban, too. The technologies exist. So let me go to crazy town.

Mr. KELLER. You are already here.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. No, no, no. This is one, it is a little more ethereal, but it is in the field. It is being tested right now. I am not going to do the whole thing about a C4 plant and a C3 plant. Remember your high school biology class.

But what would happen in a world—I am sorry, this slide is a little old, so it is a little beaten on. How do you get the Agriculture Committee to have an honest conversation saying, you do realize there is about to be a revolution in food?

This whole thing called synthetic biology: They basically figured out how to take a plant—our high school biology plant—the plant really, really wants a carbon molecule so it turns it into a sugar so it can grow. It accidentally grabs an oxygen. It doesn't need the oxygen, so it has to spend all this energy getting rid of the oxygen so it gets a carbon so it can grow.

What happens if the plant every time got a carbon molecule?

In some plants you could have a 40 percent improvement in growth; dramatically less water; dramatically less land needed; dramatically less fertilizer. This is being tested right now, I think it is University of Illinois. It is out there.

How much discussion have we had that there is a revolution coming in agriculture? And it would be incredibly productive. It would be incredibly disruptive because, what happens in agriculture land if, all of a sudden, I have crops that grow dramatically more efficiently?

But it would also be amazing for the environment. At 40 percent production improvement—which you are not going to get, but if you did, theoretically—in world agriculture, you do realize that would be like removing every car off the face of the Earth.

How many hearings have we had on is this coming, is this feasible?

No, because that would require thinking, something we just don't do here.

The other thing I am going to give you is just a conceptual idea, and if anyone is crazy enough, go on YouTube, Schweikert Environmental Crowdsourcing.

Five, 6 years ago, I did a little YouTube cartoon. It is like 90 seconds, with this concept, you could actually attach a little environmental sensor to the bottom of this.

How about if in your community you had a couple of thousand people driving around with a little environmental sensor saying, hey, we are keeping an eye on the air quality. Hey, it is spouting off. I have some clowns over here painting cars in the back of their house, but the motorcycle paint shop over here that has its filters, it is not setting the alarm off. Leave them alone.

What would happen if your environmental data was living data?

You wouldn't need people to go fill out paperwork. You don't need an inspector. Do file cabinets full of paper make the environment cleaner? They don't, they just build bureaucracy.

What makes the environment cleaner is knowing when someone has done something stupid and stopping them.

Crowdsourcing. The data is living. Use a living data model. And guess what? You can do that for water, for sound; you can actually do it for health. You can do it for all sorts of things.

How many hearings has this place had to discuss dragging our regulatory environment; and it is not deregulating, it is smart regulating. Make us more efficient.

It turns out, the data says that we would be healthier, cleaner, faster, and you would get the bad guys, and you could build a model where you just leave the good actors alone.

If you are the motorcycle paint shop, and your filters are working, and your booth is working, why should you be bothered? Just leave them alone; and if they screw up, a crowdsourced environmental sensor model will catch them instantly.

You would be amazed the pushback you get because, well, we are a consulting firm. You just put us out of business. Hey, I work for the group. I shove paperwork in the file cabinets. Why do you want to unemploy me?

We are going to have to have the discussion if we intend to survive, where we are going population-wise, debt-wise.

Remember, functionally, in 10 years, we have two $1 trillion running deficits, and it is demographics. It is trying to pay for healthcare. We have got to have the growth, and we have got to have the technology disruption and healthcare, or we are in for some very dark times.

The fact of the matter is, we could have incredibly prosperous times for the future. But that prosperity is only going to come if I, and you, and the people who are willing to listen to this are willing to pound on Members of Congress and our staff and the lobbying communities and our creative thinkers out there and say, okay, guys. There is hope out there. There is hope. We just need to be willing to think differently and embrace the disruption and embrace an economy that actually starts to do good things for our people, instead of basically being a protection racket for incumbent models.

It is uncomfortable, but there is hope. But there is no hope if we keep doing the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for letting me do this. We are finding the only way it is going to sink in is if I keep coming and giving more and more examples that there is hope if we just do things differently. So I thank the gentleman for giving me some of his time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for his insight. I have nobody else to speak in this hour, so I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from as Arizona being down here, as always, enlightening the American people and using the floor time in the honor of our soon-to-be-leaving-the-House friend, LOUIE GOHMERT, and making sure that we use the time here to inform our constituents back home.

As usual, the American people understand I am speaking to a mostly empty Chamber, with the exception of the Speaker and my friends who are now leaving who were just here. This is pretty much what we get in terms of debate here in the House Chamber.

Earlier today we had a little bit of back and forth on a couple of bills, but they are pre-programmed, like 30 minutes a side, pre-designed, all designed to get right off the floor; and I want to talk about that. That is why I am coming down here today.

Today, we took up two bills on the floor of the people's House. We took up a bill that is ostensibly focused on marriage and allowing recognition of same-sex marriages from one State to another.

But in that bill is something that is pretty significant for the American people to understand, regardless of your views about how the bill is being sold, about it being about recognition of same-sex marriage. Actually, they say it is about codifying Obergefell and same-sex marriage. It does no such thing. It only deals with recognition across State lines.

But even if you think that is good policy, even if you voted for it—and I didn't think it was good policy. I would have voted against it on the merits—in the bill is a sword, a private right of action, a private right of action able to be used and creating the ability of the Attorney General of the United States to go after individuals for actions they carry out, their closely held religious beliefs.

People in this Chamber voted for it, knowing full well that the language in that bill will allow lawyers and organizations to come sue Americans and force them into court; and their response is that, oh, don't worry, you have the Constitution of the United States and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Well, no kidding. I know the Constitution exists. And the Religious Freedom Restoration Act dates back to, I don't know, '93 or '94, sometime in the 1990s.

□ 1545

But now, if you dare, as an organization, a religious school, for example, say: ''Wait a minute. It is against our tenets of faith to hire a same-sex couple, or an individual who is part of a same-sex couple, as a teacher in our school,'' or maybe another organization makes a choice along those lines, now you are in court.

Now you are having to go defend yourself. Now you are having to go take this up to the Fifth Circuit and up to the United States Supreme Court, trying to figure out how they are going to interpret all of this, whether this law is even constitutional in the first place, all because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle wanted not to just provide for recognition across States—again, a proposition with which I do not agree. But not just that. They wanted to make sure that there was a sword to go after you if you disagree.

Earlier this summer, a member of Parliament in Finland was prosecuted for a pamphlet she distributed 20 years ago in defense of traditional marriage and in opposition to same-sex marriage.

Again, whatever your views are on the issue, let me be perfectly clear: What is happening today, what was decided today on the floor of the House, and all those Members on that side of the aisle and the 39 on this side of the aisle who voted for that legislation, voted for a sword to go after individual Americans, private citizens, and private organizations for daring to carry out their closely held, private religious beliefs.

We will be back here talking about that. We will be back here trying to pass legislation to make sure we can protect them.

I offered an amendment in the Committee on Rules to try to get a vote on the floor of the House, and I was denied even the ability to offer the amendment. We couldn't even offer the amendment. Lord knows, I don't have the power to offer an amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Again, I want everybody out there in America to understand that not since May 2016 has an individual of the so-called people's House been able to walk into the well of the House and offer an amendment on a piece of legislation, this time as consequential as marriage and religious liberty.

Again, let me reiterate, whatever your views are on the issue—and I have mine—shouldn't we be able to debate marriage? Shouldn't we be able to debate religious liberty and the ability to protect your views and your closely held religious beliefs?

No, no, no. I was punted out of the Committee on Rules for supposedly, irony of ironies, on a day in which we just authorized $860 billion in a 4,400-page bill I got 40 hours before I voted on it, because it would score over half a million dollars—yeah, $500,000—over 10 years.

That wasn't even actually what the CBO said. They said it could because it might create some revenues and some expenditures and, those expenditures, those outlays, would be what? Damages if you went to court and you succeeded.

I want you to be able to understand that my Democratic colleagues used a point of order to shut down an amendment to protect religious liberty if it would be successful to protect your rights. That is assuredly and 100 percent what happened, yet it was just blown over, disregarded here in the House Chamber, including by 39 members of my own party, because that is the way this town works.

The bill was dubbed a gay marriage codification of Obergefell bill. You had 39 members of my party go: Oh, well, I have to be for that because we have to be for our Libertarian-type principles. Never mind that you are trampling on the ability of States and communities to be able to decide how they want to live, how they want to set up their communities, trampling on millennia, thousands of years, of traditional marriage, which is designed very specifically for families and children. There is tons of evidence and research on this.

But, no. We have to do that. We have to ignore the sword and the attack on religious liberty. It was voted on today without debate and without an amendment. It is extraordinary.

What else did we do today in this august body, so much debate and interaction and discussion among the 435 Members here on the floor? What else was done today? I will tell you what was done today. On the desk on the floor of the House of Representatives was a stack of papers up on the second level, 4,400 pages stacked up right there, which I got at 9 p.m. on Tuesday night.

We have a rule in the House of Representatives that you are not supposed to vote on legislation if you don't have at least 72 hours to read it. Why might you have that rule? I don't know. Color me crazy. Maybe I should read what is in a 4,400-page bill. I know that is a radical position. I know that puts me over in the insane camp. Oh, there is crazy CHIP ranting on the floor of the House because, oh, my God, he wants 72 hours to read a bill.

Whenever I say this, how many people go: You know what is in the bill. What is wrong? How long does it take you to read a bill?

How many Members do you think read all 4,400 pages?

Oh, but, CHIP, they have staff for that. You have all the committee staff. The committee staff does that.

We hold the election certificate. How many of your staff do you think read the 4,400 pages? I know my staff was poring over it late night on Tuesday night and all day yesterday just to see what was in it.

Surprise, surprise. What do you find in it? 4,400 pages, $860 billion authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act. I had less than 40 hours before I was voting on it, in plain violation of the 72-hour rule, because we waive the rules all the time. We set up rules and waive them. Nobody seems to care. They just go: Oh, my God, I have a steak dinner to go to. I have a Christmas party to go to.

I was down here last night debating the rule on marriage. I was solo. I was one, even on my side of the aisle.

When I finished, the House Chamber closed. We were done. I rolled down the street and went to a Christmas party. There were a lot of Members there. There were a lot of Members all over this town rolling out down to their Christmas parties. They sure as hell weren't here debating marriage and religious liberty.

What do we get in getting this NDAA passed? We got a vaccine mandate repeal. Or did we? I think we got a really important step forward to say that the members of the military shouldn't be fired if they dare question whether they must take a needle in their arm for a vaccine that has not been proven to be actually effective in halting transmission and certainly not necessary for those who are young and healthy, by virtually any account by any doctor that we have had testify on this. So you reject the needle and you get fired from the United States military.

For 2 years, we have been calling to get rid of the vaccine mandates. Finally, in December 2022, right on the way out, Democrats say: Whoa, okay, in order to get this 4,400-page monstrosity across the finish line, we will accept that we will, in 30 days, undo the memo at the Department of Defense.

That memo could be reissued. In fact, the Democrat chair of the Committee on Armed Services effectively said that.

Are we going to get anybody reinstated? Are we going to get everybody honorably discharged? Are we going to be able to say maybe you shouldn't be harassed? Because that is what happens.

You didn't take a needle; you are not getting that job. You didn't take a needle; you are not necessarily getting that promotion. Retaliation, again, for a vaccine that doctors and the CDC today acknowledge does nothing for transmission, that is unnecessary for people who are healthy and young.

Here we are. We passed an NDAA in order to get—oh, man we finally got that vaccine mandate repeal language.

Look, I am glad to get it. We have been fighting for it. We didn't get half a loaf. We got the crumbs of one piece of bread. But it was so important so we could stop the next person from getting fired. We sure as hell didn't help the guy who got fired last week.

It is $860 billion, $45 billion above the President's request, 9 percent over 2022 levels.

I am for more money for lethality. I am for more money for a Department of Defense fully capable of killing people and blowing stuff up because that is what you want your Department of Defense to be capable of doing when called upon to do it. I am not for a social engineering experiment wrapped in a uniform. Unfortunately, that is what we are turning the Department of Defense into.

Authorizing a Department of Defense center for excellence in environmental security on how and why environmental stresses to human safety and water and energy will cascade to economic, social, political, or national security events; renewing the DOD's annual environment and energy reports; establishing a joint working group on prioritization for energy systems, which ''may reduce conventional air pollution''; creating a pilot program for electric vehicle charging stations; having zero emissions by 2035 for nontactical vehicles.

Meanwhile, China is just pumping out aircraft carriers and boats, building their military, building coal-fired power plants. We ain't building any coal-fired power plants. We are barely building any gas-fired power plants. They are out building their military, and we are focused on the coral reef, which appeared 286 times in the text of the NDAA.

Well, what else do we do? We establish a commission on reform and modernization of the State Department to offer recommendations to the President and Congress related to personnel-related matters, to strengthen diversity and inclusion, to ensure that the Department's workforce represents all of America.

Well, I am sure China is shuddering. We order the DOD to submit a report on its efforts to increase marketing and advertising to adequately reach racial and minority communities. We require the Coast Guard to implement a recommendation by the RAND Corporation to increase representation of women and racial and ethnic minorities. We require the Coast Guard Commandant to develop a 10-year strategy to enhance diversity.

We talked about the coral reef before. We got the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act. We have a program for projects to combat coastal erosion in Alaska. What we don't have is a repeal of the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force. It has been there for 20 years, and we are not even using it.

Why do we leave these in place indefinitely? What do we have in there? A provision that undermines Second Amendment rights, creates a pilot program on the safe storage of personally owned firearms for members of the Armed Forces. It is on a voluntary basis, but here is the problem: It establishes a structure for the DOD to be providing storage devices for members of the military.

We know what the next step is: another grant program, another funding program through the Department of Justice, another program through another agency to be telling you that you must take or you can volunteer to take—you take these but you must put the gun in whatever storage device the government gives you. That is where this is headed.

We all know this. They act like it is minimal, doesn't matter, but that is

what happens. Then we embrace it, and that program never goes away. It just gets bigger. No little pilot programs try something and then get out of the way. When did the government ever start something and not make it bigger?

We are sitting here with $32 trillion of debt, and all we are doing is talking about how much money we are going to spend.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say: Why don't you increase taxes? I tell you what, why don't we have that debate? You can't tax enough to spend all the money we are spending. You literally can't. Run the numbers. Put up a spreadsheet. If we ever actually debated and came down here and had a serious conversation, we could have that debate. I would love to have that debate, but we just keep writing checks we can't cash.

□ 1600

What else are we doing? Authorizing and extending security support to Ukraine at $800 million without inspector general oversight.

Amendments were offered in the Foreign Affairs Committee just the other day, saying: Well, shouldn't we have more oversight with Ukraine money?

Democratic colleagues said: Well, we are for oversight, but not right now. Why in the hell would we want to have oversight right now over the money we are now spending in Ukraine and how it is being used?

No, let's just figure it out later because then what will we do? Nothing. We will do the same thing we always do: Spend more money that we don't have.

Not one Member of this body can come down here and refute that because every Member of this body knows it is true.

I will throw that out there, a challenge. I would love any Member of this body, any of my 434 colleagues, to come on down. Let's debate the proposition that we are going to do anything other than spend more money that we don't have.

I will wait for the takers because the fact is it is true, and it is both sides of the aisle.

Here is what will happen: Next year, Republicans will be in control. Next year, there will be all sorts of debate about appropriations bills. We will go through all the motions. Maybe we will pass some really good appropriations bill that holds spending in check to inflation or frozen at 2022 levels or whatever. Come up with something, anything that any normal budget, family, business would do.

Our guys will come down and do all that, be all proud, pat ourselves on the back, ''Oh, yes, look at us. We just passed something that is fiscally responsible.'' Even if it is not, we will say it is.

Then what? We will barrel forward. The Senate won't accept it. Sometime in August or September, right before a big government shutdown threat, Senators will say, ''We are not taking that.''

A whole bunch of people will say, ''Oh, no. Defense, they need their appropriations.'' A whole bunch of people will say, ''We need nondefense discretionary.''

Hey, I have an idea, why don't we just spend it all? Let's just do that. Let's just say, yes, we will get a 10 percent increase for nondefense discretionary and a 10 percent increase for defense, and we will just call it a day and say, ''Well done us.'' We just spent our children's inheritance so we can go give a speech saying how we helped our military; we wrote a whole bunch more checks for a whole bunch more government bureaucrats and agencies because we have more grants and more programs to promise you more stuff at the United States house of free stuff. We are just going to dole that out without regard to any responsibility whatsoever.

Not one Member of this body can refute what I just said other than the maybe hyperbolic examples, although I don't know that they are that hyperbolic. I will wait and see next September where we are on the numbers.

''Inflation is high. Don't you understand, CHIP? So why don't we just spend at inflation levels?'' Oh, good. Let's just increase the entire budget of the United States by 8, 9, 10 percent when we are $32 trillion in debt and when mandatory spending is on autopilot to continue to blow through the roof.

What about those interest rate payments? Those have gotten a little crazy, huh? Sitting here with now 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 percent interest. We didn't see that one coming, did we? Except that we did, but we didn't care because both sides will retreat to their postures, and then they will just kind of throw their hands up and say: ''CHIP, it just is what it is. Biden is President. You need 60 in the Senate. We have a thin majority, so, man, what are we going to do?'' And here we sit.

I will give this speech again in January, and I will give it again in March, and I will give it again in May, and then we will be here in September, and I hope someone can prove me wrong, but I will take the bet. There will either be a CR because we can't come to an agreement, which means we are spending at this year's levels, which is I guess somewhat fiscally better, but bad for defense and bad for how you do things, or there will be a massive bunch of spending. That is it. Those are your choices.

There will not be a reasonable sitdown to do the job that we are supposed to do.

I believe I am going to get in trouble, but I need to go do a radio interview, so I am going to have to walk off the floor now.

Here is the thing: I am just asking any one of the Members of either side of the aisle to say we are going to stop doing that. At some point, we are going to stop doing that, stop spending money we don't have, stop cooking all these bills up in back rooms and dropping them on the floor like happened just today with a 4,400-page, $860 billion National Defense Authorization Act, airdropped onto the floor, take it or leave it.

So, I left it, and I had to vote against defense, which is not exactly where I want to be, but I am sure as heck not going to continue to go down this road and look at my kids and grandkids one day and say: Well, too bad. Your country is bankrupt.

I hope my colleagues will wake up tomorrow and say they want to avoid having to say the same thing to their kids or grandkids.

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

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 8404. An act to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, SUBMITTED BY MR. SCHIFF, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The following is the Explanatory Statement (the ''Explanatory Statement'') to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (''the Act''), which has been included as Division F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. The Explanatory Statement reflects the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (together, ''the Committees''). The Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the Committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning their final decisions regarding funding levels and policy direction. Therefore, the Committees have prepared a classified annex—referred to here and within the annex itself as ''the Agreement''—that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations and that describes in detail the scope and intent of the Committees' actions.

The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community (IC) to obligate and expend funds as requested in the President's budget and as modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations, subject to applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the Act pursuant to Section 6102 of the Act. It has the status of law. The Agreement supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the Act and in the classified Schedule of Authorizations.

This Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall

comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (S. Rept. 117–132) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (H. Rept. 117–546). The Agreement supersedes all classified direction related to programs and activities authorized by the Schedule of Authorization.

The Executive Branch is further directed as follows:

ENFORCEMENT OF CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS

Section 6309 is intended to codify, for the elements of the IC, the key elements of the ''Memorandum on Improving the Cybersecurity of National Security, Department of Defense, and Intelligence Community Systems'' issued by the White House on January 19, 2022, also known as NSM–08, and any successor policy guidance. The section also requires agencies (1) to meet the deadlines established under those requirements and (2) to prioritize resources in a manner to fully implement the requirements established by the deadlines.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EXPERTS PANEL ON ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENTS

The Committees are committed to protecting and supporting IC and other federal government personnel who have experienced debilitating, unexplained attacks, or anomalous health incidents, while serving their country. The Committees are also focused on transparency in reporting by those agencies whose personnel have been affected by anomalous health incidents.

Therefore, the Committees direct that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), as part of the reporting required by Section 6412 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, submit a plan to implement the recommendations of the IC Experts Panel on Anomalous Health Incidents. The Committees further direct that the Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research, as part of the assessment required by Section 6810 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, submit a plan to implement the recommendations of the IC Experts Panel on Anomalous Health Incidents.

STAFFING OF OFFICE SUPPORTING CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WORKFORCE WELLBEING

Section 6416 of the Act establishes an Office to support the physical, mental, and overall wellbeing of eligible CIA employees and certain other individuals affiliated with the Agency. The Committees recognize the Agency's need for appropriate flexibility and therefore did not legislatively mandate minimum staffing levels for the Office. However, Section 6416 does require the Director of the CIA to assign to the Office ''a sufficient number of individuals, who shall have no official duties other than duties related to the Office while so assigned.'' The Committees fully expect the Agency, consistent with the Agency's plan that was briefed to the Committees, to staff the office with at least 10 full-time individuals. The Committees direct the Agency to promptly notify the Committees if the Office has less than 10 individuals assigned to the Office on a full-time basis.

INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF COUNTERTERRORISM STRIKES

The Committees direct the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), in coordination with the directorates of intelligence of the combatant commands, to prepare an intelligence assessment of the effects of counterterrorism strikes conducted by the Armed Forces on targets outside of areas of active hostilities during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of the Act. The assessment shall include:

(1) an analysis of the strike's short- and long-term effects on the capability and intent of the terrorist group to conduct external operations, particularly operations targeting the United States, U.S. persons, or U.S. facilities;

(2) an analysis of the strike's effects on the recruitment of the terrorist group;

(3) an analysis of the strike's effects on local perception of the terrorist group, the host country, and the United States;

(4) an identification of the number and quality of finished intelligence products that assessed the effects that a U.S. counterterrorism strike would have, or did have, against specific terrorist individuals or groups; and

(5) recommendations to improve the efficacy, accuracy, and timeliness of intelligence analysis to increase the strategic effect of counterterrorism strikes.

The Committees further direct the Director of the DIA to submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees, within 180 days of the enactment of the Act, a report containing both this intelligence assessment and judgments regarding the following questions:

(1) What percentage of counterterrorism strikes covered by the intelligence assessment had a short-term effect on the planned external operations of the terrorist group, particularly operations targeting the United States, U.S. persons, or U.S. facilities?

(2) What percentage of counterterrorism strikes covered by the intelligence assessment had a long-term effect on the planned external operations of the terrorist group, particularly operations targeting the United States, U.S. persons, or U.S. facilities?

The report may be submitted in classified form, except that the judgments shall be in unclassified form. For purposes of this direction, the term ''counterterrorism strikes'' means an air strike conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces targeting a specific individual that is not a defensive strike conducted to reduce imminent danger to the U.S. Armed Forces or specifically designated partner forces of the United States, and the term ''external operations'' means violent operations conducted outside the terrorist group's country or region of origin.

REPORT ON EFFORTS OF THE FBI TO IDENTIFY AND PROMOTE DIVERSE CANDIDATES

The Committees direct the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, within 90 days of the enactment of the Act, to submit to the congressional intelligence committees and to post on the public website of the Bureau a statistical report on the status of efforts by the Bureau to identify and promote diverse candidates over the past five fiscal years. For Supervisory Special Agent program managers, Field Supervisory Special Agents, Assistant Special Agents in Charge, Special Agents in Charge, and senior executives, the report shall include tables of figures that break down by race and gender the following information:

(1) The total number, and the percentage, of Special Agents who applied for such positions;

(2) The total number, and the percentage, of Special Agents who were interviewed for such positions;

(3) The total number, and the percentage, of Special Agents who were selected for such positions; and

(4) The average number of times a Special Agent applied for such position before selection.

For purposes of this direction, the term ''senior executives'' means Deputy Assistant Director, Assistant Director, Executive Assistant Director, Associate Deputy Director, and Deputy Director.

The Committees further direct that the report shall include, with respect to GS–14 and GS–15 positions, tables of figures that break down by race and gender the following information:

(1) The total number of individuals in such positions, and the percentage of such individuals, who retired over the past five fiscal years; and

(2) The total number of individuals in such positions, and the percentage of such individuals, who retired early over the past five fiscal years.

REPORT ON IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES FOR PROMOTIONS IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the elements of the IC, to submit to the congressional intelligence committees within 120 days of the enactment of the Act a consolidated report on specific steps taken by each element to enhance opportunities for women and minorities for promotions across all mission categories of the IC, and to reduce the gap among gender, racial, and ethnic categories at senior levels of the IC. The report shall contain a strategic plan from each element of the IC on the following:

(1) Overcoming any barriers or obstacles identified in the report;

(2) Proposing new or enhanced mentoring programs or similar workplace forums to support women and minority officers of the IC who are interested in or may qualify for promotion opportunities or other career advancements;

(3) Recommending additional steps and initiatives to achieve diversity among senior roles in the IC; and

(4) Addressing any gaps in relevant tools, resources, or authorities.

BRIEFINGS ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN CYBERSPACE

The Committees direct the Secretary of Defense, on a quarterly basis, to provide to the congressional intelligence committees and the congressional defense committees a briefing, with respect to the covered period, on the intelligence activities occurring in cyberspace conducted by United States Cyber Command in support of current and future offensive or defensive cyberspace operations.

SUBMISSION OF CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES

The Committees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional intelligence committees any legislative proposal that (1) is proposed by the Secretary of Defense to Congress, (2) has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, and (3) involves a grant, expansion, modification, or cessation of authority involving the intelligence, intelligence-related, or tactical intelligence activities of the Department of Defense. The Committees further direct that any such legislative proposals submitted to the congressional intelligence committees be accompanied by a brief explanation of the proposal.

OFFICE OF GLOBAL COMPETITION ANALYSIS

The Committees encourage the President to establish an Office of Global Competition Analysis (''the Office'') to conduct analysis relevant to United States leadership in science, technology, and innovation sectors critical to national security and economic prosperity relative to other countries, and to support policy development and decision making across the federal government to ensure United States leadership in science, technology, and innovation sectors critical to national security and economic prosperity relative to other countries, particularly

those countries that are strategic competitors of the United States.

The analysis conducted by the Office should cover:

(1) United States policies that enable technological competitiveness relative to those of other countries, particularly with respect to countries that are strategic competitors of the United States;

(2) United States science and technology ecosystem elements, including regional and national research and development capacity, technology innovation, science and engineering education and research workforce relative to those of other countries;

(3) United States technology development, commercialization, and advanced manufacturing ecosystem elements, including supply chain resiliency, scale-up manufacturing testbeds, access to venture capital and financing, technical and entrepreneurial workforce, and production, relative to those of other countries;

(4) United States competitiveness in technology and innovation sectors critical to national security and economic prosperity relative to other countries, including the availability and scalability of United States technology in such sectors abroad;

(5) trends and trajectories, including rate of change in technologies, related to technology and innovation sectors critical to national security and economic prosperity;

(6) threats to United States national security interests as a result of any foreign country's dependence on technologies of strategic competitors of the United States; and

(7) threats to United States interests based on dependencies on foreign technologies critical to national security and economic prosperity.

The priorities of the Office should be established in coordination with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and such other officials as the President considers appropriate.

In carrying out the activities of the Office, the Committees expect:

(1) the Office will solicit input on technology and economic trends, data, and metrics from relevant private sector stakeholders, including entities involved in financing technology development and commercialization, and engage with academia to inform the analyses;

(2) the Office will acquire, access, use, and handle data or information in a manner consistent with applicable provisions of law and policy,' including laws and policies providing for the protection of privacy and civil liberties, and subject to any restrictions required by the source of the information.

(3) the Office will receive access, upon written request, to all information, data, or reports of any Executive agency that the Office determines necessary to carry out its activities, to include commercially available information that may not be publicly available; and

(4) consistent with applicable law, the heads of departments or agencies within the Executive will detail personnel to the Office in order to assist the Office in its activities.

The Committees direct the President to submit to the appropriate congressional committees, within 180 days of the date of enactment of the Act, a report analyzing the need for the Office, including recommendations regarding the administrative structure of the Office, as well as a detailed spending plan that includes administrative costs.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until noon on Monday for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 12, 2022, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first, third, and fourth quarters of 2022, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MARK IOZZI, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 24 AND OCT. 29, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Mark Iozzi	10/24	10/26	Mozambique		508.00		471.10				979.10
	10/26	10/29	Kenya		500.00		3,555.78				4,055.78
Committee total					1,008.00		4,026.88				5,034.88

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Nov. 15, 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO INDONESIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 5 AND OCT. 7, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Gregory Meeks	10/5	10/7	Jakarta, Indonesia		507.80		14,035.57				14,543.37
Laura Carey	10/5	10/7	Jakarta, Indonesia		507.80		9,041.67				9,549.47
Alexandra Davis	10/5	10/7	Jakarta, Indonesia		202.91		35.00				237.91
Committee total					1,218.51		23,112.24				24,330.75

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Nov. 11, 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO IRELAND, ARMENIA, AND MOLDOVA, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 15 AND OCT. 20, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Price	10/15	10/17	Ireland		1265.11		(3)				1265.11
Hon. Diana DeGette	10/15	10/17	Ireland		1265.11		(3)				1265.11
Hon. Jim Cooper	10/15	10/17	Ireland		1265.11		(3)				1265.11

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO IRELAND, ARMENIA, AND MOLDOVA, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 15 AND OCT. 20, 2022—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Andy Levin	10/15	10/17	Ireland		1265.11		(3)				1265.11
Courtney Fry	10/15	10/17	Ireland		539.82		(3)				539.82
Justin Wein	10/15	10/17	Ireland		539.82		(3)				539.82
Derek Luyten	10/15	10/17	Ireland		539.82		(3)				539.82
Hon. David Price	10/17	10/18	Armenia		732.15		(3)				732.15
Hon. Diana DeGette	10/17	10/18	Armenia		732.15		(3)				732.15
Hon. Jim Cooper	10/17	10/18	Armenia		732.14		(3)				732.14
Hon. Andy Levin	10/17	10/18	Armenia		732.14		(3)				732.14
Courtney Fry	10/17	10/18	Armenia		732.14		(3)				732.14
Justin Wein	10/17	10/18	Armenia		732.14		(3)				732.14
Derek Luyten	10/17	10/18	Armenia		732.14		(3)				732.14
Hon. David Price	10/18	10/20	Moldova		486.00		(3)				486.00
Hon. Diana DeGette	10/18	10/20	Moldova		486.00		(3)				486.00
Hon. Jim Cooper	10/18	10/20	Moldova		486.00		(3)				486.00
Hon. Andy Levin	10/18	10/20	Moldova		486.00		(3)				486.00
Courtney Fry	10/18	10/20	Moldova		486.00		(3)				486.00
Justin Wein	10/18	10/20	Moldova		486.00		(3)				486.00
Derek Luyten	10/18	10/20	Moldova		486.00		(3)				486.00
			Moldova								3,402.00
			Armenia								5,125.00
			Ireland								6,679.90
Committee total					15,206.90				7,577.08		22,783.98

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. DAVID E. PRICE, Nov. 16, 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CROATIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 23 AND OCT. 27, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Hon. Gerry Connolly	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
General William Walker	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Kate Knudson	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Terri McCullough	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Wyndee Parker	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Emily Berret	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Kelsey Smith	10/20	10/25	Croatia		1,178.85		1,595.30				2,774.15
Henry Connelly	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Grayson Kisker	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Collin Davenport	10/23	10/25	Croatia		392.75		(3)				392.75
Committee total					5,106.35		1,595.30				6,701.65

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Nov. 15, 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Tony Gonzales	8/1	8/3	El Salvador		432.00		1,327.04				1,759.04
	8/3	8/5	Guatemala		595.00						595.00
	8/5	8/6	Honduras		369.00						369.00
Hon. David Price	8/15	8/15	Cape Verde		177.36				375.08		552.44
	8/16	8/17	Mozambique		626.00				573.00		1,199.00
	8/17	8/19	Kenya		642.00				185.00		827.00
	8/19	8/21	Rwanda		802.00						802.00
	8/21	8/22	Tunisia		214.34				440.83		655.17
Hon. David Joyce	8/15	8/15	Cape Verde		177.36				375.08		552.44
	8/16	8/17	Mozambique		626.00				573.00		1,199.00
	8/17	8/19	Kenya		642.00				185.00		827.00
	8/19	8/21	Rwanda		802.00						802.00
	8/21	8/22	Tunisia		214.34				440.83		655.17
Hon. Barbara Lee	8/24	8/24	Germany		296.99						296.99
	8/24	8/27	Ghana		918.00				912.60		1,830.60
	8/27	8/29	Senegal		821.00				192.90		1,013.90
	8/29	8/31	Italy		982.00				1,088.16		2,070.16
	8/31	9/1	Ireland		158.00		4,882.47		123.00		5,163.47
Hon. Katherine Clark	8/24	8/24	Germany		296.99						296.99
	8/24	8/27	Ghana		918.00				912.60		1,830.60
	8/27	8/29	Senegal		821.00				192.90		1,013.90
	8/29	8/31	Italy		982.00				1,088.16		2,070.16
	8/31	9/1	Ireland		158.00		602.57		123.00		883.57
Hon. Cheri Bustos	8/24	8/24	Germany		296.99						296.99
	8/24	8/27	Ghana		918.00				912.60		1,830.60
	8/27	8/29	Senegal		821.00				192.90		1,013.90
	8/29	8/31	Italy		982.00				1,088.16		2,070.16
	8/31	9/1	Ireland		158.00		1,921.27		123.00		2,202.27
Hon. Betty McCollum	8/24	8/25	Finland		357.00		2,476.66		69.38		2,903.04
	8/25	8/27	Norway		581.00		4,665.50		426.06		5,672.56

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2022—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Steven Palazzo	8/28	9/1	Japan		1,069.90		10,211.27		320.00		11,601.17
David Bortnick	7/5	7/7	Honduras		556.00		1,794.00				2,350.00
	7/7	7/10	Panama		702.00		1,023.00				1,725.00
Hae (Jean) Kwon	8/1	8/24	Vietnam		1,653.14		14,511.00		464.75		16,628.89
Brad Allen	8/15	8/17	Germany		593.64		4,332.72				4,926.36
	8/17	8/18	Poland		156.41						156.41
	8/18	8/19	Belgium		270.00		399.96				669.96
	8/19	8/20	United Kingdom		369.07		309.68				678.75
Betsy Bina	8/15	8/17	Germany		593.64		4,332.72				4,926.36
	8/17	8/18	Poland		156.41						156.41
	8/18	8/19	Belgium		270.00		399.96				669.96
	8/19	8/20	United Kingdom		369.07		309.68				678.75
Shannon Richter	8/3	8/6	Thailand		802.76		9,405.06		138.27		10,346.09
	8/7	8/11	South Korea		904.18				1,798.00		2,702.18
Craig Higgins	8/24	8/24	Germany		296.99						296.99
	8/24	8/27	Ghana		918.00				912.60		1,830.60
	8/27	8/29	Senegal		821.00				192.90		1,013.90
	8/29	8/31	Italy		982.00				1,088.16		2,070.16
	8/31	9/1	Ireland		158.00		792.67		123.00		1,073.67
Erin Kolodjeski	8/24	8/24	Germany		296.99						296.99
	8/24	8/27	Ghana		918.00				912.60		1,830.60
	8/27	8/29	Senegal		821.00				192.90		1,013.90
	8/29	8/31	Italy		982.00				1,088.16		2,070.16
	8/31	9/1	Ireland		158.00		1,835.17		123.00		2,116.17
Jonathan Stivers	8/24	8/24	Germany		296.99						296.99
	8/24	8/27	Ghana		918.00				912.60		1,830.60
	8/27	8/29	Senegal		821.00				192.90		1,013.90
	8/29	8/31	Italy		982.00				1,088.16		2,070.16
	8/31	9/1	Ireland		158.00		1,800.17		123.00		2,081.17
Hayden Milberg	8/9	9/12	Germany		997.27		7,490.57				8,487.84
	8/12	8/14	Poland		485.52				360.14		845.66
	8/14	8/16	Estonia		508.72						508.72
	8/16	8/18	Latvia		422.75						422.75
Christopher Bigelow	8/24	8/25	Finland		357.00		1,166.06		69.38		1,592.44
	8/25	8/27	Norway		581.00		5,449.30		426.06		6,456.36
Jacquelynn Ripke	8/24	8/25	Finland		357.00		1,196.27		69.38		1,622.65
	8/25	8/27	Norway		581.00		5,449.31		426.06		6,456.37
Committee total					39,069.82		88,084.08		21,615.26		148,769.16

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO, , 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. SUSAN WILD, Oct. 31, 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MAXINE WATERS, Oct. 18, 2022.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2022

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mike Turner	2/17	2/22	Europe		1,377.43		3,930.27		1,284.94		6,592.64
Hon. Jason Crow	2/17	2/22	Europe		1,377.43		3,930.27		1,284.94		6,592.64
Thomas Eager	2/19	2/26	Europe		1,580.95		9,164.87		139.89		10,885.71
Diana Pilipenko	2/19	2/26	Europe		1,580.95		9,164.87		139.89		10,885.71

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2022—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jackie Speier	2/20	2/24	South America		999.40		7,995.17		733.39		9,727.96
David Cruz-Glaudemans	2/20	2/24	South America		999.40		8,803.37		733.40		10,536.17
Hon. Rick Crawford	2/20	2/24	Central America		761.52		1,330.44				2,091.96
Mandy Bowers	2/20	2/24	Central America		761.52		974.44				1,735.96
Kelsey Lax	2/20	2/24	Central America		761.52		974.44				1,735.96
Aaron Thurman	2/23	2/25	Central America		440.10		2,327.33		37.54		2,804.97
Ariana Rowberry	2/23	2/25	Central America		440.10		2,292.33		37.54		2,769.97
Hon. Sean Patrick Maloney	2/20	2/26	Europe		2,259.95		2,331.07		277.50		4,868.52
Matt Pylypciw	2/20	2/26	Europe		2,785.95		2,932.87		277.50		5,996.32
Sarah Istel	2/20	2/26	Europe		2,785.95		2,862.87		277.50		5,926.32
Hon. Eric Swalwell	3/20	3/26	Europe		1,371.36		14,236.77		1,060.27		16,668.40
Thomas Eager	3/20	3/26	Europe		1,366.62		8,686.47		1,060.27		11,113.36
Sarah Istel	3/20	3/26	Europe		4,441.36		8,686.47		1,060.27		14,188.10
Wells Bennett	3/20	3/26	Europe		1,371.36		10,266.07		1,060.28		12,697.71
Patrick Davis	3/20	3/26	Europe		1,371.36		8,686.47		1,060.28		11,118.11
Hon. Jim Himes	3/22	3/25	Europe		1,373.00		4,470.67		1,232.45		7,076.12
Hon. Sean Patrick Maloney	3/22	3/25	Europe		1,373.00		2,260.27		1,232.45		4,865.72
Kathy Suber	3/22	3/25	Europe		1,005.00		1,209.97		1,232.45		3,447.42
Amanda Rogers-Thorpe	3/22	3/25	Europe		1,005.00		839.67		1,232.46		3,077.13
Committee total					33,590.23		118,357.44		15,455.21		167,402.88

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF, Nov. 2, 2022.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–6113. A letter from the Acting Executive Secretary, Agency for International Development, transmitting a notice of a nomination of a federal vacancy, and an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–6114. A letter from the Executive Secretary, Agency for International Development, transmitting three (3) notifications on a nomination of a federal vacancy, action on nomination, and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–6115. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, from April 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–6116. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–6117. A letter from the Public and Legislative Affairs Officer, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, transmitting the Board's Agency Financial Report, including the fiscal year 2022 financial statement audit, 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–6118. A letter from the Chairman of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Secretary of Labor, transmitting the Corporation's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 7242. A bill to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117–609). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 7636. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–610). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DEFAZIO: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 7789. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–611). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House, on the state of the Union.

Mr. MEEKS: Committee on Foreign Affairs. House Resolution 1456. Resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the conclusion of the Department of State on whether Marc Fogel is wrongfully detained, adversely (Rept. 117–612). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. MEEKS: Committee on Foreign Affairs. House Resolution 1482. Resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Congressionally appropriated funds to the nation of Ukraine from January 20, 2021 to November 15, 2022, adversely (Rept. 117–613). Referred to the House Calendar.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 4374. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than December 15, 2022.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 9462. A bill to establish the American Worker Retirement Plan, improve the financial security of working Americans by facilitating the accumulation of wealth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 9463. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide authority for certain licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 9464. A bill to amend the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from granting a license or United States market access for a non-geostationary orbit satellite system if the license or grant of market access would be held or controlled by an entity that produces or provides any covered communications equipment or service or an affiliate of such an entity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 9465. A bill to provide locality pay to Federal employees working overseas under

domestic teleworking agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 9466. A bill to require Community Development Block Grant and Surface Transportation Block Grant recipients to develop a strategy to support inclusive zoning policies, to allow for a credit to support housing affordability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 9467. A bill to require the Federal Aviation Administration to establish evacuation standards for transport category airplanes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 9468. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve accessibility to, and completion of, postsecondary education for students, including students with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 9469. A bill to authorize a Mental Health Education Grant program to encourage students to pursue a career as a counselor, social worker, or therapist in an elementary or secondary school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JACKSON, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MAST, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 9470. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify that expedited removal of inadmissible arriving aliens applies regardless of where the alien is encountered or apprehended, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 9471. A bill to establish a Critical Materials Processing Technology Testbed Capability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 9472. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to prohibit the use of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to purchase sugary beverages; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GUEST (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 9473. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CHU, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 9474. A bill to extend immigration benefits to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other gender-based violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Agriculture, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. EVANS, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 9475. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation of the Secretary of Education, to conduct a study on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of education professionals, to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to implement or improve health and wellness programs for education professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. BERA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 9476. A bill to protect against seasonal and pandemic influenza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. MACE, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 9477. A bill to authorize studies and pilot programs related to the development and production of aquaculture in the exclusive economic zone of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9478. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to preempt State securities law requiring registration for secondary transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 9479. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish an educational assistance program to encourage the enlistment of persons in, and retention of members of, the District of Columbia National Guard by providing to certain such members financial assistance to attend undergraduate, vocational, or technical courses; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 9480. A bill to ratify a Treaty between the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe and the Navajo Nation, to provide for the creation of a reservation for the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 9481. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for new off-road plug-in electric vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 9482. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish statewide community eligibility for certain special assistance payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. EMMER, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 9483. A bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 with respect to certain agricultural land transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 9484. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to improve procedures and requirements related to election mail; 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. MCNERNEY:

H.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the permissible sources of funding for elections for public office and State ballot measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H. Con. Res. 121. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 7776; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ROSS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. PORTER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. MENG, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to Latina women in comparison to men; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H. Res. 1512. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, with an amendment; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H. Res. 1513. A resolution commending and congratulating the Portland Thorns Football Club on winning the 2022 National Women's Soccer League championship; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 1514. A resolution raising awareness for the cancer chordoma; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU:

H. Res. 1515. A resolution expressing support for the draft United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/C.1/77/L.62 calling upon member states to commit not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests, introduced by the United States at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 9462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant t following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 9463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 Clause III

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 9464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: [The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 9465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 9466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 9467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 9468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 9469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Artice I

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 9470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States.''

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 9471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 9472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GUEST:

H.R. 9473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 9474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 9475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

-Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 9476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 9477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 9479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clauses 16, 17, and 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 9480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18, section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 9481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 9482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 9483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 9484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.J. Res. 101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 481: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1611: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1735: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2050: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 2252: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. WALBERG, and Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 2549: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 2794: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2814: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 2820: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3425: Mr. BRADY.

H.R. 3824: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4433: Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 4647: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 4690: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4750: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 5029: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 5227: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 5987: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 6129: Mr. MEIJER.

H.R. 6338: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 6405: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 6577: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 6843: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 6860: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 7249: Mr. VARGAS and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 7382: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 7499: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 8371: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 8406: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 8425: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 8528: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 8530: Mr. SEMPOLINSKI.

H.R. 8594: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 8616: Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 8637: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 8659: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 8781: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 8970: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 9049: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 9100: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 9125: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 9141: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 9245: Mr. KILMER, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 9247: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. CHU, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 9270: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 9373: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 9388: Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 9390: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 9429: Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 9431: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 9449: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 9455: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 9456: Mr. BUCK, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H. Con. Res. 65: Mrs. STEEL.
H. Res. 1481: Mr. GRIJALVA.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 8 by Mr. LONG on H.R. 3860: Mr. Buchanan.

Petition 12 by Mr. GOSAR on House Joint Resolution 46; Mr. Buchanan.

Petition 17 by Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois on House Resolution 1367: Mr. Ellzey.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 No. 191

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who has given us the rich heritage of this good land, we praise Your Name. During this season of peace on Earth, thank You for continuing to supply our needs.

Lord, help us to listen to the quiet direction of Your spirit. Consecrate our speech to Your service, that we may honor You with our tongues.

As Your Senators today seek to do what is right, make Your way clear to them. Strengthen them to face the pressures that come with protecting freedom.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am worried that we are heading toward another unnecessary, manufactured crisis because our current government funding is set to expire in 8 days. So I want to take a moment and talk about how we got here, and the path forward.

In fiscal year 2022, Leader MCCONNELL required parity between defense and nondefense funding. This was a requirement that we met—Democrats and Republicans—and it provided the commonsense framework that allowed us to finish our work.

Now, the Republicans have abandoned this framework, demanding steep cuts to programs that the American people rely on. The cuts will be more painful as inflation continues to squeeze pocketbooks. Heating, cooling, food, and housing—these costs are becoming more expensive.

They have justified this change of tactics by claiming that Democrats spent $700 billion in reconciliation bills and that this should negate the need to provide parity to nondefense programs. Well, of course, there is an obvious flaw in that kind of reasoning. The spending that they are talking about was to meet an unprecedented crisis that killed more than 1 million Americans and threatened to collapse the global economy.

Did people expect us not to defend Americans at that time?

The bills were meant to get us out of the pandemic, get the Nation healthy, and get our economy back on track, and I believe they are accomplishing that goal.

Would anybody say they wish we had not spent that money?

They weren't meant to fund the basic functions of the American Government in fiscal year 2023; they were meant to take care of the dangers of the pandemic that killed 1 million Americans and threatened the collapse of the global economy.

Now, we Democrats do agree with our Republican colleagues that inflation threatens the national security. We all agree on that. But nondefense programs face an equal threat and demand an equal response because of inflation, and if we have inaction on the Republican side, that threatens bipartisan priorities and programs—priorities and programs that both Republicans and Democrats support.

Without an omnibus, the bipartisan CHIPS law—remember the CHIPS law? That passed this summer. It will help our country compete with China. Well, it won't be funded, and that competition languishes. And our promise to our veterans will be broken as the bipartisan PACT Act would go underfunded. VA medical care would fall at least $7.5 billion short.

Without an omnibus, those who are opposing the omnibus or those who, by inaction, won't support getting an omnibus before us will defund the police by slashing assistance to local law enforcement and keep 1,500 police officers off the streets and out of our communities. In the face of a surge in domestic violence, it will be the inaction of those who are not helping us get an

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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omnibus bill through that will leave the bipartisan reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act without the new funding it needs.

Remember when I and others rewrote the Violence Against Women Act? We added the LGBTQ community, we added the Native American community, and we added money to go after those who are predators of children.

Now, Republicans may want to blame Democrats for stifling the economy, but it is their position that will shortchange funding at our ports of entry and strangle the flow of commerce and the economy's ability to grow. You can have rhetoric, but then reality catches up. And you need the money to fund our ports of entry, or we all know the effect it will have on the economy.

And if they do not join in this, it will be Republicans who turn their backs on small businesses by not providing the SBA with the resources it needs to help small businesses thrive.

And sending men and women to the Moon, that funding is going to be delayed.

For months, the Democrats have asked our Republican colleagues to join us at the negotiating table, and for months we were met with dead silence. At this very moment, my door and the doors of my staff are open. They can join us in this work at any time.

Time is running out. We have to move forward. I have stayed here the past several weekends to be available for any kind of negotiations people want. So, to move this forward, I would hope we would have had a bipartisan bill on the floor by now.

On Monday, Chair DELAURO of the House and I will introduce an omnibus bill that we believe is fair and bipartisan. It will fully fund defense at the NDAA level, and it will provide the needed increase to nondefense programs to both stave off inflation but especially to help the American people.

And to show our good faith, we eliminated the so-called poison pill riders that Republicans have objected to, and we firmly believe this bill can and should earn the votes of at least 10 Republican Senators. So I think it is a reasonable path forward.

The money runs out on December 16. I think it would help if my Republican friends accept yes for an answer. There is plenty in here for both Republicans and Democrats to declare a victory.

But most importantly, the American people can declare victory. Each side will get a large part of what they want, but the most important part, the American people will get what they need. We should call this an American bill. It is not a Republican or a Democratic bill; it is a bill for America because if we don't do it, we are going to have a continuing resolution at last year's level, with no adjustments for inflation, with real-life consequences that would entail.

I would hope no Republican wants that because if they do, we end up with a continuing resolution that lowers funds of everything from defense to nondefense programs. It damages our economy; it damages our defense; and they will have only themselves to blame.

I would hope it won't be a case of who passes blame of a disaster but rather a case where we come together and say to America: You can declare victory.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, earlier this morning, the Senate Democratic caucus held elections to determine party leadership for the 118th Congress. With gratitude and humility, I am happy to say I have been unanimously elected, once again, as the Democratic leader.

I want to thank every Member of my caucus for entrusting me with this awesome responsibility. My admiration and affection for every Member of my caucus is really limitless. They are my friends, my compadres, my companions. We work together. We are an amazing unit. With only 50 votes ranging, of course, from JOE MANCHIN to BERNIE SANDERS, we have compiled one of the greatest legislative sessions in this century and even the last one in what we have done. And next year we will continue to try to do great things for our country in the next 2 years.

I also wish to congratulate and thank my colleagues who form our caucus's leadership, especially Senator SCHATZ for becoming its newest member. I also want to thank Senator MURRAY for her incredible work as assistant Democratic leader in the 117th Congress and congratulate her on becoming President pro tem-designate, succeeding Senator LEAHY, who will soon retire.

I also wish to thank my staff. They are the greatest. They are just the greatest. They have advised me and guided me over the last 2 years and helped me prepare for the Congress to come.

I would not want to go through a 50–50 Senate with anyone but them. They are remarkable, hard-working, brilliant, and just fine human beings, as well, who really care. It has been such a privilege, honor, and joy to work with them. We must now look to the future. Our focus in the Congress to come shall be no different from our focus in the Congress that concludes: getting things done for the American people.

We want to keep this Chamber active, alive, and busy, as much as possible. I make a clarion call to my Republican colleagues: reject MAGA and work with us in the years to come. We have made huge strides this Congress, and I hope we can build on that because the problems of our country are many and run deep. When Americans saw us working on real issues this year, they responded positively and trusted this majority with 2 more years at the helm.

Now, it is clear that many on the other side of the aisle, our Republican friends, are unhappy with the way their party has been doing business. Some of the Republicans want to pull the party even more in a MAGA direction. That is a recipe for disaster, for their party and the country. But there are many others who know driving down the MAGA road is like following Thelma and Louise off the cliff.

We very much want to work with that group that understands that we have got to get things done in a bipartisan way and just railing and shrieking and decrying with no solutions and pure anger ain't the way to go, and it is not the way the American people want us to go.

So I urge my non-MAGA Republican colleagues to reject extremism, reject MAGA, and embrace bipartisanship. Don't just block bills next Congress for the sake of gridlock. Let us come to the table and find ways to move forward together.

Our differences run deep. Our disagreements are frequent. But that does not diminish the importance of working alongside one another when necessary to improve the lives of the American people.

I have no doubt that if we give it a good-faith effort, we can be very successful—successful beyond what anyone would think right now.

To the skeptics and the naysayers all I have to say, when you say we can't do this, I say look at the record of the last 2 years. In a 50–50 Senate, both sides found ways to pass the most ambitious legislative agenda, as I mentioned before, in a very long time—one of the most ambitious in decades and decades.

We got infrastructure done. We reformed the post office. We reauthorized VAWA. We ended forced arbitration for sexual harassment. We passed anti-lynching legislation and helped our shipping supply lanes. After the shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, we defied the NRA and passed the first major gun safety bill in over 30 years. Together we approved the CHIPS and Science Act, passed the PACT Act, ratified the accession of Finland and Sweden into NATO, and stood with our friends in Ukraine. And a few weeks ago, we came together to pass the Respect for Marriage Act, which the House is set to approve today.

Of course, when we do not agree, Democrats will go at it alone, as we did for the Inflation Reduction Act. I know both parties fiercely disagree on the role of the government in tackling these problems, such as environment and prescription drug costs. But even

then I hope the other side would agree that lowering costs for seniors, lowering energy costs for families, and finding ways to preserve the planet are worthy causes that merit the attention of responsible legislators.

So let me say it again: I urge my Republican colleagues who are tired of MAGA, who know it is a formula for disaster, who know that it is, while embraced fiercely by a small group of extremists, it is not where the majority of Americans or even where the majority of Republicans want to go.

We have been reminded again and again that the extreme MAGA agenda is not only toxic but dangerous to our democracy. It condones and sometimes lies right in bed with those who urge violence to hurt America and destroy our democracy.

But, thank God, the American people have rejected that. If there is any lesson to derive from the midterms, that is certainly one of them. The American people don't like MAGA. They don't like hard-right nastiness. They don't like threats to democracy.

Look, I know the other side will not rid itself of MAGA overnight. And, unfortunately, some on the other side are hell-bent on doubling down on MAGA, but for the sake of the country and for the sake of the future of the Republican Party, we need to find ways to work together.

To borrow from a quote attributed to Sam Rayburn, anyone can kick a barn down, but it takes a good carpenter to build one back up. He, supposedly, used slightly more colorful language. I won't repeat that here, but you get the point.

I hope that good carpenters exist on both sides because there is still a lot of rebuilding to do across this country, and new building, new frontiers to launch bravely toward. As majority leader, I will do my best to find opportunities for both sides to work together.

So let us move forward together with fearlessness, with clarity of purpose, and with a ceaseless hunger to reward the trust that Americans have placed in all of us.

I thank my Democratic colleagues for the trust they have placed in me. I congratulate every single member of the leadership, and now let's roll up our sleeves and get back to work.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, now, there is still a lot to do before the end of the year. Later today, the House is scheduled to vote on the NDAA, and when it arrives here in the Senate, I hope both sides can come to agreement quickly, pass it, and send it to the President's desk.

Defense authorization and preservation of national security are important. I hope the Senate can act rather quickly. Equally important is funding the whole government, and we need to do whatever it takes to make that happen.

We need to make sure our whole government is postured to compete with China, both at DOD and across the government. We need to fund our efforts to assist the Ukrainians. We need to fund our new commitments to our friends in Taiwan. While there is still more work to do before we bridge the gap, I am hopeful we can get a full government funding package done soon.

I want to remind everyone—I think people know it—that fully funding the government is the best outcome, not only for the public but for our servicemembers in uniform who work day and night to keep us safe. Short-term extensions will hinder their ability to work at full capacity.

I hope we don't go down that road, and I urge all sides to keep negotiating until we reach a solution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask that the vote not occur until after comments by Leader MCCONNELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF WESTERN KENTUCKY TORNADOES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Kentucky is approaching the 1-year anniversary of one of the deadliest tornado outbreaks in our Commonwealth's history—1 year since 80 lives were lost and a deep scar was cut through Western Kentucky. We still remember the lost and pray for their loved ones.

A few days after the storm, I visited some of the hardest hit towns. I saw how the pictures of the damage in the newspaper and on television didn't even begin to capture the local devastation in places like Mayfield, Campbellsville, Bowling Green, and Dawson Springs. Homes were literally ripped off their foundations; trees scattered like twigs; whole neighborhoods gone in an instant. The pain is still fresh, but as I have seen in multiple return visits, slowly but surely, Western Kentucky is coming back.

This weekend, Kentuckians are carving out time to honor those whose lives were lost and continue helping those whose lives were severely disrupted. Dawson Springs just erected a beautiful, solemn memorial to the 19 residents that the city lost that day. In Bowling Green, an organization is delivering handmade Christmas ornaments to storm victims. In Mayfield, even as members of the high school football team fought to rebuild their families' lives off the field, the community cheered the team to an undefeated regular season. Even in tough times—actually, especially in tough times—Kentuckians stick together.

I am thankful to all the volunteers and charities helping us in Kentucky remember this tragic anniversary and for all the men and women who spent days and weeks working tirelessly to remove debris and to rebuild.

Things are looking hopeful in the region this Christmas. Homes and businesses are coming back. Families will gather again under one roof. The road to recovery remains quite long, but Kentuckians will stand shoulder to shoulder until the rebuilding is done, and I will keep standing right beside them.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT AND GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on another matter, yesterday, I explained a simple and obvious reality that will determine whether the NDAA and government funding legislation succeeds or fails. Here is the simple fact: Protecting America and supporting our troops is not some partisan Republican priority that we will cajole and reward Democrats into accepting. Providing for the common defense is a basic, minimum responsibility of those of us in government. Passing a Defense authorization bill and appropriating the money our military needs are not rightwing demands that Democrats get unrelated goodies for going along with. The Commander in Chief's own party does not get to take our troops hostage for unrelated policy aims. Democrats will not be getting special rewards for simply doing their job.

Yesterday, I praised the bipartisan deal that our Senate and House Armed Services Committees have struck on the NDAA. The House was supposed to advance the bill yesterday, but instead the Democratic majority fell into disarray.

Some Democrats want to scuttle the Defense bill by attaching unrelated liberal demands that would guarantee its collapse. Attaching partisan non sequiturs to this carefully negotiated NDAA would achieve one and only one outcome: It would ensure that neither the NDAA nor their wish list would become law. The only outcome that partisan game-playing would produce is the collapse of this bill—a massive injury for the U.S. Armed Forces at the hands of President Biden's party on President Biden's watch.

The House needs to send us the agreed-upon bipartisan NDAA and do so without delay.

The same reality applies to appropriations. Democrats just spent 2 years using the partisan reconciliation process to lavish trillions of extra dollars on liberal domestic demands while our Armed Forces were languishing on the back burner. The Biden administration printed and spent trillions on things like welfare and solar panels like there was no tomorrow, but they couldn't even assemble a budget proposal that sufficiently funded our troops.

So my friends across the aisle have zero standing to demand actually even

more—at this point, even more—liberal domestic spending in exchange for giving our Armed Forces what they actually need. Our Commander in Chief and his party have spent huge sums on domestic priorities outside the normal appropriations process without a penny for the Defense Department. Obviously, we won't allow them to now hijack the government funding process as well and take our troops hostage for even more spending.

Protecting America is our job. Republicans will not be bribing our Democratic colleagues with special treats, as if they need to be bargained into defending America. The sooner the Democrats fully accept this reality, the sooner we can get on with the people's business. That goes for both the NDAA and the government funding as well.

TRIBUTE TO ROB PORTMAN

Mr. President, now on one final matter, fewer than 40 miles from Ohio's border with Kentucky, about halfway between Cincinnati and Dayton, is a suburb called Lebanon. The corner of Main Street and Broadway looks much like it did almost a century ago in 1926. That is when a young couple, Robert and Virginia Jones, bought and renovated an unassuming brick building called the Golden Lamb Restaurant and Hotel. But the Golden Lamb's modest exterior conceals major history. Its prime location on the highway between Cincinnati and Columbus made it a key stopover for important travelers.

By 1926, each of our country's eight Presidents from Ohio, plus Henry Clay, plus a long list of other luminaries—every one of them had spent a night at this particular inn or at least broken bread in its dining room.

The Joneses' smalltown American entrepreneurial spirit wrote their family right into the history of American statesmanship. As it turned out, it also started a family tradition because a few years later, those newly minted innkeepers had a daughter named Joan, and then Joan and her husband Bill had their own kids. Although Bill Portman would pass away just a few months before the swearing-in, his son would one day cap an incredible career in government by representing Ohio right here in the U.S. Senate.

As ROB explained in his maiden speech, he spent his own formative years in and around a different family business. Bill risked everything in early middle age to strike out and start an equipment business. Joan kept the books. And the way I have heard it, young ROB's own involvement was about as hands-on as it gets.

There wasn't just no nepotism, there was negative nepotism. One summer break, ROB was put to work grinding old paint off the trucks. Even his supervisor called it ''the lowest job in the place.''

This whole-team effort grew Portman Equipment from 5 jobs created to more than 300. ROB saw firsthand how growing prosperity, if it is done right, can create big win-wins for both small business owners and well-paid workers.

So there were two family businesses in ROB's bloodline: a crossroads where statesman hashed out consequential decisions and a company that created jobs and helped workers support their families. And our distinguished colleague has spent his career continuing both of those things at an even greater scale.

For decades now, from the executive branch to the House to the Senate, ROB's desk and phone line have been the site of history-changing conversations, just like his grandparents' inn, and he has worked to create a national climate where millions more Main Street entrepreneurs like his father can literally lift up workers and communities.

Now, I suspect that from time to time, ROB has felt like law, economics, and policy may not be so different from grinding paint off of rusty trucks; but the gifts and talents that our friend commands have been making an impact—an incredible impact.

Our future colleague was such a top-notch lawyer that he wound up as a young associate White House counsel and then Director of Legislative Affairs for President Bush 41. Then, he was such a whiz at the legislative process that his Ohio neighbors sent him back to Washington as their Congressman. Then, he was such a leader on economic policy that President Bush 43 made ROB U.S. Trade Representative and then turned around and asked him to run the Office of Management and Budget.

So no wonder ROB fit right in and hit the ground running when he came to the Senate in 2011.

Sometimes our friend even fit in a bit too well. See, ROB has a great talent for impersonations. He had spent several Presidential cycles impersonating some of our prior colleagues for Republican tickets' debate prep. ROB's talent became such an open secret that during the 2000 campaign, Joe Lieberman joked he was going to start dispatching ROB to handle campaign stops in his stead.

But the real reasons for ROB's impact are his deep knowledge, his work ethic, and his passion for finding his way through the thick of each consequential issue.

Our friend's focus on growth and prosperity landed him at the center of the most consequential tax reform in a generation. ROB spearheaded the complex overhaul of international tax policy that passed as part of the 2017 tax bill and helped unlock a literal tidal wave of growth, reinvestment, and job creation.

He spent long nights securing huge bipartisan wins on infrastructure policy—not unlike Ohio statesmen 150 years earlier may have discussed internal improvements around a wooden table at the Golden Lamb.

But ROB isn't just a macro-level policy whiz who focuses on topline numbers. As much as ROB is passionate about growing the overall pie, he also knows that rising tides don't automatically lift every boat. Sometimes Ohioans and Americans face challenges that call for a special champion. So ROB stepped up. He has been one of this body's sharpest early-warning signals on crises like opioid addiction and human trafficking. He has used Congress' investigative powers to craft solutions, and he has built the relationships to make law.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and its sequels have brought hope to families in Ohio and across the country who have battled the onslaught of opioids. The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act forced Big Tech, kicking and screaming, to finally crack down on exploitation. And on and on, from international trade to national parks and everything in between.

Even at the tail end of a long session, ROB has been known to linger even longer in the Cloakroom, patiently resolving the last few objections to some final policy he has gotten all the way to the 1-yard line.

But even when you get results at this scale, even when you leave Ohio and our country in a better place, late-night policy vigils eventually lose their luster when you've got an even more appealing home front.

We know ROB loves public service, but we also know that even that passion comes second to his beloved wife and partner Jane and their three kids, Jed, Will, and Sally, who I know ROB considers his proudest accomplishment of all.

For years, Washington's and Ohio's great gain have been their sacrifice. So while the Senate is sorry to lose our friend, we can't be too upset that we now have to repay the favor.

So, ROB, congratulations on your outstanding service.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY PAUL HOPKINS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm another highly qualified judicial nominee: Jeffrey Hopkins, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Judge Hopkins received his A.B. from Bowdoin College and his J.D. from the Ohio State University College of Law. After graduating from law school, Hopkins clerked for Judge Alan E. Norris, both on the Ohio Court of Appeals for the Tenth District and on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

For the last 25 years, Judge Jeffrey Hopkins has served with distinction as a Federal bankruptcy judge in the Southern District of Ohio. In this role, Judge Hopkins has presided over approximately 3,000 cases that have gone to verdict or judgement, and he served as chief judge of the district's bankruptcy court from 2014 to 2021. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Hopkins worked as a litigator in private practice and served as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Ohio, where he became chief of the civil division in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Judge Hopkins has the strong, bipartisan support of his home State Senators, Mr. BROWN and Mr. PORTMAN. Additionally, he received a unanimous rating of ''well qualified'' from the ABA. I support this highly qualified nominee, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

VOTE ON HOPKINS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hopkins nomination?

Ms. SMITH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 384 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Hirono	Rounds
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Sasse
Blunt	Kennedy	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Burr	Leahy	Sinema
Cantwell	Luján	Smith
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Tillis
Collins	Merkley	Toomey
Coons	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Murphy	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	Young
Hassan	Romney	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Fischer	McConnell
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Hickenlooper
Duckworth	Moran

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the U.S. Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1183, Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Luján, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Patty Murray, Catherine Cortez Masto, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 385 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Burr	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Cramer	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Hawley	Romney
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tillis
Ernst	Marshall	Toomey
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Grassley	Paul	Wicker
Hagerty	Risch	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Hickenlooper
Duckworth	Moran

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2527

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, in the last week, new details have come to light regarding Twitter's top executives' past collusion with political figures to censor speech that they did not want the American people to see. This problem is not limited to Twitter, but this news underscores the problem and the need for congressional action to protect the rights of the American people. Americans deserve to know when their government and Big Tech platforms are trying to manipulate what they can say or what they can read.

Recently published emails among Twitter executives reveal the extent to which the company worked to prevent Americans from seeing a New York Post story, and this was just weeks before the election. The extent of the suppression was breathtaking. Indeed, the Twitter executives locked the Twitter account of the White House Press Secretary who simply mentioned a story that was published in an established American newspaper with one of the largest circulations in the country. Facebook admits that it likewise limited the spread of this story based on a general warning from the FBI about ''propaganda.''

Evidence has also emerged that in 2020, Biden and Democrat campaign officials were going so far as to send lists of tweets for their corporate allies to remove—requests that Twitter granted.

This censorship activity has carried over into the Biden administration. In 2021, then-Press Secretary Jen Psaki stated that the government is ''in regular touch with social media platforms'' and ''flagging problematic posts for Facebook that spread [what she called] 'disinformation'.''

For example, a Facebook official emailed Surgeon General Vivek Murthy stating:

> I know our teams met today to better understand the scope of what the White House expects from us on ''misinformation'' going forward.

A Facebook employee later told the HHS Department that a number of posts had been deleted.

In addition to regularly flagging posts for Twitter and Facebook to take down, the CDC proposed setting up a monthly ''misinformation meeting'' with Facebook in order to censor American speech.

Additional Freedom of Information Act requests and lawsuits have also revealed improper coordination between

government Agencies and social media companies to restrict speech here in America.

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, disclosed that it had communicated with more than 30 Federal officials about content moderation on its platform, including senior employees at the FDA, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, and the White House. YouTube, which is owned by Google, disclosed that it had such communications with 11 Federal officials.

The disturbing truth is that when the Biden administration officials don't like what Americans are saying, they simply reach out to their allies at unaccountable big tech companies to silence it.

Government using its power to coerce censorship of disfavored information is what the Chinese Communist Party or what the North Korean regime might do. It is not only fundamentally un-American, but often, it is unconstitutional. Government cannot use Big Tech as a tool to end-run the First Amendment.

The American people deserve to know when their government, which is supposed to work for them, is using Big Tech to censor their speech or manipulate the information they see. I introduced legislation in July of 2021 to require this transparency. Yet the Senate has failed to act on it.

The Disclose Government Censorship Act would require that government officials publicly disclose communications with Big Tech regarding their actions to restrict speech—actions that would plainly violate the First Amendment if the government did it itself. The act contains appropriate exceptions to protect legitimate law enforcement or national security activity.

It would also require a cooling-off period to address the revolving door that occurs between government and Big Tech. This Washington revolving door fuels politically driven censorship, as evidenced by the fact that the former FBI general counsel who resigned because of the Steele dossier scandal was then hired by Twitter and, unbelievably, was at the center of the decision to suppress the New York Post story in 2020.

Our Nation was founded on the ideal that protecting citizens' speech from government censorship—under the First Amendment—would protect the people's right to govern themselves by preventing the government from controlling information and ideas. Americans deserve to know when their government is covertly trying to accomplish what the First Amendment prohibits.

Now, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2527 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I certainly fully appreciate Senator HAGERTY's interest in protecting the First Amendment and ensuring that legitimate speech is not unduly or unfairly restricted. I am also committed to holding big tech companies accountable. I held a series of bipartisan oversight hearings on social media this Congress, including bringing top executives in to testify and to answer tough questions.

The legislation, though, we are discussing today has not been considered by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I certainly look forward to working with my colleague to explore these issues more fully, but given this bill has not been marked up by the committee, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, my Democratic colleague is objecting to legislation that simply allows Americans to see when the government is trying to censor them.

My colleague states that his objection is largely on procedural grounds, and he has concerns that my bill hasn't been marked up in committee, but the committee to which this bill was referred has had over a year to review the legislation, and no progress has been made.

I would ask that my colleague commit to working with me on my legislation to address this important First Amendment issue in the next Congress. This problem is simply too significant to ignore. Our government works for the American people. To ensure this continues, the First Amendment prohibits the government from controlling what Americans say or read. But now government is using Big Tech to accomplish that censorship. Without disclosure of such communications, Americans' free speech rights become a dead letter because there is no way to address improper government efforts to ban speech.

My legislation would preserve these rights by allowing Americans to see when government is trying to silence them. This is a basic element of self-government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4431

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which is a bill I first introduced in 2012 with Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire.

Senator CASSIDY from Louisiana has worked hard for years with me and with others to get this bill passed. I want to thank Senator CASSIDY, as well as the chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Committee, Senator MURRAY; Ranking Member BURR of that same committee; and Majority Leader SCHUMER and others for all the work they have done to help us pass this bill.

This is a commonsense bill that has broad bipartisan, bicameral support. Everyone from the ACLU to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports this legislation. These organizations didn't merely endorse the bill after reviewing it; they were actively involved in shaping the legislative text and finding agreement on the text that we are attempting to vote on, and they remain supportive today.

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act simply closes a loophole in the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act to allow pregnant workers to request reasonable accommodations—''reasonable accommodations''; you are going to hear that phrase a lot today—so that that worker can continue working safely during their pregnancy and upon returning to work after childbirth.

I am going to be coming back to that phrase in a moment, ''reasonable accommodations,'' but I want to cite just two examples among many. Just one from Pennsylvania—Janasia, a teaching assistant working at a childcare facility. She is from Bucks County, PA, in suburban Philadelphia. She suffered a miscarriage due to an infection during a previous pregnancy. When she got pregnant again, she asked for extra bathroom breaks, which were necessary to prevent contracting another infection. She was made to wait over an hour just to use the bathroom. Later that day, Janasia was fired.

This is just one example of a pregnant worker asking for a simple—simple—commonsense accommodation and being denied that accommodation.

What are other types of reasonable accommodations that pregnant workers might request? Light duty is a common example. Pregnant people are routinely advised by their doctors to limit how much they lift, whether it is 20 pounds or 25 pounds or 30 pounds.

Peggy Young was a UPS driver who requested light duty when she was pregnant. Other workers had received light duty, but she was denied because there was no requirement under the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act to provide reasonable accommodations. That is the loophole we are trying to fix. Peggy Young was forced onto unpaid leave and eventually took her case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Other common accommodations a pregnant worker might request are stools or water bottles. Cashiers and other retail workers are often denied these reasonable accommodations that can help them maintain a healthy pregnancy.

There have also been multiple cases where pregnant workers have been demoted or forced into lower paying jobs because their employer refused to provide uniforms that can accommodate

the worker's pregnancy even though the pregnancy did not affect the worker's ability to perform essential job functions.

These are all examples of simple changes employers can provide to a pregnant worker's job duties or requirements that would not substantially inconvenience the employer, while allowing pregnant workers to continue working through their pregnancies. Yet, all too often, pregnant workers are being denied these reasonable accommodations, leading to impossible choices for these workers.

Keep working in an unsafe environment. Is that a good choice? Taking leave early and running out before the baby is born? Or, No. 3, be let go or forced to quit and face the stress and financial strain that comes with losing their job.

There is no need for this to happen. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act sets up a simple framework that is easily understood and utilized by both employers and employees.

Under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, a pregnant employee may request reasonable accommodations from their employer. The worker and the employer will then engage in an interactive process to determine how the employer can provide these reasonable accommodations to the worker. This protects both parties. The worker may not be forced to accept accommodations that are not needed and that do not address the original concern. The employer cannot be asked to provide an accommodation that would cause an undue burden on that employer.

If this process sounds familiar, that is because we have carefully crafted it to closely resemble the process under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA is 30 years old—lots of case law in those years, testing and probing and examining this reasonable accommodations standard. So we have 30 years of evidence that reasonable accommodations is a way to protect workers who have a disability in the workplace, and it is also a great way to protect a pregnant worker. Reasonable accommodations.

Mr. President, at this time I will yield to my colleague, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Pensions, and Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Washington.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Ms. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BALDWIN be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4431—CONTINUED

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here today because no one should have to choose between their job and a healthy pregnancy.

It is outrageous that pregnant women in our country have been pushed out of their jobs by their employers because, as you just heard, they asked for an additional bathroom break or because their doctors say they need to avoid heavy lifting or because their employer can't be bothered to simply provide them a stool to sit down on.

It is unconscionable that people who are looking forward to welcoming a new family member are having their lives upturned or losing the paychecks they depend on to make rent or buy groceries or pay for childcare, all because their employers refuse to provide basic, commonsense, low-cost and even no-cost accommodations. We have got to do better.

That is why I am here with Senator CASEY, who has been a relentless champion on this issue, to urge all of my colleagues to let us pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which is a bipartisan bill that will make sure that no one is forced to choose between a job and a healthy pregnancy and everyone can get the reasonable workplace accommodations they need when they are pregnant.

Let me be clear: This is, fundamentally, a bipartisan bill that we have worked closely with our Republican colleagues on. Senator CASSIDY coleads this bill. He has been an amazing partner. It passed out of the HELP Committee overwhelmingly. It is supported by my ranking member Senator BURR, and it passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan House vote.

There is no reason to stand in the way. We can send this to the President's desk right now.

We are really not here asking for much. This is very simple. Give pregnant workers a break, give them a seat, and give them a hand. Give them the dignity, the respect, and basic workplace accommodations that they need.

This is way overdue, and I can't think of a more commonsense, less controversial bill, and I hope that we can get it done today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I just want to add parenthetically before I offer the unanimous consent request—Senator MURRAY made reference to the overwhelming support. This bill, when it comes to a final vote, will have at least 60 votes in the Senate, if not more. I think it will be more than that.

But we should also note the passage in the House that Senator MURRAY made reference to, better than 3-to-1, 315 to 101, more than 75 percent of House Members support it—obviously bipartisan.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 425, S. 4431; further, that there be up to 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and that the only amendments in order be No. 1, LEE, and No. 2, BRAUN; further, that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the amendments in the order listed with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for adoption; and that following the disposition of the amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60 vote affirmative threshold required for passage without further intervening action or debate. Finally, that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I have to begin by thanking my friend and colleague, the Senator from Pennsylvania, for his efforts to ensure that pregnant women have access to accommodations—reasonable accommodations at work. They need to have healthy pregnancies.

As the husband of a wife who had two children while she was working and a grandfather of two grandchildren with a daughter who is a nurse, I absolutely want to make sure that those reasonable accommodations are accounted for.

However, in its current form, this legislation before us would give Federal bureaucrats at the EEOC authority to mandate that employers nationwide provide accommodations such as leave to obtain abortions on demand under the guise of a pregnancy-related condition. Worse still, the legislation would subject pro-life organizations, including churches and religious organizations, to potentially crippling lawsuits if they refuse to facilitate abortions in direct violation of their religious beliefs and their moral convictions.

Unlike title VII and the Americans with Disabilities Act, this legislation contains no exemptions for religious organizations.

I and a number of other people do not believe that abortion is healthcare. I believe it is a brutal procedure that destroys an innocent child.

The Federal Government should not be promoting abortion, let alone mandating that pro-life employers and employers in States that protect life facilitate abortion-on-demand.

I hope that we can work together on this legislation and amend it to address those concerns so that all the reasonable accommodations they worked so hard to achieve can be passed and can gain my support and the support of other colleagues. But until such time, sir, I have to object; and on behalf of Senator LANKFORD, Senator DAINES, and myself, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. I yield to my colleague from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I regret that my colleague has objected to this bill, but I reject the characterization that this would do anything to promote abortion.

But it is probably not important what I think. I will quote the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Last night, they said—and this is the Catholic bishops:

> We believe that [this] version of the bill, read in light of existing liberty protections, helps advance the [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops'] goal of ensuring that no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child while protecting the conscience rights and religious freedoms of employers.

This is the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops last night.

And I think as a physician, I can now speak. As a physician, I will say that there are times when a woman, if she wishes to continue in the workforce, needs an accommodation.

The Louisville police officer who was quoted in a Cincinnati paper spoke about her need for light accommodation; but those who were ultimately her boss would not give it to her because she was not ''injured.'' So they have a policy in which if you need it and on a doctor's order you should, unless it was a doctor's order because of pregnancy. And she was told that if she sought to use that, she would lose her insurance. At 5 months pregnant, she is going to lose her insurance.

I would argue the pro-life position is to make an accommodation for that woman who has those needs so she can safely carry the baby to term.

Now, by the way, it is also good for business. Others are endorsing this from the business sector. I will just give one: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. They clearly see that this is something that is a reasonable accommodation not forced by unnamed bureaucrats in Washington, DC, or important people who are employing others across the Nation. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has made this a top priority.

With regard to pro-life issues, let me also point out that the March of Dimes, who are so vitally concerned about the health of children, likewise supports it.

My colleague has mentioned that it passed out of the HELP Committee 19 to 2, strongly bipartisan, and then passed the House with 315 bipartisan votes.

Now, we have experience with these laws nationwide; 30 States have laws such as this already. But that leaves millions of American women uncovered, and our goal was to address it with this bill.

Now, let me just go back once more, because, apparently, this is a sticking point.

Is it possible that this law would permit someone to impose their will upon a pastor, upon a church, upon a synagogue, if they have religious exemptions? The answer is, absolutely no. This is what the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was referring to. The title VII exemption, which is in Federal law, remains in place. It allows employers to make employment decisions based on firmly held religious beliefs. This bill does not change this.

There is an exemption in title VI related to pastors and ministers and Rabbis who conduct their business. All of that remains in place, which is why the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops last night once again endorsed the bill.

Now, I think even those who oppose would agree that we need to have a safe environment for pregnant women and their unborn children in the workplace. They deserve our attention. I would say that this bill is pro-family, pro-mother, pro-baby, pro-employer, and pro-economy.

I hope at a later point we can pass it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Just by way of conclusion, I hope we can continue to work with our colleagues to get this bill passed.

I want to say for the record, however, that under the act, under the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, the EEOC, could not—could not—issue any regulation that requires abortion leave, nor does the act permit the EEOC to require employers to provide abortions in violation of State law.

The EEOC understands that what is reasonable is specific to each workplace. For example, if the accommodation conflicts with a generally accepted work rule, like a seniority system, that is generally not reasonable.

So for these and other reasons, we want to get this bill passed and not have to start all over again to delay the passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator COTTON, and Senator PAUL be permitted to complete their remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT REQUEST—H.R. 3843

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3843. This bipartisan package of commonsense antitrust reforms would bring a whole lot of much-needed improvements to the administration of our Federal antitrust laws.

First, it would update our merger filing fees to reduce the financial burden on the vast majority of filers. Second, it would implement the State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act to allow State attorneys general to benefit from the same protection as Federal antitrust enforcers so that their enforcement actions cannot just be transferred out of their State to more defendant-friendly jurisdictions. And, third, this legislation would require companies that submit premerger filings with the FTC and Department of Justice to notify the Agencies of any subsidies or support that they receive from foreign countries of concern such as China, Russia, and Iran. This will allow our antitrust enforcers to ensure that American markets are not being manipulated by hostile States.

Finally, in addition to simply being good policy, these reforms are the product of bipartisan cooperation, exemplifying the model for future bipartisan cooperation on antitrust legislation.

I, therefore, stand in strong support of this legislation and in support of this request.

I would like to yield my time to the distinguished Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues, Senator LEE and Senator COTTON.

We are united on this, as is Senator GRASSLEY, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, as is Senator DURBIN, the chair of the Judiciary Committee. These proposals got through our committee unanimously. We were able to pass them in different forms through this Senate on parts of different bills. And now this combined grouping of bills that the three of us have led have now passed the House of Representatives.

If you look at what is going on in our country right now, we have a competition problem in over 75 percent of our industries, ranging from ag to pharma to tech. A small number of large companies, more and more, are controlling more of the business than they did decades ago. Look at what just happened with Ticketmaster. The lack of competition is estimated to cost the median American household $5,000 per year.

We all believe—we agree on some things, and we disagree on some things—but we all agree that we need to update our laws in some way. One of the ways you do this is to make sure that our enforcers can take on the cases against the biggest companies the world has ever known. The Agencies are now shells of their former selves. In 1980, when the Antitrust Division was working to break up AT&T, it had 453 lawyers. As of April of 2021, that number had fallen to 299. The FTC had 1,719 employees in 1980. Now it is down to 1,100. We cannot take on the biggest companies the world has ever known or put fair rules of the road in place if we expect the enforcers to use bandaids and duct tape. Not only that, they bring in money when they bring these cases.

So I am proud of the work Senator LEE and I have done together. I would note the leaders of both parties support

these concepts, including the former Assistant Attorney General in charge of Antitrust, Makan Delrahim, as well as the current administration, including the former Republican FTC Chair, Joe Simons, in addition to the current leadership in this administration.

Capitalism is built on the foundation of competition and open markets. To quote Adam Smith, the so-called godfather of our capitalist system, the invisible hand of competitive entrepreneurship is key, but he also said that we must watch out for the overgrown standing army of monopolies.

There is an old cartoon with a bunch of monopolies, sitting up there where our guests are, looking down. It used to be railroads. It used to be all kinds of other trusts. Now there are new guys in town, and it is equally as dangerous to capitalism.

I appreciate the work of Senator LEE and Senator COTTON.

I yield to Senator COTTON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, part of China's strategy to defeat the United States includes unfairly helping corporations buy out American companies. We can prevent these propped-up companies from gobbling up American businesses, but we don't always know which companies China subsidizes or by how much.

A bill I introduced with Congressman FITZGERALD, the Foreign Merger Subsidy Disclosure Act, would require companies to disclose any subsidies they receive from foreign adversaries before a merger. If a company has received subsidies from a nation like Russia or China, U.S. antitrust regulators can use that information to determine whether or not the merger is fair. This bill has support from Republicans and Democrats, the administration, and the House of Representatives.

We should pass this package of bills today to protect American businesses and consumers and to stop China's economic war against the United States.

I yield to the Senator from Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3843, which was received from the House and is at the desk; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, the proponents of antitrust laws are famously zealous in their desire to eradicate the curse of bigness. To them, big is always bad except, of course, when it comes to the size and scope of government. The same people who supposedly fear the concentration of power in the marketplace celebrate the concentration of power in the State—a State that asserts itself into and nullifies private contracts, breaks up companies it deems too large, and inflicts punishment on those who succeed in the competition for customers. In short, antitrust seeks to cap the amount of success any company or business can enjoy and the benefits reaped by customers.

As economist Yale Brozen wrote, antitrust law seems to say that firms should compete but should not win; firms should be efficient enough to survive but should not share the fruits of greater efficiency with their customers.

And that is the fatal defect of antitrust policy.

Antitrust fails to accept the lessons of economic history that voluntary exchange is a win-win proposition and that consumers are incredibly powerful in a free market system. A company that continues to reward its customers with superior products and innovations will, in turn, be rewarded with greater market share—with more—and will do better than their competitors and they will grow in size. Size is not necessarily a bad thing. The size of a business reflects its ability to please its consumers.

But no company can achieve a strong position in the market and rest on its laurels. Consumers are too demanding, and competitors will arise to steal customers away from any firm that ceases to treat its clients well. Unlike players in the marketplace who must take note of consumer trends to survive, antitrust enforcers often fail to see what it is that is right in front of their faces.

Just take the issue of video services. In 2005, when Netflix was already several years old and growing in popularity, the FTC—believe it or not—busied itself in blocking a merger between Blockbuster and Hollywood Video. So this is the inside of government. Netflix is beginning to take off, and the antitrust busters—the trust busters—are breaking up VCR companies and DVD companies. They are going after Blockbuster. This is the incompetence of government, and we should not encourage this. Blockbuster and Hollywood Video no longer exist. Even now, Netflix is one they are worried about. So Netflix was the competitor that put Blockbuster out of business. They wanted to get Blockbuster in order to forbid them from merging. It makes no sense at all.

No such fear exists today, though, that Netflix will be a monopoly since they are competing with Hulu, Peacock, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+, HBO Max, Apple TV, Paramount+, and others, but 5 or 6 years ago, you might have thought: Netflix is going to take over the world, that we have got to break them up. No. If companies please their consumers, let them get bigger. Bigger means they are giving their customers something they want.

We didn't need government to break up Netflix. We didn't need government to interfere to ensure competition and innovation. All we needed to do was to let the marketplace work, but standing in the way of the benefits of the market are the antitrust zealots. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has pointed out that enacting this bill would stymie legitimate business transactions between sectors and industries, create needless new bureaucracy, and spur unwarranted litigation.

The package is even more nefarious than that. It will take money out of the productive sector—the private sector—and give it to bureaucrats in Washington. As Americans for Tax Reform correctly points out, this legislation would give the Biden administration hundreds of millions of dollars in new funds to pursue a progressive social agenda. They are talking about critical race theory and all of this craziness and injecting this into whether a company can merge or not. This is not something we need to give them more money to do; we need to give them less money.

The package of bills here is just the first step to reinvigorating antitrust law. There is no lack of bills designed to empower government control over the marketplace. Take just one bill called the Competition and Antitrust Law Enforcement Reform Act, which would presume that any merger of a certain size violates the law and shifts the burden of proof to the merging parties. The government doesn't have to prove that your merging and becoming bigger is bad; you have to prove that your merging is somehow a benefit. People merge—they get bigger—to provide a lower cost and gain market share to gain profit for the consumers. That is what capitalism is based on. That is what ADAM SMITH really wrote about.

According to Robert Bork, Jr., the antitrust bill would enact so many potential ways to prosecute, abuse, and torment companies that government would, in essence, become the real board of directors, and every major company would be ruled by the Federal Government.

That is what is coming. That is what they are proposing. This bill today is a small step in that direction, but what they have in the pipeline is more government control of business. The package today is a mere precursor to designating the Department of Justice and the FTC as the central planners of the American economy. This bill seeks to take the power out of the hands of the consumers and hand it to the antitrust bureaucrats.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is unfortunate that an objection has been lodged. I think I disagree with every single assertion in there. It is not what this bill does, not in the slightest. This bill does not take the position that big is bad. I

am well familiar with the ''big is bad'' theory. That is not what this is. The merger fees are being reduced for, like, 85 percent of all filers. This simply allows them to do what they need to do and nothing more. It is unfortunate.

I am thankful to my cosponsor, Senator KLOBUCHAR, who is the lead sponsor of this bill, for the bipartisan effort in which she has managed this.

CLOTURE VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1146, Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Maria Cantwell, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Ossoff, Mark Kelly, Jacky Rosen, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 386 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rounds
Blunt	Kelly	Sanders
Booker	Kennedy	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Cassidy	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cornyn	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Feinstein	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wicker
Grassley	Portman	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	Young

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Fischer	McConnell	
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Burr	Cruz	Hickenlooper
Capito	Duckworth	Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, 12 years ago, I stood on this Senate floor for my maiden speech. I was new to the Senate, but I had a sense of what I thought was possible to achieve for my constituents in Ohio, having served in the House for 12 years and in two Cabinet-level jobs in the Bush 43 administration. In that speech, I talked about my interest in solving problems and working across the aisle to tackle big issues facing our country. That is what we have tried to do. We have had some successes and some disappointments, but through it all, I have always considered it a great honor to have been given the chance to represent my neighbors, the people of Ohio.

My team and I have viewed it as a sacred trust to do all we could while we had this temporary privilege. Our commitment was to move the ball forward wherever possible for our great country and for the families we represented. Through our legislative and oversight results, I believe we have honored that pledge. It has been a team effort.

I have been blessed with an awesome staff—sitting behind me today—some amazing Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle, willing to find common ground, friends in every corner of Ohio whose input helped me to represent our diverse State, and most importantly, an understanding family and a partner in all things in Jane Portman.

All of us get asked what inspired us to get into public service in the first place. In my family, my mom Joan taught by her example that serving others was our duty. We had no choice. And through their own volunteer work, my brother and my sister have helped change lives, and I respect that and respect all the caring and giving Ohioans who do that. I chose to serve in a different way, which involved the rough and tumble of politics—not for everybody but also a way to help others.

Another impetus for getting involved in politics was actually my father, Bill Portman, even though, as a small business guy, he thought I was absolutely crazy to get into this line of business. When I was a kid, he gave up his safe job as a forklift truck salesman for a bigger company to live out his own American dream and start his own business. He took a big risk, gave up healthcare, gave up a retirement plan, and five people—my mom was the bookkeeper—started Portman Equipment Company, with lots of debt. They actually lost money the first few years. But he never gave up on his dream and eventually, through hard work and integrity, found his niche. My brother, my sister, and I all worked at Portman Equipment Company in high school and in college. By the time my dad retired and my brother took over the company, there were almost 300 people working there.

Keeping that American dream alive and creating the conditions to allow that next Bill Portman to take that risk, to build his or her dream and in doing so help so many other families and help so many communities, has really been my North Star. That is what has guided me.

Dad also played a special role in my decision to run for the U.S. Senate. As you will recall, in the couple years before 2010, we had the Great Recession. Our country went through some tough times. I had stepped away from public service at that time. I was back in the private sector, thinking I would probably not ever run again. Then my friend and mentor Senator George Voinovich surprised all of you here in the Senate, as well as his constituents in Ohio, with his decision to retire, and Jane and I began thinking about it and traveling around, talking to people. Across Ohio, people told me about the real-world ramifications of the policy decisions being made here in Washington and how it affected them.

I remember in early 2009 asking my dad if he would do it again. Would he take that risk and start a business from scratch? His answer was troubling. He said, you know, he just wasn't sure. He listed higher taxes that were being talked about, more healthcare costs, more regulations. He said: I just don't know if it would be worth it. That conversation with my dad was part of what drove me to run for the Senate. I believed that the country needed leadership to drive policy in the direction of more economic growth and more opportunity, to help more people achieve their American dream.

Not many people these days would say politics is an honorable profession. A recent poll suggested only 20 percent of Americans approve of the job Congress is doing. And I guess we all give people reasons to be skeptical, especially when we seem too political and partisan gridlock keeps us from solving

problems people care about, like energy prices or what is happening on our southern border. But I know it doesn't have to be that way. Politics at its best can be honorable. It is about finding common ground to help people.

We all have our own views, and that is fine, and as elected leaders, we certainly have a responsibility to represent our States and our constituents. But I think sometimes we forget we were also hired to do our best to find that common ground and to achieve results. That is what we were hired to do.

When I need to be reminded about that, I think about my political mentor George H. W. Bush, who gave me my first job in politics, first on the campaign trail and then in his White House. To him, public service was absolutely a noble calling, a way to serve, and he helped young people like me see that by his example. In working for his son, George W. Bush, I witnessed that same commitment to public service.

In my Senate office, as these folks behind me can recite, we have a mission statement, and we developed it together. It says the following:

> Our mission is to deliver bipartisan results through effective servant leadership with integrity, selflessness, and excellence so all Ohioans can reach their God-given potential.

What is servant leadership? I think it begins with the respect for constituents by listening to them and understanding their concerns and then, whenever possible, delivering those results for them, from case work to legislation.

During my time in the Senate, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish for Ohio and the country by trying to follow that formula. I am told by my staff today that as of this week, over the past 12 years, there are 195 bills that I have authored or coauthored that have been signed into law. By definition, almost all are bipartisan and the product of the back-and-forth that leads to that common ground.

Not all of these bills are monumental; I will say that. And my constituents will never hear about the vast majority of them because they aren't controversial and therefore the media doesn't cover it, but they make a difference. As an example, a bill I wrote with Senator HASSAN is on the President's desk today, about early hearing detection—not the most pressing issue to many people but to the Ohio family whose child's hearing loss will be diagnosed early, it can be life-changing.

These accomplishments are a testament to the willingness of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle to find a way to achieve mutual objectives by listening and respecting different points of view. By doing that even during a time when there is so much distrust and dysfunction, we have been able to achieve a lot together. Today, I want to touch on a few of those areas. Don't worry, it is not going to be 195, but a few of them.

Thanks to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman BOB MENENDEZ and Ranking Member RISCH for working with me on a number of bills, including the establishment of the Global Engagement Center with Senator MURPHY that is combatting the growing threat of disinformation and propaganda.

Thanks to the leaders of the Finance Committee, Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member CRAPO, for working with me on so many bills, including working this week with my friend BEN CARDIN and me on our retirement bill.

Senator CARDIN, thanks for being my partner for over 20 years on successfully expanding retirement savings and a bunch of other issues, from hospice to Israel, to IRS reform, to affordable housing. I dragged him into IRS reform; he didn't want to do it.

As the ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I would like to thank all my committee colleagues and the chairman, GARY PETERS. While we may hail from different States—in fact, he hails from that State to the north, and as an Ohio State fan, I have to make that point—we are friends, and we have been able to accomplish a lot in the last couple of years, from helping protect houses of worship, to essential postal reform, to combatting cyber attacks. I have been proud of the work we have done at HSGAC, where I have served for the last 12 years.

The bipartisan investigations I spearheaded as chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations with Senator CARPER led to the end of websites like backpage.com that allowed the trafficking of women and children online.

I also led efforts to ensure our Federal Government doesn't allow human trafficking to occur with the influx of unaccompanied minors crossing our U.S.-Mexican border. Our bipartisan oversight on the safety of unaccompanied children crossing the border demonstrated that Federal Agencies must implement reforms immediately to ensure the safety and security of these vulnerable children.

Our 18-month bipartisan PSI investigation that detailed how drug traffickers exploit vulnerabilities in our international mail system to easily ship synthetic, illegal narcotics like fentanyl from China into the United States through the Postal Service led to the successful implementation of the STOP Act.

Through a bipartisan investigation, we also found that China has been targeting and stealing U.S. taxpayer-funded scientific research and intellectual property through its talent programs. Essentially, American taxpayers have been unwittingly funding the rise of China's military and economy over the past couple of decades, while Federal Agencies have done little to stop it.

With Senator CARPER, I introduced the Safeguarding American Innovation Act to require the Federal Government to take decisive action to safeguard our intellectual property, our inventions, our research here in America. It has passed the Senate—thank you.

I am disappointed certain House Members have blocked it, and I urge my colleagues to get it enacted in the next Congress.

Our investigations this year also revealed China's malign efforts to target, influence, and undermine the U.S. Federal Reserve. We must do more to safeguard our homeland from the threat of foreign adversaries, especially China.

I appreciate Senator HEINRICH for launching the bipartisan Senate Artificial Intelligence Caucus with me to ensure thoughtful, bipartisan policymaking on AI. Fifteen of our bills to ensure safe and coordinated use of artificial intelligence have now become law.

Since 2015, when my bipartisan Federal Permitting Improvement Act was signed into law as title 41 of the FAST Act, I have worked to update our aging infrastructure and create good jobs, while expanding and streamlining the permitting process.

Thanks to Senator SINEMA and Senator SULLIVAN for their passion on this issue and their leadership in passing the Federal Permitting Reform and Jobs Act to make these key provisions of FAST–41 and the permitting council permanent, which speeds up the permitting process for some of the largest infrastructure projects, resulting, by the way, on average, with a 45-percent time savings and major cost savings. We should expand that.

I also want to thank the bipartisan group of Senators who worked with me on the historic infrastructure bill, with a special thanks to my lead democratic partner, Senator SINEMA, along with Senators COLLINS, ROMNEY, CASSIDY, MURKOWSKI, WARNER, SHAHEEN, TESTER, and MANCHIN.

Every President and every Congress in modern times has talked about the need to fix our aging infrastructure, but we worked from the middle out to form a bipartisan coalition of 69 Members to go beyond the talk and make some of these needed and historic improvements to our Nation's roads and bridges, ports and rail, upgrade our Nation's broadband system, and so much more.

The process to me was almost as important as the substance. We did it by focusing on our key principles of core infrastructure only, no tax hikes, and bipartisan consensus. I was proud to team up with each one of you, and I thank you for your willingness to find that elusive common ground and so do people in my hometown.

We have heard politicians talk about fixing the Brent Spence Bridge, which connects Ohio to Senator MCCONNELL'S State of Kentucky. For over 30 years, we have been talking about it. It is at the confluence of two major interstate highways and currently carries more than 160,000 vehicles a day, which is twice as many as it was ever designed to carry.

It has no shoulders on the bridge because they have been eliminated to

carry more traffic, which makes it unsafe, and it is still congested at every rush hour. Local, State, and Federal stakeholders have never been able to come up with a way to solve this problem. The bipartisan infrastructure law finally paves the way to fix the Brent Spence Bridge, which not only makes travel safer and easier for Ohioans but improves the movement of goods throughout the Midwest and actually strengthens our national economy.

There are so many people I would like to recognize—and apologies in advance for those I will miss. Senator BLUMENTHAL, thanks for working with me on one of the greatest humanitarian and civil rights causes of the 21st century: human trafficking. We started a caucus, and we have enacted a number of bills to address trafficking, including ensuring justice for victims of sex trafficking and holding internet sites accountable to prevent the facilitation of trafficking, the one time that Congress has been able to successfully eliminate the section 230 immunity.

Senator WHITEHOUSE has worked with me to change the way addiction is addressed in this country by offering the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to provide a broad response to the opioid crisis. It provides individuals with the evidence-based treatment and recovery services they need.

I think looking at addiction as a disease is probably the most important thing we did in that legislation, in addition to the significant funding. I want to thank Senator BLUNT, whom I see here, for his role on the Appropriations Committee for funding the Federal Government's addiction programs at record levels. Senator CAPITO has been right there with him.

Senator KLOBUCHAR and I worked to pass the STOP Act, effectively keeping China from shipping fentanyl through the U.S. mail, and Senator CAPITO and Senator MANCHIN have worked with me to pass important bills on scheduling fentanyl analogs to make sure that it is illegal.

I have been deeply and personally engaged on the substance abuse issue for over 25 years, when I started my own antidrug group in Ohio that has become, over time, a model prevention coalition and enacted the Drug-Free Communities Act that has helped spur the establishment of about 2,000 community coalitions around the country. By the way, I worked on that with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY when I was in the House.

In fact, CHUCK took me to Iowa with him to help set up an antidrug coalition there. That was almost as interesting as going as his guest to the Iowa State Fair when I was U.S. trade representative.

Senator SHAHEEN and I have worked over the years on so many foreign policy issues, as well as energy efficiency. We introduced our first energy efficiency bill in 2011 and gotten most of it signed into law in the years since, helping reduce energy bills for families and businesses and actually reduce emissions by simply using less energy.

And I thank my college classmate Senator HOEVEN for his leadership on our energy efficiency bill and his all-of-the-above energy approach and, mostly, for helping me improve my Spanish by adding a North Dakota accent. I also want to thank Senator BENNET for our successful efforts on encouraging carbon capture and sequestration. Our legislation is starting the work to do that.

I appreciate Senator STABENOW's partnership as my cochair on the Great Lakes Task Force. Working with her and all members of the task force, we have made a lot of progress fighting harmful algal blooms and invasive species, and so many other issues important to our constituents along the world's largest freshwater resource.

Thanks to Senator KAINE, as my cochair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, who worked with me to challenge Congress to do more to address the Nation's skills gap and promote the JOBS Act, providing individuals with the skills they need to get good-paying jobs. Those skills are needed out there. We need to focus more on how we ensure we are not just spending money to send young people to college but also getting them the industry-recognized skills that they need.

Senators COONS, BURR, and WHITEHOUSE, as cochairs of the International Conservation Caucus, you have been great partners over the years on our legislation to combat wildlife trafficking, conserve forests, and develop strategies to protect some international treasures, like the Okavango Delta in southern Africa.

I appreciate Senators WARNER and KING and former Senator Alexander for working with me to pass the Restore Our Parks Act, which is finally addressing the massive deferred maintenance backlog at our national parks so that some of our Nation's most treasured landscapes, memorials, and monuments can be enjoyed by visitors and generations to come.

Because of the CHIPS and Science Act, a bipartisan legislation I worked on closely with my colleagues Senators YOUNG, TILLIS, SINEMA, and SCHUMER, Intel recently broke ground on its semiconductor plant outside of Columbus, the largest investment in the history of Ohio and an investment we believe will grow over time.

With the CHIPS Act now law, we can reverse this trend of this critical semiconductor manufacturing capability being sent overseas. It is going to create thousands of high-paying jobs here but, most importantly to me, help strengthen our national security.

These remarks would be incomplete without a reference to our work on tax reform. As I mentioned when I decided to run for the Senate in 2009, Ohio was losing jobs and our economy was falling behind. My campaign was based, in part, on a plan for jobs that focused on a number of economic policies, including fixing our Tax Code, making it competitive again for American workers and businesses.

In 2017, one of the highlights in the Senate for me was when I was able to work with a small group of lawmakers—PAT TOOMEY, TIM SCOTT, JOHN THUNE—to help deliver on this promise with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the first time Congress had passed comprehensive tax reform in 31 years.

It cut taxes for middle-class families, reformed our Business Tax Code to create more jobs and higher wages for Ohio workers, and it updated our International Code to encourage employers to actually bring jobs and investment back here to America.

I wish it could have been more bipartisan, but, frankly, much of what I led on the international side had absolute bipartisan roots, and I believe it worked. Tax reform helped usher in a period of unprecedented economic growth felt broadly. After tax reform and before the pandemic, we had 19 straight months of wage gain of 19 percent or more, well above inflation, and most of the wage gains, by the way, went to lower income and middle-income workers.

We also had the lowest poverty rate since we started keeping track of it back in the 1950s and the lowest unemployment rate ever for Blacks, women, Hispanics. It was an opportunity economy.

Unfortunately, a lot of those gains have been washed away by the pandemic in an avalanche of stimulus spending over the last 2 years that has fed the demand side of the economy while supply has been constricted by COVID but also by regulations, particularly in energy, contributing to the highest inflation in 40 years.

I hope the new Senate will have an opportunity to reset and, working with the House, make pro-growth economic policies a higher priority.

I want to thank so many of my colleagues who have worked with me over the years to support Ukraine in its ongoing fight for freedom. This is an issue near and dear to my heart and to Ohio. As some of you know, we are the home of many Ukrainian Americans and other nationality groups that are committed to the goal of a free and independent Europe.

I want to thank DICK DURBIN, the cofounder and cochair with me of the Ukraine Caucus and my Republican colleagues in the caucus who are so passionate on Ukraine: Senators GRAHAM, WICKER, CRAMER, COTTON, BARRASSO, RISCH, BURR, MURKOWSKI, SULLIVAN, CORNYN, MCCONNELL, JOHNSON, ERNST, and others. And I want to thank all those who joined me on 10 trips to Ukraine since 2014, when Ukraine rose up and threw off a corrupt Russian-backed government and turned to us, turned to the West. This includes two recent sobering visits to Ukraine with Senators KLOBUCHAR and COONS.

In 2015, I authored a bill called the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which has become the key funding account we have used to train and equip the Ukrainian Armed Forces. We need to continue to fund this account and lead the free world, carrying the torch of freedom.

Since Russia's original occupation of Ukraine escalated into a full-scale war on February 24 of this year, I have now spoken on the Senate floor 27 times—every week we have been in session—about the unprovoked, illegal, and brutal invasion of Ukraine.

My most recent speech was last night so I won't go on, except to say that we are at a critical juncture right now, and it is more important than ever that we support Ukraine. So I am going to be fighting hard for a continuation of aid to Ukraine before Christmas.

We just discussed so many examples of breaking through the partisan gridlock and getting things done. Despite these achievements, I do worry about the divisive political rhetoric in our country. It is important we restore faith in our democratic institutions, both for our own country's sake, and so we can continue to be that beacon of hope and opportunity to the rest of the world.

We can rise above the cynicism and the dysfunction. We just talked a lot about how that is happening and has happened over my last 12 years in this body.

We certainly did it on infrastructure, as I have outlined, and we have done it in so many other ways. I urge all of us to remember that there is more that unites us than divides us. I hope that one of the things we can agree on is the need to uphold this institution and what it stands for.

I strongly believe that means preserving the legislative filibuster that protects the rights of the minority in the Senate and is really the only thing that forces us to work in a bipartisan way. The result, when we find common ground, is better legislation that will stand the test of time and not be changed every time there is a change in the majority in this body.

Our country and this body face enormous challenges, whether it is economy, record inflation, the national debt that is robbing future generations, the absence of any real border security in our broken immigration system, or the looming insolvency of our entitlement programs. These issues won't be solved by one party running over the other and imposing its will on the Senate and the country. It will only be solved by us working together in good faith.

At the start of my remarks today, I said that serving the people of Ohio is the greatest honor of my life. Over the past 12 years, I have worked well with my colleague and friend from Ohio, Senator SHERROD BROWN, on issues important to our State.

SHERROD, we have canceled each other's votes out many times on the floor of the Senate, but we have also figured out how to work together. And I am proud of the work we have done on issues that are important to Ohio, like the Great Lakes, trade enforcement, addiction, and important judicial nominations like the district court judge we just confirmed this afternoon.

Despite our differences, we made progress for Ohio together. I hope you will have the same type of relationship, a good working relationship, with my friend Senator-elect J.D. Vance. J.D. has an impressive background of service in our military and in the private sector. I know he wants to make a difference in the lives of Ohio workers and families, and I look forward to watching him in action here in the Senate.

I know what it is like to be in public service with young children so I want to wish J.D., his wife Usha, and their three kids well. Jane and I support you both.

Thanks to everyone who has served on Team Portman throughout my career—the first Bush White House, the House of Representatives, the USTR, the OMB, and here in the Senate. We are having an alumni event tonight with a couple hundred of some of the best public servants ever assembled, and Jane and I are looking forward to seeing you all there. I have an amazing Senate staff who stuck with me to the bitter end. Thank you, both in Ohio and in Washington, DC. Many of them are here in the Chamber today.

I want to thank them for their hard work and their dedication to getting things done. They worked really hard for the people of Ohio and for our country and have enabled us to be so much more effective. Nothing we accomplished would have been possible without you.

I want to thank everyone who works in the Senate and makes it function well, whether it is the cloakroom staff, the doorkeepers, the Capitol Police, the cafeteria workers, the subway drivers, all of them in a very practical way. Democracy functions because of you, so thank you. I hope many of you can join us at our thank-you reception for you on Friday afternoon.

Special thanks to Leader MCCONNELL. MITCH, I appreciate your encouragement over the years. Your trust in me to take on a leadership role on important assignments and for your commitment and devotion to this institution and the health of our democracy.

None of this works without having a loving and supportive family. All of you know that. So to my wife Jane and the three people in the world I am most proud of—Jed, Will, and Sally—thank you for your unconditional support and the sacrifices you made. I am looking forward to being in Ohio full time, spending more time with family and friends, the Golden Lamb—our family restaurant—and getting back to the private sector. And, somehow, I hope to stay involved in the public policy issues we have been talking about today.

Finally, thanks to my Senate colleagues who made coming to work every day enjoyable and productive. Thanks for reaching out to me to work together and accepting my offers to work with you. Relationships matter in this place. I will miss my colleagues.

One consolation is that our retiring class consists of good friends who I hope to cross paths with in the real world. Senators BLUNT, BURR, INHOFE, LEAHY, and TOOMEY have all made impressive contributions in their tenure here. I am thinking maybe we should start a post-Senate support group.

And, come January, this place loses a great intellect and a great friend—BEN SASSE.

And I think, BEN, you should hold the meetings at the University of Florida, if it is OK.

Mr. SASSE. OK.

Mr. PORTMAN. OK. Done.

So to my colleagues, I have worked with every one of you in one way or another. Thank you for that privilege, and Godspeed as you continue to serve your constituents and continue to carry that torch of freedom forward.

Thank you.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from South Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO ROB PORTMAN

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, we all just had the opportunity to hear from our colleague—somebody who I am really going to miss—with his final remarks here on the Senate—well, I don't think his final remarks but certainly his, I guess you call it, going-away speech.

But I just appreciate so much having had the opportunity to work with Senator PORTMAN.

I know that, as he pointed out, staff not only here in the Chamber, around the Capitol, his personal staff—all people who have made profound contributions to that incredible record of accomplishments that he just talked about. That doesn't happen. Anybody who works here for very long realizes the incredible contributions that staff make to getting things done around here. And so I express my appreciation, as he did, to all of them for all you did to make Senator PORTMAN's time here so productive.

And it is great to see his wife Jane, daughter Sally here as well, who are all part of this partnership and this team that all of us know are so critical to being able to make a difference here in the Senate and the many sometimes sacrifices, contributions that they make on a day-in and day-out basis.

But ROB is someone I have gotten to break bread with a lot of times during our years together here in the Senate, and we have become really good friends, and I am going to miss having him here, as I said.

ROB has spent a lot of years in public service serving this country—12 years in the House of Representatives, where I first got acquainted with him; U.S.

Trade Representative; Director of Office of Management and Budget; and, finally, 12 years here in the U.S. Senate.

I have served with him on the Senate Finance Committee for nearly 10 years, and his going, I will tell you, is a huge loss. He played an indispensable role in the historic tax reform legislation we passed in 2017, particularly with the transition to a modernized international tax system. Our outdated international tax rules had left America's global businesses at a competitive disadvantage in the global economy. And one of our priorities, when it came time to pass tax reform, was ensuring that American businesses could compete on a level playing field with their foreign counterparts.

Between his time in Congress and as Director of OMB and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office, ROB has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to American economic competitiveness and in the international tax system, and he quickly became the lead on that aspect of tax reform—and not just on that, but on so many aspects on that very complicated piece of legislation.

Our final legislation brought the United States international tax system into the 21st century by replacing our outdated worldwide system with a modernized territorial tax system so that American businesses are not operating at a disadvantage next to their foreign competitors, and we saw an almost immediate positive effect for American businesses, which, of course, means that we saw positive results for American workers. And that is really, in large part, thanks to ROB.

It is an important legacy, and it joins ROB's long list of achievements in public service, some of which, he mentioned, from restraining unfunded mandates on States and securing resources for addiction prevention and treatment, to advancing a pro-world trade agenda good for American workers and businesses alike.

He has also been a strong voice for American leadership and values on the global stage, especially, as he mentioned, as a cofounder of the Senate Ukraine Caucus.

It is sad to see ROB leaving the Senate, but he spent a lifetime helping to build up our country, and I know his contributions won't end here.

I am also happy that he will have more time to spend with his family and with his wife Jane. Jane is terrific. Like me, ROB married up, and I know ROB is looking forward to having more time to spend together.

I also know ROB is planning to get more involved in the family business, the Golden Lamb Inn and Restaurant in Lebanon, OH, which has played host to at least a dozen U.S. Presidents over the years.

And, as I said, while ROB's time in the Senate may be coming to a close, I know that he fully intends to continue doing what he has been doing throughout his career, and that is working to make our country a better and more prosperous place.

ROB, congratulations on your years here in the Senate. I hope you get some very well-deserved rest in the coming months, and I, like everyone else here, look forward to seeing your next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I also rise today to pay tribute to someone who is literally a friend across the aisle and across State lines.

Now, you might not think that the senior Senator from Michigan, a Democrat, and the junior Senator from Ohio, a Republican, would be friends. After all, our States share a long and passionate rivalry, particularly on the football field.

This rivalry is especially intense on game day, like recently, when the Michigan Wolverines defeated Ohio State Buckeyes 45 to 23. I am just saying.

I particularly, Senator PORTMAN, wanted to say this out loud to make sure Senator BROWN heard it also.

Of course, my friend ROB Portman may have been cheering. And he may never really say this, but, you know, I am often wondering if, behind the scenes, he is sort of cheering both sides on that because he has never advertised it and he has never said it up to this point, but let me say today that he is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. Now that he is retiring, maybe he can say it out loud. So we are glad to have him there.

Senator PORTMAN has been a wonderful partner on issues important to both of our States, both Great Lakes and trade.

We have served as cochairs of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force since 2017, and we have gone to bat together on behalf of our beloved lakes time and time again.

We have introduced and passed legislation to stop invasive species from reaching and destroying our Great Lakes. When the Trump administration tried to slash nearly all the funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, we fought back together and we won. And since then, we have passed legislation to reauthorize the program and celebrated when we secured $1 billion through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the single largest investment ever for the Great Lakes. And it would not have happened without Senator PORTMAN.

I have always said that the Great Lakes shouldn't be a partisan issue, and thanks to ROB, they have not been.

We found ways to work together on the issue of trade as well. We fought for American workers when we served together in the House and then continued a strong working relationship when Senator PORTMAN left to become the U.S. Trade Representative under President Bush.

In the Senate, we have partnered to ensure that American workers have a level playing field. That included a great congressional delegation trip to Vietnam and South Korea, where we met with trade officials, Senator PORTMAN and I, and I got to see how much he is respected by these world leaders.

From strengthening our supply chains to securing funding to revitalized communities to promoting recycling to planting trees to funding our community health centers to keeping plastic pollution out of the Great Lakes—there is no end to the number of issues we have worked on together.

ROB, I am going to miss you. I have so valued your friendship and working relationship here. You have made a real difference, but I know you are going to enjoy spending more time with Jane and Jed and Will and Sally and watching more Michigan games that you can finally admit you enjoy.

I wish you the best of everything and hope we are going to continue to see you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, I have had both the good fortune and the misfortune of working closely with Senator ROB Portman.

I had the misfortune of debating him in 2012. He was kind enough to play the part of President Obama in my debate practice sessions. He was relentless, determined, unforgiving, and anxious to delve into the most minute facts and figures in order to defeat me and to knock any complacency I might have had out of my heart.

He more than made up for my debate whooping by tirelessly and repeatedly accompanying me across Ohio and other States, drumming up support for my campaign, raising money, and jousting with the wing nuts that tried to derail my campaign.

When I came to the Senate, I found that many of those same qualities—his relentlessness, determination, tirelessness, and ability to dig into the details—have made him a singularly successful United States Senator.

I worked alongside him on several bills. On each occasion, they became law because he dug into them, negotiated the most thorny of issues, drove the process to a result, and never, ever gave up.

We formed eight working groups on the bipartisan infrastructure bill because there were too many conflicts, too many subjects, too many obstacles for our entire group of 10 to resolve without dividing it into parts we could deal with one by one.

He then decided that he would be a member of every single one of those subgroups, knowing that he would be needed to actually drive each of us to a conclusion and a result.

You see, there are some people in politics who believe that a fiery speech or a bold appearance on a cable show and a reputation for fighting the opposition, that that is the measure of success. Not so ROB Portman.

He came here to pass bills and actually shape policy that would help the American people and strengthen our country. He came to fight and win, not just to fight. And he has won for America time and time again.

More important to me personally than all his winning is his friendship, his honor, and his character. He is a genuinely good man, and he is blessed to have married an even better woman. I will miss ROB PORTMAN in the Senate. As I think many of my colleagues know, he has been a bit of a stabilizer for me here. I will miss him and Jane in the neighborhood of our lives.

God bless you, ROB PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I rise to also offer to my thoughts on the career and service, the personality and the values of Senator ROB PORTMAN, one of a number of retiring colleagues whom I will dearly miss.

I was somewhat surprised by the timing of Senator BLUNT's farewell address and missed the opportunity to also speak to his departure. They have in common an important shared characteristic: a passion for getting things done, for being a Senator who serves their State and Nation, who works across the aisle and delivers real solutions.

Stop taxing death and disability—that is the first bill that ROB and I got to the President's desk and signed into law. Under the previous administration, it had a very catchy name, and it was a simple solution to a pROBlem most of us had never heard of, which was that if someone who had taken out student loans died and thus was unlikely to repay them and those student loans were discharged as a result of their permanent disability or death, that benefit was taxed, and the tax attached, in the case of one of my constituents, to their parents, to the estate of the deceased child.

When I first talked to ROB about this on the floor, he said: That is a terrible thing; we should stop it. From that simple germ grew a dozen different legislative initiatives.

Before this Congress ends, we will get the reauthorization of the End Wildlife Trafficking Act and the reauthorization of ROB's landmark work in tropical rainforest and coral reef preservation to the President's desk.

We had the chance to travel the world together. We had a remarkable trip, as did Senator KLOBUCHAR, to Ukraine—although I think our trip was just a little bit more comfortable on the train than yours. But it was a memorable opportunity to visit the Ukrainian refugees with their own incredible Embassy staff and to present the Liberty Medal from the National Constitution Center to President Zelenskyy.

I am also, I must say, grateful for your leadership on the Respect for Marriage Act, which is today going to the President's desk.

It was in August, as we traveled to five countries in Africa, together with our spouses and a great bipartisan group you helped pull together, to look at how human development can be the key to wildlife conservation in countries across the continent where too often there is instability that leads to the loss of biodiversity and to an increase in lawlessness and terrorism, and we found a way to craft together a potential legislative solution that I look forward to carrying in the years ahead.

To Jed, to Will, and to Sally, you have a remarkable dad. To Jane, thank you for being such a delightful, engaging, and supportive partner. My wife Annie and I will deeply miss you and ROB as colleagues here in the Senate, as a legislative partner, and as a personal friend.

God bless you on the next chapter of your life, and we look forward to staying in touch.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, you know, listening to Senator PORTMAN's speech, I don't know how you cannot be impressed with his incredible record of accomplishment, and it is a record of accomplishment that will stand the test of time. It is not surprising because all you have to do is look at all the things he accomplished before coming to the United States Senate. So it certainly is no surprise that he has done incredible work over the last 12 years.

He was 14 years, I think, in the House and had a tremendous record of success there. He was U.S. Trade Ambassador for President Bush, and that has the same status as full Ambassador. So for all of his time here in the Senate, he didn't want me to call him Senator PORTMAN; he always wanted me to call him Ambassador Portman. Instead, I call him ''El Gran Toro,'' but that is another story which I will get to. And he was OMB Director for President Bush. So when you look at the incredible experience and track record of accomplishment that he brought here, it is no surprise that—in his speech, he talked about a lot of incredible accomplishments, but there is a lot more that you didn't talk about. You could have talked for a long, long time because you truly did accomplish so many things that are important not just for the Buckeye State but for our country. I am just pleased to have had the opportunity to work with you.

You mentioned some of the things we worked on, and it is interesting because as you were talking about the things you worked on and the Members you worked with, I just took a quick count. There were more than 20 Senators sitting here, and you mentioned every single one of them and many, many more. I kind of got the feeling that if all 100 Senators were here, you probably could have mentioned every single one of them and something that you accomplished with them. Think about what that says—Republicans and Democrats.

I think he could have had every single Senator on the floor, and he could have gone around and talked about, hey, you remember we worked on this and we worked on that, and not just worked on it but passed it into legislation, and in every case, it was something that had a meaningful impact for our country and for our respective States.

Senator PORTMAN and I came here together, and we have been close right from the start, probably a little bit of our shared heritage from college. We worked together. We traveled together, you know, around the world—India, South Korea, obviously Mexico, Central America—and invariably learned an incredible amount on those trips. But whether it was on those trips or almost any other time, I always learned from ROB. I mean, the guy has incredible experience and a lifetime of learning but also such a keen intellect—such a keen intellect. He is somebody who imparts that knowledge to you in the best way possible, never coming across with any kind of ego or ''I know something that maybe you don't'' or anything like that but just in a friendly, helpful, great way.

The other thing is his ability to work with people. I have observed and tried to learn from it as well. I mean, it doesn't matter where you are going or what you are doing, he takes the time to talk to people and really talk to them—not just talk at them but actually connect with them and get a smile on their face.

That is one of the reasons why I asked: Hey, ROB, why don't you teach me some Spanish? We would go to a restaurant, and he would just start speaking Spanish with somebody, and you could just see them—their face would light up, and they would smile. He would make them happy and make them feel welcome and warm. And he was always genuine—always genuine—not doing it like a politician would do it but the way a person would do it for another person, somebody who actually cares about people.

That is maybe where I kind of want to go as I wrap up here, is that, you know, all the work he talked about, all of these accomplishments, these things are important. They are important for Ohio. They are important for our country and beyond. But his motivation in doing it was always because he does care about people.

He recognized the things he is doing—you know, you have to compromise here. You don't get things all your own way or the way you think would be absolutely the best outcome. You have to work with people. You have to compromise to get a result. But he always was guided by the fact that he knew what he was doing. He did make things a little bit better for other people. That is the right motivation. That is the right reason to be here and do this work.

So we will truly, truly miss ROB and Jane and their wonderful family, and I have gotten to know them all.

We are going to miss you a lot, but I do know this: We are going to continue to see you. We are going to continue to work on things with you.

I am not sure what he is going to do next, but it is just like I started out talking about. His incredible record of accomplishment before he got here and his incredible record of accomplishment here, both in what he has done and the relationships and friendships he has built, leaves no doubt—no doubt whatsoever—that he is going to continue to do some wonderful and amazing things, and I look forward to seeing what those things are.

ROB, we are going to miss you. Thanks for all you have done. Thanks for being such a good friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I will take off where Senator HOEVEN left off.

Listening to Senator HOEVEN talk, I was thinking, what are we going to do—JOHN and me—without ROB here to give us grief about our joint events that we do between Fargo, ND, and Moorhead? Several times, we have told ROB that we were heading out to do some esoteric event together, and he would give us a lot of grief. But then we would always send him pictures of the event to verify that this actually happened, and we had a lot of fun doing that.

I was actually thinking as I heard our colleagues talk about how ROB always teaches. This is something John mentioned. He always passes on the torch. My favorite example of that—and you are going to remember this story, ROB—was when my daughter started college, and Senator PORTMAN was going to speak at the college because his son was there, and he figured out that she was there, and he personally invited her to his talk at a residential college. She was a brandnew freshman. She went in there and sat down. She told me how nervous she was.

Two hours later, she comes back and calls me. ROB had spoken in his typical way, in a very, very authoritative manner but in a very nice way—maybe a little critical of the then-President, President Obama, where he didn't agree with him. My daughter, a freshman in college, calls me and says: Mom, you know, Senator PORTMAN said this. Why didn't President Obama do this? Why did this happen that way?

I said: Honey—I explained everything, and I said: Abigail, you have lived with me for 18 years, and I would hope that you would give some credence to what I said. You have been with ROB PORTMAN for an hour and a half.

She said: But Mom—I will never forget this—Senator PORTMAN is really distinguished, Mom. Senator PORTMAN has a lot of dignity, Mom.

Anyway, this was a family story for a long period of time, and I think part of that was he was able to reach out to students at a school, able to make his case, make the world bigger for my daughter in that way, just as he has made the world bigger for all of us.

For me, it started with our work on human trafficking under both Democratic and Republican Presidents. It extended into, I remember, the work on the USMCA. There was a moment where we feared Canada was not going to be with us and it was just going to be USMA, and the head of the Canadian Inter-Parliamentary Group reached out to ROB and many other Senators. But ROB was incredibly helpful in working with the previous administration to work out some details and get that done.

You mentioned in your speech, ROB, fentanyl and our work together on that. You have just been tremendous in understanding that there are two sides of this: prosecution, going after the bad guys and doing everything we can to keep drugs out of the hands of people who don't deserve to get addicted to them, but also the treatment and the—what we did, along with SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and, way back then, Kelly Ayotte and many others, with the First Step Act and your understanding of the need to work on addiction.

For me, lastly, I will just say there is no better sign that you were someone, as Senator BLUNT was saying, who wasn't just kind of ending your time with doing nothing—far from it. There is everything from the infrastructure bill—I see Senator SINEMA here—to the work you have done with so many.

For me, it was your devotion to Ukraine. People who will never know your name, who will never know how many times you went there to stand up for the people of their country against the inhuman barbarism of Vladimir Putin—I remember standing with you at that mass grave, at those burned-out apartment buildings, and the way you were able to make the case, working with the State Department, for what the people of Ukraine needed and what would work and the thoughtful and considerate way that people at our Embassy—all the work that they did. I remember the joy we took in finding out that one of the top names that week for new babies in Ukraine was HIMARS and the smile on your face.

ROB, we are going to miss you so much, but just as John said, I have a feeling that this is not your last act and that, along with Jane and your wonderful family, there will be much more to come.

Thank you, Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, you know, it is often said here that everything has been said, but not everybody has said it yet.

(Laughter.)

This is actually a case where everything won't be said today and can't be said. The remarkable legislative accomplishments that ROB has made are truly that—they are just remarkable.

When we were serving early in the House together, there was this big retirement bill. I thought, for a while, of Senator PORTMAN that then-Congressman Cardin's first name was ''PORTMAN'' because it was all about the Portman-Cardin Act, the PORTMAN-CARDIN ''this and that.''

(Laughter.)

I had a little piece we were able to put in that was called the SIMPLE Plan. Maybe that is because the only thing I understood was the SIMPLE Plan. It was a helpful plan, but we probably wouldn't have gotten it done if ROB hadn't been constantly making the legislative things happen that he makes happen.

As I have said in my remarks, I have never served on a committee with ROB PORTMAN, in the House or in the Senate, in our more than 20 years of working together, but I have probably spent more time with him in meetings, as we have tried to figure out how to move forward, than I have with almost anybody else, whether they had been the House leadership meetings or have been the Senate leadership meetings. I knew so much about ROB that not only did Abby I and really know and appreciate the friendship with him and Jane—and I knew their kids—but there was a while when I knew the names of both of their dogs. That shows that you spend a lot of time with somebody if you know the names of both of their dogs. I did that with ROB.

He has done so well here. I was the whip in the House when ROB was the U.S. Trade Ambassador, and those trade bills are always hard to get done no matter how easy it seems. There was the Central American trade deal that we took to the floor, and like with so many was the case, we just decided: OK. Now is the time to go. I think we are going to get this done today. The work is good. Now we have just got to get the Members willing to go home and admit that they did this.

Trade agreements are good for the country, but often Members don't want to talk about them when they get home because you can always find, somewhere, somebody in your State who might think you could have done a better job in negotiating part of this.

Then there is another thing, I think, that ROB and I had in common and understood. I just heard today, on NewsRadio, while I was driving in this morning, their talking about the new, highly competitive States. They mentioned, for decades, Missouri and Ohio were always considered to be the two bellwether States. Those were the two States. I think, in our State, for 100 years, we voted for the Presidential winner every time but one. Ohio had about that same record.

We have also seen a political transition in our States—where they have gone from highly competitive, where you are really out there in so many

ways on your own when running for office, to where the parties have changed in ways that we may appreciate more than a lot of other people here would.

I had not thought about the support group. I am not sure—I hope I don't need that—but I sure do need and hope to have the additional time to continue our great friendship and times to talk. As several people have said, you always listen when ROB talks because he knows what he is talking about. That is a relatively rare currency anywhere—even in the U.S. Senate.

I hope we are going to spend enough time together that we won't miss each other, but, certainly, I will miss the times we have had to work together on both sides of the building. It was sometimes when you were with the administration and I was here, but congratulations on what you have done for America and what you have done for your family and the future of the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, thanks for letting me speak here. I am not even on the list.

I just wanted to say a few comments about my friend and colleague ROB PORTMAN. I am not actually one to come and give a lot of speeches on the floor so this is a big deal. A lot of people stood up today to talk about ROB's accomplishments, of which they are numerous, but I want to talk about the ROB who is my friend.

ROB and I worked together for 6 months straight on the infrastructure package last year, which, as ROB mentioned in his comments, we built from the center out, which I am inordinately proud of. It is the model for how the legislative process should work in this country. I couldn't be more proud of him. I think, over the course of those 6 months, though, I shared more meals and more glasses of wine with ROB than with anyone in my personal life—ever. So, for that, I say to his wife and his children, I am sorry because ROB and I spent more time together, poring over spreadsheets in the basement of this U.S. Capitol, than I have ever spent with anyone, and I couldn't be more grateful for every one of those minutes.

ROB, in addition to being incredibly smart, incredibly focused, and incredibly committed to outcomes is also a delightful human being, and I consider him one of my closest friends in the world.

ROB, I am going to miss you so much, and I can't wait to go on ride bikes together. I don't want to go to the support group—I have no interest in that—but what I do have an interest in is spending time with you for many years to come. You are an incredible friend. You have got an incredible team that you have assembled, and I couldn't be more honored and privileged to consider you a lifelong friend. Thanks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am sure some people who are tuned into C–SPAN think they are watching an alternative universe because all of these Democrats have come to the floor to say something nice about a Republican, but it is ROB PORTMAN—a special Republican and a special friend.

(Laughter.)

We have worked on many things together over the years, but I really think the highlight of it has been the work that we have done together in the past year as cochairs of the Ukrainian Caucus.

I know that you have been there more often than I have, but I also know that your commitment to this issue goes way beyond anything political. It is personal. It is real. It is human. You can feel it.

ROB is the type of person, the type of Senator, who takes his job so very seriously. He put me to shame with the maps that he brought to the floor of the Senate on a regular basis to chart the course of the bravery and courage of the people of Ukraine as they fight for their freedom and their future and resist the invasion of Vladimir Putin and his thugs.

I know that you have been there to meet with Mr. Zelenskyy, who heads up the Ukrainian effort. I know, as we met this week and many weeks before, that when the Ukrainian Parliamentarians come to town, they look forward to meeting our caucus and particularly meeting the Senator from Ohio because they know that he understands their plight and that he is a voice for them.

It must be difficult to be a native of a small country—so distant from the United States—that is under constant attack, where people are leaving, their lives are being turned upside down, where innocent people are being killed every day, and you are counting on your friends in other parts of the world—the NATO alliance and particularly the United States of America. They find their way here to this Capitol Building with their Ambassador. We sit down, and we talk about the state of the war in Ukraine.

So many times, they look to you, ROB, and they look to our caucus for the kind of message to take back home—a message of hope that they are not in this alone.

Of all of the causes that I have worked on in the course of my senatorial career, this is one that means a lot to me. My mother was born in Lithuania, as I have probably mentioned to you. My feelings about freedom and my feelings about the oppression by the Russians and the Soviets over the years are very strong. That is being played out today in the course of the war in Ukraine.

I thank President Biden for his leadership, but I thank you, ROB, for making this bipartisan. Honest to goodness, that is why it is strong; that is why it is credible; that is why it is a cause that many of us in the Senate take so very seriously. You have made that commitment.

I would like to mention one other issue. I know that you take pride in your legislative legacy—and you should—but back in 2013, you made an announcement that sent shock waves throughout Washington. You became the only sitting Republican Senator to endorse marriage equality. At the time, you attributed your position to a member of your family who was part of the LGBTQ community. You said that your son's courage ''allowed me to think about this issue from a new perspective, and that's as a dad who loves his son'' so very much.

Well, that evolution came full circle when you joined 11 of your Republican colleagues in supporting the Respect for Marriage Act, which protects marriage equality under Federal law. It was one of your final votes in the Chamber and a fitting coating to your proud legislative career.

Loretta and I wish you and your wife, Jane, and your three children all the best as you say farewell to Washington and welcome to Cincinnati or wherever your life may take you next. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with you.

Thank you, ROB.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I was on the floor earlier listening to Senator PORTMAN's farewell address to his colleagues in the U.S. Senate, and I must tell you, it brought back some very fond memories—over three decades of friendship between ROB PORTMAN and myself as colleagues, as partners, and as friends.

Earlier this week, we had a chance in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to express our appreciation to Senator PORTMAN for his service on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. His wife Jane was there, and I made an observation that the sacrifice that Jane has made and that his three children—Jed, Will, and Sally—we thank them for sharing Senator PORTMAN with us and with public service.

I think back about three decades. I first got to know Congressman PORTMAN in 1993, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. An introduction came from former Congressman Bill Gradison. Bill Gradison was a Congressman from Ohio that ROB PORTMAN succeeded in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I knew Bill Gradison from my days in the State legislature. We were friends. We had done some business—some bills—together in the House of Representatives, and he told me: You know, you are going to like this ROB PORTMAN. He is the type of guy you are going to be able to work with. And, by the way, I have an issue I would like the two of you to take up.

It was a legacy issue for Bill Gradison, and it dealt with hospice care. There wasn't a lot of interest in hospice care in the 1990s, but Congressman

PORTMAN and I got together and we worked on a bill, and we followed in Bill Gradison's footsteps to get that legislation accomplished. That was the beginning of a three-decade relationship that the two of us have had in pursuing legislation.

Perhaps our best known legislation is the PORTMAN-Cardin pension reform legislation. For many years, people thought my first name was Portman because of the association with Congressman PORTMAN at the time.

And I must tell you, we got amazing things done to expand retirement savings opportunities.

We are very proud that several bills were enacted and signed into law, but we are equally proud of the process that was used in order to put that legislation together.

We invited all stakeholders to join us. It was truly bipartisan. We wanted to get the best policy, and it was that process that led to the successful passage of the first Portman-Cardin bill that dramatically expanded retirement savings opportunities. Even though it was not in either the Democrat or Republican leadership package, we were able to get it into the Balanced Budget Act.

I mention the process because that is the process that Senator PORTMAN—Congressman PORTMAN—has always used. He has used the bipartisan process to try to bring us together to get the very best possible solutions to problems. It has been the bedrock of his career, and that is why he has been so successful here in the U.S. Senate, and so many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have expressed our gratitude for his public service.

Now, I must tell you, he used that relationship sometimes to move issues that were not necessarily his partner's top priority. As he mentioned on the floor, he got me engaged in the IRS reform bill that dealt with the nuts and bolts of the IRS.

Now, I ask you: How many people want to be known in their district for improving the IRS services for collecting their taxes?

But ROB PORTMAN was the leader on this, and he needed a Democrat in the House, and he was very persistent, and we were able to get significant reform done in the IRS when we were both Members of the House.

Well, as you know, ROB PORTMAN moved on to become the USTR, to become the budget director, and then returned to the U.S. Senate. And I was so pleased to be able to partner with him again when he returned to the U.S. Senate.

On the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we talked about some of his major accomplishments. The two of us have worked together to promote the U.S.-Israel special relationship, to fight against anti-Semitism and the BDS movement, and there has been no stronger advocate in the U.S. Senate for the defense of Ukraine.

His record has been an unbelievable amount of accomplishments of getting solid legislation accomplished because he has that ability to work across party line. He is very engaged on the issues. He knows the issues. He knows the substance. He knows your concerns. So we can work it out and reach a common level of agreement so we can get a bill to the finish line.

So that is why he has such a remarkable record in getting retirement legislation enacted into law, getting trade legislation enacted into law, dealing with our National Park Service enacted into law, fighting drug addiction, which has been one of his major passions, making a huge difference on our war against drugs.

And as was pointed out earlier, and I just really want to underscore that, his values of promoting human rights.

In so many cases, he has been the key supporter, initiator, and had the ability to reach the finish line on bills that affect the basic rights of Americans going against such issues as human trafficking and so many other areas.

So I just really wanted to take this time to say to my friend ROB PORTMAN, through the Presiding Officer, thank you so much for your many, many years of public service.

We wish Jane and you and your entire family only the best going forward. You have left the legislature once before and returned. Maybe, you will return again. We will see. But I wish you only happiness and success in what follows your Senate career. Thank you for sharing your talent with the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, we have talked about more important legislative measures, and I just want to say thank you to all of my colleagues and to my colleague from Illinois who spoke and to the others who were overly generous in their comments. I appreciate it. I think my mom would have believed it, and my dad would have liked it.

Seriously, you can see why I will miss this place and why I believe that these colleagues, who talked all about the need for us to find that common ground and make a difference for our constituents, are people I have enjoyed working with and look forward to staying in touch with.

So this is a bittersweet moment. I am looking forward to getting back to Ohio full time with family and friends, as I have said, and the private sector. I have a deep respect for my colleagues, and I thank them for being on the floor today even though the jet fumes can already be smelled and people are already heading back for their weekends and important meetings back home.

So thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, let me add my thanks to Senator PORTMAN for his tremendous work here. I wish him the very best in his future as well.

PREVENT PANDEMICS ACT

Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about a very important issue.

Our country has made great progress in the fight against COVID–19. Families have been getting back to their daily lives. The thing I keep hearing from people in my home State is they want to keep it that way. They want to keep moving forward and making sure we never find ourselves in a situation like that again. I couldn't agree more, but that means actually taking action. It means not letting this moment—this Congress—pass us by and, instead, actually delivering the public health reforms that families need, which is why I am here today urging my colleagues to ensure that any end-of-the-year package includes our bipartisan PREVENT Pandemics Act.

Senator BURR and I led the HELP Committee this Congress, and from day one, it was clear to us that pandemic preparedness had to be a priority because the next time there is a crisis like this, we cannot have people asking: Why can't I get a test? Where can I get reliable information? How can we be so unprepared for this?

That means we must learn the lessons of the pandemic and ensure that our government actually works better and smarter in preparing and responding to public health threats, which is exactly what Senator BURR and I set out to do when we crafted the PREVENT Pandemics Act, which passed out of our HELP Committee in an overwhelming 20-to-2 vote earlier this year.

Our bill improves our public health system by learning from what worked and what did not in our COVID response. A big piece of that is establishing the Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy at the White House to serve as mission control so that we have a team in place, ready to go, 24/7, to guide our Federal response to new and emerging threats.

We have also seen how dangerous shortages have been throughout this crisis, which is why the PREVENT Pandemics Act strengthens our stockpiles and supply chains for drugs and ventilators and testing and components and masks and other lifesaving medical supplies. Of course, with a new threat, the issue isn't just a shortage of tools; it is that the tests and the treatments and the vaccines may not even exist yet. So our bill establishes ARPA–H, which is a new Agency focused on cutting-edge medical research like the kind that made it possible for us to develop a safe, effective COVID–19 vaccine in record time.

Our bill also supports potentially lifesaving research on issues like antivirals for pathogens with pandemic potential, antimicrobial resistance, better coordination in our blood supply, best practices for emergency preparedness and response, and long COVID, which many people are still struggling with.

This pandemic has also put a spotlight on how inadequate data from outdated and often incompatible systems can make it very hard for our health experts to do their jobs. In the 21st century, the CDC should not be collating data sent to them from fax machines, and incomplete demographic data should not hinder our experts in making lifesaving decisions.

Put simply, our government can work better and faster than this. That is why the PREVENT Pandemics Act will finally help modernize and standardize our public health data practices.

Everyone should understand that, with some really commonsense reforms, we can make our public health system work better for everyone—by the way, including our communities of color, Tribes, people with disabilities, rural communities, and others who have really, as we have seen, borne the brunt of this crisis.

We are talking about really basic, bipartisan steps, like making sure we have Tribal access to medical supply stockpiles, better practices for demographic data collection, and improving diversity in clinical trials. That is especially critical.

In fact, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, in my home State of Washington, just published a new study showing how Black communities, Asian communities, women, and others were underrepresented in many of the U.S. COVID clinical trials. We have to do better for all of our communities.

And we have to do better for parents too. I have heard from too many moms and dads throughout this pandemic who felt like no one was listening to them about the challenges that their kids and their families were facing. As a mother and a grandmother, I pressed for this bill to make sure the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters, which directly advises the Secretary of Health, must include parents, caregivers, and teachers as members.

Of course, in addition to all of those commonsense steps to strengthen our public health system for future health emergencies, there is more work to do if we are to fully reckon with the lessons of this pandemic, which is why Senator BURR and I worked with our other Members to include a bipartisan proposal for an independent task force, modeled after the 9/11 Commission, to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the U.S. response to the COVID–19 pandemic and issue recommendations.

While there is more to do to strengthen our public health system beyond these reforms—and I will keep pushing on this reform no matter what—the PREVENT Pandemics Act represents meaningful, bipartisan progress carefully negotiated between Republicans and Democrats over nearly a year.

I should say that it also reflects Senator BURR's longstanding focus on pandemic preparedness. This has been a life passion for him, even before this pandemic. His thoughtful expertise and his tireless work has been critical to crafting a strong bipartisan bill. I could not have asked for a better partner across the aisle to work with over the past 2 years.

Earlier this week, I listened to Senator BLUNT's farewell speech, and in his address to this body, he said: We don't have to agree on everything; we just have to agree on one thing.

That is how we help people and solve problems. In our PREVENT Pandemics Act, Republicans and Democrats agree on a lot of things.

Families across the country are watching closely. Let's show them that we are taking the lessons of this pandemic seriously. Let's show them that we are taking action so we never go through a crisis like that again. Let's make sure that the PREVENT Pandemics Act is part of our yearend package.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, $847 billion is a lot of money to spend on anything in 1 year, even in Washington terms. It is enough money, for instance, to make sure that not a single child goes hungry anywhere in the world ever again. It is enough money to end homelessness in America, provide free preschool and college for every American, build high-speed rail between every American city, and make childcare free for families.

Frankly, come up with five problems that plague parts of the world or parts of the country, design a solution, and you could probably solve all five for a year for $847 billion.

Here is another number that is big: $80 billion. Now, that is smaller than $847 billion but still a lot of money.

For $80 billion, you could build a high-speed railroad from New York to Washington, you could build 4,000 brandnew, state-of-the-art high schools in underserved communities, or you could hire—wait for it—a million public school teachers.

Here is why I tell you this. Next week, likely, this body is apparently going to be on a glidepath to pass an $847 billion Defense budget authorization for the current fiscal year. That is an $80 billion increase over last year. That is a 10-percent increase in just 1 year.

There has been very little public debate, and there is going to be very little debate on this floor over whether this is a good idea, about whether we should spend $80 billion on this or whether that $80 billion would be spent better on something else.

There is no debate, and there is going to be little debate here, in part, because the process of passing this bill is pretty broken.

Thanks to Senator REED, the Armed Services Committee is a functioning committee. The Democrats and Republicans on that committee write this bill together with an open amendment process. If you are a member of the Armed Services Committee, thanks to Senator REED and Senator INHOFE's leadership, you have a lot of opportunities to weigh in on the size and scope of the U.S. defense budget.

But the problem begins once the bill leaves the Armed Services Committee. Then the bill kind of disappears and gets changed. That is not Chairman REED's fault. That is our collective decision to endorse that process.

The first thing that happens, particularly this year, is that many, many big, important pieces of policy get added to the Defense bill. Some of them are good policy, but some of them aren't. But there is no democratic process in which Members of this body get to review what is added to the Defense bill. There is no notification of rank-and-file Members so that we can provide input.

Again, as I understand it, the Armed Services Committee doesn't want to be in this position. They would rather just have a vote on their original bill, as we did for decades until just recently, when all of this extra policy got added to the Defense bill. But because today there are so few avenues for that other legislation to find a path to the floor, in large part because Republicans are using the filibuster to clog up the floor of the Senate, the Defense bill becomes this kind of evacuation helicopter carrying all the passengers they can fit in it.

For the first time this year, there are more pages in the Defense bill dedicated to nondefense items than to defense items.

This might be acceptable if Senators could offer amendments on the floor, remove parts of the bill we don't like, make other parts better—at least have our day. But the other new normal here is that there is going to be zero amendments, amendment votes, likely in the Senate debate.

It is the same problem. There are a handful of Republicans here who don't want to legislate, and so they are likely going to refuse to give consent to vote on amendments, and, plus, as I mentioned, they clog up the floor with filibuster votes, which means that you can't get big, important pieces of legislation done, and so they all find their way onto the Defense bill.

But I just want to plead with my colleagues for a moment that there is a better way to do this. We don't have to look too far in the past to see what a real debate on the Defense bill could look like. I just want all of my colleagues to think how much more interesting this place would be, how much healthier the Senate would be if we

could have debates on Defense bills that looked like they did just 20 years ago.

I was just curious. So I literally just picked a year out of a hat from a slightly different generation in the Senate. I swear, I didn't cherry-pick the year. I just went back to 2000—the year 2000, right—a nice convenient date.

For the fiscal year 2000 Defense bill debate—which by the way, happened in May, not in December—the Senate took rollcall votes on 13 amendments. There were many amendments on contested, controversial policy that got full debate and full votes, and there were a whole bunch of other amendments that got voice votes in the Senate. But on the amendments that got full debate on the Senate floor and rollcall votes, there was an 87–12 vote on the legality of a new NATO strategic plan, a 49–50 vote to compel information from the Secretary of Health and Human Services on welfare reform, 48–52 on a War Powers Resolution for the war in the Balkans, 90–0 on a measure to encourage Balkan war crimes prosecution, 52–47 on a contested military promotion case, 40–60 to authorize a new round of base closures, 44–56 on a nuclear weapon retirement policy, 49–51 and then 51–49 to remove restrictions on prison labor products, 49–51 to remove restrictions on abortions on DOD property, 21–77 to limit funding for the Balkan war, 11–87 to limit the cost of the F–18 program, and 98–0 to support sanctions on Libya.

That is a lot of debate on really important foreign policy and national security policy on the floor of the Senate. That is virtually unthinkable in the modern Senate, and we are all poorer for it.

Back then, every Senator—not just leadership—saw themselves as having a coequal responsibility to set U.S. defense policy, and they required the process on the floor to reflect that belief.

In just that 1 year, 2000, Senators took three votes on the Balkan war, a vote on fighter costs, a vote on base closures, sanctions, and military promotions.

I go through this exercise just to explain to my colleagues that it just doesn't have to be like this. Those of us not on the Armed Services Committee or not in leadership don't have to be relegated to 70 rubberstamps with virtually no ability to have meaningful, realtime impact on the bill once it emerges from committee.

But I make this point for another reason as well. When there is limited debate and limited input from rank-and-file Members on a bill this big, on policy this important, I would argue that we miss the opportunity to be able to step back from this year-to-year creep of existing policy and ask ourselves: Are we doing it right?

Are we spending hundreds of billions of dollars in a way that actually protects this country and our national interests; or are we simply continuing down a path, continuing to invest and overinvest in weapons of war and underinvest in the tools that are necessary to prevent war?

And $847 billion is a ton of money, but so is $80 billion, this year's increase in authorized defense spending.

Now, let me say this: There is no doubt that there are legions of meritorious programs in this defense budget. Frankly, I publicly and proudly support many programs that are built and constructed in Connecticut: our submarine fleet, our helicopters, our fighter engines.

Why? Because I really do believe that the United States is the world's defender of democracy, the defender of the rule of law, the defender of international norms and free navigation. We have to be the world leader in kinetic, hard military power.

Ukraine is an example of why conventional military might still matters. Big nations, like Russia and China, are not content any longer to stay inside their boxes. They are, like pre-World War II times, seeking to revise their borders through invasion; and while the United States is currently at no risk of being invaded ourselves, we do still have a responsibility to step up and help others, to help reinforce that post-World War II order to ensure that wars of aggression do not become normalized.

But that post-World War II order is under threat not just because countries like Russia and China are using or threatening to use their militaries with alarming new frequency. The lion's share of threats to the United States and threats to world stability are often referred to not as conventional military threats but what is commonly referred to as asymmetric threats.

Now, this generally means they are threats that cannot be addressed just through military power—air power, armies, nuclear weapons, the kind of things that are funded in this Defense bill.

Let me give you some examples. Thousands of pages of think tank reports and endless hours of congressional testimony are dedicated to this lament that China's influence around the world is growing due to its willingness to aggressively invest in developing economies, critical mineral supplies, and supply chain routes. For instance, today China owns over 100 different international ports. They own a hundred ports outside of China in 60 different countries.

A new study revealed that China's development bank lent more money in sub-Saharan Africa than the development banks of the United States, Germany, Japan, and France combined. Now, to fix this, we need to be growing the size of U.S. development finance. But it is like pulling teeth to get Congress to extend the authorities or borrowing and capital limitations of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.

Last year, DFC announced that it had lent more money than any year before: $7.4 billion. That is a lot of money, $7.4 billion. This July, China's largest development bank announced that its 6-month total for a targeted set of urban infrastructure loans in the developing world, just a tiny piece of their overall portfolio, was $27 billion.

U.S. development finance isn't even playing in the same ballpark as Chinese development finance.

Here is another example of asymmetric power: It is kind of cliché these days to remind policymakers that information is power. But Ukraine's democracy is not just under attack from a foreign army; it is also under attack from misinformation. China, Russia, Iran, nonstate actors, they are spending billions of dollars all over the world spreading messages into democracies to try to create division and undermine faith in the rule of law.

That controversy around Colin Kaepernick's protest, that was mostly a creation of 500 Russian internet bots who posted an incredible 12,000 tweets inflaming public opinion.

China's global disinformation campaign is equally robust. For instance, the largest backer of Philippines' President—former President Rodrigo Duterte's illegal assassination campaign? Chinese social media farms.

But, once again, the United States just chooses asymmetry by letting these countries—Russia and China and others—dominate the information space.

Here is an example: the budget for RT, just one of Putin's international television and online news operations, $2.8 billion; the budget for the U.S. Agency for Global Media, which funds all of our overseas broadcasting, $1 billion.

How do you compete with those kind of funding discrepancies?

Here is one more example. A few years ago, I was in Dublin, coincidentally, at the same time of a major telecommunications contract tender in Ireland. Ireland was making this key decision to award its internet backbone to a European firm or to Huawei, the Chinese communications conglomerate.

I was told by a very competent but, frankly, very overwhelmed defense attaché assigned to our Irish Embassy that, over the prior few months, the Chinese Embassy had grown by leaps and bounds as dozens of new Chinese diplomats and provocateurs arrived in town to try to help sway the award for Huawei. Now, matched up against this legion of Chinese diplomats was this one guy, our single defense attaché, maybe supported by a couple diplomats in the Embassy.

Now, he was competent, but he had no background in telecommunications policy—and, frankly, really nobody else there did either, and no extra help was on the way.

The same phenomenon plays out with energy projects. Other nations

seamlessly integrate their energy resources with their diplomatic and national security efforts. There is no separation between the Middle East's oil and their foreign politics. The same for Russia or Iran or Venezuela. But U.S. energy executives are not representing the U.S. Government, which means our diplomats are on their own in conducting energy policy, which means they have an enormous amount of catching up to do against these other petro powers.

But for the first time, today, the United States is not the leading country when it comes to diplomatic posts around the world. That distinction now belongs to—guess who?—China. As our adversaries try to undermine democracies and rule of law and use their energy and technology resources to win allies, we simply don't have the means to keep up, another asymmetric advantage for our competitors.

We have no dedicated anticorruption or technology or energy policy corps within our foreign service. It is not because we don't need this capacity; it is just because we can't afford it. We lament this asymmetric advantage that other countries have on nondefense capabilities, but it is just a choice. It is a choice because we pass, year after year, these massive defense bills, and then we choose not to increase the capabilities that would actually protect us: the investments in nonmilitary capabilities.

Listen, I get it. I know this bill is going to pass, but why on Earth aren't we spending more time asking the tough questions about whether the balance of our spending on national security is right-sized to the actual threats the United States and our democratic allies face?

Yes, the Ukraine war is worth fighting, and it is expensive, but does it really make sense to spend 847 times more money on conventional military tools than we spend on winning the information war? Does it really make sense to add 10 percent to the defense budget while doing nothing to increase the size of our international development bank?

Do we really think that we are adequately responding to the actual array of threats posed to this country with a spending allocation that ends up with America having 11,000 diplomats, total, and 12,000 employees of military grocery stores?

American foreign policy today suffers from a crippling lack of imagination. American leaders complain about these asymmetric threats but refuse to acknowledge that this asymmetry exists only because we choose to do this: pass an $847 billion defense budget with a 10 percent, 1-year increase and do nothing, at the same time, to build the real capacities necessary to keep up with our adversaries' investments in nonmilitary tools of influence.

We could decide—this Congress could decide—to build a massive, modern international development bank. We could decide—this Congress could decide—not to let RT dominate the international information space. We could decide—all of us, this Congress—to have enough diplomats around the world to be able to fight the fights that matter to us.

We should imagine this world in which we fight toe to toe with the Chinese and the Russians and other adversaries in the development, information, technology, energy, and diplomatic spheres. We should imagine that world and then put in place a plan to achieve it.

Asymmetry is a choice. It is a choice for our adversaries, and it is a choice for us. And it is a consequence of our entire budget—for development aid, anti-propaganda efforts, democracy promotion, human rights advancement, humanitarian assistance, and diplomacy—being about the same size as the 1-year increase in the defense budget.

And $847 billion is a lot of money to spend without a real debate on the Senate floor, without the ability to offer amendments. I think this country would be better off, I think our security would be better protected, if we just took a step back, asked some hard questions about how we allocate money within our national security budget, and took the time to have a real floor debate with real input about it all.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture debate time on the Douglas nomination be considered expired and the vote on confirmation be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 1285, 1286, 1287, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard and Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc, as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 2121(e):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Richard E. Batson
Capt. Michael E. Campbell
Capt. Russell E. Dash
Capt. Amy B. Grable
Capt. Matthew W. Lake
Capt. Ralph R. Little
Capt. Jeffrey K. Randall
Capt. Wilborne E. Watson

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 2121(d):

To be rear admiral

Mary M. Dean
Charles E. Fosse
Chad L. Jacoby
Carola J. List
Michael W. Raymond

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 2121(e):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. William G. Dwyer

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

* PN2677 COAST GUARD nominations (173) beginning WILLIAM C. ADAMS, and ending YVONNE C. YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 29, 2022.

* PN2678 COAST GUARD nominations (83) beginning CRAIG H. ALLEN, JR., and ending NICHOLAS S. WORST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 29, 2022.

* PN2691 COAST GUARD nominations (5) beginning BRIAN J. MAGGI, and ending LISA M. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 11, 2022.

* PN2774 COAST GUARD nominations (4) beginning TROY E. FRYAR, and ending JOHN D. HUGHES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2022.

* PN2794 COAST GUARD nominations (9) beginning AMBER S. WARD, and ending CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 17, 2022.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN2169 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Ryan Giralt Bedford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 19, 2022.

PN2775 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (52) beginning Gary P. Anthony, and ending Stephanie A. Bunce, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 15, 2022.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 1201, Shailen P. Bhatt, of Michigan, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Shailen P. Bhatt, of Michigan, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bhatt nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EVELYN BRANDT THOMAS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, since 1963, the State Journal-Register, the oldest newspaper in Illinois, has awarded its First Citizen Award to residents of Springfield who have selflessly given their time and resources to help and serve others. This year, the State Journal-Register has selected a central Illinois legend to receive its 2022 First Citizen Award: businesswoman and philanthropist, Evelyn Brandt Thomas.

If you ask Evelyn Brandt Thomas how she is doing, she often replies, ''Better than I deserve.'' She is a true pioneer with deep roots in central Illinois. Evelyn was born in 1923 on a farm in Salisbury Township, just outside of Pleasant Plains. Her father, Albert Brandt, raised horses for the first 12 years of her life. And as life on a farm goes, Evelyn had to do it all. She would handle tractors, gather eggs, and milk the cows, all without the luxuries of electricity or indoor plumbing.

She was ahead of her time. Evelyn graduated from Springfield High School at just 16 years old and went on to receive a degree in accounting from Illinois Business College, an impressive feat at a time when women had few higher education opportunities and even fewer prospects in the fields of business and accounting.

After several years of working in advertising, in the early 1950s, Evelyn and her younger brother, Glen—''GB'' for short—founded Brandt Fertilizer, a company that sold liquid fertilizer to central Illinois farms. At the time, dry fertilizer dominated the local market, but it also would come in heavy, 50-lb. bags that farmers would have to haul all across the farm. GB and Evelyn recognized a need and seized on the opportunity. Their original motto was, ''All You Have to Do is Lift the Hose.'' GB relied on his ''gift of gab'' going farm-to-farm selling this new product to make farmers lives easier while Evelyn handled the financials, which she watched like a hawk. Evelyn and GB were quite the duo, building their business on the principles of honesty and hard work.

Their principles paid off. What started as a liquid fertilizer company operating out of a truck and an office has now grown into BRANDT Consolidated, Inc., a successful agricultural business that sells products in more than 45 countries, has several hundred employees, and generates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue each year. And it is still a family business. GB's son and Evelyn's nephew, Rick Brandt, has served as CEO and president since 1995.

But Evelyn's long list of accomplishments goes far beyond profits and sales. Over the years, she has pursued a number of philanthropic projects and given back to central Illinois and the region. She has been a champion of education—especially in encouraging more women to explore careers in agriculture—supporting a variety of institutions of higher learning, like the University of Illinois Springfield and Lincoln Land Community College, as well as nonprofits like the Education Center for the Visually Impaired. Evelyn has established scholarships at the University of Illinois Springfield—UIS—and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She continues to support 4–H, the youth development nonprofit organization where she met her late husband Gordon, and the Future Farmers of America—an organization that prepares young people to be leaders in business and agriculture.

In her work with the Education Center for the Visually Impaired, Evelyn has sought to improve the quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired. In doing so, she has helped to provide education, training, and development opportunities through services and programs.

For her decades of work, Evelyn has received numerous awards. She received the ATHENA International Award presented by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce in 2009, a Doctor of Humane Letters award from UIS in 2014, and was inducted into the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame in 2020.

I have also been glad to get to know Evelyn's family over the years. In 2019, I worked with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to help the Brandt family secure the specialized World War II license plate, ''GB,'' in honor of his military service. GB passed away in June 2020 at the age of 94. In January 2020, we held a press event at BRANDT Consolidated, Inc., to celebrate the benefits of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement for the agriculture production industry and the Brandt family's global leadership.

How is Evelyn doing? I would say she is doing pretty well for a farm girl from central Illinois. And she deserves it. Evelyn and her family are a true Illinois success story. I want to thank Evelyn for her many years of service to the central Illinois community and congratulate her for receiving the State Journal-Register's 2022 First Citizen Award. Illinois is grateful for all of her service and sacrifice.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0U–22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22–49 ofJuly 21, 2022.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0U–22

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22–49; Date: July 21, 2022; Military Department: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On July 21, 2022, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 22–49, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of eighty (80) Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles—Extended Range (JASSM–ER) (AGM–158B with telemetry kits and/or AGM–158B–2 configurations). Also included were missile containers and support equipment; JASSM training missiles; weapon system support; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; integration and test support and equipment; personnel training; software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was $235 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted $157 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of the following MDE items: one (1) AGM–158 Instrumented Test Vehicle (ITV); two (2) JASSM AGM–158 Separation Test Vehicles (STV); two (2) JASSM Jettison Test Vehicles (JTV); and two (2) JASSM AGM–158 Mass Simulation Vehicles (MSV). Also included are non-MDE KGV–135A embedded encryption modules; munition telemetry kits; and additional classified test equipment. The estimated total value of the additional items is $26 million. The total estimated MDE value will increase by $17 million to $174 million, resulting in an estimated total case value of $261 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will support Australia's capability to test advanced, long-range strike systems for employment from its Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) air platforms including, but not limited to, the F/A–18F Super Hornet and F–35A Lightning II.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The AGM–158 Instrumented Test Vehicle (ITV) is a flight certification vehicle equipped with an intelligent Test Instrumentation Kit (iTIK). The ITV collects airworthiness data to ensure safe separation of the munition from the aircraft.

The JASSM AGM–158 Separation Test Vehicle (STV), equipped with an intelligent Test Instrumentation Kit (iTIK), collects separation data during airworthiness/flight certification.

The JASSM Jettison Test Vehicle (JTV) is used during the airworthiness data collection process to ensure safe jettison of the munition from the aircraft. It provides pilot captive-carry training with recording capability for post-release data analysis.

The JASSM AGM–158 Mass Simulation Vehicle (MSV) is a test missile used in support of missile load training and pilot captive-carry training.

The KGV–135A is a high-speed, general purpose encryptor/decryptor module used for wide-band data encryption.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 7, 2022.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 378 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for Mia Roberts Perez, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 378, PN2367.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 379 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 379, PN2366.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 380 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 380, PN2366.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 381 due to a commitment in Henrico, VA, related to the events surrounding the funeral of former Representative Donald A. McEachin. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation for John Frank Murphy, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, rollcall vote No. 381, PN2368.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 382. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, rollcall vote No. 382, PN2438.

I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, for rollcall vote No. 383. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the confirmation for Jerry W. Blackwell, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, rollcall vote No. 383, PN2266.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on November 30, 2022, I missed rollcall vote No. 363 while attending a meeting and event at the Department of the Interior announcing the future designation of a new National Monument in Nevada. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on vote No. 363, cloture on the nomination of Camille L. Velez-Rive to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive calendar No. 1188, Chrissie C. Latimore, of South Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years; No. 1196, Peter D. Leary, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years; No. 1197, McLain J. Schneider, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years; No. 1199, David C. Davis, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years; No. 1251, Terry J. Burgin, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years; and No. 1252, Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

TRIBUTE TO DUNCAN WYSE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I often speak on the Senate floor about what I call the ''Oregon Way.'' It is about Oregonians of all backgrounds setting aside partisan politics and coming together to build on what makes our State such a wonderful place to live, work, raise a family, and run a business.

I don't know of anybody who exemplifies and believes in the Oregon Way more than my friend Duncan Wyse. Duncan is the head of the Oregon Business Council and the man behind the Oregon Economic Leadership Summit, which is meeting for the 20th year in just a few days. So on this 20th anniversary, it is my great pleasure to share a few thoughts about my friend Duncan and all the good he has done over the years for the State we both love.

Duncan has always been a humble guy. He has never been the kind to seek out the spotlight. He will put in all the hard work behind the scenes if it pays off for Oregon and creates new opportunities for people to get ahead. He has been incredibly successful in that.

A little bit about the origin of the Leadership Summit. It was back in the recession of the early 2000s. Oregon's economy, like a lot of the country, was down in the dumps. The tech bubble had popped. Unemployment was up. The September 11, 2001, attacks had shaken the country to its core. Between State and local officials, Members of Congress, business and community leaders, a lot of us were looking at every opportunity to get Oregon's economy growing again.

Duncan had the idea that what we needed to do was bring all those people together at one big event. Get focused. Zero in on the solutions that would be the most impactful and longest lasting for businesses and workers all across the State. He and I got in touch, and I told him, Count me in. I will be your co-founder, I will bring then-Senator Gordon Smith along, and I will do whatever I need to do to make this a success.

Nobody had tried this before. I would be blowing smoke if I said we were confident about it the entire time. At a few points early on, we probably doubted whether we would get enough people to field a competitive football game. The idea was, we were hoping for a decent crowd with at least one representative from each of Oregon's 36 counties. But in the end, that first summit brought together upward of 1,000 people from all over the State.

It was a huge success, and the summit is now in year 20 because of Duncan's commitment to the Oregon Way. It remains the premier venue for bringing Oregonians together to tackle the big economic challenges.

The summit brings together business leaders, local, State, and Federal elected officials; urban Oregon and rural Oregon; leaders in the nonprofit sector and community groups; leaders from some of the biggest and most established companies in the world, like Nike and Intel, as well as the newest startups and most treasured small businesses; people who vote Republican and people who vote Democrat.

I don't know of any other event like this one happening anywhere else in the country. Political disagreements stay at home, and the focus is on finding practical ways to tackle big challenges.

One of the top priorities at this upcoming summit is bringing more cutting-edge manufacturing to Oregon, particularly after the passage of the CHIPS Act.

About a year ago, it was Duncan's idea to create a Semiconductor Competitiveness Task Force made up of industry leaders and elected officials. The task force, which I cochaired, worked for several months to figure out how to cement Oregon's leadership on chips and take advantage of the Federal chips legislation. We released a report in August looking at all the key issues and proposing several policy updates. It is a huge opportunity in terms of creating good-paying jobs and building on one of Oregon's major economic strengths. It is something we have got to get right.

The Leadership Summit has tackled equally important issues in years past. Everything from housing to energy to transportation to education to rural economic growth. The discussions that happen when we gather every December help to bring a host of good ideas forward and give leaders from across the State a sense of common purpose. It sets the table ahead of the new legislative session.

In a few days people from across Oregon are going to gather in Portland at the 20th Economic Leadership Summit. Duncan is certainly not somebody who will seek out a whole lot of applause on that special anniversary, but he deserves enormous credit for his many years of service to Oregon. He represents the best of the Oregon Way, and many, many people in our State are better off as a result of his hard work. It is my great pleasure to call him a friend, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the years ahead.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I join my colleague and fellow Oregonian, Senator WYDEN, in recognizing all of the great work that Duncan Wyse has done throughout his 20 years organizing the annual Oregon Business Plan Summit.

Every year, even virtually during the COVID–19 pandemic, the summit brings together business, government, and nonprofit leaders to engage in a robust dialogue focused on how we can all work together to grow Oregon's economy and improve the lives of those who call our State home. Its mission can be easily summed up by two words, which happen to be the same two words of the Oregon Business Plan's strategic vision: ''Shared Prosperity.''

The idea for the summit was born from Duncan's work with other business associations to craft an economic recovery plan that would help bring Oregon out of the 2002 recession. Senator WYDEN found out about the plan, called Duncan, and together, they came up with the idea of having an event to share it publicly. Two decades later, the summit is still going strong—attracting thousands of leaders from every corner of our State. And Duncan has been at the head of it every step of the way, making sure that it continues to grow and evolve along with the challenges and opportunities facing Oregonians whether issues of sustainability and transportation, education and tax policy, or, more recently, how to get our State moving again coming out of the pandemic.

Oregon has come a very long way since the first Business Plan Summit in 2002. We have seen tremendous growth in industries like mass timber and continue to lead the country in manufacturing semiconductors. And so much of that success is due to Duncan Wyse and his leadership of the Oregon Business Plan Summit. So on behalf of Oregonians everywhere, I just want to join Senator WYDEN in thanking Duncan for all of his great work these past 20 years.

REMEMBERING LOIS CURTIS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last month, Lois Curtis, the lead plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court decision Olmstead v. L.C.—which affirmed the rights of people with disabilities to live in their own communities—passed away from pancreatic cancer. Today, I join so many touched by Ms. Curtis' advocacy in mourning her passing, remembering her life, and paying tribute to the invaluable contributions she made to civil rights.

Ms. Curtis, a Black woman with intellectual and mental health disabilities, spent her childhood and young adult life living in State institutions. But she wanted to get out of the institution she had been confined to and finally have the ability to live in her own community. So she took her case to court in 1995 and eventually became the lead plaintiff in Olmstead v. L.C., in which the Supreme Court ruled for the first time in 1999 that unjustified segregation of people with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The landmark ruling established that people with disabilities have the right to receive the services and supports they need to live in their own communities, not just State institutions. Ms. Curtis' courage and refusal to accept the status quo helped propel the disability rights movement, made our country more just, and improved the lives of so many people with disabilities.

After winning her case and gaining her independence, Ms. Curtis dedicated her life to advocacy work and became a renowned artist. In 2011, she showcased her artwork in the White House for the anniversary of the Olmstead decision.

Ms. Curtis' life's work improved the lives of so many across our country. She will be remembered fondly.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PATRICK ''RYAN'' ALBAN

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and soldier. After 3 years of Active-Duty service with the Army Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, MAJ Patrick ''Ryan'' Alban is deservedly moving on and transitioning to the Army Reserve. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Major Alban's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Army and this Chamber.

Ryan started his service on the Hill as a legislative liaison in the National Guard Bureau, where he was responsible for the Army National Guard's military construction portfolio until May 2019. He then served as my defense fellow for 12 months where he was instrumental in the drafting of legislation and providing policy advice. Following his time in my office, Major Alban served for over 2 years in the Army Senate Liaison Division, where he was invaluable in informing Senators and staff on Army priorities and policy initiatives.

Over the course of the last 2 years, Major Alban also provided support to multiple congressional delegations to locations within the United States and to various countries around the world. He became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us. He distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every trip, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic complications.

Prior to his time on the Hill, Major Alban served our Army and our Nation for more than 10 years. He commissioned as an Active-Duty infantry officer from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. He began his career as a weapons platoon leader, air operations officer, and adjutant in the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Drum, NY. While there, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After returning home, Ryan transitioned to the Missouri National Guard. Soon after, he was mobilized to Ferguson in order to protect persons, property, and civil liberties. He was then selected to command a rifle company and, later, a headquarters company, the former of

which he led to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Major Alban is the epitome of a soldier-scholar. He holds a master of laws in national security law from Georgetown University Law Center, a juris doctor from St. Louis University School of Law, a master of professional studies in legislative affairs from George Washington University, and a bachelor of arts in political science from Webster University.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, we thank MAJ Ryan Alban, his wife, and their son for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future successes as he continues to serve our great Army and Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING NAPIER BROTHERS CLOTHING STORE

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Napier Brothers Clothing of Lancaster, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Mr. Lonnie Napier is a lifelong resident of Garrard County, KY, and he remembers when the county did not look quite like it does today. Mr. Napier grew up in a rural part of Garrard County, and as a boy, he did not know the comforts of running water, telephones, electricity, and in-door plumbing. However, as Mr. Napier grew older, he continued to leave his mark on the community. In 1966, at the age of 26 years old, Mr. Napier was elected to the Garrard County Fiscal Court, the youngest man to ever be elected to such group. From that day forward, Mr. Napier would continue his involvement with local government, even as he began his career in the clothing business.

Lonnie Napier opened Napier Brothers Clothing back in 1990, and he has been working at the same location in Lancaster square ever since, making it the oldest small business on the town square. As one might gather from the store's name, Lonnie's business is a family business, having named the store after his two sons, both of which worked in the store during their youth. Today, the store sells all sorts of clothing, ranging from casual wear to clothes suited for working outside, and shoes, ranging from men's and ladies' footwear to work boots suitable for outdoor conditions. According to Lonnie Napier, the most popular item that his store sells is blue jeans, which is no wonder considering the wide selection of blue jeans Mr. Napier keeps stocked in his collection of shelves along the store's wall. Mr. Napier ensures that all products in his store are top quality and that the customer service of Napier Brothers Clothing far exceeds that of his corporate competitors.

Given Garrard County's location within central Kentucky, agriculture enjoys a large influence on their surrounding communities. Large businesses such as Tractor Supply directly compete with Mr. Napier's customer base, but corporations simply cannot match the sense of familiarity and geniality that a customer feels when walking into Napier Brothers Clothing. Mr. Napier has a knack for taking care of his customers, always answering their questions and hearing whatever concerns they may have. His amiability as a business owner is one of the many traits that led him to find success in local governance. A highlight of Mr. Napier's political career occurred back in 1984 when he was running for a seat in the Kentucky House of Representatives. Initially thinking it was a prank, Mr. Napier finally paid a phone call to a telephone number his friends kept insisting he dial. That phone call led to Lonnie Napier receiving an in-person campaign endorsement from then President Ronald Reagan. In addition to having met former President Reagan, Mr. Napier also had the pleasure of meeting former Presidents George Bush, Sr., and Bill Clinton.

Though he occasionally rubbed shoulders with politicians in the big leagues, Mr. Napier never lost sight of his mission to run the best small business in Lancaster. From a country-born boy who grew up having to walk 5 miles to school each day, to a successful Main Street entrepreneur who has consistently looked out for the citizens of Lancaster, Mr. Napier has enjoyed a long and fruitful career in his corner of Kentucky. Congratulations to Lonnie Napier and to the whole team at Napier Brothers Clothing. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Kentucky.•

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 8404. An act to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN).

At 3:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1617. An act to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5730. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Standard for Sling Carriers'' (Docket No. CPSC–2014–0018) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5731. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Standard for Magnets'' (RIN3041–AD82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5732. A communication from the Assistant Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Call Authentication Trust Anchor'' ((FCC 22–76) (WC Docket No. 12–375)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5733. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Glazing Standards; Codifying Existing Waivers and Adding Test Flexibility'' (RIN2130–AC76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5734. A communication from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Standard for Frame Child Carriers'' (Docket No. CPSC–2014–0011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5735. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4028'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31450)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5736. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard

Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4027'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31449)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5737. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4029'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31451)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5738. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4024'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31446)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5739. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4023'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31445)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5740. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update to Investigative and Enforcement Procedures and General Rulemaking Procedures; Technical Amendments; Amdt. No. 13–40A'' ((RIN2120–AK85) (Docket No. FAA–2019–1051)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5741. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 568'' ((RIN2120–AA63) (Docket No. 31453)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5742. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T–278; Sisters Island, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–1153)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5743. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of 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'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0243)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5744. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Establishment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; South Central United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0436)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5745. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T–380; Emmonak, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0245)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5746. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of United States Navigation (RNAV) Route T–377; Sitka, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0231)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5747. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of 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'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0248)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5748. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of United States Navigation (RNAV) Route T–266; Juneau, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1106)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5749. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of United States Navigation (RNAV) Route T–371; Kodiak, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0230)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5750. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of United States Navigation (RNAV) RouteT–269; Yakutat, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0231)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5751. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Jet Route J–591; Bellingham, WA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0416)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5752. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of United States Navigation (RNAV) Route T–374; Kotzebue, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0852)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5753. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of United States Navigation (RNAV) Route T–241; Level Island, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–1132)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5754. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V–36; Northcentral United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0333)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5755. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Norway and Oxford, ME'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0903)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5756. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class D Airspace; Chicago/Romeoville, IL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0167)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5757. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ellsworth, KS'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0132)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5758. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Grand Canyon National Park, Airport, AZ'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0793)) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5759. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Rexburg-Madison County Airport, ID'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0567)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5760. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; McCarley Field, ID'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0672)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5761. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Idaho Falls Regional Airport, ID'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0569)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5762. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification & Removal of Class E Airspace; Valle Airport, AZ'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0578)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5763. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–22147'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0678)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5764. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–22204'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1252)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5765. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines, LLC Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–22184'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0292)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5766. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters; Amendment 39–22195'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2021–1074)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5767. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; NZSkydive Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Pacific Aerospace Ltd.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22220'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1310)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5768. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39–22189'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0603)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5769. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–22192'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0879)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5770. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22131'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0393)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5771. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Airplanes; Amendment 39–22184'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0813)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5772. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Inc. Helicopters and Various Restricted Category Helicopters; Amendment 39–22210'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0802)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5773. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–22203'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1249)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5774. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22166'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0011)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5775. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39–22189'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0886)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5776. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–22196'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0467)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5777. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines LLC Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–22184'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0292)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5778. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–22179'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1160)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5779. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters; Amendment 39–22185'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0875)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5780. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–22205'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0977)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5781. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–22191'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No.

FAA–2022–0888)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 4399. A bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Robert Stewart Ballou, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Kymberly Kathryn Evanson, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Myong J. Joun, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Henry C. Leventis, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

Michael D. Black, of Ohio, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

Catrina A. Thompson, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5211. A bill to authorize the use of specialized human trafficking training and technical assistance grants to train law enforcement personnel regarding the Interdiction for the Protection of Children program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 5212. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to increase access to services provided by advanced practice registered nurses under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5213. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for tobacco products and electronic nicotine delivery systems; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5214. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a measurement-based national methane research pilot study to quantify methane emissions from certain oil and gas infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5215. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize the modification of transferred works to increase public benefits and other project benefits as part of extraordinary operation and maintenance work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5216. A bill to reduce the Federal budget deficit by closing big oil tax loopholes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 5217. A bill to promote the diligent development of Federal oil and gas leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5218. A bill to amend the civil rights remedies equalization provision of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986 to clarify civil rights remedies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5219. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a partially refundable credit against payroll taxes for certain restaurants affected by the COVID–19 pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5220. A bill to reauthorize programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 5221. A bill to reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 5222. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5223. A bill to require Community Development Block Grant and Surface Transportation Block Grant recipients to develop a strategy to support inclusive zoning policies, to allow for a credit to support housing affordability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5224. A bill to exclude from gross income certain assistance provided to farmers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5225. A bill 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''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5226. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 5227. A bill to authorize grants to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses and logistical support for individuals with respect to accessing abortion services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 5228. A bill to treat activities related to fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands areas as related to an exempt purpose for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5229. A bill to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to remove the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol and to obtain a bust of Thurgood Marshall for installation in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 5230. A bill to increase accessibility to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 864. A resolution expressing support for the draft United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/C.1/77/L.62 calling upon member states to commit not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests, introduced by the United States at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. Res. 865. A resolution commending and congratulating the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks men's cross country team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association Cross Country National Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 866. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2022 as ''National Co-Op Month'' and commending the cooperative business model and the member-owners, businesses, employees, farmers, ranchers, and practitioners who use the cooperative business model to positively impact the economy and society; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 867. A resolution relating to the death of the Alan R. Parker, former Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 868. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2022 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. Con. Res. 50. A concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to men as compared to wages paid to Latina women; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 444

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 444, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons.

S. 736

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 736, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. 967

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 967, a bill to provide for the automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1187

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. 2238

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to improve the safety and security of the Federal judiciary.

S. 2706

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2706, a bill to improve diversity in clinical trials and data collection for COVID–19 and future public health threats to address social determinants of health.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2740, a bill to establish a strategic active pharmaceutical ingredient reserve to maintain a domestic supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients and key starting materials needed for the manufacturing of essential generic medicines, and to build a pipeline for domestic active pharmaceutical ingredient production.

S. 3210

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3210, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to Black veterans of World War II, and surviving spouses and certain direct descendants of such veterans, eligibility for certain housing loans and educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3633

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3633, a bill to extend the authorizations for the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, and Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes.

S. 3721

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3721, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to end the immigrant visa backlog, and for other purposes.

S. 4117

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4117, a bill to make available additional frequencies in the 3.1–3.45 GHz band for non-Federal use, shared Federal and non-Federal use, or a combination thereof, and for other purposes.

S. 4188

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4188, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4416

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4416, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 4587

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 4587, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

S. 4649

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 4649, a bill to amend the Global Food Security Act of 2016 to improve the comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

S. 5114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5114, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide training for Department of Homeland Security personnel regarding the use of containment devices to prevent exposure to potential synthetic opioids, and for other purposes.

S. 5164

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 5164, a bill to designate the Russian-based PMC Wagner Group as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

S. 5192

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5192, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the credit for biomass stoves and boilers.

S. CON. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

S. RES. 803

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 803, a resolution condemning the detention and death of Mahsa Amini and calling on the Government of Iran to end its systemic persecution of women.

AMENDMENT NO. 6424

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6424 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 864—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/C.1/77/L.62 CALLING UPON MEMBER STATES TO COMMIT NOT TO CONDUCT DESTRUCTIVE DIRECT-ASCENT ANTI-SATELLITE MISSILE TESTS, INTRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES AT THE 77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 864

Whereas the United States is joined by countries around the world in relying on Earth-orbiting satellites for—

(1) navigation;
(2) communications;
(3) financial transactions;
(4) media broadcasting;
(5) agriculture;
(6) detection and surveillance of threats and disasters;
(7) scientific research; and
(8) monitoring and forecasting of environmental parameters, including—
(A) weather;
(B) ocean conditions; and
(C) vegetation health;

Whereas the United States is tracking more than 47,000 objects orbiting the Earth that are larger than 10 centimeters, an increase of 47 percent since January 2021, and further estimates a population of more than 100,000,000 objects larger than 1 millimeter orbiting the Earth;

Whereas orbital maneuvering to avoid collisions consumes onboard propellant and shortens the lifespans of spacecraft missions;

Whereas the proliferation of satellites and debris orbiting the Earth results in millions of potential collision warnings issued by the United States Space Command each year, while satellites and debris are expected to continue increasing exponentially;

Whereas destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests create large and dispersed orbiting debris fields that deny satellites access to needed orbital space and threaten to inadvertently destroy other satellites and spacecraft for decades after such tests;

Whereas a destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile test conducted by the Russian Federation on November 15, 2021, long after the dangers of orbital debris became well known, produced more than 1,500 pieces of identifiable debris and threatened the safety of astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station;

Whereas a destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile test conducted by the People's Republic of China on January 11, 2007, created at least 3,400 pieces of debris, of which 79 percent is predicted to be in orbit 100 years after the event;

Whereas the United States adopted a voluntary moratorium on the destructive testing of direct-ascent anti-satellite missile systems in April 2022;

Whereas methods other than destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite tests are available to test defense capabilities;

Whereas the international community has previously banned destructive activities in space, including the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons;

Whereas, during a meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the United States introduced draft UN General Assembly Resolution A/C.1/77/L.62 calling upon member states to commit not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests;

Whereas, on November 1, 2022, the Disarmament and International Security Committee approved the draft resolution by a vote of 154 to 8, demonstrating broad international support for the efforts of the United States and sending it to the UN General Assembly for consideration; and

Whereas 8 countries have followed the example of the United States and committed not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile testing, including—

(1) Canada in May 2022;
(2) New Zealand in July 2022;
(3) Germany in September 2022;
(4) Japan in September 2022;
(5) the United Kingdom in October 2022;
(6) South Korea in October 2022;
(7) Switzerland in October 2022;
(8) Australia in October 2022; and
(9) France in December 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for—
(A) the United Nations General Assembly Resolution introduced by the United States to call upon member states to commit not to conduct destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missile tests; and
(B) the commitment of the United States to the peaceful and safe use of outer space;
(2) recognizes Canada, New Zealand, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Switzerland, Australia, and France for following the United States in pledging to not conduct destructive direct-assent anti-satellite missile tests; and
(3) calls on other nations, particularly nations with significant assets in space and that have previously tested destructive direct-ascent anti-satellite missiles and nations that recognize the indispensable benefits provided by space capabilities, to join the United States in adopting a voluntary moratorium on the destructive testing of direct-ascent anti-satellite missile systems.

SENATE RESOLUTION 865—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY LUMBERJACKS MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2022 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CROSS COUNTRY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 865

Whereas, on November 19, 2022, the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks men's cross country team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Lumberjacks'') won the National Collegiate Athletic Administration (referred to in this preamble as the ''NCAA'') Men's Cross County National Championship by defeating 31 teams with a score of 83 points in Stillwater, Oklahoma;

Whereas the Lumberjacks claimed the 2022 Big Sky Conference Men's Cross Country Championship;

Whereas Lumberjacks runner Nico Young won the individual 2022 Big Sky Conference Men's Cross Country title;

Whereas the Lumberjacks have won 30 Big Sky Conference Men's Cross Country Championships since 1970;

Whereas the Lumberjacks have appeared at the NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championship 31 times;

Whereas the victory of the Lumberjacks in 2022 NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championship represents the sixth national championship in the history of the Northern Arizona University men's cross country program;

Whereas the 2022 NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championship signifies the sixth national championship in seven years and third national championship in a row for the Lumberjacks;

Whereas the 2022 NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championship represents the second ''three-peat'' for the Lumberjacks after having won national championships in 2016, 2017, and 2018, and 2020, 2021, and 2022;

Whereas the Lumberjacks finished as the runner-up at NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championships in 1988, 1995, 2013, and 2019;

Whereas, at the 2022 Men's NCAA Cross Country National Championship, remarkable performances by Lumberjack runners included—

(1) Nico Young finishing second overall with a time of 28:44.5;

(2) Drew Bosley finishing third overall with a time of 28:55.9;

(3) Santiago Prosser finishing 19th overall with a time of 29:19.5;

(4) Brodey Hasty finishing 25th overall with a time of 29:27.2;

(5) George Kusche finishing 39th overall with a time of 29:34.9;

(6) Ryan Raff finishing 88th overall with a time of 30:08.6; and

(7) Colin Sahlman finishing 151st overall with a time of 30:37.0;

Whereas 2022 NCAA Men's Cross Country All-American honors were awarded to the top 5 Lumberjacks runners—

(1) Nico Young, who earned his third All-American honor, after also earning the honor in 2020 and 2021;

(2) Drew Bosley, who earned his third All-American honor, after also earning the honor in 2019 and 2021;

(3) Brodey Hasty, who earned his second All-American honor, after also earning the honor in 2021;

(4) George Kusche, who earned his second All-American honor, after also earning the honor in 2021; and

(5) Santiago Prosser, who earned his first All-American honor;

Whereas Ryan Raff has been a member of 4 Lumberjacks NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championship teams, in 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022;

Whereas the top 5 Lumberjacks runners enabled the Lumberjacks to claim the 2022 NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championship in the first ever tie-break over the Oklahoma State University Cowboys by a score of 3 to 2;

Whereas Northern Arizona University Director of Cross Country and Track & Field Mike Smith has become a distinguished coach and leader in the cross country community, which is evidenced by his—

(1) leadership of the Lumberjacks to 5 NCAA Men's Cross Country National Championships;

(2) achievement of 5 Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year Honors for Men's Cross Country, in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022; and

(3) achievement of 5 Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year Honors for Women's Cross Country, in 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022; and

Whereas the Lumberjacks bring pride to the State of Arizona and to the entire cross country community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks men's cross country team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Cross Country National Championship;

(2) recognizes the excellence and dedication of all coaches, support staff, and players whose contributions led to victory in the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Cross Country National Championship;

(3) celebrates alongside the students and faculty of Northern Arizona University and all fans of the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks cross country team; and

(4) requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera, President of Northern Arizona University;

(B) Mike Marlow, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics at Northern Arizona University; and

(C) Mike Smith, Director of Cross Country and Track & Field at Northern Arizona University.

SENATE RESOLUTION 866—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2022 AS ''NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH'' AND COMMENDING THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL AND THE MEMBER-OWNERS, BUSINESSES, EMPLOYEES, FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND PRACTITIONERS WHO USE THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 866

Whereas a cooperative—

(1) is a business that is owned and governed by its members, who are the individuals who use the business, create the products of the business, or manage the operation of the business; and

(2) operates under the 7 principles of—

(A) voluntary open membership;

(B) democratic control;

(C) owner economic participation;

(D) autonomy and independence;

(E) education, training, and information;

(F) cooperation among cooperatives; and

(G) concern for community;

Whereas cooperative entrepreneurs can be found in almost every economic sector in the United States, throughout all 50 States and territories, and in every congressional district in the United States;

Whereas cooperatives help farmers increase incomes and become more resilient to economic business cycles by working together to plan and prepare for the future, while contributing significantly to the economic activity in the agriculture and food markets of the United States;

Whereas the roughly 2,100 agricultural cooperatives in the United States operate more than 8,000 facilities, employ $96,000,000,000 in assets, and generate nearly $204,000,000,000 in business;

Whereas the majority of the 2,000,000 farmers in the United States belong to an agricultural cooperative;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives offer members the opportunity to access the commodity value-added profits throughout the handling, processing, and distribution chains;

Whereas member-owners in agricultural cooperatives are dedicated to providing the highest quality product for consumers;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives add significant benefits to the economic well-being of rural areas of the United States by providing more than 250,000 jobs with annual wages totaling more than $8,000,000,000;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives provide resources to their member-owners, such as low-cost supplies, effective marketing, and services;

Whereas farmer members in agricultural cooperatives have the opportunity to pool resources and reinvest profits into the communities of the farmer members;

Whereas the principles of cooperation and the cooperative business model help smallholder farmers organize themselves and gain access to local and global markets, training, improved inputs, and aggregated sales and marketing;

Whereas the cooperative business model provides farmers ownership over their economic decisions, a focus on learning, and a broader understanding of environmental and social concerns;

Whereas the cooperative business model has been used throughout the history of the United States to advance civil rights and to help ensure that all people have equal access to economic opportunity;

Whereas cooperative values promote self-determination and democratic rights for all people;

Whereas the comprehensive global food security strategy established under section 5 of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9304) (commonly known as ''Feed the Future'') and the Cooperative Development Program of the United States Agency for International Development use cooperative principles and the cooperative business model to advance international development, nutrition, resilience, and economic security;

Whereas the Interagency Working Group on Cooperative Development—

(1) is an interagency group that is coordinated and chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture to foster cooperative development and ensure coordination with Federal agencies and national and local cooperative organizations that have cooperative programs and interests; and

(2) as of the date of introduction of this resolution, had organized 6 meetings;

Whereas the bipartisan Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus unites Members of Congress to—

(1) create a better-informed electorate and a more educated public on the important role that cooperatives play in the economy of the United States and the world;

(2) promote the cooperative business model, because that model ensures that consumers have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices and costs that improve the lives of individuals, families, and their communities; and

(3) address and correct awareness challenges among the public and within the Federal Government relating to what cooperatives look like, who participates in cooperatives, where cooperatives are located, and why individuals choose cooperatives;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census, as part of the 2017 Economic Census, asked each business if the business was organized as a cooperative, and the responses of businesses yielded both quantitative and qualitative data on the effects and importance of cooperatives across the economy of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the rural United States, many utility service providers operate as cooperatives and are tasked with the

delivery of public services, such as electricity, water, telecommunications, and broadband, in areas where investor-owned utility companies typically do not operate;

Whereas utility cooperatives have innovated to meet the evolving needs of their member-owners and help rural individuals in the United States prosper;

Whereas electric cooperatives account for more than 33 percent of the United States electric utility industry, and energy cooperatives power over 18,000,000 homes, businesses, and schools;

Whereas there are approximately 260 telephone cooperatives in the United States with total annual revenues of $3,900,000,000;

Whereas, in the financial services sector, cooperatives, including credit unions, farm credit banks, and other financing organizations that lend to cooperatives, provide numerous benefits to the member-owners of those cooperatives;

Whereas, nationally, approximately 4,800 credit unions serve 134,000,000 members;

Whereas member-owners of cooperatives vote in board elections, and earned profits cycle back into cost-saving programs or return as dividend payments;

Whereas purchasing and shared service cooperatives allow independent and franchise businesses to thrive;

Whereas food cooperatives range in size from small, local buying clubs to multi-store regional giants that compete with chain stores with locations across the United States;

Whereas, in the housing sector, housing cooperatives and resident-owned communities in which members own the building or land—

(1) are an alternative to conventional rental apartments, manufactured home parks, and condominiums; and

(2) empower each resident with ownership and responsibility;

Whereas housing cooperatives have roots dating to the late 1800s and are increasingly becoming a housing alternative for students at colleges throughout the United States;

Whereas shared equity housing cooperatives are a critical option for preserving long-term, affordable housing;

Whereas cooperatives allow residents of manufactured home communities to collectively purchase the land on which they live, providing stability and the opportunity to self-govern;

Whereas, as of 2022, 290 manufactured home communities are cooperatively owned;

Whereas the growth of worker cooperatives in the United States is allowing more workers to own and have greater control over their businesses;

Whereas many small businesses convert to cooperatives when faced with closure or a buyout, ensuring the business can continue to serve its community; and

Whereas the cooperative business model allows business owners to retire and transfer business ownership to employees or consumers, protecting local ownership and supporting local communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of ''National Co-Op Month'';

(2) commends the cooperative business model for—

(A) its contributions to the economy;

(B) the jobs it creates; and

(C) its positive impacts on local communities;

(3) expresses confidence in, and support for, cooperatives to continue their successes; and

(4) will be mindful in crafting legislation that affects business models that are not the cooperative business model so that the legislation does not adversely affect the cooperative business model.

SENATE RESOLUTION 867—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE ALAN R. PARKER, FORMER STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS OF THE SENATE

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 867

Whereas Alan R. Parker was born on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in Fort Yates, North Dakota;

Whereas Alan R. Parker was a proud citizen of the Chippewa Cree Nation;

Whereas Alan R. Parker grew up on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana, and considered the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation as his home;

Whereas Alan R. Parker was drafted into the United States Army in 1965, achieved the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Signal Corps, deployed to Vietnam in 1967, and was awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious service under combat conditions;

Whereas, in 1972, Alan R. Parker graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and worked for the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas, in 1974, Alan R. Parker joined the Indian Law Center at the University of New Mexico as a staff attorney;

Whereas, in 1975, Alan R. Parker was appointed to the Tribal Government Task Force of the American Indian Policy Review Commission;

Whereas, in 1977, Alan R. Parker was appointed by Senator James Abourezk as the first Native American Chief Counsel of the newly established Temporary Select Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

Whereas Alan R. Parker served as the President of the American Indian National Bank during the period of 1982 to 1987;

Whereas, in 1987, Alan R. Parker was appointed by Senator Daniel K. Inouye to serve as Staff Director of the permanent Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

Whereas Alan R. Parker worked to secure passage of the—

(1) Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.);

(2) Public Law 95–341 (commonly known as the ''American Indian Religious Freedom Act'') (42 U.S.C. 1996);

(3) Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.);

(4) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

(5) Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5361 et seq.); and

(6) numerous Tribal land and water claims settlement Acts;

Whereas, in 1991, Alan R. Parker established the National Indian Policy Center at George Washington University;

Whereas, in 1997, Alan R. Parker joined the faculty of the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and established the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute, the first graduate program in Tribal governance;

Whereas, in 2007, Alan R. Parker was appointed as the co-chair of the National Congress of American Indians' Special Committee on Indigenous Nation Relations and coordinated treaty negotiations to establish the United League of Indigenous Nations;

Whereas, in 2014, Alan R. Parker served as an adjunct faculty member at the Maori Indigenous University, Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi in New Zealand and focused on the advancement of Indigenous Nations across the Western World;

Whereas Alan R. Parker authored ''Pathways to Indigenous Nation Sovereignty in the 21st Century'' and ''American Indian Identity: Citizenship, Membership and Blood'' with Jessie Young and Se-ah-dom Edmo;

Whereas Alan R. Parker was—

(1) a loving husband to his wife of 53 years, Sharon Parker;

(2) a loving father to his children Christina Parker and James Alan Parker; and

(3) a loving grandfather to his grandchildren, Shahndiin Parker, Siale Edmo Parker, Imasees Alan ''Little Bear'' Parker, and Miyosiwin Elizabeth Parker;

Whereas Alan R. Parker is survived by 4 sisters, 1 brother, and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews; and

Whereas Alan R. Parker was a life-long advocate for Native communities and contributed to the design and development of some of the most important laws affirming Tribal sovereignty and the Federal trust responsibility of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Alan R. Parker, former Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Senate respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(A) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(B) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Alan R. Parker.

SENATE RESOLUTION 868—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AS ''SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH'' IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 868

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as ''SCD'') is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United

States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African-American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 Black or African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited;

Whereas sickle cell anemia can shorten life expectancy by more than 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and, in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies as well as the need to address barriers that may impact delivery of and access to approved treatments;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as ''HSCT'') is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2022 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EQUAL PAY AND THE DISPARITY IN WAGES PAID TO MEN AS COMPARED TO WAGES PAID TO LATINA WOMEN

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 50

Whereas December 8, 2022, is Latina Equal Pay Day, the observance of which marks the fact that Latina women must work nearly an additional 11 months, on average, to be paid what White, non-Hispanic men were paid in 2021;

Whereas Latina women now make up the second largest group of women workers in the United States, after White women;

Whereas there are 12,800,000 Hispanic women in the labor force in the United States, representing slightly more than 17 percent of all women in that labor force today;

Whereas the labor force participation rate of Latina women in 2021 was higher than that of their White counterparts, which reflects that a growing share of Latina women are either working or actively looking for work;

Whereas section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) (referred to in this preamble as ''section 6(d)'') prohibits discrimination in compensation for equal work on the basis of sex;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) prohibits discrimination in compensation because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex;

Whereas, despite section 6(d), which was first enacted as part of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (Public Law 88–38; 77 Stat. 56) more than 5 decades ago and requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work, data from the Bureau of the Census shows that Latina women working full-time, year-round are typically paid 57 cents for each dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men, while the average wage differential for Latina women working full-time, part-time, and part-year is 54 cents for each dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas a study conducted in 2019 found that, on average, a Latina woman loses more than $1,000,000 dollars in potential earnings over her lifetime to the wage gap;

Whereas the American Community Survey 2016–2020 reported that—

(1) the median annual pay for a Latina woman in the United States working full-time, year-round was $33,000; and

(2) the median annual pay for all Latina women with reported earnings working full-time, part-time, or part-year was $25,312, placing a working mother with 2 children near poverty;

Whereas job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic distorted measurements of average wages, as women with lower earnings in sectors such as leisure, hospitality, and retail were more likely to experience job loss and leave the labor force;

Whereas the unemployment rate of Latina women peaked at 20.1 percent in April 2020, and the civilian labor force participation rate of Latina women fell from a high of 59.2 percent in October 2019 to 57 percent in September 2020;

Whereas lost wages mean that Latina women have less money to support themselves and their families, save and invest for the future, and spend on goods and services;

Whereas 51 percent of Latina women are unable to earn sick days through their jobs;

Whereas more than ½ of low wage earners who are Latina women report that they spent most or all of their savings during the COVID-19 pandemic and 32 percent have no money left for emergencies, compared to 13 percent of White men who report that they have no money left for emergencies;

Whereas the lack of affordable, accessible childcare during the COVID-19 pandemic led to 14 percent of Latina women, and 32 percent of immigrant Latina women, to quit their jobs or reduce their number of work hours to care for their children.

Whereas the underpayment of workers who are Latina women causes businesses and the economy of the United States to suffer;

Whereas the lack of access to affordable, quality childcare, paid family and medical leave, and other family-friendly workplace policies forces many Latina women to choose between their paycheck or job and getting quality care for themselves or their family members, a dynamic that contributes to the wage gap and has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as Latina women disproportionately work in essential jobs that put them at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19;

Whereas, if the wage gap were eliminated, on average, a Latina woman working full-time, year-round would have enough money to afford approximately 3 years of childcare, to pay off her student debt in 1 year, or to pay off 19 months of the average mortgage payment;

Whereas 25 to 85 percent of women have been sexually harassed at the workplace, and research has found that only about 1 in 10 women who experience harassment formally report those incidents for reasons that include lack of access to the complaints processes and fear of retaliation;

Whereas workplace harassment forces many women to leave their occupation or industry or pass up opportunities for advancement, which contributes to the gender wage gap;

Whereas targets of workplace harassment were 6.5 times more likely than non-targets to change jobs;

Whereas there is a high personal cost to women who have been sexually harassed, including unemployment, underemployment, and financial stress resulting from changing jobs, which leads to long-term consequences for earnings and career attainment;

Whereas ⅔ of workers paid the minimum wage or less than the minimum wage in 2020 were women, and there is an overrepresentation of women of color in low wage and tipped occupations;

Whereas the pay disparity that Latina women face is part of a wider set of disparities that Latina women encounter in homeownership, unemployment, poverty, access to childcare, and the ability to accumulate wealth;

Whereas true pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses the gendered and racial injustices that Latina women face daily; and

Whereas many national organizations have designated December 8, 2022, as Latina Equal Pay Day to represent the additional time that Latina women have had to work into this calendar year to receive the earnings of their White, non-Hispanic counterparts in the prior year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the disparity in wages paid to Latina women and its impact on women, families, and the economy of the United States; and

(2) reaffirms its support for ensuring equal pay for equal work and closing the gender wage gap.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED DECEMBER 7, 2022

SA 6507. Ms. HASSAN (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3316, to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections.

SA 6508. Ms. HASSAN (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S.

Res. 754, designating November 13, 2022, as ''National Warrior Call Day'' in recognition of the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS DECEMBER 7, 2022

SA 6507. Ms. HASSAN (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3316, to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Anti-Money Laundering Whistleblower Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. WHISTLEBLOWER INCENTIVES AND PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5323 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by section 6314 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (division F of Public Law 116–283) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) AWARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In any covered judicial or administrative action, or related action, the Secretary, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and subject to subsection (c), shall pay an award or awards to 1 or more whistleblowers who voluntarily provided original information to the employer of the individual, the Secretary, or the Attorney General, as applicable, that led to the successful enforcement of the covered judicial or administrative action, or related action, in an aggregate amount equal to—

''(A) not less than 10 percent, in total, of what has been collected of the monetary sanctions imposed in the action or related actions; and

''(B) not more than 30 percent, in total, of what has been collected of the monetary sanctions imposed in the action or related actions.

''(2) PAYMENT OF AWARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any amount paid under paragraph (1) shall be paid from the Fund established under paragraph (3).

''(B) RELATED ACTIONS.—The Secretary may pay awards less than the amount described in paragraph (1)(A) for related actions in which a whistleblower may be paid by another whistleblower award program.

''(3) SOURCE OF AWARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be known as the Financial Integrity Fund (referred to in this subsection as the 'Fund').

''(B) USE OF FUND.—The Fund shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitations, only for the payment of awards to whistleblowers as provided in subsection (b).

''(C) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FUND.—The Fund shall not be available to pay any personnel or administrative expenses.

''(4) DEPOSITS AND CREDITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund an amount equal to—

''(i) any monetary sanction collected by the Secretary or Attorney General in any judicial or administrative action under this title, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, or the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), unless the balance of the Fund at the time the monetary sanction is collected exceeds $300,000,000; and

''(ii) all income from investments made under paragraph (5).

''(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If the amounts deposited into or credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A) are not sufficient to satisfy an award made under this subsection, there shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund an amount equal to the unsatisfied portion of the award from any monetary sanction collected by the Secretary of the Treasury or Attorney General in the covered judicial or administrative action on which the award is based.

''(C) EXCEPTION.—No amounts to be deposited or transferred into the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund pursuant to the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144) or the Crime Victims Fund pursuant section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20101) shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund.

''(5) INVESTMENTS.—

''(A) AMOUNTS IN FUND MAY BE INVESTED.—The Secretary of the Treasury may invest the portion of the Fund that is not required to meet the current needs of the Fund.

''(B) ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS.—Investments shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury in obligations of the United States or obligations that are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, with maturities suitable to the needs of the Fund as determined by the Secretary.

''(C) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS CREDITED.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5323 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraphs (1) and (5), by striking ''this subchapter or subchapter III'' each place the term appears and inserting ''this subchapter, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), or .), and for conspiracies to violate the aforementioned provisions''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting ''covered'' after ''respect to any'';

(ii) by striking ''under this subchapter or subchapter III''; and

(iii) by striking ''action by the Secretary or the Attorney General'' and inserting ''covered action'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B)(iii)—

(A) by striking ''subchapter and subchapter III'' and inserting ''this subchapter, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, and the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.)''; and

(B) by striking ''either such subchapter'' and inserting ''the covered judicial or administrative action''; and

(3) in subsection (g)(4)(D)(i), by inserting ''chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, or the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.),'' after ''subchapter,''.

SA 6508. Ms. HASSAN (for Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 754, designating November 13, 2022, as ''National Warrior Call Day'' in recognition of the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas establishing an annual ''National Warrior Call Day'' will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans and first responders in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the rate of suicide for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty increased from 20.3 per 100,000 individuals in 2015 to 28.7 per 100,000 individuals in 2020;

Whereas the suicide rate for veterans has steadily increased since 2006, with 6,261 veterans dying by suicide in 2019;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2019 was 31.6 per 100,000 individuals, substantially higher than the rate among adults in the United States who are not veterans at 16.8 per 100,000 individuals;

Whereas more veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who died by suicide had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic continues to lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 13, 2022, would be an appropriate day to designate as ''National Warrior Call Day'': Now, therefore, be it

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6509. Mr. CARDIN (for Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2834, to amend title XVII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program.

SA 6510. Mr. CARDIN (for Ms. HASSAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7535, to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, and for other purposes.

SA 6511. Mr. CARDIN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4216, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6509. Mr. CARDIN (for Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2834, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Dr. Joanne Smith Memorial Rehabilitation Innovation Centers Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. PRESERVING ACCESS TO REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS UNDER MEDICARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(j)(7)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(j)(7)(E)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA SUBMITTED.—The'' and inserting ''PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA SUBMITTED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The''; and

(2) by inserting after clause (i), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following new clauses:

''(ii) PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS.—Beginning not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this clause, the Secretary shall make publicly available on such Internet website, in addition to the information required to be reported on such website under clause (i), a list of all rehabilitation innovation centers, and shall update such list on such website not less frequently than biennially.

''(iii) REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS DEFINED.—For purposes of clause (ii), the term 'rehabilitation innovation centers' means a rehabilitation facility that, as of the applicable date (as defined in clause (v)), is a rehabilitation facility described in clause (iv).

''(iv) REHABILITATION FACILITY DESCRIBED.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), a rehabilitation facility described in this clause is a rehabilitation facility that—

''(aa) is classified as a rehabilitation facility under the IRF Rate Setting File for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 (83 Fed. Reg. 38514), or any successor regulations that contain such information;

''(bb) holds at least one Federal rehabilitation research and training designation for research projects on traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Health and Human Services, based on such data submitted to the Secretary by a facility, in a form, manner, and time frame specified by the Secretary;

''(cc) submits to the Secretary a description of the clinical research enterprise of the facility and a summary of research activities of the facility that are supported by Federal agencies;

''(dd) has a minimum Medicare estimated average weight per discharge of 1.20 for the most recent fiscal year for which such information is available according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in item (aa), or any successor regulations that contain such information; and

''(ee) has a minimum teaching status of 0.075 for the most recent fiscal year for which such information is available according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in item (aa), or any successor regulations that contain such information.

''(II) WAIVER.—The Secretary may, as determined appropriate, waive any of the requirements under items (aa) through (ee) of subclause (I).

''(v) APPLICABLE DATE DEFINED.—For purposes of clauses (iii) and (iv), the term 'applicable date' means—

''(I) with respect to the initial publication of a list under clause (ii), the date of the enactment of such clause; and

''(II) with respect to the publication of an updated list under clause (ii), a date specified by the Secretary that is not more than one year prior to the date of such publication.

''(vi) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law the Secretary may implement clauses (ii) through (v) by program instruction or otherwise.

''(vii) NONAPPLICATION OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to data collected under clauses (ii) through (v).''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

(1) shall submit to Congress a report containing any recommendations on action as the Secretary determines appropriate to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers (as defined in section 1886(j)(7)(E)(iii) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a)); and

(2) may, in the report described in paragraph (1), as permitted by law, disseminate research, best practices, and other clinical information identified or developed by such rehabilitation innovation centers, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

SA 6510. Mr. CARDIN (for Ms. HASSAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7535, to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Cryptography is essential for the national security of the United States and the functioning of the economy of the United States.

(2) The most widespread encryption protocols today rely on computational limits of classical computers to provide cybersecurity.

(3) Quantum computers might one day have the ability to push computational boundaries, allowing us to solve problems that have been intractable thus far, such as integer factorization, which is important for encryption.

(4) The rapid progress of quantum computing suggests the potential for adversaries of the United States to steal sensitive encrypted data today using classical computers, and wait until sufficiently powerful quantum systems are available to decrypt it.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a strategy for the migration of information technology of the Federal Government to post-quantum cryptography is needed; and

(2) the governmentwide and industrywide approach to post-quantum cryptography should prioritize developing applications, hardware intellectual property, and software that can be easily updated to support cryptographic agility.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY .—The term ''agency''—

(A) means any executive department, military department, Government corporation, Government controlled corporation, or other establishment in the executive branch of the Government (including the Executive Office of the President), or any independent regulatory agency; and

(B) does not include—

(i) the Government Accountability Office; or

(ii) the governments of the District of Columbia and of the territories and possessions of the United States, and their various subdivisions.

(2) CLASSICAL COMPUTER.—The term ''classical computer'' means a device that accepts digital data and manipulates the information based on a program or sequence of instructions for how data is to be processed and encodes information in binary bits that can either be 0s or 1s.

(3) DIRECTOR OF CISA.—The term ''Director of CISA'' means the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

(4) DIRECTOR OF NIST.—The term ''Director of NIST'' means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(5) DIRECTOR OF OMB.—The term ''Director of OMB'' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(6) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''information technology'' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(7) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM.—The term ''national security system'' has the meaning given the term in section 3552 of title 44, United States Code.

(8) POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—The term ''post-quantum cryptography'' means those cryptographic algorithms or methods that are assessed not to be specifically vulnerable to attack by either a quantum computer or classical computer.

(9) QUANTUM COMPUTER.—The term ''quantum computer'' means a computer that uses the collective properties of quantum states, such as superposition, interference, and entanglement, to perform calculations.

SEC. 4. INVENTORY OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS; MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.

(a) INVENTORY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of OMB, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA, shall issue guidance on the migration of information technology to post-quantum cryptography, which shall include at a minimum—

(A) a requirement for each agency to establish and maintain a current inventory of information technology in use by the agency that is vulnerable to decryption by quantum computers, prioritized using the criteria described in subparagraph (B);

(B) criteria to allow agencies to prioritize their inventory efforts; and

(C) a description of the information required to be reported pursuant to subsection (b).

(2) ADDITIONAL CONTENT IN GUIDANCE.—In the guidance established by paragraph (1), the Director of OMB shall include, in addition to the requirements described in that paragraph—

(A) a description of information technology to be prioritized for migration to post-quantum cryptography; and

(B) a process for evaluating progress on migrating information technology to post-quantum cryptography, which shall be automated to the greatest extent practicable.

(3) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Director of OMB shall update the guidance required under paragraph (1) as the Director of OMB determines necessary, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA.

(b) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, the head of each agency shall provide to the Director of OMB, the Director of CISA, and the National Cyber Director—

(1) the inventory described in subsection (a)(1); and

(2) any other information required to be reported under subsection (a)(1)(C).

(c) MIGRATION AND ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director of NIST has issued post-quantum cryptography standards, the Director of OMB shall issue guidance requiring each agency to—

(1) prioritize information technology described under subsection (a)(2)(A) for migration to post-quantum cryptography; and

(2) develop a plan to migrate information technology of the agency to post-quantum cryptography consistent with the prioritization under paragraph (1).

(d) INTEROPERABILITY.—The Director of OMB shall ensure that the prioritizations made under subsection (c)(1) are assessed and coordinated to ensure interoperability.

(e) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—Not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of OMB, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the following:

(A) A strategy to address the risk posed by the vulnerabilities of information technology of agencies to weakened encryption due to the potential and possible capability of a quantum computer to breach that encryption.

(B) An estimate of the amount of funding needed by agencies to secure the information technology described in subsection (a)(1)(A) from the risk posed by an adversary of the United States using a quantum computer to breach the encryption of the information technology.

(C) A description of Federal civilian executive branch coordination efforts led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including timelines, to develop standards for post-quantum cryptography, including any Federal Information Processing Standards developed under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as well as standards developed through voluntary, consensus standards bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization.

(2) REPORT ON MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director of OMB issues guidance under subsection (c)(2), and thereafter until the date that is 5 years after the date on which post-quantum cryptographic standards are issued, the Director of OMB, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, with the report submitted pursuant to section 3553(c) of title 44, United States Code, a report on the progress of agencies in adopting post-quantum cryptography standards.

SEC. 5. EXEMPTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.

This Act shall not apply to any national security system.

SEC. 6. 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.

SA 6511. Mr. CARDIN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4216, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) and subsequent reauthorizations of such Act were the product of broad, bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of human rights, documentation of human rights violations, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) The human rights and humanitarian conditions within North Korea remain deplorable and have been intentionally perpetuated against the people of North Korea through policies endorsed and implemented by Kim Jong-un and the Workers' Party of Korea.

(3) According to a 2014 report released by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, between 80,000 and 120,000 children, women, and men were being held in political prison camps in North Korea, where they were subjected to deliberate starvation, forced labor, executions, torture, rape, forced abortion, and infanticide.

(4) North Korea continues to hold a number of South Koreans and Japanese abducted after the signing of the Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the ''Korean War Armistice Agreement'') and refuses to acknowledge the abduction of more than 100,000 South Koreans during the Korean War in violation of the Geneva Convention.

(5) Human rights violations in North Korea, which include forced starvation, sexual violence against women and children, restrictions on freedom of movement, arbitrary detention, torture, executions, and enforced disappearances, amount to crimes against humanity according to the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(6) The effects of the COVID–19 pandemic and North Korea's strict lockdown of its borders and crackdowns on informal market activities and small entrepreneurship have drastically increased food insecurity for its people and given rise to famine conditions in parts of the country.

(7) North Korea's COVID–19 border lockdown measures also include shoot-to-kill orders that have resulted in the killing of—

(A) North Koreans attempting to cross the border; and

(B) at least 1 South Korean citizen in September 2020.

(8) The Chinese Communist Party and the Government of the People's Republic of China are aiding and abetting in crimes against humanity by forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees to North Korea where they are sent to prison camps, harshly interrogated, and tortured or executed.

(9) The forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees violates the People's Republic of China's freely undertaken obligation to uphold the principle of non-refoulement, under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)).

(10) North Korea continues to bar freedom of religion and persecute religious minorities, especially Christians. Eyewitnesses report that Christians in North Korea have been tortured, forcibly detained, and even executed for possessing a Bible or professing Christianity.

(11) United States and international broadcasting operations into North Korea—

(A) serve as a critical source of outside news and information for the North Korean people; and

(B) provide a valuable service for countering regime propaganda and false narratives.

(12) The position of Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues has been vacant since January 2017, even though the President is required to appoint a Senate-confirmed Special Envoy to fill this position in accordance with section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817).

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) promoting information access in North Korea continues to be a successful method of countering North Korean propaganda;

(2) the United States Government should continue to support efforts described in paragraph (1), including by enacting and implementing the Otto Warmbier North Korean Censorship and Surveillance Act of 2021, which was introduced by Senator Portman on June 17, 2021;

(3) because refugees among North Koreans fleeing into China face severe punishments upon their forcible return, the United States should urge the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to immediately halt its forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as ''UNHCR'') unimpeded access to North Koreans within China to determine whether they are refugees and require assistance;

(C) to fulfill its obligations under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223) and the Agreement on the upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People's Republic of China to UNHCR branch office in the People's Republic of China, done at Geneva December 1, 1995;

(D) to address the concerns of the United Nations Committee Against Torture by incorporating into domestic legislation the principle of non-refoulement; and

(E) to recognize the legal status of North Korean women who marry or have children with Chinese citizens and ensure that all such mothers and children are granted resident status and access to education and other public services in accordance with Chinese law and international standards;

(4) the United States Government should continue to promote the effective and transparent delivery and distribution of any humanitarian aid provided in North Korea to ensure that such aid reaches its intended recipients to the point of consumption or utilization by cooperating closely with the Government of the Republic of Korea and international and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) the Department of State should continue to take steps to increase public awareness about the risks and dangers of travel by United States citizens to North Korea, including by continuing its policy of blocking United States passports from being used to travel to North Korea without a special validation from the Department of State;

(6) the United Nations, which has a significant role to play in promoting and improving human rights in North Korea, should

press for access for the United Nations Special Rapporteur and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in North Korea;

(7) the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues should be appointed without delay—

(A) to properly promote and coordinate North Korean human rights and humanitarian issues; and

(B) to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues;

(8) the United States should urge North Korea to repeal the Reactionary Thought and Culture Denunciation Law and other draconian laws, regulations, and decrees that manifestly violate the freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

(9) the United States should urge North Korea to ensure that any restrictions on addressing the COVID–19 pandemic are necessary, proportionate, nondiscriminatory, time-bound, transparent, and allow international staff to operate inside the North Korea to provide international assistance based on independent needs assessments;

(10) the United States should expand the Rewards for Justice program to be open to North Korean officials who can provide evidence of crimes against humanity being committed by North Korean officials;

(11) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments—

(A) to allow the UNHCR access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement; and

(B) to allow United States officials access to process refugees for possible resettlement in the United States; and

(12) the Secretary of State, through diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees, escapees, and defectors.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Section 102(b)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(b) ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.—Section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) is amended by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(d) REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Section 203(c)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''2018 through 2022'' and inserting ''2023 through 2027''.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 305(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

Title I of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7811 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(a), by striking ''Broadcasting Board of Governors'' and inserting ''United States Agency for Global Media''; and

(2) in section 104(a)—

(A) by striking ''Broadcasting Board of Governors'' each place such term appears and inserting ''United States Agency for Global Media'';

(B) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively;

(iii) by inserting before clause (ii) the following:

''(i) an update of the plan required under subparagraph (A);''; and

(iv) in clause (iii), as redesignated, by striking ''pursuant to section 403'' and inserting ''to carry out this section''.

SEC. 6. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

Section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORT ON APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter through 2027 if the position of Special Envoy remains vacant, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the efforts being taken to appoint the Special Envoy.''.

SEC. 7. SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security should collaborate with faith-based and Korean-American organizations to resettle North Korean participants in the United States Refugee Admissions Program in areas with existing Korean-American communities to mitigate trauma and mental health considerations of refugees, as appropriate.

(b) RESETTLEMENT LOCATION ASSISTANCE EDUCATION.—The Secretary of State shall publicly disseminate guidelines and information relating to resettlement options in the United States or South Korea for eligible North Korean refugees, with a particular focus on messaging to North Koreans.

(c) MECHANISMS.—The guidelines and information described in subsection (b)—

(1) shall be published on a publicly available website of the Department of State;

(2) shall be broadcast into North Korea through radio broadcasting operations funded or supported by the United States Government; and

(3) shall be distributed through brochures or electronic storage devices.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF SANCTIONS FOR FORCED REPATRIATION OF NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES.

(a) DISCRETIONARY DESIGNATIONS.—Section 104(b)(1) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9214) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (M), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (N), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(O) knowingly, directly or indirectly, forced the repatriation of North Korean refugees to North Korea.''.

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 208(a)(1) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9228(a)(1)) is amended by inserting '', the Republic of Korea, and Japan'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 9. REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTIONS TO SANCTIONS IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the continued pursuit by the North Korean regime of weapons of mass destruction (including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons), in addition to its ballistic missile program, along with the regime's gross violations of human rights, have led the international community to impose sanctions with respect to North Korea, including sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council;

(2) authorities should grant exemptions for humanitarian assistance to the people of North Korea consistent with past United Nations Security Council resolutions; and

(3) humanitarian assistance intended to provide humanitarian relief to the people of North Korea must not be exploited or misdirected by the North Korean regime to benefit the military or elites of North Korea.

(b) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term ''covered period'' means—

(A) in the case of the first report required to be submitted under paragraph (2), the period beginning on January 1, 2018, and ending on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) in the case of each subsequent report required to be submitted under paragraph (2), the 1-year period preceding the date by which the report is required to be submitted.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to Congress that—

(A) describes—

(i) how the North Korean regime has previously exploited humanitarian assistance from the international community to benefit elites and the military in North Korea;

(ii) the most effective methods to provide humanitarian relief, including mechanisms to facilitate humanitarian assistance, to the people of North Korea, who are in dire need of such assistance;

(iii) any requests to the Committee of the United Nations Security Council established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006) (referred to in this section as the ''1718 Sanctions Committee'') for humanitarian exemptions from sanctions known to have been denied during the covered period or known to have been in process for more than 30 days as of the date of the report; and

(iv) any known explanations for the denials and delays referred to in clause (iii); and

(B) details any action by a foreign government during the covered period that has delayed or impeded humanitarian assistance that was approved by the 1718 Sanctions Committee.

DIRECTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY TO REMOVE THE BUST OF ROGER BROOKE TANEY IN THE OLD SUPREME COURT CHAMBER OF THE CAPITOL AND TO OBTAIN A BUST OF THURGOOD MARSHALL FOR INSTALLATION IN THE CAPITOL OR ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5229, introduced earlier today by Senators CARDIN and VAN HOLLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5229) to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to remove the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol and to obtain a bust of Thurgood Marshall for installation in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 5229) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 5229

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

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF BUST OF ROGER BROOKE TANEY WITH BUST OF THURGOOD MARSHALL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) While sitting in the Capitol, the Supreme Court issued the infamous Dred Scott v. Sandford decision on March 6, 1857. Written by Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, whose bust sits inside the entrance to the Old Supreme Court Chamber in the Capitol, this opinion declared that African Americans were not citizens of the United States and could not sue in Federal courts. This decision further declared that Congress did not have the authority to prohibit slavery in the territories.

(2) Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney's authorship of Dred Scott v. Sandford, the effects of which would only be overturned years later by the ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, renders a bust of his likeness unsuitable for the honor of display to the many visitors to the Capitol.

(3) As Frederick Douglass said of this decision in May 1857, ''This infamous decision of the Slaveholding wing of the Supreme Court maintains that slaves are within the contemplation of the Constitution of the United States, property; that slaves are property in the same sense that horses, sheep, and swine are property; that the old doctrine that slavery is a creature of local law is false; that the right of the slaveholder to his slave does not depend upon the local law, but is secured wherever the Constitution of the United States extends; that Congress has no right to prohibit slavery anywhere; that slavery may go in safety anywhere under the star-spangled banner; that colored persons of African descent have no rights that white men are bound to respect; that colored men of African descent are not and cannot be citizens of the United States.''.

(4) While the removal of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney's bust from the Capitol does not relieve the Congress of the historical wrongs it committed to protect the institution of slavery, it expresses Congress's recognition of one of the most notorious wrongs to have ever taken place in one of its rooms, that of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney's Dred Scott v. Sandford decision.

(b) REMOVAL OF BUST OF ROGER BROOKE TANEY.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library (referred to in this Act as the ''Joint Committee'') shall remove from public display the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol and the plinth upon which the bust is placed. The bust and plinth shall remain in the custody of the Senate Curator.

(c) BUST OF THURGOOD MARSHALL.—

(1) OBTAINING BUST.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Joint Committee shall enter into an agreement to obtain a bust of Thurgood Marshall, under such terms and conditions as the Joint Committee considers appropriate and consistent with applicable law.

(2) PLACEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Architect of the Capitol, under the direction of the Joint Committee, shall permanently install the bust obtained under paragraph (1) in a prominent location in the Capitol or on the United States Capitol Grounds, as described in section 5102 of title 40, United States Code.

(B) PRIORITY FOR LOCATION.—In determining the location for the permanent installation of the bust obtained under paragraph (1), the Joint Committee shall give priority to identifying an appropriate location near the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol.

HELP FIND THE MISSING ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5230, which was introduced earlier today by Senator MURPHY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5230) to increase accessibility to the National Missing and Unidentified Person System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 5230) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 5230

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 ''Billy's Law'' or the ''Help Find the Missing Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, shall maintain the ''National Missing and Unidentified Persons System'' or ''NamUs'', consistent with the following:

(1) The NamUs shall be a national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States administered by the National Institute of Justice and managed through an agreement with an eligible entity.

(2) The NamUs shall coordinate or provide—

(A) online database technology which serves as a national information clearinghouse to help expedite case associations and resolutions;

(B) various free-of-charge forensic services to aid in the identification of missing persons and unidentified remains;

(C) investigative support for criminal justice efforts to help missing and unidentified person case resolutions;

(D) technical assistance for family members of missing persons;

(E) assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families impacted by the loss or disappearance of a loved one; and

(F) training and outreach from NamUs subject matter experts, including assistance with planning and facilitating Missing Person Day events across the country.

(b) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The permissible use of funds awarded under this section for the implementation and maintenance of the agreement created in subparagraph (a)(1) include the use of funds—

(A) to hire additional personnel to provide case support and perform other core NamUs functions;

(B) to develop new technologies to facilitate timely data entry into the relevant data bases;

(C) to conduct contracting activities relevant to core NamUs services;

(D) to provide forensic analyses to support the identification of missing and unidentified persons, to include, but not limited to DNA typing, forensic odontology, fingerprint examination, and forensic anthropology;

(E) to train State, local, and Tribal law enforcement personnel and forensic medicine service providers to use NamUs resources and best practices for the investigation of missing and unidentified person cases;

(F) to assist States in providing information to the NCIC database, the NamUs database, or any future database system for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases;

(G) to report to law enforcement authorities in the jurisdiction in which the remains were found information on every deceased, unidentified person, regardless of age;

(H) to participate in Missing Person Days and other events to directly support family members of the missing with NamUs case entries and DNA collections;

(I) to provide assistance and training by coordinating State and local service providers in order to support individuals and families;

(J) to conduct data analytics and research projects for the purpose of enhancing knowledge, best practices, and training related to missing and unidentified person cases, as well as developing NamUs system enhancements;

(K) to create and maintain a secure, online, nationwide critical incident response tool for professionals that will connect law enforcement, medico-legal and emergency management professionals, as well as victims and families during a critical incident; and

(L) for other purposes consistent with the goals of this section.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1990 TO REQUIRE REPORTS OF MISSING CHILDREN TO NAMUS.—

(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 3701(a) of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 41307(a)) is amended by striking the period and inserting the following: ''and, consistent with section 3 (including rules

promulgated pursuant to section 3(c)) of the Help Find the Missing Act, shall also report such case, either directly or through authorization described in such section to transmit, enter, or share information on such case, to the NamUs databases.''.

(2) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 41308) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or the National Crime Information Center computer database'' and inserting '', the National Crime Information Center computer database, or the NamUs databases'';

(B) in the matter following paragraph (3), by striking ''and the National Crime Information Center computer networks'' and inserting '', the National Crime Information Center computer networks, and the NamUs databases''; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or the NamUs databases'' after ''National Crime Information Center''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and National Crime Information Center computer networks'' and inserting '', National Crime Information Center computer networks, and the NamUs databases''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to reports made before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) ACCESS TO NCIC.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, in accordance with this section, provide access to the NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person Files to the National Institute of Justice or its designee administering the NamUs program as a grantee or contractor, for the purpose of reviewing missing and unidentified person records in NCIC for case validation and NamUs data reconciliation.

(b) ELECTRONIC DATA SHARING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, in accordance with this section, have completed an assessment of the NCIC and NamUs system architectures and governing statutes, policies, and procedures and provide a proposed plan for the secure and automatic data transmission of missing and unidentified person records that are reported to and entered into the NCIC database, with the following criteria, to be electronically transmitted to the NamUs system.

(1) Missing Person cases with an MNP (Missing Person) code of CA (Child Abduction) or AA (Amber Alert) within 72 hours of entry into NCIC;

(2) Missing Person cases with an MNP code EME (Endangered) or EMI (Involuntary) within 30 days of entry into NCIC;

(3) All other Missing Person cases that have been active (non-cancelled) in NCIC for 180 days;

(4) Unidentified person cases that have been active (non-cancelled) in NCIC for 60 days;

(5) Once case data are transmitted to NamUs, cases are marked as such within NCIC, and any updates to such cases will be transmitted to NamUs within 24 hours.

(c) RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the FBI, shall promulgate rules pursuant to notice and comment that specify the information the Attorney General may allow NamUs to access from the NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person files or be transmitted from the NCIC database to the NamUs databases for purposes of this Act. Such rules shall—

(A) provide for the protection of confidential, private, and law enforcement sensitive information contained in the NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person files; and

(B) specify the circumstances in which access to portions of information in the Missing Person and Unidentified Person files may be withheld from the NamUs databases.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue a report to offices of forensic medicine service providers, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies describing the best practices for the collection, reporting, and analysis of data and information on missing persons and unidentified human remains. Such best practices shall—

(1) provide an overview of the NCIC database and NamUs databases;

(2) describe how local law enforcement agencies, and offices of forensic medicine service providers should access and use the NCIC database and NamUs databases;

(3) describe the appropriate and inappropriate uses of the NCIC database and NamUs databases; and

(4) describe the standards and protocols for the collection, reporting, and analysis of data and information on missing persons and unidentified human remains.

SEC. 5. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report describing the status of the NCIC database and NamUs databases.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall describe, to the extent available, information on the process of information sharing between the NCIC database and NamUs databases.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AUTHORIZED AGENCY.—The term ''authorized agency'' means a Government agency with an originating agency identification (ORI) number and that is a criminal justice agency, as defined in section 20.3 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) FBI.—The term ''FBI'' means the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) FORENSIC MEDICINE SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ''forensic medicine service provider'' means a State or unit of local government forensic medicine service provider having not fewer than 1 part-time or full-time employed forensic pathologist, or forensic pathologist under contract, who conducts medicolegal death investigations, including examinations of human remains, and who provides reports or opinion testimony with respect to such activity in courts of law within the United States.

(4) FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ''forensic science service provider'' means a State or unit of local government agency having not fewer than 1 full-time analyst who examines physical evidence in criminal or investigative matters and provides reports or opinion testimony with respect to such evidence in courts in the United States.

(5) NAMUS DATABASES.—The term ''NamUs databases'' means the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Missing Persons database and National Missing and Unidentified Persons System Unidentified Decedents database maintained by the National Institute of Justice of the Department of Justice, which serves as a clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases.

(6) NCIC DATABASE.—The term ''NCIC database'' means the National Crime Information Center Missing Person File and National Crime Information Center Unidentified Person File of the National Crime Information Center database of the FBI, established pursuant to section 534 of title 28, United States Code.

(7) QUALIFYING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DEFINED.—The term ''qualifying law enforcement agency'' means a State, local, or Tribal law enforcement agency.

(8) STATE.—The term ''State'' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

EQUAL PAY FOR TEAM USA ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 593, S. 2333.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2333) to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Equal Pay for Team USA Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES.

(a) UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE.—

(1) DUTIES.—Section 220505(d) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) with respect to a sport for which the corporation conducts separate programs for female and male athletes, to ensure that female and male athletes who represent the United States in international amateur athletic events receive, from funds directly provided by the corporation to the athlete (excluding any prize or award based on the athlete's performance in an international amateur athletic competition), equivalent and nondiscriminatory compensation, wages, benefits, medical care, travel arrangements, and payment or reimbursement for expenses, all insofar as these are implemented in connection with such amateur athletic events, where 'equivalent' means 'equal' except that it shall be permissible—

''(i) to consider merit, performance, seniority, or quantity of play in determining contract or other terms of participation; and

''(ii) to provide more beneficial terms of participation to athletes representing the United States in international events to address disparities in outside income, including in compensation made available by international sports federations and other event organizers, or the need to foster underdeveloped programs or address

documented and justifiable personal need on the part of specific athletes or teams.'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) ADVOCACY.—The corporation shall take all reasonable steps, in collaboration with affected athletes, to advocate to international sports federations and other event organizers to equalize prizes, compensation, funding, and other support provided to athletes by such federations and organizers.''.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT ON EQUAL TREATMENT OF ATHLETES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 220514. Annual report on equal treatment of athletes

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually, the corporation shall submit to Congress a report on the compliance of the corporation with paragraphs (1)(D) and (2) of section 220505(d).

''(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include detailed information on the median, minimum, and maximum stipends and bonuses provided to athletes, disaggregated by gender, race, and, as applicable, status of participation on a professional sports team.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''220514. Annual report on equal treatment of athletes.''.

(b) NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES.—

(1) DUTIES.—Section 220524(a) of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (14) as paragraphs (9) through (16), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) with respect to a sport for which a national governing body conducts separate programs for female and male athletes, ensure that female and male athletes who represent the United States in international amateur athletic events receive, from funds directly provided by the national governing body to the athlete (excluding any prize or award based on the athlete's performance in an international amateur athletic competition), equivalent and nondiscriminatory compensation, wages, benefits, medical care, travel arrangements, and payment or reimbursement for expenses, all insofar as these are implemented in connection with such amateur athletic events, where 'equivalent' means 'equal' except that it shall be permissible—

''(A) to consider merit, performance, seniority, or quantity of play in determining contract or other terms of participation; and

''(B) to provide more beneficial terms of participation to athletes representing the United States in international events to address disparities in outside income, including in compensation made available by international sports federations and other event organizers, or the need to foster underdeveloped programs or address documented and justifiable personal need on the part of specific athletes or teams;

''(8) take all reasonable steps, in collaboration with affected athletes, to advocate to international sports federations and other event organizers to equalize prizes, compensation, funding, and other support provided to athletes by such federations and organizers;''.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT ON EQUAL TREATMENT OF ATHLETES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 220530A. Annual report on equal treatment of athletes

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually, each national governing body shall submit to the corporation and Congress a report on the compliance of the national governing body with paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 220524(a).

''(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include detailed information on the median, minimum, and maximum stipends and bonuses provided to athletes, disaggregated by gender, race, and, as applicable, status of participation on a professional sports team.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''220530A. Annual report on equal treatment of athletes.''.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the corporation shall—

(A) attain full compliance, and require as a condition of continued certification that each national governing body attains and maintains full compliance, with the applicable amendments made by this Act; and

(B) submit to Congress a report describing such compliance of the corporation and each national governing body; and

(2) each national governing body shall—

(A) attain full compliance with the applicable amendments made by this Act; and

(B) submit to Congress a report describing such compliance.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed—

(1) to supersede, nullify, or diminish the rights of any individual under any Federal law or the law of any State or political subdivision of any State or jurisdiction;

(2) to prohibit an individual athlete or a group of athletes from receiving compensation from an individual or entity other than a national governing body or the corporation for the use of, as applicable, the name, image, or likeness of the individual athlete or the names, images, or likenesses of the group of athletes; or

(3) to prohibit a team or group of athletes from accepting outside sponsorships or endorsements, or from participating in outside promotional events or marketing campaigns, even if a team or group of athletes of another gender are not offered equivalent sponsorships, endorsements, or participation in outside promotional events or marketing campaigns.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass, as amended?

The bill (S. 2333), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 408, S. Res. 124.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 124) celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

S. RES. 124

Whereas the ancestry of the Romani people, also called the Roma, can be traced to the Indian subcontinent;

Whereas Romani people have been a part of European immigration to the United States since the colonial period and particularly following the abolition of the enslavement of Romani people in the historic Romanian principalities;

Whereas Romani people live across the world and throughout the United States;

Whereas the Romani people have made distinct and important contributions in many fields, including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science;

Whereas, on April 8, 1971, the First World Romani Congress met in London, bringing Romani people together from across Europe and the United States with the goal of promoting transnational cooperation among Romani people in combating social marginalization and building a positive future for Romani people everywhere;

Whereas April 8 is therefore celebrated globally as International Roma Day;

Whereas Romani people were victims of genocide carried out by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners, and an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed by Nazis and their allies across Europe during World War II;

Whereas, on the night of August 2–3, 1944, the so-called ''Gypsy Family Camp'' where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated, and in a single night, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were killed in gas chambers;

Whereas many countries are taking positive steps to remember and teach about the genocide of Romani people by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners; and

Whereas the United States Congress held its first hearing to examine the situation of Romani people in 1994: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) remembers the genocide of Romani people by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners and commemorates the destruction of the ''Gypsy Family Camp'' where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz;

(2) commends the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for its role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Romani people;

(3) supports International Roma Day as an opportunity to honor the culture, history, and

heritage of the Romani people in the United States as part of the larger Romani global diaspora; and

(4) welcomes the Department of State's participation in ceremonies and events celebrating International Roma Day and similar engagement by the United States Government.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 124), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

DR. JOANNE SMITH MEMORIAL REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 2834 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2834) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I further ask that the Durbin-Cassidy substitute at the desk be considered and agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 6509) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Dr. Joanne Smith Memorial Rehabilitation Innovation Centers Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. PRESERVING ACCESS TO REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS UNDER MEDICARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(j)(7)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(j)(7)(E)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA SUBMITTED.—The'' and inserting ''PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA SUBMITTED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The''; and

(2) by inserting after clause (i), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following new clauses:

''(ii) PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS.—Beginning not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this clause, the Secretary shall make publicly available on such Internet website, in addition to the information required to be reported on such website under clause (i), a list of all rehabilitation innovation centers, and shall update such list on such website not less frequently than biennially.

''(iii) REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTERS DEFINED.—For purposes of clause (ii), the term 'rehabilitation innovation centers' means a rehabilitation facility that, as of the applicable date (as defined in clause (v)), is a rehabilitation facility described in clause (iv).

''(iv) REHABILITATION FACILITY DESCRIBED.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), a rehabilitation facility described in this clause is a rehabilitation facility that—

''(aa) is classified as a rehabilitation facility under the IRF Rate Setting File for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2019 (83 Fed. Reg. 38514), or any successor regulations that contain such information;

''(bb) holds at least one Federal rehabilitation research and training designation for research projects on traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research at the Department of Health and Human Services, based on such data submitted to the Secretary by a facility, in a form, manner, and time frame specified by the Secretary;

''(cc) submits to the Secretary a description of the clinical research enterprise of the facility and a summary of research activities of the facility that are supported by Federal agencies;

''(dd) has a minimum Medicare estimated average weight per discharge of 1.20 for the most recent fiscal year for which such information is available according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in item (aa), or any successor regulations that contain such information; and

''(ee) has a minimum teaching status of 0.075 for the most recent fiscal year for which such information is available according to the IRF Rate Setting File described in item (aa), or any successor regulations that contain such information.

''(II) WAIVER.—The Secretary may, as determined appropriate, waive any of the requirements under items (aa) through (ee) of subclause (I).

''(v) APPLICABLE DATE DEFINED.—For purposes of clauses (iii) and (iv), the term 'applicable date' means—

''(I) with respect to the initial publication of a list under clause (ii), the date of the enactment of such clause; and

''(II) with respect to the publication of an updated list under clause (ii), a date specified by the Secretary that is not more than one year prior to the date of such publication.

''(vi) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law the Secretary may implement clauses (ii) through (v) by program instruction or otherwise.

''(vii) NONAPPLICATION OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to data collected under clauses (ii) through (v).''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

(1) shall submit to Congress a report containing any recommendations on action as the Secretary determines appropriate to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers (as defined in section 1886(j)(7)(E)(iii) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a)); and

(2) may, in the report described in paragraph (1), as permitted by law, disseminate research, best practices, and other clinical information identified or developed by such rehabilitation innovation centers, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill, as amended?

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (S. 2834), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, COLLECTIVELY, TO GLEN DOHERTY, TYRONE WOODS, J. CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, AND SEAN SMITH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 310.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 310) to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 310) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2022 AS ''NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH''

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 866, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 866) expressing support for the designation of October 2022 as ''National Co-Op Month'' and commending the cooperative business model and the member-owners, businesses, employees, farmers, ranchers, and practitioners who use the cooperative business model to positively impact the economy and society.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 866) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF ALAN R. PARKER, FORMER STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS OF THE SENATE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 867, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 867), relating to the death of the Alan R. Parker, former Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 867) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AS SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 868, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 868) expressing support for the designation of September 2022 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 868) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

QUANTUM COMPUTING CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7535.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7535) to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Hassan substitute amendment, which is at desk, be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 6510), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Cryptography is essential for the national security of the United States and the functioning of the economy of the United States.

(2) The most widespread encryption protocols today rely on computational limits of classical computers to provide cybersecurity.

(3) Quantum computers might one day have the ability to push computational boundaries, allowing us to solve problems that have been intractable thus far, such as integer factorization, which is important for encryption.

(4) The rapid progress of quantum computing suggests the potential for adversaries of the United States to steal sensitive encrypted data today using classical computers, and wait until sufficiently powerful quantum systems are available to decrypt it.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a strategy for the migration of information technology of the Federal Government to post-quantum cryptography is needed; and

(2) the governmentwide and industrywide approach to post-quantum cryptography should prioritize developing applications, hardware intellectual property, and software that can be easily updated to support cryptographic agility.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY .—The term ''agency''—

(A) means any executive department, military department, Government corporation, Government controlled corporation, or other establishment in the executive branch of the Government (including the Executive Office of the President), or any independent regulatory agency; and

(B) does not include—

(i) the Government Accountability Office; or

(ii) the governments of the District of Columbia and of the territories and possessions of the United States, and their various subdivisions.

(2) CLASSICAL COMPUTER.—The term ''classical computer'' means a device that accepts digital data and manipulates the information based on a program or sequence of instructions for how data is to be processed and encodes information in binary bits that can either be 0s or 1s.

(3) DIRECTOR OF CISA.—The term ''Director of CISA'' means the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

(4) DIRECTOR OF NIST.—The term ''Director of NIST'' means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(5) DIRECTOR OF OMB.—The term ''Director of OMB'' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(6) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''information technology'' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(7) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM.—The term ''national security system'' has the meaning given the term in section 3552 of title 44, United States Code.

(8) POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—The term ''post-quantum cryptography'' means those cryptographic algorithms or methods that are assessed not to be specifically vulnerable to attack by either a quantum computer or classical computer.

(9) QUANTUM COMPUTER.—The term ''quantum computer'' means a computer that uses the collective properties of quantum states, such as superposition, interference, and entanglement, to perform calculations.

SEC. 4. INVENTORY OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS; MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.

(a) INVENTORY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of OMB, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA, shall issue guidance on the migration of information technology to post-quantum cryptography, which shall include at a minimum—

(A) a requirement for each agency to establish and maintain a current inventory of information technology in use by the agency

that is vulnerable to decryption by quantum computers, prioritized using the criteria described in subparagraph (B);

(B) criteria to allow agencies to prioritize their inventory efforts; and

(C) a description of the information required to be reported pursuant to subsection (b).

(2) ADDITIONAL CONTENT IN GUIDANCE.—In the guidance established by paragraph (1), the Director of OMB shall include, in addition to the requirements described in that paragraph—

(A) a description of information technology to be prioritized for migration to post-quantum cryptography; and

(B) a process for evaluating progress on migrating information technology to post-quantum cryptography, which shall be automated to the greatest extent practicable.

(3) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Director of OMB shall update the guidance required under paragraph (1) as the Director of OMB determines necessary, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA.

(b) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, the head of each agency shall provide to the Director of OMB, the Director of CISA, and the National Cyber Director—

(1) the inventory described in subsection (a)(1); and

(2) any other information required to be reported under subsection (a)(1)(C).

(c) MIGRATION AND ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director of NIST has issued post-quantum cryptography standards, the Director of OMB shall issue guidance requiring each agency to—

(1) prioritize information technology described under subsection (a)(2)(A) for migration to post-quantum cryptography; and

(2) develop a plan to migrate information technology of the agency to post-quantum cryptography consistent with the prioritization under paragraph (1).

(d) INTEROPERABILITY.—The Director of OMB shall ensure that the prioritizations made under subsection (c)(1) are assessed and coordinated to ensure interoperability.

(e) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY.—Not later than 15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of OMB, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the following:

(A) A strategy to address the risk posed by the vulnerabilities of information technology of agencies to weakened encryption due to the potential and possible capability of a quantum computer to breach that encryption.

(B) An estimate of the amount of funding needed by agencies to secure the information technology described in subsection (a)(1)(A) from the risk posed by an adversary of the United States using a quantum computer to breach the encryption of the information technology.

(C) A description of Federal civilian executive branch coordination efforts led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including timelines, to develop standards for post-quantum cryptography, including any Federal Information Processing Standards developed under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, as well as standards developed through voluntary, consensus standards bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization.

(2) REPORT ON MIGRATION TO POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director of OMB issues guidance under subsection (c)(2), and thereafter until the date that is 5 years after the date on which post-quantum cryptographic standards are issued, the Director of OMB, in coordination with the National Cyber Director and in consultation with the Director of CISA, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, with the report submitted pursuant to section 3553(c) of title 44, United States Code, a report on the progress of agencies in adopting post-quantum cryptography standards.

SEC. 5. EXEMPTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.

This Act shall not apply to any national security system.

SEC. 6. 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 amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 7535), as amended, was passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourns until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 12, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Montgomery-Reeves nomination postcloture; further, at 5:30 p.m. all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Montgomery-Reeves nomination; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Maryland.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of Calendar No. 457, S. 4216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4216) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) and subsequent reauthorizations of such Act were the product of broad, bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of human rights, documentation of human rights violations, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) The human rights and humanitarian conditions within North Korea remain deplorable and have been intentionally perpetuated against the people of North Korea through policies endorsed and implemented by Kim Jong-un and the Workers' Party of Korea.

(3) According to a 2014 report released by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, between 80,000 and 120,000 children, women, and men were being held in political prison camps in North Korea, where they were subjected to deliberate starvation, forced labor, executions, torture, rape, forced abortion, and infanticide.

(4) North Korea continues to hold a number of South Koreans and Japanese abducted after the signing of the Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the ''Korean War Armistice Agreement'') and refuses to acknowledge the abduction of more than 100,000 South Koreans during the Korean War in violation of the Geneva Convention.

(5) Human rights violations in North Korea, which include forced starvation, sexual violence against women and children, restrictions on freedom of movement, arbitrary detention, torture, executions, and enforced disappearances, amount to crimes against humanity according to the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(6) The effects of the COVID–19 pandemic and North Korea's strict lockdown of its borders and crackdowns on informal market activities and small entrepreneurship have drastically increased food insecurity for its people and given rise to famine conditions in parts of the country.

(7) North Korea's COVID–19 border lockdown measures also include shoot-to-kill orders that have resulted in the killing of—

(A) North Koreans attempting to cross the border; and

(B) at least 1 South Korean citizen in September 2020.

(8) The Chinese Communist Party and the Government of the People's Republic of China are aiding and abetting in crimes against humanity by forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees to North Korea where they are sent to prison camps, harshly interrogated, and tortured or executed.

(9) The forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees violates the People's Republic of China's freely undertaken obligation to uphold the principle of non-refoulement, under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by

the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)).

(10) North Korea continues to bar freedom of religion and persecute religious minorities, especially Christians. Eyewitnesses report that Christians in North Korea have been tortured, forcibly detained, and even executed for possessing a Bible or professing Christianity.

(11) United States and international broadcasting operations into North Korea—

(A) serve as a critical source of outside news and information for the North Korean people; and

(B) provide a valuable service for countering regime propaganda and false narratives.

(12) The position of Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues has been vacant since January 2017, even though the President is required to appoint a Senate-confirmed Special Envoy to fill this position in accordance with section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817).

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) promoting information access in North Korea continues to be a successful method of countering North Korean propaganda;

(2) the United States Government should continue to support efforts described in paragraph (1), including by enacting and implementing the Otto Warmbier North Korean Censorship and Surveillance Act of 2021, which was introduced by Senator Portman on June 17, 2021;

(3) because refugees among North Koreans fleeing into China face severe punishments upon their forcible return, the United States should urge the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to immediately halt its forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as ''UNHCR'') unimpeded access to North Koreans within China to determine whether they are refugees and require assistance;

(C) to fulfill its obligations under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223) and the Agreement on the upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People's Republic of China to UNHCR branch office in the People's Republic of China, done at Geneva December 1, 1995;

(D) to address the concerns of the United Nations Committee Against Torture by incorporating into domestic legislation the principle of non-refoulement; and

(E) to recognize the legal status of North Korean women who marry or have children with Chinese citizens and ensure that all such mothers and children are granted resident status and access to education and other public services in accordance with Chinese law and international standards;

(4) the United States Government should continue to promote the effective and transparent delivery and distribution of any humanitarian aid provided in North Korea to ensure that such aid reaches its intended recipients to the point of consumption or utilization by cooperating closely with the Government of the Republic of Korea and international and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) the Department of State should continue to take steps to increase public awareness about the risks and dangers of travel by United States citizens to North Korea, including by continuing its policy of blocking United States passports from being used to travel to North Korea without a special validation from the Department of State;

(6) the United Nations, which has a significant role to play in promoting and improving human rights in North Korea, should press for access for the United Nations Special Rapporteur and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in North Korea;

(7) the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues should be appointed without delay—

(A) to properly promote and coordinate North Korean human rights and humanitarian issues; and

(B) to participate in policy planning and implementation with respect to refugee issues;

(8) the United States should urge North Korea to repeal the Reactionary Thought and Culture Denunciation Law and other draconian laws, regulations, and decrees that manifestly violate the freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

(9) the United States should urge North Korea to ensure that any restrictions on addressing the COVID–19 pandemic are necessary, proportionate, nondiscriminatory, time-bound, transparent, and allow international staff to operate inside the North Korea to provide international assistance based on independent needs assessments;

(10) the United States should expand the Rewards for Justice program to be open to North Korean officials who can provide evidence of crimes against humanity being committed by North Korean officials;

(11) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments—

(A) to allow the UNHCR access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement; and

(B) to allow United States officials access to process refugees for possible resettlement in the United States; and

(12) the Secretary of State, through diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees, escapees, and defectors.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Section 102(b)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(b) ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.—Section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) is amended by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(d) REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Section 203(c)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''2018 through 2022'' and inserting ''2023 through 2027''.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 305(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2027''.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

Title I of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7811 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(a), by striking ''Broadcasting Board of Governors'' and inserting ''United States Agency for Global Media''; and

(2) in section 104(a)—

(A) by striking ''Broadcasting Board of Governors'' each place such term appears and inserting ''United States Agency for Global Media'';

(B) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years'';

(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively;

(iii) by inserting before clause (ii) the following:

''(i) an update of the plan required under subparagraph (A);''; and

(iv) in clause (iii), as redesignated, by striking ''pursuant to section 403'' and inserting ''to carry out this section''.

SEC. 6. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

Section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORT ON APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter through 2027 if the position of Special Envoy remains vacant, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the efforts being taken to appoint the Special Envoy.''.

SEC. 7. SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security should collaborate with faith-based and Korean-American organizations to resettle North Korean participants in the United States Refugee Admissions Program in areas with existing Korean-American communities to mitigate trauma and mental health considerations of refugees, as appropriate.

(b) RESETTLEMENT OFFICE FOR NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that a program officer in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State—

(1) is stationed in a country in Southeast Asia or East Asia; and

(2) is principally responsible for facilitating the processing and onward relocation of North Koreans eligible for the United States Refugee Admissions Program or resettlement in South Korea.

(c) RESETTLEMENT LOCATION ASSISTANCE EDUCATION.—The Secretary of State shall publicly disseminate guidelines and information relating to resettlement options in the United States or South Korea for eligible North Korean refugees, with a particular focus on messaging to North Koreans.

(d) MECHANISMS.—The guidelines and information described in subsection (c)—

(1) shall be published on a publicly available website of the Department of State;

(2) shall be broadcast into North Korea through radio broadcasting operations funded or supported by the United States Government; and

(3) shall be distributed through brochures or electronic storage devices.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF SANCTIONS FOR FORCED REPATRIATION OF NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES.

(a) DISCRETIONARY DESIGNATIONS.—Section 104(b)(1) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9214) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (M), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (N), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(O) knowingly, directly or indirectly, forced the repatriation of North Korean refugees to North Korea.''.

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 208(a)(1) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement

Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9228(a)(1)) is amended by inserting '', the Republic of Korea, and Japan'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 9. REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTIONS TO SANCTIONS IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the continued pursuit by the North Korean regime of weapons of mass destruction (including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons), in addition to its ballistic missile program, along with the regime's gross violations of human rights, have led the international community to impose sanctions with respect to North Korea, including sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council;

(2) authorities should grant exemptions for humanitarian assistance to the people of North Korea consistent with past United Nations Security Council resolutions; and

(3) humanitarian assistance intended to provide humanitarian relief to the people of North Korea must not be exploited or misdirected by the North Korean regime to benefit the military or elites of North Korea.

(b) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term ''covered period'' means—

(A) in the case of the first report required to be submitted under paragraph (2), the period beginning on January 1, 2018, and ending on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) in the case of each subsequent report required to be submitted under paragraph (2), the 1-year period preceding the date by which the report is required to be submitted.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to Congress that—

(A) describes—

(i) how the North Korean regime has previously exploited humanitarian assistance from the international community to benefit elites and the military in North Korea;

(ii) the most effective methods to provide humanitarian relief, including mechanisms to facilitate humanitarian assistance, to the people of North Korea, who are in dire need of such assistance;

(iii) any requests to the Committee of the United Nations Security Council established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006) (referred to in this section as the ''1718 Sanctions Committee'') for humanitarian exemptions from sanctions known to have been denied during the covered period or known to have been in process for more than 30 days as of the date of the report; and

(iv) any known explanations for the denials and delays referred to in clause (iii); and

(B) details any action by a foreign government during the covered period that has delayed or impeded humanitarian assistance that was approved by the 1718 Sanctions Committee.

Mr. CARDIN. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 6511), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CARDIN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 4216), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:41 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 12, 2022, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 08, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SHAILEN P. BHATT, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.

THE JUDICIARY

JEFFERY PAUL HOPKINS, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. RICHARD E. BATSON
CAPT. MICHAEL E. CAMPBELL
CAPT. RUSSELL E. DASH
CAPT. AMY B. GRABLE
CAPT. MATTHEW W. LAKE
CAPT. RALPH R. LITTLE
CAPT. JEFFREY K. RANDALL
CAPT. WILBORNE E. WATSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(D):

To be rear admiral

MARY M. DEAN
CHARLES E. FOSSE
CHAD L. JACOBY
CAROLA J. LIST
MICHAEL W. RAYMOND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. WILLIAM G. DWYER

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM C. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH YVONNE C. YANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2022.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CRAIG H. ALLEN, JR. AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS S. WORST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2022.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN J. MAGGI AND ENDING WITH LISA M. THOMPSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 11, 2022.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TROY E. FRYAR AND ENDING WITH JOHN D. HUGHES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMBER S. WARD AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2022.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF RYAN GIRALT BEDFORD.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GARY P. ANTHONY AND ENDING WITH STEPHANIE A. BUNCE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT MATTHEW NEWMAN UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Master Sergeant Matthew Newman epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District. I would like to congratulate Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN DAVID BLENCOWE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John David Blencowe of the California Highway Patrol in recognition of his retirement and 25 years of service to the people of California.

Mr. Blencowe was born on Travis Air Force Base to Teresa and James Blencowe. He attended the University of California, Berkeley from 1989 to 1990 and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Davis in 1995.

In 1997, Mr. Blencowe graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy and served as an Officer in the Central Los Angeles area until 1999. Following his service in Los Angeles, he worked in the San Francisco Area, Solano Area and Golden Gate Division, where Mr. Blencowe was promoted to Sergeant in 2006. From 2006 to 2013, Mr. Blencowe was Team Leader for the Golden Gate Division Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. From 2014–2015, he served in the San Jose Area before returning to the Golden Gate Division in 2016. Mr. Blencowe received his final assignment as Commander of the Napa Area in 2018 and was promoted to the rank of Captain.

For more than two decades, Mr. Blencowe has provided exemplary service in the face of unprecedented challenges. He has served with the Napa Air Operations Unit during the 2017 Atlas Peak Fire and responded to the active shooter incident at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. In 2020, Mr. Blencowe provided critical support to multiple natural disasters in the Napa Area including the Glass and LNU Lightning Complex fires.

Mr. Blencowe is a devoted husband to his wife Melissa and the proud father of three daughters, Erin, Sarah and Emma.

Madam Speaker, I thank Captain Blencowe for his 25 years of selfless service and commitment to the people of California. His efforts have undoubtedly made our state a safer place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SHERRIFF MARGARET A. MIMS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of a truly honorable public servant, Fresno County Sheriff, Margaret A. Mims.

Sheriff Mims has been a fixture in the Fresno County community for decades, serving as a peace officer for over 25 years. During her tenure, she has held the roles of Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Sheriff, and finally Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner, a position she has held since 2006.

Sheriff Mims has led the Fresno County Sheriffs Department with distinction and honor for over 15 years and has been recognized by numerous organizations, universities, and community groups for her leadership. During her time as Sheriff, she has received the 31st Assembly District Woman of the Year Award, been named a "100 Stars for 100 Years" by the Fresno City College Centennial Alumna, received the Girls Scout's Woman Inspiring Girls Award, and has been named a Distinguished Alumni at both Fresno City College and National University. These are just some of the many recognitions and awards she has received throughout her career and are a true testament to her impact on our community.

I want to personally state how thankful I am for the dedicated service of Sheriff Mims. Her courage, leadership, and commitment are truly inspiring, and I consider it an honor and a privilege to have worked with her and her office for so many years.

I urge all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring such a distinguished member of our Central Valley community, Sheriff Margaret M. Mims.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HIS EXCELLENCE PRINCE ASIEL BEN ISRAEL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, these words are attributed to Sir Issac Watts, who wrote, and I paraphrase, "Were I so tall as to reach from pole to pole or grasp the ocean with my span, I must be measured by my soul, for the mind is the measure of the man."

Trying to describe Prince Asiel Ben Israel is no easy task because so many characteristics of desirability. He was a man of principle, a great husband, a provider, protector, a wonderful father, grandfather, great grandfather, a patriarch, and the leader of a tribe. He was a people's Prince born, educated, trained and prepared to lead. He was a visionary who understood that you cannot lead where you don't go and you cannot teach what you don't know. Prince was always searching for truth and knowledge and was exceptionally passionate about practically everything that he did or cared about.

He loved people, and I mean people, and he had a humanitarian spirit and expressed that, "all life sacred." it is now 4:00 am, in the morning, so let me wrap this up. I was blessed to spend many fortunate, precious, and meaningful hours with Prince. We traveled at least ten times to Africa, South Africa, West Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Many of these times it was just the two of us, and talk, talk, talk we did. We met with Heads of State, the ANC, Winnie Mandela, Members of Parliaments, academicians, grassroots groups, clerics, giants of industry, and sometimes I thought Prince was the greatest advocate and diplomat on earth, both at the same time, and he was always on point.

A gifted intellectual spiritual leader who used his knowledge, talents and skills to advance the causes of his people (all caring people), as he journeyed through a lifetime of service to humanity.

As I walked away from our last meeting with two of his sons and a government official from Ghana a few weeks ago, I had a feeling, first

of all, servant of all, you shall transcend all, and as I walked down to my car on Michigan Avenue humming to myself, ''Swing low sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.''

Good night my friend.

HONORING MAJOR KATIE LUNNING UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Katie Lunning of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Katie Lunning epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Katie Lunning of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR BRIAN SCHELLER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Space Force Major Brian K. Scheller on the completion of his Legislative Fellowship with my personal office. Major Scheller has been assigned to my staff since January 2022 and has done an outstanding job as my trusted advisor for national security, foreign operations, space/technology, and veteran policy issues.

Currently a Systems Engineer and Acquisition Project Manager for the United States Space Force, Major Scheller started his military service by graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 2010. While at the academy, Major Scheller was on the school's basketball team and served as an Assistant Coach for the first year following his commissioning. Throughout his 12 years of service, Major Scheller has been assigned as the F–16 Engineering Liaison at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as well as being deployed for 7 months at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates where he was responsible for leading construction and design projects at the base.

Stateside, Major Scheller served as the Chief of the Director's Action Group where he responded to Congressional Inquiries for the Director of the National Security Space Launch Program. He also served as a Government Mission Integration Manager and led day-to-day operations that culminated in the successful launch of a Lockheed Martin GPS III satellite on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

During his fellowship in my office, Major Scheller was instrumental in helping my staff and I develop the fiscal year 2023 House Defense appropriations bill. His direct contributions will help provide our nation's uniformed men and women with the resources needed to defend our great Nation. Additionally, Texas' 12th district is home to numerous DOD priorities including the F–35 program, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, and thousands of Active Guard and Reserve service members. Major Scheller quickly built a relationship with these entities, mastered their issues, and was essential in helping me fight for them. Additionally, Major Scheller coordinated dozens of engagements with senior administration officials, foreign heads of state, and industry leaders; and was a tireless advocate for servicemembers and veterans.

Servicemembers like Major Brian Scheller are the reason why our Nation's defense forces are the best in the world. On behalf of the 12th District of Texas, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Brian, his wife Christine, and children Jacob and Keegan, as they continue their military journey in service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST WISCONSIN'S 2022 VETERAN OF THE YEAR, MICHAEL WEAVER

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Northeast Wisconsin's 2022 Veteran of the Year, Michael Weaver. His service on and off the battlefield in Vietnam, his dedication to fellow veterans back home, and his devotion to Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District make him well-deserving of this recognition.

The Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of members from the veteran and civilian community. It recognizes veterans in Northeast Wisconsin who continue to demonstrate service, excellence, and dedication in all that they do.

A longtime resident of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, Michael served in the Army as a medic during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in 1966 and served for 3 years before receiving an Honorable discharge. During Michael's crucial service he received numerous medals and achievements, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. Inspired by his father's service as a Combat Engineer in World War II, he enlisted as a Medical Corpsman in the Army after graduating high school. Once deployed to Vietnam in 1968, he started in a prisoner of war medical facility where he was charged with keeping enemy troops alive. He then returned to California to the Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco where he provided care to the wounded service members who had made it back home until his discharge in 1969.

While Michael's service to Vietnam will never be forgotten, his commitment to serving the men and women of Northeast Wisconsin after he hung up his uniform is just as impressive. After leaving Vietnam he has dedicated his life to giving back and he has done that every day since his discharge. Some key examples of his dedication to our community include: Past President and Lt. Governor for Wisconsin Kiwanis Club, Chairman of the Board for the Heart of the Valley Chamber, Special Olympics Fox Valley coach, Emergency Medical Technician, rifle team member for Kaukauna VFW, a mentor for the Outagamie County Veterans Treatment Court, and chaplain of the Disabled American Veterans Appleton Post. Since his retirement from his civilian career, he has placed wreaths on nearly 1,200 grave markers for veterans, served as Senior Captain of the Patriot Guard, and also managed American flag poles for numerous organizations throughout the Fox Cities.

One impressive feat noted by one of Michael's nominators was that he recently helped honor two of Kaukauna's oldest veterans by reuniting them after 75 years through the VFW's Golf with a Vet event. He has clearly demonstrated a commitment to excellence, service, and dedication throughout all that he does in his life.

Most notably, Michael dedicates a substantial amount of time to St. Paul Elder Services in Kaukauna. Michael has spent the last decade dedicating time with veterans who are on hospice or end of life care with St. Paul Elder Services. As an Army medic veteran, he often connects with other veterans in a way that civilians simply cannot. From Vietnam to Kaukauna Michael continues to walk with veterans through an extremely challenging time.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate Michael Weaver for his service to Northeast Wisconsin, the veteran community, and on being the 2022 Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year. Northeast Wisconsin can be proud of the many great veterans who call the 8th Congressional District home, and I urge all colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding men and women.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY VINCENT ''VINCE'' FORD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader and

longtime friend, Henry Vincent Ford. Vince, as he was affectionately known, transitioned from this life on December 6, 2022, in Columbia, South Carolina. His work fighting for equity in historically underserved communities has left an indelible mark on the Midlands of South Carolina.

Vince Ford was born on March 18, 1958, in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from A.C. Flora High School and went on to pursue a bachelor's degree at Benedict College in Columbia. He received a master's degree from my alma mater, South Carolina State University. Vince dedicated his life to bettering the Columbia community and Midlands' area, and I was fortunate to get to know Vince well throughout his service to his county and state.

In 1992, Vince was elected to the Richland One School Board. During his nearly quarter century tenure on the Board, he served as chairman a remarkable eight times. Vince was a fierce advocate for children. He led the charge on a bond referendum which led to both the improvement and building of several school buildings. He also spearheaded the vote to create a tax increment financing district which would lead to the creation of important community projects, such as EdVenture Children's Museum, Three Rivers Greenway, and Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

In 1997, at the same time of his service on the School Board, Vince was invited to establish and lead the Office of Community Health at Prisma Health. Throughout his time there, he fought for the needs of the community's uninsured and medically underserved. After his retirement from the School Board in 2016, he officially became the Vice President of Community Affairs at Prisma Health. He was a faithful advocate of community health through his work with Prisma for over 25 years. He was fully committed to tackling disparities in health treatment in the Midlands, impacting the lives of countless people.

Through his community leadership, Vince earned several awards and accolades. For his time on the School Board, he was named Outstanding School Board Member for the Sixth Congressional District and All-State School Board Member by the South Carolina School Boards Association. In 2018, he was inducted into the Richland One Hall of Fame. He was also recognized on the Columbia Housing Authority Wall of Fame and received the Elaine Whitelaw Volunteer Service Award from the March of Dimes. The programs he led were also recognized for their success, with his program for drug and alcohol school prevention earning national recognition.

Vince was also an active member of several civic and social organizations in the community. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation. In addition, he served as chairperson on the State Education and the Columbia Branch Education committees. He was a proud and very active supporter of Benedict College throughout his life and was a member of its Board of Trustees. He was also a lifelong member of the NAACP and a fellow brother of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

Vince is survived by his wife, Patricia, and their two children, Marcus and Robyn.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Vince Ford. His unwavering commitment to serving his community should be an inspiration to us all. He will be sorely missed and well-remembered by all who had the honor of knowing him.

HONORING MAJOR PETE TRAYLOR UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Pete Traylor of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Pete Traylor epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Pete Traylor of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a vote I missed on December 8, 2022. I was on my way to the House Floor to cast my vote when the vote was closed with 75 members not having voted. Had I been present for Roll Call vote 515 on the motion to adjourn offered by Rep. ROY, I would have voted no. I believe that it is essential that Congress finish the business it came here to do this week and pass the National Defense Authorization Act to support our service members and their families.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER JOHN C. MOORE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor councilmember John Moore in honor of nearly a decade of service to the Cotati City Council.

Mr. Moore was born in Lynn, Massachusetts to Gloria and Edmund Moore. After attending Indian Valley Community College and Santa Rosa Junior College, he ran his own insurance brokerage for 15 years. Mr. Moore was elected Cotati Chamber of Commerce President in 1999 and awarded Cotati citizen of the year in 2005.

In 2013, Mr. Moore was appointed to the Cotati City Council and was subsequently reelected in 2014 and 2018. During this time. he served multiple terms as both Vice Mayor and Mayor. Mr. Moore has also been Chair of the Cotati Rent Appeals Board, Liaison for the Cotati Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Cotati Library Advisory Board and a board member of the Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund as well as the California Intergovernmental Risk Authority.

Despite unprecedented challenges including wildfires, financial instability and the COVID–19 pandemic, Mr. Moore has remained steadfast in his commitment to Cotati. He has routinely fought for improved public infrastructure and a balanced budget. As a delegate for the North Bay Labor Council and the District Bargaining Unit Representative for the Service Employees International Union Local 1000, Mr. Moore has also been a champion for workers' rights.

Outside of public service, Mr. Moore is an executive with the Rohnert Park branch of the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

He is the proud husband of Lisa, father of Richard, Rachel and Riley and brother of ten.

Madam Speaker, I thank Councilmember Moore for his years of selfless service and commitment to his community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable, and I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 501; NAY on Roll Call No. 502; NAY on Roll Call No. 503; YEA on Roll Call No. 504; YEA on Roll Call No. 505; YEA on Roll Call No. 506; YEA on Roll Call No. 507; YEA on Roll Call No. 508; YEA on Roll Call No. 509; YEA on Roll Call No. 510; YEA on Roll Call No. 511; and NAY on Roll Call No. 512.

HONORING MAJOR DOMINICK VITALE UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Dominick Vitale of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Dominick Vitale epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Dominick Vitale of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. THOMAS KAYSER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Thomas Kayser, of Saint Paul, Minnesota, who passed away on November 15, 2022.

Tom was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. After graduating from Lawrence University, he served on active duty for eight years and as a reserve officer for 16 years, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He met his wife, Marlene Kayser, on a blind date, they married in 1959 and had three children, Carol, Tom and David. In 1966 they moved to Saint Paul when Tom joined the law firm, Robins, Davis and Lyons, where he worked for over 50 years and went on to become the managing partner. During his time at the law firm, which eventually became Robins, Kaplan, Miller, and Ciresi, he often served as a volunteer attorney, including for the Minnesota ACLU, and received many honors, including being named Volunteer of the Year by the Volunteer Lawyers Network in 2007.

Tom and his wife, Marlene, who passed away in 2018, were both dedicated activists and volunteers in the community, supporting organizations like Planned Parenthood and the Advocates for Human Rights. They were also founding donors of Admission Possible, now known as College Possible, which is a national organization working to increase access to higher education for low-income students. At the Kayser family home the door was always open to generously give back to their neighbors. They were known for hosting fundraising events in their home and even in their backyard for nonprofit organizations, candidates and elected officials ranging from United States presidents to school board members. Tom and Marlene served as a host family to many international students and connected countless community leaders, and Tom also served as a board member and advisor for the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, and as an appointed representative on the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, where he also served as vice chair and committee chair.

It was an honor to call Tom a friend and neighbor for many years. My deepest condolences are with his beloved family and many friends. Madam Speaker, please join me in tribute to Thomas Kayser for his remarkable life of service to our nation and our community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. SONIA PÉREZ, PRESIDENT, UPON HER RETIREMENT AND 43 YEARS OF SERVICE AT AT&T—SOUTHEAST STATES

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sonia Pérez as she prepares to retire after 43 successful years of service. Throughout her long career, she ultimately was responsible for leading and executing the overall strategic direction of AT&T's corporate initiatives throughout Louisiana and Kentucky. Her teams engage the collective governmental ecosystem at the state, local, and federal level to build technology infrastructure that solves economic challenges faced by urban and rural communities.

Based in Baton Rouge, Sonia has led on strategy, governance and social responsibility issues within the private sector and the nonprofit organizations she has chaired since she moved to Louisiana as the AT&T state president in 2010, and previously in Texas. Outside of her work AT&T Sonia serves as an Independent Director for Hancock Whitney Corporation (NASDAQ: HWC), and on the executive committees of The University of Texas Foundation, the Louisiana Board of Regents, and The National WWII Museum.

Sonia remains engaged with her alma mater, The University of Texas at Austin, and was selected as a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus; having also previously received the Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award. In 2006, she was the first Latina elected president of the Texas Exes, the university's alumni association. Among her proudest distinctions is a 1996 presidential appointment by President Bill Clinton to the Advisory Council of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, a binational organization supporting the sustainable development of environmental infrastructure on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border. She was also recognized in 2006 with the El Abrecaminos Award from the Texas Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

She has chaired various boards including the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the state's business roundtable known as the Committee of 100, and the Board of Trustees of my Alma Mater, Xavier University of Louisiana. She also led Governor John Bel Edwards' Economic Development Transition Team and is a member of the governor's Resilient Louisiana Commission. In 2018, Sonia was named to the Merit Selection Panel for the United States District Court Eastern District of Louisiana. She has also served on the national board of the Public Broadcasting Service, PBS.

Prior to being named the first woman president of AT&T Louisiana in 2010, Sonia worked in various capacities in Houston and South Texas, including as a vice president of AT&T Texas, where she was responsible for the company's initiatives throughout the Houston region. During that time, she was named the Houston Hispanic Chamber's Female Senior Executive of the Year, and served on the Houston board of J.P. Morgan Chase, and the executive committees of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Houston Partnership. She was also a member of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System Board of Directors.

Sonia has received numerous awards and distinctions including Top 100 Most Influential Latinas in 2020 by Latino Leaders Magazine, LatinaStyle Magazine 2014 Corporate Executives of the Year, 2013 Inspiración Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, 2015 Weiss Award from the New Orleans Council for Community and Justice, 2015 Role Model from the Young Leadership Council of New Orleans.

On a more personal note, Ms. Perez was someone I truly appreciated working with across New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and her leadership will truly be missed. Congratulations to Sonia as she enjoys the best days of her life in retirement.

DACA

SPEECH OF

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today, to help highlight the incredible contributions that DACA recipients have made to our country and my district.

There are over 800,000 DACA recipients across the country, and over 200,000 of them live in California.

Today, I want to highlight a very special DREAMER in my district.

A young lady named Mayra Garibo from Wilmington, California.

Mayra's mother brought her and her little brother to the U.S. from Mexico when she was just 7 years old.

When it came time for Mayra to attend college, her mother struggled to find the resources to help pay for her tuition.

But because of DACA, Mayra was able to attend and pay for college, and eventually graduated from California State University Dominguez Hills, with a degree in Business Administration.

With her degree in hand, Mayra was able to pursue her dream of working in content creation, while also having peace in knowing that DACA would protect her against deportation.

In 2017, Mayra unfortunately lost her father, who lived in Mexico.

After a 3 year-long battle, she obtained Advance Parole, and received a travel permit to visit Mexico, to finally visit her father's grave and mourn his passing in-person.

This was the first time in 20 years that Mayra was able to return to Mexico.

Mayra's talent continued to shine through, and her persistence and resilience paid off.

With the help of Advanced Parole, she was able to further her career as a content creator, by seeking life changing job opportunities.

She was able to travel and work in London and other places, where she did content creation for films that were eventually nominated for awards at film festivals.

Mayra now works for the Long Beach Immigration Rights Coalition.

Recently, while taking photos of graduates of the Coalition's Leadership Academy Program, she met and was moved by the story of another young DACA recipient.

Mayra understood their struggle, and realized that she shared a common bond.

Mayra's job has given her the opportunity to capture the stories of those who have struggled to be an immigrant in this country. It has allowed her to change the all-too-common narrative about immigrants, to one that depicts immigrants as resilient and capable of moving forward in difficult situations.

When Mayra returned to the U.S. from her vist to Mexico and Europe, she was met with two signs eact time.

One said U.S. citizens to the right and the other, non-citizens to the left.

When Mayra encountered these signs, she said to herself:

I know I have a permit to re-enter the country, but my reentry is not guaranteed.

I begin to pray to God hoping I say the right things, and that I don't face an officer who isn't going to know what advance parole is.

It's a feeling that is difficult to explain, you know you haven't done anything, yet you have to convince someone to let you into the country that you call your home.''

Mayra is just one of many DREAMERS who have made incredible contributions to our nation.

She hopes that one day, she will be able to step to the right.

The time is now for my Republican colleagues and the Senate to pass legislation that will provide permanent protections for DACA recipients and DREAMERS in this country.

We can't wait any longer.

Because your home is here (Porque su hogar esta aqui). Forever (Para siempre).

HONORING MAJOR DREW DELA CRUZ UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Drew Dela Cruz of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership. and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Drew Dela Cruz epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Drew Dela Cruz of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING U.S. NAVY AND MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD VETERAN JIMMY SPARKS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of U.S. Navy and Mississippi Army National Guard Veteran Jimmy Sparks. Throughout his long and distinguished career in the military, Mr. Sparks devoted himself to serve our great Nation. Additionally, he is an outstanding volunteer driver for Lee County Veterans Services. He embodies all the characteristics that make us proud to be Americans.

On October 3, 1944, Mr. Sparks was born in Iuka. He was one of seven children who picked cotton to help support their family, who were sharecroppers. Eventually, the family moved to West Memphis, Arkansas, and Saltillo, Mississippi.

In 1963, Mr. Sparks embarked on a new adventure by enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to the USS Midway (CVA–41), an aircraft carrier. The second aircraft carrier was the USS Coral Sea (CVA–43). Mr. Sparks was assigned to the fighter squadron on both aircraft carriers, serving as an aviation storekeeper. He said the first North Vietnamese MiG–17 to be shot down during the Vietnam War was by the Phantoms of Fighter Squadron 21 from the USS Midway carrier—on June 17, 1965.

In 1967, Mr. Sparks completed active duty and entered the U.S. Navy Reserve for one year. In 1974, Mr. Sparks joined the Mississippi Army National Guard, where he served with the 123rd Medivac. During his time with the Guard, his duties included maintaining armor and supply, driving a fuel truck, and motor maintenance. He retired as an E–7. Mr. Sparks served 31 years in the Mississippi Army National Guard. In later years, the 123rd Medivac changed to the 185th Aviation Battalion.

While serving in the Guard, Mr. Sparks worked for 21 years for Cooper Tire. In 2006, he retired. In 2007, Mr. Sparks learned there was a need for a driver to support services offered by the Lee County Veterans Services Officer. Soon thereafter, he became a volunteer driver. He was one of several volunteer drivers during that time who drove Veterans 1–3 times a week to the Memphis VA Medical Center.

Mr. Sparks has been recognized numerous times for his community service. In 2010, Mr. Sparks was recognized by the Lee County Board of Supervisors for his outstanding service for giving back to Veterans for what they have given to America. In 2015, Mr. Sparks received the ''President's Lifetime Achievement Award'' for his volunteer work. In 2020, Mr. Sparks was recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as the Memphis VA Medical Center Voluntary Services ''2019–2020 Volunteer Driver of the Year''.

To date, Mr. Sparks has devoted 7,500 hours to his fellow Veterans. He drives approximately 160 Veterans to and from Memphis over one year. Mr. Sparks has logged approximately 200,000 miles during his fifteen years of driving to the VA.

We are thankful for Mr. Sparks' service to America and for his steadfast devotion to the ensure Veterans have access to medical services. These men and women have earned and deserve the best available care. We wish the continued success of Mr. Sparks' volunteer work. Additionally, we want to recognize his wife, Nancy, and their children: Rusty Sparks (Beverly) and Jennifer (Terry) Merrell. Mr. and Mrs. Sparks have four grandchildren: Grace Sparks, Brenden Sparks, Kade (Cheyenne) Merrell, and Shelby (Marcus) Gray. The Lee County Sheriffs Department is commended for allowing the Lee County Veterans Services van to be safely parked and monitored at their Tupelo facility.

RECOGNIZING MRS. COLLEEN CURTIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Colleen Curtis on

her retirement as Chief Executive Officer of United Health Centers of San Joaquin Valley.

Founded in 1971, United Health Centers (UHC) has become one of the largest and most important healthcare providers in the Central Valley. Rural communities like many of those found in the Valley are often overlooked when it comes to accessing health services. UHC plays a critical role in ensuring those in rural and underserved communities receive the healthcare they deserve.

Mrs. Curtis has been with UHC for 20 years, beginning her career in 2002. In 2009, she became the organization's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and helped to expand UHC's presence in the Central Valley. Throughout her 14 years as CEO, the organization continued to grow, expanding the number of centers to 28 across the Valley. Today, UHC provides medical services for over 165,000 patients through its over 1,000 employees, and last year completed nearly 1,000,000 patient visits.

Mrs. Curtis has consistently demonstrated her professionalism, dedication, and competency as an executive throughout her time leading UHC. She has been a constant source of stability and leadership, helping to guide the organization through unstable economic times and a global pandemic—all while continuing to expand and improve services for Central Valley residents. Her colleagues have described Mrs. Curtis as a "powerhouse in the healthcare industry" and I could not agree more.

I ask all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Colleen Curtis on her 20 years of success at United Health Centers and wishing her a happy and well-earned retirement.

HONORING SUPERVISOR DIANE DILLON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon in honor of her retirement and service to our community.

Ms. Dillon was born and grew up in Napa, California and graduated from Napa High School in 1970. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1975, a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1977 and a law degree from the University of California, Davis in 1981.

From 1981 to 2002, Ms. Dillon practiced law in Napa County, working as a partner with Coombs & Dunlap, LLP for eighteen years and specializing in estate planning, probate and trust administration. During this time, she also served as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Calistoga. In 2002, Ms. Dillon was elected to the Napa County Board of Supervisors to represent the 3rd District. Four years later, she became the first female supervisor in the Board's history to be re-elected.

As a supervisor, Ms. Dillon has worked tirelessly to promote conservation, support Napa County's agricultural community and limit the impact of wildfires. She helped establish the first countywide fire hazard abatement ordinance in California and increased interest in the Napa County Firewise Foundation. Ms. Dillon also successfully advocated for $1 billion in funding for wildfire prevention and management from the state legislature. In 2018, Ms. Dillon helped form the "Joint Local Governments," a movement led by Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties as well as the City of Santa Rosa to provide formal legal representation at the California Public Utilities Commission in response to PG&E action. In the face of unprecedented challenges including the 2015 Napa Earthquake, 2017 Northern California wildfires, 2020 LNU Lightning Complex fires and COVID–19 Pandemic, Ms. Dillon remained resolute in her commitment to help Napa County rebuild and recover.

Ms. Dillon has served on numerous boards and committees including the Rural County Representatives of California, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium. She is a member of the California Library Association, Rotary Club of St. Helena, Napa County Historical Society and a founder of California Women Lawyers, the largest association of women lawyers in the United States. Ms. Dillon is the proud wife of Bill Moseley and mother of Jake and Nick.

Madam Speaker, Supervisor Dillon is deeply appreciated for her decades of selfless service and commitment to the people of Napa County. Her efforts have made our county a safer and more enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING DR. KELLI WARD, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ARIZONA

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow doctor and the great chairwoman of the Republican Party of Arizona, Dr. Kelli Ward.

Kelli and I share a similar story. We got into medicine in order to help others lead healthier lives. The last thing on our minds was serving in politics. Around the same time—after seeing the disastrous fall into socialism after President Obama's first election, we both felt the call to defend and serve the people of the greatest country on Earth.

After a successful stint in the Arizona Senate and a near historic upset of Senator John McCain in the 2016 Republican Senate primary, Kelli set her sights on the chairmanship of the Arizona Republican party, winning in 2019 and earning reelection in 2021.

Kelli's tenure as chairwoman has been nothing short of spectacular. She led the charge in defiance of unconstitutional and abusive COVID–19 lockdowns and vaccine mandates. She was also one of the few activists willing to highlight and condemn the many instances of clear and significant voter fraud perpetrated in the 2020 elections. She even wrote a best-selling book about it. She also played an instrumental role in ensuring a successful audit of Maricopa County's disastrous election management.

Kelli created enthusiasm with our grass roots. She was relentless in her efforts to grow the party and register voters. She kept her politics conservative, but she gave her time liberally. She attended meetings across the state and kept a schedule few could match. She was tireless in her focus and getting the job done. Without her, many elections would have been lost and through her efforts she was able to stem otherwise insurmountable odds against candidates. In short, against difficult circumstances, she never gave up and helped many successful candidates.

Her work was noticed from the local chapters up to the White House. President Trump has Kelli on speed dial and seeks her counsel regularly.

I consider Kelli, and her husband Mike, friends. I hired their daughter Katie to work in my office. Like her parents, she was a joy to have. Lake Havasu and Arizona are blessed to have the talent and dedication of Kelli and Mike.

Like so many Americans—whether they be Steve Bannon, Michael Flynn, Mike Lindell, Mark Meadows, peaceful pro-life and election protestors, parents disgusted by sexual indoctrination, or even the former President, Kelli is facing persecution for her political beliefs through a Soviet-style weaponization of the federal justice system. It is wrong. It must end. But it will not tarnish the stellar reputation and career of Kelli Ward. My message is one that is unnecessary for a warrior like Kelli but I will say it anyway. Keep fighting. Her country needs her.

And thank you for all your work and sacrifice.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXIS SANCHEZ UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and

lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING STEVE LEONARD

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a great community leader and a dear friend to so many of us here in Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, Steve Leonard.

A native of Greenfield, Steve has been an active member of our community and his leadership will be forever missed. Steve retired from a nearly 40-year career at Eli Lilly a few years ago, and, until his passing, served as the Center Township Trustee and Chairman of the Hancock County Republican Party.

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Steve could tell of a friendship with a truly honorable, decent man whose kindness and generosity will not soon be forgotten. Even throughout his health battle, Steve never failed to put others first and remained a dependable leader who fulfilled his responsibilities with dignity and grace.

Steve's example will serve as a blessing to his family and continue to inspire those of us who had the honor of calling him a friend. Our prayers continue to be with Steve's family; his wife, Janet; sons, Steven and Bryan; and daughter, Kimberly.

It is my pleasure to honor my friend, Steve Leonard.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA MORRIS-LENT

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Morris-Lent.

Barbara's late husband, Norman F. Lent, served as a member of this body from 1971 to 1993. Barbara is a past President of the Republican Congressional Spouse Club and has served faithfully as Secretary-Treasurer for over 30 years.

Barbara worked for Verizon until her recent retirement and has served on the board of the Congressional Institute for many years. Barbara has also played a major role in the Auxiliary of the Former Members Association on behalf of the Republican Congressional Spouse Club, for which we are very grateful.

I thank Barbara for all her hard work and dedication to the Club. Her many years of service will fondly remembered by all who have had the pleasure of working alongside her to help make this institution all it can be.

RECOGNIZING BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE NELSON W. WOLFF

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff and his more than half a century of service to the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. Judge Wolff will step down from his position at the end of this year. I would like to congratulate him on a highly distinguished career and wish him the very best in the next chapter of his life.

Judge Wolff was first elected to public office in 1971 when he won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives. He would then be elected to the Texas Senate and the San Antonio City Council before serving as Mayor of San Antonio from 1991 to 1995. He was appointed Bexar County Judge in 2001, a position he would be elected to five times.

Throughout his decades in public service, Judge Wolff has spearheaded efforts to strengthen economic and workforce development, improve public services, invest in public education, and build out critical infrastructure. He helped found our nation's first all-digital public library, established a $1 million fund to spur growth in the local tech sector, and paved the way for the San Antonio Missions to receive a UNESCO designation.

As Bexar County Judge, Judge Wolff has been a tireless advocate for public safety. He has paired strong investments in law enforcement with commonsense criminal justice reforms aimed at helping those with mental health and drug dependency issues.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I would like to congratulate Judge Wolff once again on a well-deserved retirement and thank him for his decades of service. It is an honor to call him not only a colleague, but a friend. I wish Judge Wolff, his wife Tracy, and his six children all the best in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN KIMBERLY HEISER UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service. dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING JUDGE RICHARD BALL UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, it is with the utmost appreciation for his distinguished career and life of service that I rise today to honor Judge Richard Ball of East Lansing. After three decades on the bench and nearly 20 years of service in the Michigan National Guard, I extend my congratulations to Judge Ball on his retirement and express my deep gratitude to him for his tireless efforts to preserve and promote justice and equality in Michigan, particularly in the veteran community.

Judge Ball, a proud graduate of Michigan State University and Thomas Cooley Law School, began dedicating himself to the public good shortly after completing his undergraduate degree in 1972, when he joined the Michigan National Guard. During his 19 years with the Guard, he completed law school and began working in private practice, and also rose to the rank of Major, serving as a Staff Judge Advocate General. In 1993, Judge Ball was elected to the East Lansing 54B Circuit Court, where he has served for nearly 30 years.

As a veteran himself, Judge Ball was quick to recognize that military life has many lasting effects on those who serve, and in 2013 he began serving as the presiding judge for the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court. This model speciality court is a program that promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability for veterans by coordinating treatment and combining it with accountability based on the veteran's specific needs. During his time on the bench, this program has provided direct services for nearly 250 local veterans, indirect services for dozens more, and sports a remarkable graduation rate of 82 percent.

In his nearly 50 years of public and community service, Judge Ball has been a beacon of light for so many in the veteran community. His unshakable belief in the principles of fairness, justice, and compassion have served as

an inspiring example to all. I am so grateful for his lifetime of advocacy, leadership, and service, and his passion for helping veterans in need. I extend my best wishes for happiness, health, and many Spartan victories in his retirement. The legacy of his life of service, his exemplary career, and his compassion for the plight of those who serve will live on in the hearts and lives of all those he reached, in the foundation he built with the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, and here, in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING DR. ALINA ALONSO

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alina Alonso, a distinguished and fearless health care leader. I thank her as she retires as Director of the Florida Health Department of Palm Beach County and wish her great joy on her next journey.

Dr. Alonso has served Palm Beach County for over 33 years, including as its Director of our Health Department for the last 13. Using her training in Bio-Chemical Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction, she handled the first inhalation of anthrax case in recent U.S. history. More recently, Dr. Alonso selflessly guided our community through the darkest days of the COVID–19 pandemic, setting up testing, treatment, and vaccination sites throughout Palm Beach County, working closely with local leaders, and reaching underserved areas.

Since becoming Director of the Health Department in 2009, Dr. Alonso has overseen the operations of one of the largest county health departments in the State of Florida. With over 720 employees, the Palm Beach County Health Department provides a full range of primary and preventative services to seven health centers located throughout Palm Beach County. Epidemiology, Communicable Disease Control, and Emergency Preparedness are a few Public Health services offered by the Health Department, making it a nationally recognized academic organization in a class by itself.

Dr. Alonso proudly combines her Cuban heritage and her experience and training in Mexico and Central America to stay active in patients' rights advocacy, minority health issues, cultural diversity, population health, and health equity. As an immigrant from Cuba, she has stated that being an immigrant was a push to keep reaching higher. Dr. Alonso has won numerous awards and recognitions in her many years of Public Health service. In March 2022, she was named one of USA Today's ''Women of the Year.''

Dr. Alonso's dedication to health care access and her service to the people of South Florida is truly admirable. I feel blessed to have worked with her and to get to know her beautiful heart and see first-hand her dedication and excellence. I am proud to honor her today, thank her for her service, and wish her the very best for a future filled with great health and happiness.

HONORING MAYOR MARK LANDMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Landman of Cotati, California in honor of his retirement and thirteen years as a council member and mayor.

Mr. Landman was born in San Francisco, California. Following his graduation from the College of Marin, where he studied Fire Science, Mr. Landman completed a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic Program at Stanford University. As one of the first ten paramedics in Marin County, Mr. Landman worked in the fire service for decades, serving as Chair of the Marin Paramedic Advisory Committee,Vice President of Novato Professional Firefighters and on the National Fire Protection Association Contract Negotiation Team.

In 2008, Mr. Landman was elected to the Cotati City Council. During his tenure, Mr. Landman led efforts to reduce speeding, keep out-of-town trucks from using local roads and renovate the Cotati Rose Garden. His steadfast support of the Cotati Police Department has significantly enhanced community safety and his commitment to careful spending has led to a balanced budget for more than a decade. As chair of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, he played a key role in expanding Highway 101 and paved the way for countless other projects. Mr. Landman was an important figure in Cotati being the first city in Sonoma County to transition its police fleet to all electric vehicles. Mr. Landman is a three-time Mayor of Cotati, former Local Agency Formation Commissioner and a 2015 Cotati ''Citizen of the Year''.

In addition to his work as a public servant, Mr. Landman has been a prominent supporter of many nonprofits and local organizations. As Chair of the Russian River Watershed Association, he helped bring safe medicines to the region and remove unused pills from watersheds across Sonoma County. He has also served on the boards of the Cotati Arts Program and Sonoma Clean Power.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mayor Landman for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Cotati. His efforts have made Cotati a safer, greener and more prosperous city. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MARIO HERNANDEZ UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Mario Hernandez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Mario Hernandez epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Mario Hernandez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING GILLETTE CHILDREN'S SPECIALTY HEALTHCARE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare of Saint Paul, Minnesota on its 125th anniversary of providing world class, compassionate care for children and their families.

Founders Jessie Haskins and Dr. Arthur Gillette recognized the need for a place where children with disabilities could receive state-of-the-art care made specifically for their needs. In 1897, the Minnesota legislature created what would later become Gillette Children's Hospital, the first institution in the United States to focus exclusively on treating children with disabilities. Today, Gillette is celebrating 125 years of outstanding, groundbreaking treatment of children in our community and from around the world.

Gillette Children's serves an important calling in our state and nation. By focusing on what a child is capable of, rather than the ways they are limited, Gillette Children's makes the difference in how a child will recover and grow after receiving care. In its 125 years of existence, Gillette Children's has improved the lives of countless children and their families from around the world.

Gillette Children's is not just a hospital. It is a special place that fosters a healing environment for its patients and their families. By providing care through adulthood, Gillette Children's creates deep and meaningful bonds between the children, physicians, staff, and volunteers that last a lifetime. This unique approach to treatment is one of the many reasons why Gillette Children's stands out as an

extraordinary example of excellence in care and community stewardship.

Gillette Children's provides modern care in an ever-changing world. By remaining on the cutting edge of technology, Gillette Children's stands alone in its ability to treat young patients who experience the most complex, traumatic, and rare conditions. When a child is referred to Gillette Children's, it is because they require specialized care by top experts in the field, and each patient receives nothing less. Through the COVID–19 pandemic, Gillette Children's remained steadfast in their commitment to treating patients in a safe environment, pausing procedures when necessary and now proudly offering vaccines for the youngest and most vulnerable Minnesotans.

Since its founding, Gillette Children's has structured its care model around each child's specific needs, bringing together experts from many areas to address these needs at once—sometimes even in one visit. Each child's emotional wellbeing remains at the core of Gillette Children's approach to care, and we are so fortunate to have a committed, compassionate care center in our backyard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the 125th anniversary of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare for all that it does to improve the lives of children.

HONORING FRANKIE HARDAWAY

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Frankie Hardaway. Frankie was a community-oriented woman who led a fulfilling life and broke barriers in her career.

Frankie was born on March 29, 1934, in Augusta, GA to Alonso and Alma Gadley. She moved to Philadelphia, PA with her family in 1942. Frankie graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1953 and became a Practical Nurse. She married Lucius Hardaway in 1956 and together they had three sons.

In 1977, Frankie joined Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) as a trolley operator. In 1982, she completed a month-long training program and became the company's first female train operator. SEPTA described her as a ''legend'', she was a trailblazer in her field. She faced many obstacles during her training period. She handled them with dignity and class and became a well-respected peer amongst the train-operator community. Mrs. Hardaway retired form SEPTA in 1999 having held a groundbreaking career. She understood that being the first in her field would be difficult but an important task to ensure opportunities for those who would follow.

Outside of her career with SEPTA, Frankie was an established businesswoman who owned a dry-cleaning business with her husband, she was a seamstress and worked for the Internal Revenue Service performing data entry tasks. In her spare time, Frankie loved to read and stay active and engaged in the community.

Frankie passed away on November 10, 2022, peacefully at home surrounded by family. She was a loving matriarch, friend and relative who exuded a generous spirit and devotion to others. The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania mourns with her family and extends our sincere appreciation to her accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program Act. This bill would permanently authorize funding for the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program, which provides tuition and other financial assistance for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard, which is an exclusively federal entity.

This program and bill are named for Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, who, along with his wife, Ann, and seven others were tragically killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line on June 22, 2009. I renamed this bill after Major General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me for many years to get funding for this program, and because of his devotion to D.C. youth and to the D.C. National Guard.

This program was recommended by Major General Wherley and his successor at the D.C. National Guard, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of D.C. National Guard members to other units, including National Guards in surrounding states that offer assistance for higher education to their members. I am grateful that Congress has consistently provided funding for this program, most recently $600,000 in fiscal year 2022. Permanently authorizing this program will help ensure that members of the D.C. National Guard receive the same benefits as members of other National Guards and help the D.C. National Guard recruit and retain members.

This program not only benefits D.C. National Guard members, the great majority of whom live in Maryland or Virginia, but also helps the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence in D.C.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN DENIECE LOBBAN UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Deniece Lobban of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Deniece Lobban epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Deniece Lobban of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE BUTLER, JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Lawrence Butler, Jr. was born in Natchez, Mississippi on November 25th to Ellen Shaw Butler and Lawrence Butler, Sr. He was the only son and the youngest of three children. He had two sisters: Clara Butler Watts and Regina Butler Davis. The family attended Greater Fatherland Baptist Church.

After attending Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he moved to Chicago, where he lived with his Uncle Harrison Shaw. Lawrence fell in love with Chicago and got busy making a life for himself in the Windy City. He began working as a bus driver for the Chicago Transit Authority but was drafted into the Army where he served as a military policeman. After serving his country, he returned to Chicago and joined the Chicago Police Department. He wore the badge with pride and honor for 34 years and enjoyed protecting and giving back to the city that he so cherished.

Lawrence's life truly began when he met and fell in love with a beautiful young lady by the name of Beverly. Lawrence and Beverly married on September 21, 1975. Shortly afterwards, Beverly and Lawrence purchased what would become their family home a beautiful old Victoria in the historical Austin Schock District.

Lawrence would spend the next several years working alongside his father-in-law to lovingly restore every square inch of the home

to the point of surpassing its former beauty. The house truly became a home when Beverly and Lawrence welcomed their first daughter, Mary-Ellen, soon followed by their second daughter, Hilaree.

His greatest source of pride was being the ever-present, unshakable force driving his family to excel. He lovingly encouraged and supported his wife as she advanced in her education and career. He set the bar of achievement high for his two daughters and challenged them to continue to push forward to reach even greater heights. Lawrence instilled a strong sense of self-worth in his children and constantly reminded his wife and daughters that the only limits to their successes would be those that they imposed on themselves.

Lawrence had a strong sense of humor and loved engaging in philosophical conversations. He was a free thinker who loved music and had an unyielding appreciation for the arts and creative expression. Lawrence laughed often and loved deeply. He was fixture in his community and the heartbeat of his family

Lawrence was called home to eternity on November 6, 2022. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Sr. and Ellen.; and eldest sister, Clara; father-in-law, Nelroy; and other treasured loved ones. His memory will live on and be cherished by his loving wife of 47 years, his daughters, Hilaree and Mary-Ellen, his son-in-law Julio; and a host of loved ones.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MICHELLE ROMAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Michelle Roman for her 11 years of service on the Kingsburg City Council and congratulate her on her retirement.

A lifelong California resident, Mrs. Roman moved her family to Kingsburg in 1999. It was after her move that she truly discovered her passion for helping her community. As her children grew older and the encouragement of her friends and family members grew stronger, she decided to run for City Council to give the children and families of Kingsburg a voice in the local government.

Mrs. Roman has now been on the Kingsburg City Council for over a decade, passionately advocating for her community. Not only has she represented her district, but she has also served as both the Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor of Kingsburg—the first woman to hold either position. In her role as Mayor of Kingsburg, Mrs. Roman served as the public face of Kingsburg, presided over City Council meetings, and continually fought to improve her community in any way she could.

Under her leadership, Kingsburg has seen incredible development. From building the city's first skateboard park to founding the Kingsburg Youth Council, to helping enact city policies that attract businesses to her community, Mrs. Roman has played a key role in improving the lives of Kingsburg residents. During the COVID–19 pandemic, she was an essential liaison between State and County officials and helped to secure grants that saved local businesses as well as a vaccination clinic that helped to save many lives.

Mrs. Roman has been a true public servant for her community and has repeatedly demonstrated her commitment to making Kingsburg a safe, prosperous, and welcoming place to call home. I wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Michelle Roman for all she has accomplished during her 11 years of service to the City of Kingsburg.

HONORING MAYOR GEOFF ELLSWORTH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Geoff Ellsworth in honor of his outstanding service to the people of St. Helena, California.

Mr. Ellsworth was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in St. Helena. After graduating from Justin-Siena High School in Napa, he attended the University of Oregon, and worked with his parents Bob and Pheobe Ellsworth at their winery supply company, Compleat Winemaker. Mr. Ellsworth was elected to the St. Helena City Council in 2016 and became Mayor in 2018.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Ellsworth has led St. Helena through unprecedented challenges including devastating wildfires and the COVID–19 emergency. In response, Mr. Ellsworth worked with PG&E to build new transmission lines, supported a restructuring of the city's fire department and enhanced social services during the pandemic. With his help, the city also established internal financial controls, advanced a comprehensive housing strategy and the city also passed the General Plan after more than a decade of delays. Mr. Ellsworth worked with the City Council to ensure they continued awarding $200,000 annually to non-profits that supported the city's most vulnerable residents.

Mr. Ellsworth has represented St. Helena as a member of the Napa County League of Governments, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority, and the Napa County Watershed Information Center and Conservancy. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and committees including the League of California Cities, the Napa County City Selection Committee, and the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Outside of his work as a civil servant, Mr. Ellsworth is a renowned artist and musician of over 30 years, having traveled across the United States. He loves being around animals, is an avid reader, and is a frequent volunteer with local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Ellsworth for his commitment to the people of St. Helena. His efforts have made our community a safer, greener, and more enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW WILLIAMS UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Matthew Williams epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7043–S7087

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5211–5230, S. Res. 864–868, and S. Con. Res. 50. **Pages S7070–71**

Measures Reported:

S. 4399, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government. **Page S7070**

Measures Passed:

Removal of the Taney Bust: Senate passed S. 5229, to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to remove the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol and to obtain a bust of Thurgood Marshall for installation in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds. **Pages S7079–80**

Billy's Law: Senate passed S. 5230, to increase accessibility to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. **Pages S7080–81**

Equal Pay for Team USA Act: Senate passed S. 2333, to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7081–82**

Celebrating the Heritage of Romani Americans: Senate agreed to S. Res. 124, celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to the preamble. **Pages S7082–83**

Dr. Joanne Smith Memorial Rehabilitation Innovation Centers Act of 2022: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 2834, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7083**

Cardin (for Durbin/Cassidy) Amendment No. 6509, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7083**

Congressional Gold Medal: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 310, to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation, and the bill was then passed. **Page S7083**

National Co-Op Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 866, expressing support for the designation of October 2022 as ''National Co-Op Month'' and commending the cooperative business model and the member-owners, businesses, employees, farmers, ranchers, and practitioners who use the cooperative business model to positively impact the economy and society. **Pages S7083–84**

Death of Alan R. Parker: Senate agreed to S. Res. 867, relating to the death of the Alan R. Parker, former Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate. **Page S7084**

Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 868, expressing support for the designation of September 2022 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease. **Page S7084**

Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7535, to encourage the migration of Federal Government information technology systems to quantum-resistant cryptography, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7084–85**

Cardin (for Hassan) Amendment No. 6510, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7084–85**

North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 4216, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7085–87**

Cardin (for Rubio) Amendment No. 6511, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7085–87**

Montgomery-Reeves Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. **Pages S7047, S7047–52**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 385), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7047**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Monday, December 12, 2022, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture; and that at 5:30 p.m., all post-cloture time be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S7085**

Douglas Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S7052–63**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 63 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. EX. 386), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S7052**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture debate time on the nomination be considered expired, and the vote on confirmation of the nomination be at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S7063**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 64 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 384), Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. **Pages S7043–47**

Shailen P. Bhatt, of Michigan, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

14 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Coast Guard and Foreign Service. **Pages S7063–64**

Messages from the House: **Page S7067**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7067–70**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7070**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7071–72**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7072–75**

Additional Statements: **Page S7067**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7075–79**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—386) **Pages S7047, S7052**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 5:41 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7085.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Robert Stewart Ballou, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Kymberly Kathryn Evanson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Myong J. Joun, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Colleen R. Lawless, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, and Henry C. Leventis, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, Michael D. Black, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, and Catrina A. Thompson, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina, all of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 23 public bills, H.R. 9462–9484; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 101; H. Con. Res. 121–123; and H. Res. 1512–1515, were introduced. **Pages H8872–74**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8874–75**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 7242, to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–609);

H.R. 7636, to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most lifecycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–610);

H.R. 7789, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–611);

H. Res. 1456, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the conclusion of the Department of State on whether Marc Fogel is wrongfully detained, adversely (H. Rept. 117–612); and

H. Res. 1482, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Congressionally appropriated funds to the nation of Ukraine from January 20, 2021 to November 15, 2022, adversely (H. Rept. 117–613). **Page H8872**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Torres to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8825**

Respect for Marriage Act: The House agreed to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 8404), to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, by a yea-and-nay vote of 258 yeas to 169 nays with one answering ''present'', Roll No. 513. Representative Cicilline moved to table the Perlmutter motion to reconsider the vote by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 514, and the Cicilline motion was agreed to. Subsequently, the bill was passed. **Pages H8827–38, H8838–39**

H. Res. 1510, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 8404) was agreed to yesterday, December 7th.

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Roy motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 129 yeas to 227 nays, Roll No. 515. **Page H8839**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, with an amendment: H. Res. 1512, providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, with an amendment, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 350 yeas to 80 nays, Roll No. 516. **Pages H8840–53**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, December 5th.

Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act: S. 1617, to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 517. **Pages H8853–54**

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 7776: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 121, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 7776. **Page H8854**

Senate Referrals: S. 3316 was held at the desk. S. 4577 was held at the desk. **Page H8853**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H8853.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8837–38, H8838–39, H8839, H8853, and H8854.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

E, S, G AND W: EXAMINING PRIVATE SECTOR DISCLOSURE OF WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT, AND DIVERSITY DATA

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets held a hearing entitled ''E, S, G and W: Examining Private Sector Disclosure of Workforce Management, Investment, and Diversity Data''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNDUE INFLUENCE: 'OPERATION HIGHER COURT' AND POLITICKING AT SCOTUS

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Undue Influence: 'Operation Higher Court' and Politicking at SCOTUS''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3681, the ''Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2021''; H.R. 5522, the ''Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2021''; H.R. 6032, the ''Katimiîn and Ameekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act''; H.R. 6427, the ''Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act''; H.R. 6611, to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes; H.R. 6720, to authorize the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 6964, to authorize leases of up to 99 years for lands held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; H.R. 7615, the ''LODGE Act''; H.R. 7918, the ''Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2022''; H.R. 7952, the ''Valley Forge Park Realignment Permit and Promise Act''; H.R. 8115, the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Tribal Parity Act''; and S. 314, the ''Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act''. H.R. 6032, H.R. 6427, H.R. 6611, H.R. 7615, H.R. 7918, and H.R. 7952 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3681, H.R. 5522, H.R. 6720, H.R. 6964, H.R. 7952, H.R. 8115, and S. 314 were ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

DEMINING UKRAINE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on demining Ukraine from Michael Tirre, Program Manager for Europe, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Department of State; Todd Biggs, Tetra Tech; and Tony Connell, Swiss Foundation for De-mining.

RUSSIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE TERRORISTS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on Russia's infrastructure terrorists from Oleksandra Azarkhina, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member and Chairperson, Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be a Member and Vice Chairperson, and Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be a Member, all of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Kimberly Ann McClain, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 5:30 p.m., S–219, Capitol.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, December 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, December 12

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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