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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLAUDIA TENNEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

REMEMBERING LIN BREHMER, A CHICAGO TREASURE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, almost 11 years ago today, I spoke on the anniversary of two Chicago treasures: Radio station WXRT and one of its beloved hosts, Lin Brehmer.

This weekend, we lost Lin at the age of 68 after a long battle with cancer. Lin was a Chicago icon, a poet, a Renaissance man, and a friend. For my colleagues who have not lived in Chicago, let me explain.

In the movie, ''Almost Famous,'' there is a scene where the protagonist's oldest sister has left her record collection, and she tells him, ''Look under your bed. It will set you free.'' That is what XRT did for us in Chicago and that is what Lin did for me and so many Chicagoans.

Before XRT, AM radio, a dry, repetitive desert was our only option for music. After XRT, we were transformed. It became a 24-hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked us to a new world. XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to see Steve Goodman and my first concert at the Aragon Ballroom to see Mott the Hoople and the New York Dolls, not to mention other famous haunts like the Metro, the Vic, Checkerboard Lounge, to see greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxy Music, and so many others.

When Lin became the music director at WXRT in 1984, he helped introduce us to new music, new genres, and new emotions. Today, when so much of music is driven by algorithms and data, it can be difficult to imagine a time when a station could often be steered by a single man's eclectic tastes, but that is what Lin did. He played what he wanted to hear, and somehow, he always knew what the city needed to hear.

He opened my eyes to the true power of music. He taught me that music can show you new worlds, can help you understand new perspectives. It can often soothe during difficult times and inspire you to explore what you never considered exploring before.

Lin Brehmer was my friend, but I recognize that I am far from the only one who could claim that coveted title. He was born a New Yorker and began his radio career filling in at his university's student-run station during the summer.

The first song he ever performed was The Beatles' ''Within You Without You.'' Later, he would explain that he chose it because ''I have always felt that life flows within you, but most of all without you.''

At Albany's WQBK-FM, he became known as the ''Reverend of Rock 'n' Roll'' for his penchant for reciting poetry during song introductions. Lin came to Chicago in 1984 to become the music director, and his taste left an indelible mark on the station and on the entire city.

He hosted the morning drive for more than 30 years talking to thousands of Chicagoans over the years on their daily commutes. He loved the Cubs, Chicago's music, theater, and dining, and he shared those loves with us.

From Lin, we learned about the best restaurants in the city. We shared in the Cubs' wins and often losses, and gained new perspectives from his essays in ''Lin's Bin,'' a rare combination of nostalgia, humor, empathy, kindness, and spirituality.

I was honored to have lunch with Lin at some of Chicago's most iconic locales like Manny's and Ann Sather's, and to have spent a memorable Cubs' game at his side.

As he himself described, he regularly went out in his ''eating pants,'' an outfit with enough give to accommodate another Chicago meal at places like the Wiener's Circle.

Last July, he shared with his listeners that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and began a leave of absence to undergo treatment. This November, I know I wasn't the only Chicagoan who was delighted when he briefly returned to the airwaves.

Now, during his time at WXRT, he was named music director of the year three times and was voted the music director of the decade by readers of the

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Hard Report. He was so much more than a radio host. He was Chicago's best friend in the whole world.

When something big happened, Chicago would turn to Lin for his take on the events. Whether celebration or tragedy, he knew what to say. Now in the wake of his loss, we turn to the dial wanting.

He was married to his college sweetheart, Sara, and they shared a son, Wilson. They were both by his side in his final moments. My thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family and with all Chicagoans as we mourn his loss.

In closing, as Lin always reminded us, never take anything for granted. It is great to be alive.

FOOD SECURITY

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, today I address something that is near and dear to everyone's heart, and that is food security.

One of my biggest concerns right now, as I have become educated on the things that concern Americans, is the fact that all around the world right now, we are facing food shortages. A lot of this is created by our own actions.

If you look in Ukraine right now, you have food rotting in bins because of a war. The breadbasket of Europe is not going to be producing crops in the next year because of the war.

In China, you have massive pollution which is contaminating their agricultural output.

Meanwhile, you have countries like India that are reliant on foreign fertilizer that are going to be choked off because of the environmental movement.

You have the Netherlands and Germany reducing their nitrates in their fertilizers, which they haven't done since World War I, which created a famine back then.

In the United States, we have a third of our chickens and our eggs that are being reduced because of Avian Flu.

Meanwhile, we are allowing Chinese nationals and billionaires to buy up millions of acres of farmland. This is concerning for many reasons. If we thought that the pandemic was a reason for government to overreach, if we thought that that was going to be a crisis, imagine what it would be like if we ran out of food, if we have food shortages.

When you realize that we had people panicking over toilet paper, imagine what they will do when they panic when our cupboards are bare. This could be a worldwide reason for war.

It is also another reason for government to increase their control. There is always a reason for people to turn to the government to solve the problems that the government created; and that is my main concern today, to be something proactive rather than reactive.

We see it coming. We can see that any foreign national country could come up with a virus to contaminate our livestock or even our crops; and yet, we are doing nothing to proactively make sure that Chinese nationals can't buy farmland in America; that billionaires can't buy millions of acres of farmland and artificially increase prices during a food shortage.

We, as Congress, need to be proactive. We need to reach out and make sure we are doing things to strategically protect our food resources, both here and abroad.

We need to fight back this idea that the environmental movement shouldn't use fertilizer, shouldn't produce agriculture; shouldn't be having foresight to protect human life over all else.

Madam Speaker, I propose that Congress is realistic in the way we allow people to purchase. I am all for a free market. I am all for allowing people to sell to who they want to; but always with the idea that America still comes first, and Americans are protected in the process; that we don't turn to the government to solve the problem that we are creating, and that we don't allow foreign nationals to affect our food supply because this would be catastrophic, both here and abroad, and would lead to wars, as we have seen over and over through the history of this world.

ONWARD ABRAMS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the delivery of Abrams tanks to our European allies, including Ukraine. Let us fulfill any backup supply to assure NATO can check aggression by Russia anywhere on that continent.

Liberty for Ukraine needs no Neville Chamberlain moments. Delivering Abrams tanks will help Ukraine push toward victory sooner rather than later. Liberty's mission must be victory.

Russia's cruel and unprovoked war on Ukraine has produced a nation soaked in blood from one end to the other. Putin views weakness and appeasement as a recipe for failure.

Across Ohio, which I am privileged to represent, and the Great Lakes region, our fellow citizens and families have survived and often, too often, have fled oppression in central Europe at the hands of a predatory Russia.

We know the price of liberty. Our patriotic men and women in the United Auto Workers proudly manufacture the Abrams tank in Lima, Ohio. They guard liberty every day.

Our workers build the finest equipment in the world, so critical to victory. Americans know what brave Ukrainians are fighting for and against.

Hasn't enough innocent blood been spilled already?

Onward Abrams.

FAIRFAX FAILURE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I was appalled to learn that multiple schools in Fairfax County, Virginia, withheld National Merit Scholarship commendation award letters from hundreds of students. This is a problem.

When political ideology stands in the way of students' success, it is a problem. When the pursuit of so-called equity starts harming students, it is a problem. When school bureaucrats hold students back to hide their own failures, it is a problem.

The education bureaucracy failed these students. These students deserve to be rewarded for their hard work, and these students deserve an education system that will lift them up, not try to keep them down.

These school administrators were trusted with the future of these students, and they broke that trust. Shame on them.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, one silver lining of the pandemic is that it pushed more high school students to take dual enrollment classes.

With the ever-rising cost of postsecondary education, dual enrollment programs are a great way for high school students to save on college costs. These programs allow advanced students to get a head start on their futures.

This is the case at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama, where high schoolers made up a third of the student body, according to NPR. These students are benefiting from extensive State expansion of a dual enrollment program. The more education innovation we have, the better.

Madam Speaker, we know that if a high school student takes at least one college-level course, that student is three times more likely to graduate from college than if the student didn't take a course.

We should give students as many opportunities as possible to shape their own education experience, and encouraging dual enrollment is one great way to do just that.

□ 1015

FILLING THE SKILLS GAP

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is no wonder we have a skills gap. For decades, people have been told that a bachelor's degree is the only path to a successful career. As a result, fewer and fewer young people are choosing to learn skilled trades.

Without skilled professionals, who will repair our roads, homes, and cars? We need these men and women who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty.

Yet, applications for technical jobs dropped by almost 50 percent over the last 2 years.

With a potential looming recession for those holding office jobs, many might be disappointed they missed out on learning a high-skilled trade. Fortunately, it isn't too late. Many open technical jobs pay a six-figure salary, and businessowners are struggling to fill them.

If I had to give young people advice today, it would be to consider learning a high-skilled trade.

LOOMING DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I was very encouraged with today's reports that the Republican leadership is planning to teach their Members about how the debt ceiling works. This is a very good sign, especially after the embarrassing first week with 15 votes to elect a Speaker, and the House leadership ending up exactly where it started. Unfortunately, the leadership is hallowed out, but they have empowered the exact same element or any other faction who want to hold the Speaker hostage.

But there is a key difference going forward. They are playing games with the full faith and credit of the United States, which is underpinning the global economy. Note, the debt ceiling is not just a way station on the way to a full government shutdown. While government shutdowns have real costs and consequences, the debt ceiling has massive ramifications that you cannot unwind.

This game of chicken with the global economy is very much more consequential. You can recover from the shutdown. But the Trump attacks on professionals, for example, drove thousands of people out of government service, and it is going to take years and millions of dollars to repair. These implementations of political slogans have real consequences.

In the end, I suspect we will be right where we started. The only way to reduce the deficit, to balance the budget books, is to actually reduce government spending, which they refused to do in the Trump administration when they were in total control of the government. They instead had a huge increase in the deficit. There were, of course, tax cuts that were a part of that, unfunded, and there was a major spike in military spending.

My friend, Hal Harvey, a leader in climate science, is fond of saying that you can't refute science, math, and economics. That is exactly the situation that my Republican friends are facing with this game of chicken with the debt ceiling.

There is no gimmick, there is no commission, and there is no slogan that avoids the painful truth that you actually have to reduce spending. There are real things we could do.

I would suggest any Member could avail themselves of a secret weapon that is in each and every one of our districts. There are amazing young people who are involved with civics, with leadership congresses, with the efforts to understand how government works. I think we ought to employ them. They understand the dynamic: Cut spending, raise taxes, or just collect the taxes that are due and owing, which would be hundreds of billions of dollars. Unless and until we do this, all the rest is simply meaningless slogans and posturing, unfortunately with real risks of threatening the full faith and credit of the United States.

My friends have no alternative to the borrowing, and I am afraid that we are going to end up going through this meaningless exercise, agitating ourselves, confusing the public, and losing an opportunity to make real progress, improving the budgeting process, and making the tax system more effective to just collect the taxes that are already due and owing, which we are ignoring.

I strongly encourage the process that my Republican friends are involved with in terms of educating Members about the impacts of the debt ceiling, and I hope that we are able to come together to deal with the realities of what that implies.

RECOGNIZING STATE-OF-THE-ART UGA POULTRY SCIENCE BUILDING

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the creation of a state-of-the-art poultry science building at my alma mater, the University of Georgia.

In the State of Georgia, the poultry industry contributes an annual $21.5 billion to our State's economy. The industry also generates an annual $2.1 billion in Federal tax revenue. The poultry industry is vital to not only the State of Georgia but also the country. That is why I am proud to recognize the University of Georgia for building a brand-new poultry science building on their campus.

This $54.1 million facility will feature new classrooms, research labs, and learning labs. These new labs will enhance the traditional classroom experience by offering students opportunities to learn in a fieldwork setting. These facilities are vital for preparing students as they enter the poultry industry.

I know this new project will serve the students at the university and the people of Georgia's First District well.

GEORGIA AMONG LEED-CERTIFIED TOP 10

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State of Georgia for being a top 10 finisher in the country last year for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified green buildings.

The United States Green Building Council has been working hard to create a healthier, more sustainable, and resilient world through LEED, and its annual ranking is an opportunity to recognize everyone working toward that goal.

Buildings that are LEED certified create healthier spaces for people, use fewer resources, reduce carbon emissions, and improve efficiency while providing operational cost savings.

Georgia is a leader in green building and ranks sixth out of the top 10 States. 2022 saw growth in green building and sustainability, and I am proud that Georgia is at the forefront of building a healthier, more sustainable future.

I thank all the building professionals who helped our State achieve this ranking.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Georgia Ports Authority for handling nearly 6 million 20-foot containers in 2022. In 2022 alone, the Georgia Ports Authority had a 5 percent increase in container handling.

Collaborative effort across Georgia's supply chain ensured that cargo movement remained a top priority during a very challenging year.

The Port of Savannah achieved 4 of its top 5 months for container volume in 2022, with trade volumes peaking in August at an all-time high of 575,500 20-foot containers.

With the renovation of Berth 1 at Garden City Terminal, the 90-acre Garden City Terminal West expansion, and the transition of Ocean Terminal to an all-container facility, the Port of Savannah is set to increase annual capacity from 6 million to 7.5 million 20-foot containers.

I congratulate the GPA on this wonderful accomplishment.

HONORING RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY ISAIAH CORDERO

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fallen hero, Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Isaiah Cordero, who gave his life serving our community.

Every day, our law enforcement officers put on their uniforms, kiss their loved ones good-bye, and go to work not knowing if they will come home.

On December 29, 2022, Deputy Cordero put on his uniform, said good-bye to his loved ones, and went to work that day to protect and serve. That afternoon, he was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty during what should have been a routine traffic stop.

Now, a family mourns a loved one, our local law enforcement grieves a brother, and our community lost a guardian, protector, and friend.

Deputy Cordero's service began with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a correctional deputy on May

5, 2014. From the start, he was a hardworking, loyal colleague who led by example and wanted his partners to succeed.

As a correctional deputy, he worked on cases at the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility and the Indio jail. Later, he was promoted to deputy sheriff after completing training with the 204th Basic Academy.

When he was transferred to the Jurupa Valley Station, Deputy Cordero achieved his goal to serve as a motor deputy. He had served in his dream job for only 3 months before his death at just 32 years old.

Our community will remember Deputy Cordero as a selfless public servant who gave his life for our safety. His mother, Rebecca; father, Gilbert; stepbrother; loved ones; and friends will cherish his memory as a good man, devoted son, and loving uncle who brought a smile to everyone's face and as a kind soul who was quiet, polite, and humble, a ray of sunshine who loved motorcycles, cars, and punk rock.

Together, as a community, let us honor his legacy, and together, as a Nation, let us salute his courage, remember his sacrifice, and show our appreciation for his fellow brothers and sisters who wear the badge, continuing to protect and serve every day.

MEMORIALIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPUTY DARNELL CALHOUN

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to memorialize the life and legacy of Riverside County Sheriff's Department Deputy Darnell Calhoun.

Our communities were shattered again by a tragic loss. On January 13, 2023, Deputy Calhoun was fatally shot while responding to a domestic violence incident in Lake Elsinore, California. He was just 30 years old.

He was born in Pomona and grew up in Murrieta, California, where he worked at his family's restaurant, Calhoun's Texas Family Barbeque.

In 2019, Deputy Calhoun began his career in law enforcement with the San Diego Police Department, where he served for 3 years. He then joined the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to be closer to his family.

You see, that is the thing about Deputy Calhoun. If there is one word to describe him, it is devoted: devoted to our community, devoted to his church, and, above all, devoted to his family.

He loved being a dad and raising his growing family with his wife, Vanessa. It is all he ever wanted.

For his children, Russell, Troy, and Malcolm, who is on the way; your children; my children; and everyone's children, Deputy Calhoun worked every day to make the world a better and safer place for us all.

A fixture in the community, Deputy Calhoun could often be found at Covenant Grace Church, serving brisket at his family's restaurant, or out with the people, leading the way on community policing.

He was an Eagles fan, a good man with a servant's heart who lived to serve, and a courageous deputy who put his life on the line for our safety.

As the Calhoun family, fellow Riverside County Sheriff's Department officers, and our entire local law enforcement community carries the heavy burden of grief, anguish, and sorrow with Deputy Calhoun's passing, we must fulfill our solemn duty to honor and respect his service.

Today, residents of Riverside County mourn the tragic loss of two fallen officers in the sheriff's department within 15 days of each other.

Madam Speaker, I ask everyone present on the House floor today to join me in a moment of silence for Deputy Calhoun, Deputy Cordero, their families, and every fallen officer who has answered the call, put their lives on the line, and sacrificed themselves for our safety.

□ 1030

OUR BRIGHTEST DAYS ARE YET TO COME

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss my plans for representing the Big First District in the 118th Congress.

As I have said on this House floor before, the Big First is the geographic center and the pilot light of America because there, the values that make America great are still alive and well: faith, family, freedom, and personal responsibility. We are farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, businessowners, lenders, bankers, teachers, doctors, nurses, and parents.

My job is to serve and advocate for the people of the Big First, which is why I am excited and grateful to have been appointed to the House Agriculture, House Transportation and Infrastructure, and House Small Business Committees.

As a farm kid and a fifth-generation Kansan, I am honored to serve on the House Agriculture Committee again in the 118th Congress. Agriculture is the largest economic driver of the Big First. We rank number one in beef, wheat, and sorghum production. When I meet with farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers, I hear about skyrocketing inflation and record-high input costs, labor shortages, government overreach, and the importance of reauthorizing the farm bill.

We need well-crafted farm and food policy in America to remain secure as a Nation, and the reauthorization of the farm bill is an enormous responsibility. My priorities for that legislation remain the same: to protect and strengthen crop insurance, promote trade, and stop regulatory overreach. I am committed to rolling up my sleeves and working for the men and women who feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

I am also honored to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Big First has 83,000 miles of road, seven commercial airports, and more than 4,000 miles of railroad tracks. We rely on this system to get to work, take our kids to school, and deliver food, fuel, and fiber to the rest of the world.

The people of the Big First deserve a voice on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and I am proud to be their spokesperson. A well-maintained, fiscally responsible infrastructure network supports economic activity, strengthens the supply chain, and helps America to remain a global power.

During this Congress, I will also serve on the House Small Business Committee. The Big First is home to more than 200,000 small businesses which employ 80 percent of all employees in the district.

Small businesses help drive the American economy and define the American dream. They add brick and mortar to the values that make our country unique, like freedom, self-determination, and the pursuit of happiness.

As a child, I learned about the responsibility, drive, and decisionmaking skills required to run a small business from watching my parents operate our preconditioning feedlot and family farm. I will continue to defend and support small businesses, their owners, employees, and the American values that small businesses embody.

I am honored to serve on these committees, and we have a lot of work to do. Over the next 2 years, we need to reauthorize the farm bill, develop new trade agreements with countries that will benefit American ag producers, and review the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Act. We need to reauthorize FAA and the Water Resources Development Act, protect producers from a burdensome and overreaching definition of waters of the United States, and ensure that our small and regional airports have the support they need. We also need to maintain the stepped-up basis, return money to small businesses from IRS watchdogs, and ensure that small businesses have a fair shot at government contracts.

I will be working on a wide variety of issues, but I am bringing the same approach to all of them. A Russell native, Senator Bob Dole once told me about the Kansas approach: honesty; hard work; respect for your roots; service; simplicity; genuine, thoughtful care for people; and just plain common sense.

I learned these Kansan conservative values as a kid in the Big First, they inspire my work today on all my committees, and they will always guide my steps here in Congress.

Ultimately, I believe that with prayer and hard work, our brightest days are yet to come.

DEBT CEILING NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, last Thursday America's outstanding debt hit its limit. As a result, Treasury Secretary Yellen has warned leadership of the irreparable harm that will come to the U.S. economy if the debt ceiling is not addressed.

To avoid defaulting on our loans, the Secretary has been forced to slow investments into the retirement of Federal employees and health benefits of postal workers.

Madam Speaker, let me remind you that this has been dealt with in the past. Congress has dealt with the debt ceiling 78 times, 49 times in Republican administrations, and 29 times in Democratic administrations. If it is not dealt with now, the penalties will not stop at the actions that the Secretary was forced to take.

For 66 million Americans that receive Social Security checks every month and the more than 63 million Americans that rely on Medicare for care, their benefits will be cut.

Interest rates will increase, affecting car loans, credit cards, home mortgages, and small business investments. Tax refunds will be delayed, and above all, we will face a looming recession that will devastate our economy and result in skyrocketing unemployment and homelessness.

Let's be clear, raising the debt ceiling is not giving a green light on wild, runaway spending. It is simply ensuring that we can pay for the obligations that we have already made.

Instead of working to resolve this issue, Republicans continue to hold our economy hostage. To threaten defaulting on our debt to secure service cuts is dangerous and shows little regard for the American people.

We have seen how this plays out—we were there in 2011 when Republicans tried to pull this same stunt. The delay in negotiations resulted in the Federal Government's first ever downgrade in its credit rating. The Dow Jones fell nearly 2,000 points, and it is estimated that it raised borrowing costs for the government by $1.3 billion.

I want my fellow Americans to remember this: The Republicans are gambling on your money, on your benefits, and on your livelihood.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to act responsibly, swiftly, and without unnecessary delays or attempts to score political points. Our Nation's financial stability and our constituents depend on it.

DEBT CEILING CONCERNS

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk a little bit about the national debt and accusations that have been made against my colleagues in the House Republican Conference.

I have listened as a couple of my colleagues from the Democratic side have accused us of playing chicken and gambling, and have said they are glad that we are going to be educated on the impacts of a default on the debt. I will tell you, I agree with a lot of the consequences that have been outlined about the default.

What I want my colleagues to recognize on the other side of the aisle is that 2 days before Christmas a bill passed this House, 4,126 pages, and spent $1.7 trillion dollars. That bill was negotiated among four people: Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader SCHUMER, President Biden, and Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL.

When President Biden signed the bill on December 30, what I want my colleagues to know is that we had already hit the debt limit on December 30.

I have the Daily Treasury Report dated December 30 of 2022. The national debt subject to the limit was $31,347 trillion. The statutory debt limit is $31,381 trillion. Now, technically, we were 99.89 percent of the way to the debt limit. For all practical purposes, if you spent 99.89 percent on your credit card, you are there.

The four people who negotiated it had to know that we were less than one-tenth of 1 percent away from hitting the debt limit the day that legislation was signed. All they had to do in that 4,000-page omnibus bill was write one sentence to change the debt limit to what it would have taken to fund their omnibus bill.

One sentence would have changed the debt limit in this country, and we wouldn't be having the discussions we are having today about default—but they didn't do that.

January 19 was 20 days after that bill was signed, and now they are accusing House Republicans of being fiscally demented and not paying attention, playing chicken, and gambling with America's future.

The four people that negotiated that deal had four choices. They could have passed a continuing resolution with a debt limit included. They could have passed a continuing resolution without the debt limit. They could have passed an omnibus bill and included the debt limit. They could have passed an omnibus bill and not included the debt limit.

There was only one of those choices that would have led to the current situation where everybody points the finger at House Republicans and says you are gambling with. The one choice that led to the current situation is an omnibus bill without the debt limit included.

Guess what those four, with 160 years of political experience, chose? They chose the one that would lead to the current situation.

They could have included the debt limit in the piece of legislation that was adopted and signed on December 30. They chose not to. You don't need to point the finger at Republicans and say we are gambling and playing chicken.

The fact of the matter is, the four people that negotiated the omnibus bill knew exactly what they were doing. This crisis was intentionally created, and it is something that we are going to have to work together to get out of.

We have $32 trillion in debt. In 2019, we had $21 trillion. We can't keep running at a $2 trillion deficit every year.

DEBT LIMIT AND IMPACT ON WORKING FAMILIES

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, I know I am going to be the third Democratic speaker to talk about the debt limit, but I think it is a point that needs to be made.

Madam Speaker, every single day Americans across our country are forced to take extraordinary measures just to keep a roof over their head and food on the table. Now, because of the extremist agenda of some of our Republican colleagues, the Department of the Treasury has begun to do the same to avoid a default.

The consequences of such a default could be catastrophic. The first real default in U.S. history could lead to a sudden jump in interest rates and raise mortgage, car, and credit card payments for our working families. As the Federal Government struggles to maintain its financial commitments, payments for Social Security, benefits for veterans, and paychecks for military servicemembers could be delayed and suspended.

By one estimate, a default could add $130,000 to the cost of an average 30-year mortgage, eliminate over 3 million jobs, and increase the national debt by an additional $850 billion. As much as $15 trillion in household wealth could be wiped out in the ensuing recession. Our competitors across the world, like China and Russia, would surely see this U.S. default as an indication of American decline and be further emboldened.

As the Representative of Hawaii's Second Congressional District, I speak on behalf of the diverse communities I represent, spanning all eight Hawaiian islands. I am here to fight for working families struggling with the high cost of living, small businesses providing jobs and opportunities for our residents, senior citizens seeking security in retirement in old age, and above all, our children and their futures.

In my first month alone on this job, we find our country inching toward a debt crisis at the national level that could devastate my constituents and their ability to care for their families—all caused by the extreme politics of my Republican colleagues.

This is not a short-term, one-off issue. The implications for our economy, on our foreign policy, and on our communities are severe and long term.

When I sit down at my kitchen table every night and look across at my sons, I worry. Will they have their own kitchen table filled with family in Hawaii?

□ 1045

If Republicans force our country into a default, their future will be even more challenging to afford a home of their own or to be able to even rent one, to own a car to get to work or to save for their children's future.

Hawaii is one of the most expensive places to live in the country, with residents paying on average 42 percent of their income on rent, the highest of any State. I know that workers and families of every single one of our districts are struggling every day to make ends meet.

The American people need to see solutions, not just grandstanding. They need to see progress so that they can hope for a better future. That means we have to build and act on the progress delivered by the first 2 years of the Biden administration and one of the most productive Congresses in modern history. In these 2 years, Democrats have lowered healthcare costs, created nearly 11 million jobs, supported over 10 million new small business applications, put shovels in the ground on 7,000 new infrastructure projects, and invested in a revival of American manufacturing.

This Congress should be building on the progress of the last 2 years, not tearing it down by flirting with default and make unacceptable demands to cut Social Security, Medicare, and other critical programs that working families across the country depend on.

Why would House Republicans hold our economy hostage and the American people in anxious suspense for months when they can pass a clean debt limit increase right now?

When House Republicans tried to do this in 2011, they forced an unnecessary economic shock to our country that resulted in the first time our credit has ever been downgraded in our history. We cannot do that again.

We can have a reasoned debate, discussion, and negotiations over the right level of government spending, as every Congress does every year through the budget and appropriations process. But whether the United States pays its bill on time must not be a pawn in a Republican political game. Our families work hard to pay their bills on time; their government should too.

I have heard from so many people how much they love Hawaii; so do I. If you have the chance to visit our home stop and take a look. One in five residents depend on their Social Security benefits every single month. Madam Speaker, 1 in 10 people who call Hawaii home are veterans or Active-Duty servicemembers. These are the faces of the people held hostage and hurt by Republicans.

We have an opportunity to rise above our differences and give them a Congress that has their best interests squarely in sight, one that gives them hope.

Madam Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to work with us to quickly pass a clean debt limit raise as soon as possible. The American people and our constituents deserve no less.

SERVING IOWA'S THIRD DISTRICT IS AN HONOR

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

Mr. NUNN. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to join this House, the newest Representative from the great State of Iowa. I rise not to speak of division within this Chamber but to champion the importance of providing pragmatic, solution-oriented leadership for the American people.

Serving the people of the Third District, I am humbled by the Iowans who voted for change and remain mindful that good representation includes being a fighter for every single Iowan, regardless of party.

That is why I am committed to ushering in a new era of public service for our community, one that begins with transparent, pragmatic, and bipartisan work.

With nearly two decades as a combat veteran, intelligence officer, and a former State legislator, service has always come before self. In the military, it is never 9 to 5. Deployments flying over Afghanistan meant spending time away from family, and tours overseas sacrificed memories shared with friends. But we had a call to serve, and our brothers and sisters in arms demanded that we complete the job.

My call to serve now is being a Representative for every Iowan in all 21 counties. Whether in Des Moines or Atlantic or Ottumwa, common challenges facing Iowans are dire. Inflation is crippling families and small businesses, taxes and governmental overreach are burdensome, our communities just this week are hurting from violent crime, and providing quality education is top of mind across our State.

As a servant in Iowa, we worked across the aisle, and we delivered, passing the largest tax cut in State history three times over. Growing productivity for Iowa's family farms, we are now first in corn, first in soybean, first in hogs, and first in high school graduation—not to mention, we are still first in the GOP caucuses.

In Iowa, small businesses kept going during the pandemic, and we ensured that Iowa's schools were open so students and parents could work with educators to teach the next generation of Iowa leaders.

I am a sixth-generation Iowan. I know the struggles we face. I come from a century family farm. My mother was a nurse, and my father was a high school math teacher; they taught my brother and me to take responsibility and to serve with grace in our hearts. Our community helped raise all of us.

In high school, I met my future wife, Kelly, and we are blessed with four kids and two foster children. Our hope for them is that we can offer what our parents provided for us.

In times of tragedy, we are reminded that family always comes first. This week we were saddened to lose my father-in-law, Kelly's dad, Jim. He was a union electrician, and he only voted once for a Republican.

Thank you, Jim.

He was the best grandpa to our kids, the best dad, and the best husband. He was a man who lived his life to the fullest with the ones he loved, which is what the world needs more of today.

The importance of family is something every Iowan can agree on. In Congress, I would like to see more of this realized, that there are more things that can be done to achieve the 80 percent of priorities that we all agree on. Americans would rather spend time seeing us work together than in partisan dogfights.

In 2023, we entered a period of divided government. But this is no excuse for gridlock or inaction. The American people demand and deserve leaders who are willing to work for meaningful policies to address the challenges that we all face: high inflation, educating our kids, protecting our communities, and energy independence that serves both our national security and protects our natural resources.

There is always more that can be accomplished when we work together than when we are alone. Together we can ensure a prosperous American future for the next generation by making our country safer, stronger, and more accountable.

With that goal in mind, I am honored to bring Iowa's influential voice to the House Agriculture Committee and bring Des Moines' expertise in the insurance industry to serve on the Financial Services Committee. We have the opportunity to bring homegrown Iowa values and priorities to the Nation's Capital. And as a D.C. outsider and citizen legislator, I plan to take full advantage of these opportunities to make what works in Iowa an opportunity for the entire country.

Most importantly, I will strive every single day to be a servant to my fellow Iowans. I will also work to be the best father and husband to my family. This means being present right in my hometown back in Iowa where together we all work and live.

I will be traveling across the district nonstop to hear from all Iowans in all 21 counties both urban, suburban, and rural in the new Third Congressional District. I look forward to delivering pragmatic solutions for Iowans and helping D.C. along the way to operate a

little bit more like we do in Iowa: family and neighbors first, common sense, hard work, and—as always—a little bit of Iowa nice.

TAX EMANCIPATION FOR THE RICH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, in what seems to be a concession to the most far-right members of the Republican Party, the Republican leadership has scheduled a vote on the alleged FairTax Act that would completely overhaul the tax system to blatantly favor the rich.

The proposed legislation would abolish the Internal Revenue Service and eliminate all Federal taxes, including the estate taxes and corporate income taxes. In place of Federal taxes, the bill would impose an effective 30 percent national sales tax across the board.

The working class would face a substantially higher tax burden as a result, and the richest Americans would receive a sizeable cash reward. It is difficult to overestimate how regressive this tax would be, and according to the tax experts, it would have a wide range of detrimental effects, not just on income taxes but also on items like Affordable Care Act premiums and the child tax credit.

The Republicans claim that they are the party of working people, but they appear to be making an effort to demonstrate that they are absolutely not that. Some of the wealthiest people in our country can pay exceptionally low tax rates, avoid paying taxes on their largest assets, and pass their fortunes on to their children tax-free because of the many ways the tax system is set up to enable corporate taxpayers to avoid paying taxes.

Conservatives have spent decades creating this kind of tax emancipation for the rich while waging a fierce battle against attempts to reinstate tax enforcement against the 1 percent. This just further advantages the wealthy by giving them more opportunities to take advantage of the working class. In Florida's 20th District where the median household income is under $55,000 a year and families already struggle to make ends meet, the FairTax Act will put my constituents at a unique disadvantage.

There is nothing fair about the FairTax Act. This is a handout to the rich. Americans will feel the weight of this 30 percent sales tax on necessities like food and gas.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reconsider this legislation and work with House Democrats on the most pressing issues that face our country.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Jason M. Brock who served 32 years in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Colonel Brock began his military career as an enlisted member in 1991 and worked hard during his service to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Tennessee in 1994.

In 1998, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Since then, Colonel Brock has served in a variety of assignments as a logistics readiness officer and a maintenance officer, and has deployed numerous times in support of multiple operations including Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Southern and Northern Watch, Joint Guard, and Noble Eagle.

During his assignment as director of staff for the State of Tennessee Air, he also supported many domestic operations, including Tennessee's military response to the COVID–19 pandemic.

Colonel Brock plans to retire this year, and it is a well-earned retirement, Madam Speaker. He plans to spend more time with his wife and his two sons on family outings to the lake and camping. He also has his private pilot license, and he looks forward to enjoying more time in the sky.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our armed services, like Colonel Brock, who served and sacrificed for our freedom. It is my honor to recognize Colonel Jason Brock as the Tennessee Second District's January 2023 Veteran of the Month.

MIDWAY IGA

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe and Dale Longmire on selling Midway IGA and retiring from the grocery business.

Claude and Ruby Longmire started Longmire Grocery in Corryton in 1947. They raised Joe and Dale in the grocery business, and they worked very hard in this their entire lives.

In 1988, Madam Speaker, Joe and Dale bought the Midway IGA right there on Tazewell Pike, as you well know.

Joe and Dale say the community has been very good to the Longmires, and the Midway IGA has been very good to the community. They have been great friends of mine. When you go in there, Madam Speaker, local kids work there. They work the counters and they work everywhere. They have some of the best fried chicken—I believe it is actually called broasted fried chicken—that I have ever had, except, of course, what my wife and my sweet mama used to make.

Of course, my family and I trade at the IGA on a regular basis, and the Longmires supported me when I first ran for mayor. They were some of the first people who came out and supported me. They had a fundraiser for me at their house. They live on Emory Road, the same road I live on now. Emory Road is a very long road, Madam Speaker. I actually went to the wrong end of Emory Road, and I was 1 hour late to my own fundraiser; but it just increased the anticipation of my arrival.

The Longmire brothers have said that nothing about the store will change, which I am very glad to hear. Midway IGA has been great to our community, and I hope we don't lose that.

I wish their sister, Leesa, the best as she sticks around the store as their scanning manager. I wish Joe and his wonderful wife, Becky—who has been a dear friend to me and my girls a long time—and Dale and his wife, Ellen, the best in their retirement.

Joe plans to finish a book he has been researching about the history of Corryton. I look forward to getting an autographed copy which I am sure I will pay dearly for.

PUTTING PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm. Extreme MAGA Republicans have an economic plan that will hurt working families. For 2 years House Democrats have delivered for everyday Americans.

The economic progress that House Democrats and President Biden have led is simply remarkable. So let's talk about this significant growth Democrats have made possible by President Biden's economic plan.

We created 11 million jobs. Under Trump we lost 2.9 million jobs.

The unemployment rate is at 3.5 percent—one of the lowest rates in our history. Under Trump it was 6.3 percent.

We lowered healthcare costs for working families. Under Trump, 3 million more people lost their insurance.

We capped insulin at $35 for our seniors on Medicare.

We expanded Medicare and Social Security benefits.

This is progress, but this progress is threatened by extreme MAGA Republicans.

□ 1100

While most Americans are worried about post-COVID prices at the grocery store, the extreme MAGA Republicans in charge of the House GOP want to increase the average family's costs for groceries and everyday essentials by hundreds of dollars every month. That is right, Madam Speaker, raising it by hundreds a month.

They are doing this by championing a new 30 percent national sales tax. The House MAGA Republicans would jack up the prices on the products that we rely on. Imagine paying in my district 30 percent more when you go to HEB for your groceries.

This kind of blanket tax increase is failed economic policy that attacks the foundation of our economic growth and hurts working families.

My Republican friends all talk about responsible spending and balanced budgets. Families will not be able to balance their own budgets if the extreme MAGA wing gets its way.

Madam Speaker, we have already witnessed what this so-called leadership looks like. The very first bill the GOP put before the House will make it easier to hand tax breaks to the wealthy and well connected.

They are not just trying to make it easier for the ultrapowerful to pay even less in taxes. Sadly, extreme Republicans want to gut Social Security, eliminate Medicare, and reverse new lower drug prices House Democrats just fought hard to get for working families.

If they have their way, Social Security and Medicare as we know it will end. Working families will lose the benefits they have earned by paying into a system for decades.

In my home district, there are more than 80,000 people living on their Social Security income. That is more than 10 percent of my constituents. These are retired workers, disabled workers, widows, and children who need these critical funds to survive.

Let me repeat: They earned their benefits by paying into the system for many, many decades.

When extreme MAGA Republicans fight and say they don't want to raise the debt limit, I want everyone to know what that really means. It is not economic theory; it is political posturing.

They raised the debt limit every time Trump was in office, and in fact, Trump is responsible for 25 percent of our current debt.

When they say they are going to fight, it really is about hurting people. It would mean Social Security payments won't be sent, and people already living hand to mouth won't get the money they earned. This is totally unacceptable.

The full faith and credit of the United States means more than paying our government's bills on time. It means keeping groceries in the refrigerator and medicine in the cabinet for many people in my district.

House Democrats will continue to fight for working families. It is the middle class that makes our country strong.

We will always put people over politics. We will always put people first.

KEEPING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

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

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an ongoing problem with our institution, which starts reminding one of a theater full of actors, a circus, or a dog-and-pony show with a lot of messaging, grandstanding, demagoguing, talking points, but no real results badly needed for the American people.

When Benjamin Franklin was leaving the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and was asked what kind of government the delegates had created, he replied: ''A republic, if you can keep it.''

It has been over 200 years since that time, but do we really appreciate what it means to have a constitutional republic, the rule of law, presumption of innocence, and proper due process?

As someone who grew up under a dictatorship in the Soviet Union, I cherish these freedoms tremendously, and I understand how hard it is to get them back when you lose them and how many people have died for them.

Therefore, regardless of politics, I will vigorously defend our Constitution and our rights for all Americans. Congress is not a kangaroo court and has proper committees, like Ethics or Judiciary, to provide proper due process to all individuals, whether it is President Trump and Representative GREENE or President Biden and Representative OMAR.

I adamantly argued last Congress as a member of the Judiciary Committee to provide this due process, so I am not planning to become a hypocrite now and lose this credibility. We have to become the adults in the room and stop the bread and circuses in Congress.

No one is above the law, but no one is below the law.

HONORING HARVEY DRAHOS

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Harvey Drahos, a beloved World War II veteran who lives in the South Puget Sound of Washington State.

A member of America's Greatest Generation, he joined the military in 1943 and rose to the rank of technician fifth grade.

Like many of our World War II heroes, Mr. Drahos was wounded on the front lines, and as the Battle of Okinawa went on, he made a promise: If I survive, I vow to help people.

Like many of his generation, he made serving our great Nation and its citizens a cornerstone of his life's work.

Post-military service, he served on multiple service organization boards and dedicated 53 years of active community service and leadership to Washington State.

One piece of Mr. Drahos' story that stood out to me is that while on the battlefield in Japan, he recovered a cherished photo album. After decades of searching for the family it belonged to, he was able to get it back to the Nakamoto family in Okinawa. This selfless act helped a family reunite with their past loved ones, transcending the boundaries of war with a kind act of humanity.

Madam Speaker, Harvey Drahos exemplifies courage, selfless service, and love for others. He recently celebrated his 100th birthday and is the last living member of his World War II military unit. I am honored and proud to recognize him for his service in combat and his love and compassion for our Nation.

CONGRATULATING ALFIE ALVARADO-RAMOS

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lourdes ''Alfie'' Alvarado-Ramos, who will retire at the end of this month as director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.

I congratulate Alfie on an exemplary and distinguished career serving the American people and my fellow Washingtonians for more than five decades.

Alfie enlisted in the Army in 1971, rising to the rank of troop command sergeant major at Madigan Army Medical Center, part of Joint Base Lewis-McChord in my district.

After retiring from the military in 1993, Alfie joined the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and has served as its director for the last decade. Under her leadership, the department was recognized as the leading State veterans affairs department in the entire Nation, offering the largest portfolio of services.

Madam Speaker, throughout her career, Alfie has broken barriers and empowered the next generation of soldiers to lead at the highest levels of military and public service. More importantly, she has been instrumental in making sure that our veterans are never forgotten.

I thank Director Alvarado-Ramos for her selfless service to our veterans, the State of Washington, and our Nation. She is a true patriot indeed.

CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish you and all Americans a happy Celebrate Literacy Week.

The Florida Department of Education has designated this week as a week to focus on reading, but you don't have to be from Florida to celebrate reading. All Americans can work to inspire students and families to make reading a part of their daily routines and install a lifelong love of reading.

This year's theme is ''Take a Deep Dive Into Literacy—Splash Into New Worlds.'' Fitting with the theme, I was honored and proud to read ''Pirate Pete's Talk Like a Pirate'' to the fourth grade classes at Yulee Elementary School in northeast Florida.

Yulee Elementary School is an outstanding, rated-A school based on the Florida School Accountability Reports. This school is led by Principal Bryce Cubbal and Assistant Principal Tara Libby. These educators are to be commended for the fantastic things they are doing for our students.

Madam Speaker, they say reading is fundamental, but I will say that it is

only fundamental if we encourage reading. I encourage everybody that if you get a chance to read to a young person, do it. It will be good for them and for you.

TREATING ABORTION SURVIVORS HUMANELY

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 26, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act that passed out of the House last week unanimously on one side but divided on the other, except for one vote from a colleague from Texas.

I understand that the Nation is divided on the topic of abortion, but that is not what this bill is. This bill is to protect a living soul that survived a traumatic event.

This is one that I have been losing sleep over, and I wanted to add my perspective from someone who fought in two wars. What I don't understand is why we are divided because when I was overseas and my teammates and I, my brothers and sisters in arms, were actively engaging the Taliban, al-Qaida, ISIS, and at any moment, whether it was an ambush or an IED, if a hostile act was being presented to us and that individual relinquished their weapons, decreased their aggressive posture, we were to do the exact same.

If that terrorist, if that individual, was injured or shot, we were to render medical aid. We were to act humanely even after they just tried to kill us. If necessary, we would life-flight them to the same hospital that an American soldier would go to, period.

That rule of law was passed out of this body unanimously. Every Member in this House demanded that American soldiers treat every human humanely, period.

That rule protects individuals that, because of the color of your skin, they would crucify, torture, and kill you; that because of your religious practices, if it was not in accordance with theirs, they would lock you in a cage and throw you in a lake. If they did not agree with who you were, what you were, and how you were, they would mercilessly hunt you down and execute you.

What I don't understand is how this body could unanimously pass a law that would protect somebody who absolutely despises our way of life, but we cannot come together to protect an innocent child that survived an abortion. I don't understand that.

I know that everyone in here is a mother, a father, a grandparent, an aunt, or an uncle, and at any moment walking down the street, if there was a child in duress, you would kill yourself to get to them and save them, but because this child survived abortion, you are going to turn your back and vote not to give them medical care.

If this ever presents itself back to this body, I humbly take a knee and ask that you change your vote and vote ''yes'' to protect these children.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

O Lord, God of peace, we pray this day for the peace found only in You, not as the world gives, for that which is found there is fleeting and flawed. Reveal yourself in this world which rages with hostilities, where there are wars and rumors of wars as far-flung as Ukraine is from Taiwan, where violence threatens to be the only answer to discord. Reveal yourself and grant us Your peace.

Lord, how long? How long will aggressors take it upon themselves to usurp not just the sovereignty of a nation but basic human rights? Lord, put an end to the senseless shedding of blood, the indiscriminate targeting of innocents.

Then may those who have suffered in ways we cannot imagine emerge from the ashes of their shattered lives and be raised up as a testimony to their enduring faith in Your redeeming grace. May the religious resolve of the persecuted in Ukraine, the endangered believers in Nigeria, the repressed Uyghurs in Xinjiang shine as a light in our darkness and show us what it means to believe in the hope of Your salvation.

Turn our hearts to receive Your mercy and transform our lives to reflect Your peace, for it is in Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

DEFENDING CONSERVATIVE SPEECH

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let the American people know their access to conservative programming on one of our Nation's largest satellite TV providers is at risk.

DIRECTV, one of my district's largest satellite providers, has threatened to remove Newsmax from its lineup. Why, may I ask? Newsmax has simply asked to receive equal compensation for DIRECTV carrying its channel through carriage fees. Though Newsmax has higher ratings than many other more liberal stations offered on DIRECTV, the satellite provider owned by AT&T will not negotiate in good faith with Newsmax. Again, I said AT&T.

The threat of conservatives losing an independent media outlet is real should DIRECTV not agree to a new carriage agreement with Newsmax. This appears to be another victory in the woke left's efforts to cancel conservatives and limit free speech.

Mr. Speaker, I raise these concerns as a defender of the First Amendment with the hope that DIRECTV will do the right thing and keep Newsmax on its air.

REFORM THE NOTICE TO AIR MISSIONS SYSTEM

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on January 11, the failure of the Notice to Air Missions system grounded thousands of flights across America. This malfunction created air travel chaos for days.

This system is essential to safe flight operations and needs to be reformed. The Notice to Air Missions Improvement Act takes a proactive approach to make much-needed upgrades.

Many of the airline safety measures implemented over the past 15 years were borne out of the lessons we learned following the crash of flight 3407 outside of Buffalo. We must not wait for another tragedy to make the

necessary steps to protect the flying public.

I support this bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

AMERICAN FAMILIES AT RISK

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since Biden took office, there have been nearly 5 million crossings of illegal aliens from over 100 countries, a direct result of his failed policies and those of the Democrat-led Congress. Biden and Democrats shamefully support what they expect as low-information voters, ignoring the immediate threat of terrorists.

According to Customs and Border Protection, last month was the 10th consecutive month of more than 200,000 illegal crossings. Federal seizures have also resulted in fentanyl rising over 50 percent from November to December 2022, murdering young Americans.

The House Republican majority will deliver commonsense solutions to stop identified terrorists who are threats to American families at greater risk of mass murder than ever before.

House Republicans are holding the government accountable and will not stop until the American people are protected with a wall and fences, as Donald Trump attempted to achieve.

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

CEMENTING THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL AI PARTNERSHIP

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today because I am planning to reintroduce the United States-Israel Artificial Intelligence Center Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that will cement a mutually beneficial partnership between the United States and Israel on artificial intelligence research.

This is a critical step forward in an era where AI and its implications are taking center stage in public discourse. We must collaborate with international partners like the Israeli Government to ensure that the United States maintains a leadership role in AI research and development and responsibly explores the many possibilities evolving technologies provide.

The United States-Israel Artificial Intelligence Center Act will allow us to tap into the expertise of both countries and draw upon each other's resources to explore and develop cutting-edge AI advancements.

RECOGNIZING MOMENTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the many leaders of industry in Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, Momentive Technologies.

Headquartered in Strongsville, Ohio, Momentive Technologies is a global leader in quartz and ceramic materials for semiconductors and one of the largest producers of boron nitride in the world. Momentive Technologies' products are indispensable components in a broad range of goods, from semiconductors, aerospace, water purification, and pharmaceuticals to consumer electronics and telecommunications.

I had the privilege of visiting their headquarters while I was back home for last week's district work period. Momentive Technologies has invested heavily in its Ohio operations. Its year-over-year capital spend has increased 35 percent each year since 2020, and it hopes to continue that strong record of investment for the benefit not only of Ohio but of America's economic security.

I look forward to working together with Momentive Technologies and others across different industries to ensure American economic and industrial security for generations to come.

RAISING DEBT CEILING IS ROUTINE BUSINESS

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, since Speaker MCCARTHY won't tell us what he had to give extremist Republicans in his caucus in a backroom deal for power, we can only assume that they agreed to tank the economy and destroy millions of jobs unless Congress slashes Social Security.

Raising the debt ceiling is a routine matter of business that has been passed cleanly by Republican Presidents, including Trump, and Democratic Presidents alike.

If Republican lawmakers default, the shock will plunge the world into a recession and a financial crisis.

Let's not forget that 65 million Americans are on Social Security.

This debate is clear. Speaker MCCARTHY made a deal with the devil in exchange for the power to hold our economy hostage and push through extremist Republican proposals, such as Senator RICK SCOTT's plan to sunset Social Security.

We can't allow it to happen. Tell us what to aim to cut and save Social Security.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE OF IRAN

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the people of Iran as they struggle against an oppressive and dangerous regime.

I also commend our great Iranian-American community in Georgia and across this Nation who hope that their friends and family on the other side of the world may one day have the freedom and prosperity we all enjoy in the United States. They are great patriots and valued citizens.

For 4 consecutive months, Iranians have been protesting and calling for the downfall of the clerical regime in Tehran. Their rulers have brutally repressed dissidents and protesters, killing women who violate their dress codes and men who stand up for their sisters, mothers, wives, and daughters.

In the 117th Congress, 260 bipartisan Members of Congress cosponsored H. Res. 118, which expressed unequivocal support for the Iranian people's desire to establish a secular, democratic, and nonnuclear republic.

I hope that we can attract even more bipartisan signers for our resolution this week, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS STAND UNITED FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, while I and my Democratic colleagues, as well as the Biden-Harris administration, have raised Social Security benefits by 8.7 percent, extreme Republicans are attempting to force cuts to Social Security eligibility and benefits that will hurt the financial security of America's seniors.

Their very first bill released the wealthy and well connected from giving their fair share of taxes, adding $114 billion to the debt.

Social Security used to be a bipartisan-supported program. It is a vital lifeline for Americans, and House Democrats will continue to fight to protect Social Security not only for our seniors now but for future generations.

Together, House Democrats will continue to stand united in holding our Republican colleagues accountable and to push back against their efforts to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and powerful.

DETROIT IS AT CROSSROADS

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, Detroit is a city of firsts, likely the site of the first urban freeway built in the U.S., where Henry Ford manufactured his first car, and the birthplace of the U.S. auto industry.

Yes, this city bleeds authentic Americana and yearns for a renaissance. However, my district is at a crossroads.

In the 13th Congressional District, businesses are beginning to hire more people, which means more traffic on the roads and more people using our public transportation system.

Metro Detroit was renowned for having one of the worst public transportation networks of any large city in the Nation even before the COVID–19 pandemic.

While others work from home, many jobs require in-person work. Public transportation is still necessary, and demand might rise in the future.

I applaud the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act during the last Congress. Still, there needs to be a strong emphasis on infrastructure goals.

□ 1215

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE

(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, 2 weeks ago, I stood on this very House floor and I voted to condemn violence at crisis pregnancy centers. A vote that was difficult to make, not because I think it was wrong to condemn violence, I don't.

Rather, it was difficult as an American to watch this governing body politicize the ideas of civility and decency that should be undoubtedly woven through every last one of us.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to condemn violence again, this time at an abortion clinic. I stand before you to acknowledge the violent attack at the Planned Parenthood in Illinois last week. The cowardly arson attack, a firebomb, damaged the building just days after abortion protections were signed into law in Illinois.

Let there be no mistake, this was clearly intended to terrorize women, girls, their families, and the medical professionals who serve them from exercising reproductive freedoms.

Now, I ask my Republican colleagues to join me as I have joined them in condemning violence and this violent attack. From this day forward, I invite all Americans to unequivocally say that we must restore civility and decency in every corner of our Nation because violence is never the answer ever.

COVID VACCINE PRICING

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to Big Pharma cheating taxpayers.

As pharmaceutical companies prepare to sell vaccines on the private market, they are jacking up the price tag on our public health.

After tens of billions of dollars of sales, vaccine manufacturers have floated commercial prices over four times higher than the price currently paid by the government.

Taxpayers contributed to every aspect of these vaccines, from the underlining science, to the clinical trials, to purchasing agreements, but only the manufacturers will profit.

Just two vaccine manufacturers control 97 percent of the market. They will not compete because they do not have to.

I have worked on legislation to prevent anticompetitive pricing in consolidated markets, like vaccines. This is especially important for products that our tax dollars paid for.

We cannot continue to ask taxpayers to help cover the risk, while letting Big Pharma collude to reap the profits.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 56

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Cole, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Womack, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Harris, Mr. Amodei, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Valadao, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Cline, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mr. Mike Garcia of California, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Tony Gonzales of Texas, Ms. Letlow, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Guest, Mr. Zinke, Mr. Clyde, Mr. LaTurner, Mr. Carl, Mrs. Bice, Mr. C. Scott Franklin of Florida, Mr. Ellzey, Mr. Ciscomani.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Mr. Burgess, Mr. Latta, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. Bucshon, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Dunn of Florida, Mr. Curtis, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Pence, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Allen, Mr. Balderson, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Pfluger, Mrs. Harshbarger, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, Mrs. Cammack, Mr. Obernolte.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Mr. Lucas, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Posey, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Huizenga, Mrs. Wagner, Mr. Barr, Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Hill, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Steil, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Norman, Mr. Meuser, Mrs. Kim of California, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Garbarino, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Flood, Mr. Lawler, Ms. De La Cruz, Mr. Ogles, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Nunn of Iowa.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Steil, Chair. Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Bice, Mr. Carey, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mr. D'Esposito.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Mr. Burgess, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Massie, Mr. Norman, Mr. Roy, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Langworthy.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Wenstrup, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Estes, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Hern, Mrs. Miller of West Virginia, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kustoff, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Steube, Ms. Tenney, Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Moore of Utah, Mrs. Steel, Ms. Van Duyne, Mr. Feenstra, Ms. Malliotakis, Mr. Carey.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 255) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 255

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act''.

SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

''(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

''(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees; and

''(2) develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public.

''(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers necessary, to—

''(1) identify and describe the potential areas of duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage assessments after disaster declarations;

''(2) determine the applicability of having one Federal agency make the assessments for all agencies; and

''(3) identify potential emerging technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with the requirements established in the FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the administration of preliminary damage assessments.

''(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit one comprehensive report that comprises the plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and a report of the findings of the working group convened under subsection (b), which may include recommendations, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive report developed under subsection (c) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

''(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats; and

''(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

''(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-based resource, and any information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity that is made available may be used.

''(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a designee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for her leadership on this bill.

H.R. 255 is commonsense legislation to establish a process that is going to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information.

While the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is the lead Federal agency on disasters, there are often many Federal agencies involved in the disaster response and recovery process.

It is critically important that these agencies are all working efficiently to minimize overlaps in their assessments and utilize new technologies to streamline processes.

Specifically, the legislation is going to establish a Federal working group led by FEMA to coordinate with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to identify ways to reduce duplication and streamline the Federal damage assessment process.

This is just a good government bill that will help improve disaster recovery efforts which were previously passed by the House in the 116th and 117th Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 255, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act, introduced by Representatives GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, PETERS, and PLASKETT.

This legislation amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to help Federal agencies streamline and consolidate information collection and Preliminary Damage Assessments following disasters.

After a major disaster, there is no time to wait for bureaucracy. However, Federal recovery assistance following disasters is currently hampered by inefficient information collection and assessments conducted by multiple agencies.

This bill will remove information collection barriers that currently impede disaster aid. It creates a working group to identify duplicative assessments and propose their elimination.

Further, it would streamline Federal disaster recovery efforts by concluding that a single agency is sufficient to conduct damage assessments to account for the needs of disaster victims. The Federal Government can and should be doing this work smarter.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I would say, first of all, that I thank Chairman GRAVES for his leadership and for acting so swiftly to bring this bill to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in support of my bill, H.R. 255. I thank Representatives SCOTT PETERS of California, STACEY PLASKETT of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and NEAL DUNN of Florida for cosponsoring this legislation.

H.R. 255 would establish a process to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information to start the recovery process for individuals and families that were devastated by any natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I hear about these issues with delays and confusion related to requirements and processing of disaster assistance on a regular basis. I meet with mayors of the island—and this is just in the case of Puerto Rico—but I know we do have the same process and the same situation across the Nation. This is a significant source of frustration for my mayors and my constituents as well as people all over the country.

While FEMA is the lead Federal agency on disasters, many others are also often involved in disaster response and recovery, like, for example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Small Business Administration, just to name a few.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, and the seismic activity in Puerto Rico in 2020, we discovered that Federal agency after Federal agency would require the same information in their preliminary assessments, which meant tens of thousands of site and damage assessments.

We see some of this repeating itself in the aftermath of last year's Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and Hurricane Ian in Florida and with other disasters across the Nation.

This is not just a bill for the islands or the territories. This is a bill for the rest of the Nation on how to manage and get expedited help and response from Federal agencies.

Currently, there is no process to share these assessments among Federal agencies, which ultimately causes significant delays for immediate relief and prolongs recovery. This is compounded by other administrative issues like frequent staff changes and constituents and mayors having to work with multiple personnel to handle a single application or request.

In 2020, FEMA finally decided to begin consolidating assessments for Puerto Rico to speed up the delivery process across multiple Federal agencies. Many of these assessments are small, often one part of a larger project, which has continuously slowed down the recovery process.

H.R. 255 would establish a Federal working group led by FEMA, in collaboration with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, to identify ways to reduce duplication and modernize the Federal management assessment process to make it truly agile and efficient. We need to ensure assistance is provided while safeguarding taxpayer funds. I think with this bill we can do both.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is critical that these agencies are working together to minimize overlaps in their assessments and consider the use of the newest technologies to streamline processes. Very often, we, in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, have these same discussions about what happened in Louisiana, what happened in Florida, what happened on the East Coast, what happened on the West Coast every time we have a natural disaster. It always is the same problem.

I trust this bill will expedite disaster recovery across the Nation. As we have learned in Puerto Rico, it is not if the next disaster will occur, it is when it is going to happen and how we are going to face it.

Every 1st of June, another hurricane season begins for the territories and the eastern coast. Since the last time this language passed the House in the 117th Congress, we had another direct hit with Hurricane Fiona.

I am pleased we are considering this bill so early in this 118th Congress, and that is the reason I thanked our chairman for his marvelous job bringing this bill to the floor.

I can, therefore, work quickly to make this proposal the law of the land as part of our efforts to better prepare for disaster response.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

□ 1230

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close. I inquire of my colleague if there are any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this bipartisan bill passed the House on suspension in the 116th and 117th Congresses. It will help disaster survivors by taking a step toward streamlining the Federal Government's fragmented approach to disaster assistance.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 255 is just good government legislation that is going to help streamline disaster recovery efforts by improving the coordination efficiency of Federal agencies involved in disaster assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 255.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 259) to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 259

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2. SUBPAGE FOR TRANSPARENCY OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REPOSITORY FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the head of each covered Federal agency, shall establish a subpage within the website established under section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) to publish the information required to be made available to the public under this section.

(b) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 30 days after the end of a calendar quarter, each covered Federal agency that made disaster assistance available to an eligible recipient during such quarter shall, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, make available to the public on the subpage established under subsection (a) the information described in subsection (c), and ensure that any data asset of the agency is machine readable.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information described in this subsection is, with respect to disaster assistance provided by the covered Federal agency—

(1) the total amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency during such quarter;

(2) the amount of disaster assistance provided by the agency that was expended or obligated to projects or activities; and

(3) a detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended, obligated, or used, including—

(A) the name of the project or activity;

(B) a description of the project or activity;

(C) an evaluation of the completion status of the project or activity;

(D) any award identification number assigned to the project;

(E) the Catalog for Disaster Assistance number assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(F) the location of the project, including ZIP Codes; and

(G) any reporting requirement information being collected by a covered Federal agency with respect to that agency's disaster assistance.

(d) GUIDANCE.—Each covered Federal agency, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue such guidance as is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.

(e) AGREEMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTITY.—The Director, if necessary for purposes of transparency, may enter into an agreement with a private entity, including a nonprofit organization, to develop the subpage required under this section.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''covered Federal agency'' means—

(A) any agency providing assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

(B) the Small Business Administration; and

(C) the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—The term ''disaster assistance'' means any funds that are made available by the Federal Government in response to a specified natural disaster, including—

(A) any assistance provided by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration as a result of a disaster declared under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b));

(B) any assistance provided by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for—

(i) activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

(ii) flood insurance coverage provided under the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); and

(C) any assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ''eligible recipient''—

(A) means any entity that receives disaster assistance directly from the Federal Government (including disaster assistance received through grant, loan, or contract) other than an individual; and

(B) includes a State that receives disaster assistance.

(4) SPECIFIED NATURAL DISASTER.—The term ''specified natural disaster'' means—

(A) a fire on public or private forest land or grassland described in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187);

(B) a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

(C) an emergency declared by the President under section 501 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5191); and

(D) any other natural disaster for which a disaster declaration is made by the Federal Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 259.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 259, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act, introduced by our Republican colleague from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), will increase transparency for post-disaster Federal assistance.

H.R. 259 requires agencies that provide Federal disaster assistance to update a central website quarterly with information on their disaster assistance programs. This increased transparency is going to allow the American taxpayers to see where their hard-earned dollars are going and which areas are receiving the most Federal assistance for post-disaster recovery.

The Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act passed the House last Congress overwhelmingly by a vote of 412 yeas to 2 nays. I hope we can repeat this very strong showing this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, January 19, 2023.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I write concerning H.R. 259, the Post Disaster-Assistance Online Accountability Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Small Business. Specifically, provisions of H.R. 259 fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee on Small Business will forgo action on the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that doing so will not prejudice the Committee on Small Business with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill or similar legislation that falls within the Committee on Small Business's Rule X jurisdiction. Further, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I appreciate your agreement to support my request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

Finally, I would ask that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest in the bill be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of H.R. 259 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ROGER WILLIAMS,
Chairman,
House Committee on Small Business.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 19, 2023.

Hon. ROGER WILLIAMS CHAIRMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 259, the Post Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively to ensure that H.R. 259 is considered expeditiously before the House of Representatives.

In response to your letter, I recognize that this bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business. I also acknowledge that your Committee's decision to forgo consideration would not prejudice your Committee regarding the appointment of conferees, to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill, or to similar legislation falling under your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, should a conference on this bill become necessary, I would support your request to have members of the Committee on Small Business represented on the conference committee.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration on the House floor. Thank you again, I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 20, 2023.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I am writing concerning H.R. 259, the ''Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act.'' Per your request, I agree that the Committee on Financial Services shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 259 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

Finally, as you mentioned in your letter, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill be included in your committee's report to accompany the legislation, as well as in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 17, 2023.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 259, the ''Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act.'' The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Small Business.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Financial Services to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for futural referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Financial Services represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 259. This bill, introduced by Resident Commissioner Gonzalez-Colon and Delegate Plaskett would create a new online system for tracking Federal disaster projects and assistance.

People should know how and where their disaster funds are being spent without wading through reams of governmental paperwork. This legislation simplifies the data collection process for Federal disaster recovery projects.

To increase transparency, the bill also creates a page on USASpending.gov where everyone can track agency disaster recovery activities and the amount of assistance expended by an agency on a quarterly basis.

Federal agencies need to be accountable to the victims of disasters and allow them peace of mind when they are at their most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides to join with me and support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 259, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act.

Again, I thank Chairman GRAVES for moving forward with this bipartisan initiative, for making it possible so early in this Congress, and for it to be considered today.

I also thank my sister from the Virgin Islands, STACEY PLASKETT, as well as Representatives Malliotakis and Cleaver for their support and as cosponsors on this legislation.

H.R. 259 would provide an innovative and comprehensive approach to tracking Federal disaster projects and assistance, as well as the funds.

It establishes a single online repository to report information about Federal disaster assistance to provide transparency to the American taxpayer.

This proposal, developed in collaboration with the Project of Government Oversight, would establish a subpage for transparency of disaster assistance on the USASpending.gov website to better inform the public about the status of the use of disaster funding. And believe me, Mr. Speaker, every time I go back to the district every weekend this is the first question I receive from my constituents: What happened with the funds to the bridge?

What happened with the funds to the school?

What happened to the funds to the roads that are still damaged 5 years after a hurricane?

Many people ask themselves these questions: Where is the Federal funding that has been approved by Congress?

Where is the money that has been allocated to the Federal agencies?

Does a contractor have it?

Did the local government spend the money well?

Those are general questions that everybody, at least in Puerto Rico, are asking.

So this bill would require agencies that offered disaster assistance, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and many others, to regularly submit updated information to the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that the best possible data is available in an easily accessible format.

The data to be published would include: the amount of disaster assistance provided by the agencies; the amount of disaster assistance that has been obligated or expended to projects or activities; and a detailed list of all projects or activities for which disaster assistance dispersed by the agency was expended, obligated, or used, including a description of the project or activity, as well as an evaluation of the completion status of that project.

I think this will help not just the general public, not just American taxpayers, but also the government agencies to know where the funding is and when those projects are going to be completed.

During the last few years, my district, like many others represented here in the House, has faced multiple hardships due to disasters. In Puerto Rico, we are still working through the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the earthquakes of 2020, and last year's Hurricane Fiona. Much of the support has been approved for rebuilding—this Congress passed legislation allocating billions of Federal funding not just to Puerto Rico, but to Texas, to California, and to many other States—and, of course, we need better accountability and oversight to ensure this funding is being used as intended by Congress.

H.R. 259 will foster accessibility and transparency of information to track Federal funding and its status. It will also enable local mayors and legislators, nongovernmental organizations, and individual constituents to know what funding has been used for, where the funding will go, and how much funding is left to be spent, among other information.

In Puerto Rico we have put money here for hospitals, for piers, and for bridges, and people don't even know where the money is because the projects have not even begun yet. This kind of information will not only help Federal and local agencies but mostly the American taxpayers.

This will allow better awareness of progress and utilization of resources and to ensure that streams of available funding are not overlooked or underutilized.

The transparency provided with this bill will be essential for better congressional oversight of disaster recovery in all the States and communities where it has been received so agencies can account for how effectively it is being used, and if it is getting to the hands of the individuals and communities that need it and that it was intended to go to.

Mr. Speaker, passing this legislation will assist efforts to improve Federal disaster response and make it more accountable and effective. I urge my colleagues to vote for passage of H.R. 259, the Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, the House passed this bipartisan bill on suspension as well in the past two Congresses. I look forward to passing this commonsense transparency measure again today.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this commonsense accountability measure is going to enable taxpayers to get a greater sense of where their money is going and allow agencies to see where they can coordinate post-disaster recovery efforts.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 259.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REAL ESTATE LEASING AUTHORITY REVOCATION ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 388) to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 388

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act''.

SEC. 2. LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3304 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) LEASING OF SPACE FOR SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Securities and Exchange Commission may not lease general purpose office space. The Administrator may lease such space for the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 585 and this chapter.''.

(b) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) may not be construed to invalidate or otherwise affect a lease entered into by the Securities and Exchange Commission before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INDEPENDENT LEASING AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review described in subsection (b).

(b) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall complete a review under which the Comptroller General shall update the 2016 report of the Comptroller General (GAO–16–648) with a specific focus on the following:

(1) Updating the information included in Appendix II: Federal Entities That Reported Having Independent Leasing Authority for Domestic Offices and Warehouses of such report.

(2) Determining to what extent Federal entities with independent leasing authorities have had such authorities rescinded or amended and the number and amount of office and warehouse space such entities lease.

(3) Determining to what extent have agencies with independent leasing authority utilized the General Services Administration for leasing, including utilization of delegation of authority.

(4) Identifying progress made on implementing the recommendations in such report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 388.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 388 revokes the Securities and Exchange Commission's, or the SEC's, leasing authority for general office space and brings them in line with current leasing practices through the General Services Administration, or the GSA.

In 2012, the SEC violated Federal law by signing a lease for 1.4 million square feet that cost taxpayers $566 million. This resulted in investigations by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the SEC's Inspector General.

The conclusions of these investigations indicated that not only did the SEC exceed its authority with this lease, but also that the SEC had a history of mismanaging its leasing authority.

Recent actions by the SEC during GSA's procurement of leased space for the SEC seem to indicate that the agency may be turning back to its old ways.

This bill ensures that the SEC, like other Federal agencies, continues to use the GSA for its space needs and provides more safeguards for the taxpayers' money.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 388, the Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act.

This legislation, introduced by Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia revokes the independent real estate leasing authority of the SEC and directs the Government Accountability Office to update its 2016 report on Federal entities with independent real estate leasing authority.

While some Federal agencies have independent real estate leasing authority and have used it responsibly, the SEC has a history of egregious real estate practices.

Congress granted the SEC independent leasing authority in 1990, which means the SEC does not need to use the General Services Administration for its real estate needs like most other government agencies do.

In 2010, anticipating the agency would expand in response to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the SEC leased 900,000 square feet of space in the Constitution Center building in Washington, D.C.

Then, a year later, in 2011, the SEC's Office of Inspector General issued a report which found that the SEC Office of Administrative Services conducted a flawed analysis to justify the need for this leased space and potentially committed Anti-Deficiency Act violations.

SEC's Office of Inspector General found that OAS grossly overestimated the amount of space needed at SEC headquarters for the SEC's projected expansion and prepared a faulty Justification and Approval to support eliminating competition.

Thankfully, Delegate NORTON introduced identical legislation to repeal this authority during the 117th Congress, and that bill, H.R. 1468, passed both the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House of Representatives with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, H.R. 1468 was not considered by the Senate. Today, we are trying one more time to approve this commonsense legislation.

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

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Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank Chair GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN for bringing this important bill to the floor.

This bill would revoke the independent real estate leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission and direct the Government Accountability Office to update its 2016 report on independent real estate leasing authority in the Federal Government. The House passed this bill last Congress.

While a number of Federal agencies have independent real estate leasing authority, the SEC has a history of egregious real estate practices.

In 2005, the SEC disclosed that it had unbudgeted costs of approximately $48 million for the construction of its headquarters near Union Station.

In 2007, after moving into headquarters, the SEC shuffled its employees to different office space at a cost of over $3 million without any cost-benefit analysis or justifiable explanation.

In 2010, the SEC conducted a deeply flawed analysis to justify the need to lease 900,000 square feet and to commit over $500 million over 10 years, overestimating its space needs by over 300 percent. In addition, the SEC failed to provide complete and accurate information and prepared a faulty and backdated justification and approval after it had already signed the lease.

In August 2016, the General Services Administration and the SEC entered into an occupancy agreement to authorize GSA to secure a new 15-year lease.

In December 2016, GSA, with the approval of SEC, submitted a prospectus to Congress for approximately 1.3 million square feet, which Congress approved in 2018.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me more time.

By July 2019, GSA had received final bids, resolved all protests, and even selected a final bidder. A month later, the SEC canceled the occupancy agreement, citing concerns about the value of the purchase option, which SEC refused to document to Congress. The SEC effectively vetoed the entire 3-year procurement process despite not having the authority or funding to exercise the purchase option without GSA's involvement.

Finally, after much back and forth between the two agencies, GSA entered into a lease agreement for a new SEC headquarters in September 2021. The SEC says it will continue to have GSA do its leasing in the future, but the SEC's history of egregious leasing conduct, having squandered hundreds of millions of dollars, makes this bill necessary.

These public blunders also risk undermining the reputation of GSA and the Federal Government among developers and building owners who participate in Federal lease procurements. The threat of uncertainty ultimately drives up the cost of all GSA real estate procurements.

It is time for Congress to return the SEC's leasing authority to GSA, the Federal Government's civilian real estate arm. As the SEC has demonstrated over three decades, it is incredibly inefficient, wasteful, and redundant to have the SEC involved in real estate procurements when GSA exists for that very reason.

Like other Federal agencies, the SEC will continue to have input with the GSA and involvement in the real estate decision-making process, but GSA would have the ultimate authority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to return the SEC's leasing authority to the GSA, the Federal Government's civilian real estate arm. This legislation would do just that.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

H.R. 388 ensures that the SEC is going to work with the GSA on leasing to improve oversight, reduce costs, protect taxpayers against wasteful spending, and minimize Anti-Deficiency Act violations in the future.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 388.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 346) to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 346

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. FAA TASK FORCE ON NOTAM IMPROVEMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a task force to be known as the FAA Task Force on NOTAM Improvement (in this section referred to as the ''Task Force'').

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator, including at least one member of each of the following:

(1) Air carrier representatives.

(2) Airport representatives.

(3) Labor union representatives of airline pilots.

(4) The labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA air traffic control specialists assigned to the United States NOTAMs Office.

(5) The labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA aeronautical information specialists.

(6) General and business aviation representatives.

(7) Aviation safety experts with knowledge of NOTAMs.

(8) Human factors experts.

(9) Computer system architecture and cybersecurity experts.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall include—

(1) reviewing existing methods for presenting NOTAMs and flight operations information to pilots;

(2) reviewing regulations and policies relating to NOTAMs, including their content and presentation to pilots;

(3) evaluating and determining best practices to organize, prioritize, and present flight operations information in a manner that optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information; and

(4) providing recommendations for—

(A) improving the presentation of NOTAM information in a manner that prioritizes or highlights the most important information, and optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information;

(B) ways to ensure that NOTAMs are complete, accurate, and contain the proper information;

(C) any best practices that the FAA should consider to improve the accuracy and understandability of NOTAMs and the display of flight operations information;

(D) ways to work with air carriers, other airspace users, and aviation service providers to implement solutions that are aligned with the recommendations under this paragraph; and

(E) ensuring the stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the NOTAM computer system.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the results of the reviews and evaluations of the Task Force under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (c);

(2) the best practices identified and recommendations provided by the Task Force under subsection (c)(4);

(3) any recommendations of the Task Force for additional regulatory or policy actions to improve the presentation of NOTAMs; and

(4) the degree to which implementing the recommendations of the Task Force described under paragraph (2) will address National Transportation Safety Board Safety Recommendation A–18–024.

(e) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(f) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on the later of—

(1) the date on which the Task Force submits the report required under subsection (d); or

(2) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Task Force is established under subsection (a).

(g) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall have the authority to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force detailed in the report required under subsection (d).

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) NOTAM.—The term ''NOTAM'' means notices to air missions required by international or domestic regulation or law, as described in FAA Order 7930.2S.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. 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 in the RECORD on H.R. 346, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, as amended, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023.

Just 2 weeks ago, Americans woke to the largest ground stop of aircraft since 9/11 due to the outage of the Federal Aviation Administration's, FAA's, notice to air mission, more commonly called the NOTAM system.

As a professional pilot, I use the NOTAM system on a regular basis and know firsthand just how important it is to ensure that it is reliable and functional.

This incident highlights a huge vulnerability in our transportation system. As much as I wish we could say that this incident surprised us, this kind of issue was inevitable. Committee leaders have repeatedly raised the alarm about our woefully out-of-date NOTAM system.

This same bill has been introduced and passed two Congresses in a row, and multiple laws coming out of the Transportation Committee have demanded that the Department of Transportation and the FAA step up and address the well-known issues with the NOTAM system.

What occurred nearly 2 weeks ago is unacceptable, and the American people deserve much better. Hopefully, this incident was the wake-up call that the DOT and the FAA needed to shake off their ongoing failure to properly maintain our Nation's air traffic control system.

H.R. 346, as amended, is going to help address this failure by identifying issues with the NOTAM system and proposing solutions to prevent an incident of this magnitude from ever occurring in the future.

This bill creates a special task force to improve the utility, stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the FAA's NOTAM system. Composed of representatives from airlines, aviation safety experts, and other important aviation stakeholders, the task force is going to review existing NOTAM policies, regulations, and the system's overall integrity to determine best practices to increase the system's efficiency and decrease its susceptibility to outages, which cause other disruptions.

Originally, this bill was focused on improving the NOTAM presentation so that pilots and dispatchers could focus on critical information that matters. In 2017, an Air Canada flight nearly landed on a crowded taxiway in San Francisco because the NOTAM informing them of a runway closure was buried on page 8 of 27.

Mr. Speaker, we urgently need a better system and a more stable system. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) for their leadership and foresight on this particular piece of legislation.

H.R. 346 is a good, bipartisan, and timely aviation safety bill. It shows that the people's House can rise to the urgent issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023, as amended. This bill was introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

On the morning of January 11, the U.S. airspace came to a standstill when the FAA grounded all airline domestic departures for the first time since September 11, 2001, due to an agency contractor mistakenly causing an outage of the FAA's NOTAM system.

NOTAMs are a critical part of our aviation infrastructure as they provide essential, real-time flight safety information—such as potential hazards—to pilots, flight dispatchers, and other airspace users.

Although the FAA worked to quickly solve the problem and lift the subsequent domestic flight ground stop, the cascading effects of mass delays and cancellations were seen for hours.

I fully support the FAA's actions to ensure the NOTAM outage would not affect the safety of the national airspace system; however, our constituents deserve better. They deserve to have both a safe and reliable national airspace system.

The FAA has moved to put several operational and systematic mitigations in place to try to prevent future NOTAM outages from occurring. However, the recent NOTAM system outage shows a clear need to reexamine and modernize the safety-critical systems and legacy infrastructure that flight crews and airline passengers depend upon.

To help strengthen the integrity of the system, this bipartisan bill directs the FAA to create a task force on NOTAM improvement to review existing methods for the content and presentation of NOTAMs to pilots; determine best practices to prioritize and disseminate critical flight information to pilots in a way that optimizes review and retention; and develop recommendations to ensure stability, resiliency, and cybersecurity of the NOTAM system.

This task force will be comprised of key aviation stakeholders, including airline pilots, air traffic controllers, air carriers, and aviation safety and computer system experts, among others.

This bill is an important step in a series of efforts Congress and the FAA will undergo to modernize the NOTAM system. Later this week, the chair and I and other Members of this body will be briefed by the FAA Acting Administrator on the status of the preliminary investigation into the NOTAM outage, how the FAA is responding to the incident, and issues that Congress should be considering to further strengthen the NOTAM system.

Fortunately, we are due for an FAA reauthorization bill this year, giving us an opportunity to build upon the 2018 law and further implement any necessary improvements to safeguard the NAS from similar system outages.

The task force created under this bill will play an important role in the FAA's ongoing NOTAM modernization initiative to ensure pilots, flight crews, and other airspace users receive NOTAMs that are timely, relevant, and accurate.

There can be no compromises when it comes to safety in the national airspace.

As demand for air travel begins to meet and even exceed prepandemic levels, this bill will help the FAA and the U.S. aviation industry implement best practices to improve the safety of the traveling public and the U.S. aviation workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my bipartisan legislation that improves the safety of air travel. I also thank my colleague, Mr. DESAULNIER, for his support and leadership on this legislation, as well.

In 2022, the United States was home to 8 of the top 10 busiest airports in the world. This means that, as Americans, we have no room for error when it comes to aviation safety.

Although aviation is the safest form of travel, we must always strive to be better. This is why we must address the notice to air missions, or NOTAMs, system.

NOTAMs provide current, up-to-the-minute data to pilots on any aspect of their flight. Unfortunately, NOTAMs are often buried in lengthy reports, conflating important safety information with more common alerts. These inefficiencies have the potential to create life-threatening situations, which have just been mentioned.

On January 11, 2023, all U.S. domestic flights were grounded for the first time since 9/11. The latest reports from the FAA suggest that the unintentional deletion of files caused this chaos.

□ 1300

No one person or one file should be able to take down our whole flight safety system, but the NOTAM system is old and antiquated so it comes as no real surprise.

Unfortunately, leadership at the Department of Transportation is more concerned with woke politics and changing the name of the system, rather than appropriate upgrades for aviation safety.

Mr. Speaker, I have been advocating for NOTAM upgrades for 4 years now. My legislation, which creates a task force at the FAA with important input from safety experts and industry professionals to address both efficiency and resiliency of the NOTAM system, has passed out of the House both in the 116th Congress and in the 117th Congress in a bipartisan fashion, only to die in the Senate.

I encourage my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to pass my legislation before another failure of the NOTAM system occurs. Our pilots, crew members, and passengers are counting on us.

Mr. Speaker, we do have a change in the 118th Congress. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is being led by two of my friends. Chairman SAM GRAVES is ready, able, and willing to change how the committee works and actually bring forth legislation that is good for the American people and good for our transportation. I have full faith in my good friend, Ranking Member LARSEN to do the same. We have worked together in the past, and I see this committee succeeding with the leadership that I have previously seen by the chair and the ranking member.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank my partner in this legislation and Chairman GRAVES for his positive comments.

As was mentioned, in 2017 an Air Canada plane at San Francisco International Airport got within 59 feet of crashing into four planes loaded with passengers, putting the lives of more than 1,000 people at risk, which would have been the greatest aviation disaster in American history. When the National Transportation Safety Board investigated, they found that the outdated NOTAM system was the largest part of the near disaster.

Since then, I and others have been working with the aviation industry, the FAA, the NTSB, and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to address the critical issues with NOTAMs. Updating them and making them more accessible to the people who use them is essential to the safety of the flying public and the confidence of the users.

Earlier this month, we learned what happens when there is an outage in the system: chaos and grounded flights.

In response to the Air Canada incident, I authored the Safe Landings Act, which would work to improve many aspects of aviation safety technology, including to the NOTAM system. With Members of both parties and the chair and ranking member, we have worked over the years to continue to hold the FAA accountable for the safety of passengers, crew, and aircraft.

In 2018, we included a requirement in the FAA reauthorization to speed up the modernization of the NOTAM system. Last year, more than 4 years after the provision passed into law, I led a letter with Ranking Member LARSEN to the FAA asking why the system was still outdated.

The mass flight cancellations that resulted from the outage further emphasized the need to make rigorous and immediate updates to the NOTAMs, and brought public awareness to this critical system.

I am proud to have worked with my colleague and friend from Minnesota on this bill in a bipartisan manner and look forward to protecting the safety of the flying public. With the creation of this task force, this will be accomplished.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 346, the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023.

The FAA's Notice to Air System, NOTAM, which sends real-time alerts to pilots about safety conditions, experienced an outage with consequences so far-reaching that it led to nearly more than 10,000 flight delays and more than 1,300 flight cancellations.

Even though the cause of the outage bore no connection to a cyberattack, the breakdown in NOTAM alerts, nonetheless, raises concerns about the cyber vulnerabilities of the antiquated systems that underlie modern air travel.

At a time when cyberattacks are rising in both scope and sophistication, modernizing the cybersecurity of air travel must be a priority for the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, 20th century air systems will no longer suffice in a world of 21st century cyber challenges.

That is why I wrote a letter calling upon both CISA and DOT to conduct a joint review of the cyber vulnerabilities of all aviation systems, including NOTAM. That is why I will proudly vote for bipartisan legislation requiring the FAA to establish a task force on NOTAM improvement.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I believe we have to do everything we can to ensure the U.S. remains the gold standard in aviation safety. That is why I support H.R. 346, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 346, as amended, takes a very important step in ensuring that America's National Airspace System is going to remain intact, remain operational, and remain safe for the American people.

Again, I thank Mr. STAUBER and Mr. DESAULNIER for their work on this legislation. It is a good bill, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 346, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 399) to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 399

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PRIMARY FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF ADVOCACY OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PRIMARY FUNCTIONS.—Section 202 of Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and the international economy'' after ''economy'';

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking ''complete'' and inserting ''compete''; and

(3) in paragraph (12), by striking ''serviced-disabled'' and inserting ''service-disabled''.

(b) DUTIES.—Section 203(a) of Public Law 94–305 (15 U.S.C. 634c) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities for the purpose of contributing to regulatory and trade initiatives which may affect small businesses.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 399, better known as the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act. The SBA Office of Advocacy is charged with looking out for the interests of small businesses across the entirety of the Federal Government. In many cases, this means calling out the negative impacts of regulations that are hurting small businesses or looking for inefficient rules that are preventing small businesses from competing for government contracts.

This legislation expands the SBA Office of Advocacy's mission to include advocating for small businesses on international trade issues. As our economy has become more and more intertwined with the rest of the world, overseas markets have become more accessible for small businesses.

However, when various regulations come out setting the rules of the road for trade agreements, small business voices can easily be drowned out. This bill solves this problem and ensures that Main Street America has someone fighting for their interests as international trade regulations are being created.

□ 1315

I thank my friend from Missouri for introducing this bill again in the 118th Congress and for always being a fierce advocate for our Nation's job creators.

Additionally, I hope that as this Congress progresses, we can continue to look for bipartisan ways to make the SBA Office of Advocacy more effective in helping our small businesses across the country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 399, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023.

Let me begin by welcoming the new chairman of the Small Business Committee (Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas).

The committee has a long tradition of setting partisan differences aside and working together on behalf of America's small businesses. I am glad we are off to a good start in the 118th Congress.

Today, we are considering three bills that overwhelmingly passed the House in the last Congress. As the chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee in the 117th Congress, I worked closely with my colleagues on the committee and stakeholders to craft dozens of bills that will increase access to capital, expand opportunities for free and low-cost counseling, and boost entrepreneurship. The three bills we are considering today are a product of that hard work, and I am hopeful that we will continue in the spirit of bipartisanship and focus on areas of agreement throughout the 118th Congress.

Turning to our first bill, the Office of Advocacy was established in 1976 to be an independent voice for small businesses within the Federal Government and is tasked with representing the views of small businesses before Congress, the White House, and other Federal agencies.

To that end, the office has regional advocates on the ground that provide

outreach to small businesses, local chambers of commerce, and other associations to hear firsthand the concerns of small businesses. The office works closely with Federal agencies to elevate these concerns throughout the rulemaking process.

Over the years, their hard work has saved small businesses billions of dollars in regulatory costs while still accomplishing the important goals of the regulations. However, their charter does not specifically state that they have the authority to represent the views of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities.

H.R. 399 will simply clarify that the Office of Advocacy has the authority to examine international economic data and represent small businesses in international discussions, particularly in trade negotiations.

I thank Chairman WILLIAMS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. MFUME for their bipartisan work on this bill.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the ranking member to get some really good things done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), my dear friend and a great patriot.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 399, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023.

America's regulatory environment plays a huge role in the way small businesses operate. They don't have access to the teams of lawyers needed to navigate the maze of government red tape that currently exists, and they certainly don't have the resources to make their voices heard on the international stage. This bill, which is identical to the bill that passed the House in the 117th Congress, gives small businesses that voice.

Specifically, H.R. 399 gives the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy the authority to represent small business interests before foreign governments and international entities. That representation is critical as the government renews and negotiates trade agreements and international commerce.

I thank my colleague, Congressman TROY CARTER from Louisiana, for working with me in a bipartisan manner to improve the SBA's Office of Advocacy.

I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for helping bring this legislation forward and congratulate him on his new role as chairman of the Small Business Committee. As a proven champion for Main Street America, small businesses are in good hands with Chairman WILLIAMS at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend a ''yes'' vote on this bill that puts America's small businesses first.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives LUETKEMEYER, CARTER, and MFUME for their work on this bill that will give small businesses a strong voice in the international regulatory arena.

All too often, small businesses' views are drowned out by larger companies with sophisticated legal departments and armies of lobbyists. SBA's Office of Advocacy works tirelessly to ensure that small business interests are heard at all levels of government.

Now that the world is more connected, more and more small businesses are participating in the global economy. Looking ahead, they will need a strong voice advocating on their behalf in international discussions and trade negotiations.

The Office of Advocacy is ready, willing, and able to assume this responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act.

Small businesses help make up the foundation of our country's economy, with over half of Americans owning or working for small businesses. As the driving force behind our economy, it is crucial that the government uplift them at every possible point.

This bill clarifies the function and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to allow the Office of Advocacy to represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities. This will allow American small businesses to be better represented in international markets and in negotiations with foreign entities.

Whether domestic or abroad, our small businesses deserve a seat at the table if discussions are going to affect the bottom line.

My district is an international hub. We have some of the most important and highest traffic ports in the United States. Louisiana businesses connect with diverse companies and international markets across the globe every day. This bill will ensure that small business owners have someone at the table fighting for them.

I will continue to do everything in my power to support American small businesses so they can better compete in the international market.

I thank our chair and Congressman LUETKEMEYER for working with me on this important bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are facing unprecedented economic headwinds. From broken supply chains to rising interest rates, many of these challenges are brand new for many businessowners.

I hope that we will be taking up meaningful legislation to help alleviate some of these large challenges, but in the meantime, we need to ensure small businesses have as many people fighting for them in Washington as possible.

H.R. 399 will allow Main Street to have one more voice looking out for their interests as trade regulations are being developed. This has the potential to open up new markets and expand their reach into the global economy.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 399 the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023, which classifies the primary function and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Specifically, the bill would set requirements for the Small Business Administration to include research on how small firms contribute to the global economy.

H.R. 399 also requires the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities to contribute to regulatory and trade initiatives that may affect small businesses.

According to the United States trade Representative, small firms, which account for two-thirds of all new jobs in recent decades, are the backbone of the American economy.

Small businesses make up 98 percent of all known U.S. exporters and indirectly support roughly four million jobs in local communities around the nation.

Residents in Houston take pride in their neighborhoods and places of business, and when faced with hardships—most notably Hurricane Harvey in 2017—they band together, resilient, and unwavering in their will to move forward.

Small businesses, especially minority owned businesses, face many challenges.

Nationwide, women and minorities start businesses at a much higher rate than their white and/or male counterparts, despite facing disproportionate amounts of obstacles while establishing and maintaining their ventures.

By enabling more women and minorities to start small businesses, we will see advancements in wealth and greater economic mobility.

According to a study by Next Street, research shows that self-employed business owners, specifically minority women in Houston, experience faster earning growth compared to employees who are compensated by salaries.

A study by the University of Georgia states that the buying power of African American,

Asian American, and Native American consumers has increased over the past 30 years to $3 trillion in 2020, making up 17.2 percent of the nation's total buying power that year. (Based on data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and other sources.)

I strongly support the Small Businesses Advocacy Improvements Act because it allows women and minorities who own small companies to express their interests and opinions in the on the global market.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 399 because of the significant effects its passage will on millions of small business owners around the nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 399.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MICROLOAN TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 449) to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 449

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. PORTFOLIO RISK ANALYSIS OF MICROLOANS.

Section 7(m)(10) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(10)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(2) by amending clause (iv), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(vi) the number, amount, and percentage of microloans made by intermediaries to small business concerns—

''(I) that went into default in the previous year; and

''(II) that were charged off in the previous year by such intermediaries;'';

(3) in clause (vi), as so redesignated, by striking ''and'' at the end;

(4) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as clause (xviii), and adjusting the margin accordingly;

(5) by striking ''On November 1, 1995,'' and all that follows through ''the following:'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on February 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and make available to the public on the website of the Administration, a report on the effectiveness of the microloan program during the fiscal year preceding the date of the report. Such report shall include—'';

(6) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by inserting after clause (vi) the following new clauses:

''(vii) the number and type of enforcement actions taken by the Administrator against noncompliant intermediaries;

''(viii) an analysis of compliance by intermediaries with the credit availability requirements of paragraph (3)(E) for loans in an amount greater than $20,000;

''(ix) the extent to which microloans are provided to small business concerns in rural areas;

''(x) the number of underserved borrowers, as defined by the Administration, participating in the microloan program;

''(xi) the average rate of interest for each microloan;

''(xii) the average amount of fees charged for each microloan;

''(xiii) the average size of each microloan, including—

''(I) the number of loans made in an amount greater than $20,000; and

''(II) the average size and charge-off rate of such loans;

''(xiv) the subsidy cost to the Administration;

''(xv) the number and percentage of microloans that were made to refinance other loans;

''(xvi) the number and percentage of microloans made to new program participants and the number and percentage of microloans made to previous program participants;

''(xvii) the average amount of technical assistance grant monies spent on each loan; and''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) PRIVACY.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall not contain any personally identifiable information of any borrower.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act.

When an entrepreneur wants to start a business, finding starting capital can be one of the hardest challenges there is. SBA's microloan program looks to solve this issue and provide capital to people who need help getting their businesses off the ground.

While this program is well intended, Congress currently doesn't have access to some key metrics that we need to evaluate the effectiveness of this program. For example, it would be very helpful to have a comprehensive review of where the loans are being distributed to see if it is being utilized in many rural areas of the country. Additionally, we are currently left in the dark about the overall risk profile of the entirety of the program.

This bill would solve these problems by directing the SBA to do a comprehensive analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of this program.

The Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act will provide Congress with much-needed insight to make determinations on how to better optimize this program to assist small businesses.

I thank my colleague from Tennessee, who has advanced this bill for the last few Congresses, for his dedication to improving this program.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act, which will improve SBA's data reporting with respect to the microloan program.

Congress created the microloan program in 1991 to make funds available to nonprofit, community-based lenders who, in turn, make small-dollar loans to eligible borrowers. Many of these borrowers are unable to get a traditional loan due to poor credit, no credit history, or a lack of business experience.

This program reaches various demographic groups that will otherwise not be served by the private sector or even the SBA's 7(a) program, especially businesses located in underserved communities.

In fact, in fiscal year 2021, the program delivered more than 4,500 loans to small businesses in these communities, totaling almost $75 million. This fiscal year, the SBA estimates it will assist over 5,700 small businesses, supporting approximately 24,000 jobs.

The bill we are considering today will help Congress and the public better evaluate the program and its impact on underserved communities.

Despite the program's record of success, many participating intermediaries report being restricted in their lending activity as a result of numerous rules governing the program being outdated. The information received from these reports will assist Congress and the agency in developing policies to continue the strong performance of the program.

I applaud the bipartisanship shown by Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. KIM, the sponsors of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), a great patriot who loves our country.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ—I believe I got that right; I have been working on it for about 5 years—it is a pleasure being here with you all.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the great work you do. There is nobody, I think, better at the helm of the Small Business Committee than somebody who has actually taken a business and made it into something. That is very American and very cool, and I thank you for your friendship to me and my family.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2023.

The Small Business Administration's microloan program helps America's entrepreneurs access capital to help their small businesses grow.

□ 1330

These loans are usually around $13,000; $13,000, the difference between them making it or not. That kind of money would go a long way for a lot of our mom-and-pop stores in the rural areas of East Tennessee that I am proud to represent, and in our inner cities, as well.

Unfortunately, the microloan program has a low participation rate, Mr. Speaker, among our rural businesses. My bill would increase transparency by requiring the Small Business Administration to report data about the program to Congress. This will help us better understand how the program is operating and what we can do to improve it.

Government programs that support small businesses shouldn't be full of waste, and they shouldn't neglect businesses simply because of their ZIP Code.

My bill will increase transparency and establish accountability at the Small Business Administration to ensure it is working on behalf the small businesses everywhere.

I thank my colleagues, especially my sponsor across the aisle who has been my friend for a few years here, for their support on this bipartisan, commonsense bill which passed the House in the 116th and 117th Congresses, and I look forward to seeing the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act pass the House again today.

I also look forward to the Senate doing their work and taking this up, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, during the last Congress, Mr. BURCHETT and I introduced this important bill as part of a two-bill microloan major impact package.

Together, these bills would increase the number of microloan lenders in our communities, increase access to capital, and ensure greater transparency around how taxpayer dollars are being spent by the SBA.

I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman and the ranking member, as well as Congressman BURCHETT to again advance these pieces of legislation.

Today, I rise in support of the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act, and I look forward to working with them to advance the Microloan Improvement Act in the 118th Congress, as well.

I have heard from a diverse range of businessowners across New Jersey's Third District about how just small increases in access to capital could make an enormous impact for them.

These businessowners aren't asking for the moon. Many of them are in communities that are underserved and may not have a credit history, extensive past business experience, or the luxury of coming from wealth, but they have a dream. They are entrepreneurial, and with a small investment, a microloan to get started in some cases, they can launch their business, chase their dreams, create jobs, and transform communities.

By passing this bill, we can help enhance microloans in rural areas and provide greater transparency to ensure we are using taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

This bill will help make sure the SBA's microloan program is reaching those most in need, best serving America's small businessowners, and giving them a fair shot at success.

I thank Congressman BURCHETT for leading this effort and for the support of the Small Business Committee. I urge all of my colleagues to support small businesses across this country and vote ''yes'' on this bill.

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

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

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

This bill will greatly increase the publicly available information about the microloan program's performance and impact.

If we intend to continue to support the smallest of small businesses, especially women- and minority-owned businesses, we need to make sure the programs targeting them are operating at their best. That starts with improving the data and information available about where the loans are going, how affordable they are, and where the gaps in coverage are.

With more data, Congress will be able to monitor the program and identify areas for improvement.

I thank the gentlemen from Tennessee and New Jersey for their hard work and collaboration in bringing this bill to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the microloan program which delivers capital assistance to the Nation's smallest businesses is an important lending tool at the SBA.

H.R. 449, the Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act, will deliver comprehensive data and information on the effectiveness of the program. I applaud all of the members for working on this important legislation in an effort to shine more light on how well the program is working.

From my State of Texas to both of the Nation's coasts, accessing capital remains a top challenge facing all small businesses. We must ensure these programs and tools are operating at a high level and delivering on the goals that Congress set for them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 449, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 449.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INVESTING IN MAIN STREET ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 400) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 400

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Investing in Main Street Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. INVESTMENT IN SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Section 302(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 682(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''5 percent'' and inserting ''15 percent''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''5 percent'' and inserting ''15 percent''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Small businesses are the engines of our economy. Over half of the country's payroll is made from small businesses, and when we work to find solutions to help these entities, we are strengthening the economic foundation of our country.

So before we start debating these bills, I thank our leadership team for recognizing the importance of small businesses and bringing these bills to the floor quickly so we can help build up Main Street America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 400, better known as the Investing in Main Street Act.

Last Congress, the Subcommittee on Capital Access held a hearing on the small business investment company program, otherwise known as the SBIC program. During this hearing, our members heard from witnesses about how this program attracts private equity investments to small businesses to hire more people and expand their operations.

This is a self-sustaining program that supports our Nation's job creators without costing taxpayers any money. In order to expand on this success, H.R. 400 looks to increase the maximum allowable investments by SBICs from 5 percent to 15 percent of their excess capital to small businesses.

This change will allow for greater amounts of private equity dollars to go toward small businesses. Additionally, this will align the SBIC program to other financial regulations coming out of the OCC and will help jumpstart growth of small businesses across this country.

As we look for ways to continually improve on this program, this change will have an immediate impact for our jobs and our Nation's job creators.

I thank my colleagues from California and New York for, once again, introducing this bipartisan solution to expand successful programs that empower the private sector to invest in small businesses.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023.

The SBA's Small Business Investment Company program is a multi-billion-dollar investment program designed to bridge the gap between a small business owner's need for capital and traditional sources of financing. It achieves this purpose by partnering private and public investments in early-stage startup businesses.

It also gives America's small, high-growth companies an opportunity to fund and grow their innovative ideas and create jobs.

The success of this program can be seen with companies like Apple, Intel, and FedEx, which all received early stage financing from the SBICs.

In fiscal year 2021, the combined private capital and SBA-backed funds totaled $34 billion, which was the highest in program history, and helped support more than 126,000 jobs. The number of financings to women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned small businesses increased by 36 percent.

Yet, we can do more to ensure the program continues to meet demand.

The Investing in Main Street Act, introduced by my colleagues, Representatives CHU and GARBARINO, will strengthen and grow the SBIC program by allowing banks and Federal savings associations to invest up to 15 percent of their capital and surplus into SBICs.

This change brings the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 in line with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's national bank charter percentage requirements. It will increase the investment capital available to SBICs and allow them to invest more in small businesses.

I applaud Representatives CHU and GARBARINO's continued work on this issue and this bill, and I ask all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO), a person who loves this country, and who understands Main Street America and small businesses.

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to share my support for H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, a bill which I am proud to co-lead with Congresswoman JUDY CHU.

I also thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this up today.

We often talk about small businesses being the backbone of the U.S. economy. It is not just a talking point, but a statement of fact. Small businesses are major contributors to our Nation's overall prosperity; and in my district on Long Island, small businesses are what fuels local economic growth.

As we face economic uncertainty due to inflation, labor shortages, and other ongoing challenges, we look to our small businesses to be leaders in the private sector and to help revitalize our communities.

For over 60 years, the SBIC program has injected capital into small businesses by allowing financial institutions or Federal savings associations to invest in SBICs up to 5 percent. But times change; programs need updating and, now more than ever, small businesses need access to additional capital.

The increase from 5 percent to 15 percent stipulated in this bill is a necessary reform that will help small businesses get back on their feet.

I thank my colleague, Congresswoman CHU, for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act, which would make commonsense changes to the small business investing laws to maximize the amount that banks may invest in SBA-certified small business investment companies or SBICs.

Even though banking rules allow financial institutions to invest up to 15 percent of their capital and surplus in SBICs, small business investing rules cap these same investments far lower, at just 5 percent.

The Investing in Main Street Act simply fixes this outdated inconsistency to allow banks to invest the full 15 percent in SBICs. Raising this cap will dramatically increase the amount of investment capital available to our country's small businesses for whom even small investments can mean so much.

Already, SBICs have helped companies like Costco, Apple, and Intel get off the ground back when they were just starting out; and SBICs fill a gap in the investment ecosystem and level the playing field for the smallest businesses which often face the highest barriers to securing investments from traditional private investors.

The nearly 300 certified SBICs in operation today have invested or committed $38 billion in small businesses nationwide; and last year alone, SBICs provided $7.9 billion in funding to over 1,200 small businesses and startups.

By raising the investment cap from 5 percent to 15 percent, we could potentially triple those numbers in the years to come. The growth will be especially important as America's entrepreneurship rates continue to soar as we emerge from the COVID–19 pandemic.

I thank Representative GARBARINO for his partnership on this legislation, and Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their strong support. I urge a ''yes'' vote on this bill.

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

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

□ 1345

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Small Business Committee for astute work on issues dealing with small businesses; Mr. WILLIAMS, a colleague from Texas; and the bipartisan sponsors of this legislation.

I have always said that small businesses are the backbone of the economic engine of America, so I rise in support of H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, for the wiseness of providing more investment in small businesses.

As a strong supporter of small businesses, I believe that this bill will improve the livelihood of many small

businesses that have continuously been impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic. The bill is designed to release more capital investment into small businesses in America. If my colleagues have interacted with the small business community, that is one of the number one issues that they raise consistently.

The bill would allow certain banks and savings associations to invest more into small business investment companies by increasing the statutory cap from 5 percent to 15 percent—I can't even imagine the number 5 percent—and the growing amount of small businesses and the ones that really stayed the course in desperate times, which was COVID–19.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020 had the highest total number of applications for new businesses by far compared to all other years. From 2019 to 2021, there was a 20 percent increase in the number of small businesses. The Kauffman Foundation says that the highest amount was among Blacks, Latinos, and immigrants.

People know that small businesses allow them to create jobs in their own neighborhoods and to build future conglomerates, but obviously, small businesses reported negative impacts due to COVID.

It is important for this bill to become law immediately. Pass it in the Senate and ensure that we have the opportunity to keep our small businesses from closing. When small businesses have ideas, we need to be able to give them the investment to focus on.

The Biden-Harris administration has laid the foundation and has helped create the conditions for businesses and job creation. We have had increasing job creation every month, but we do know that cities like New Orleans and Honolulu have seen the highest rate of small business closures. Other cities are right behind.

The fact that we can have a Small Business Administration that reforms and works with the Paycheck Protection Program, to improve that, if we had another circumstance like that that held up some of our small businesses, this investment is going to be a lifeline.

I am delighted to rise to support this legislation because, again, as I opened my remarks, small businesses are the economic engine of America and give women, minorities, and others the opportunity to build an economic engine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 400, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2023, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

As a strong supporter of small businesses, I believe that this bill will improve the livelihood of many small businesses that have continuously been impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic.

This bill is designed to release more capital investment into small businesses in America.

The bill would allow certain banks and savings associations to invest more into small business investment companies by increasing the statutory cap from 5 percent to 15 percent.

During the COVID–19 pandemic, the United States saw a significant rise in small businesses.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020 had the highest total number of applications for new businesses by far compared to all years that data was available.

From 2019 to 2021, there was a 20 percent increase in the number of small businesses created. That is more than double the average growth rate year to year.

According to the Kauffman Foundation, the increase in the rate of entrepreneurship during the pandemic was highest amongst Blacks, Latinos, and immigrants.

Even though there has been a significant rise in the number of small businesses during the pandemic, many businesses report negative impacts due to COVID.

In April 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau launched the Small Business Pulse Survey to produce data in real-time on the challenges small businesses were facing due to the pandemic.

When the first survey was collected in April of 2020, 90 percent of businesses surveyed stated that the pandemic had a negative effect on business.

When the last survey was collected in April of 2022, 70 percent of businesses surveyed stated that the pandemic had a negative effect on business.

Almost three years into the pandemic, small businesses are still struggling with getting back on their feet.

Cities such as New Orleans and Honolulu had some of the highest rates of small business closures in the country because their economies are largely built around serving visitors.

In large cities like San Francisco and Austin, the food industry was largely impacted because those who would typically eat out on their lunch break were now working from home.

The time for small business recovery is now.

The Biden-Harris administration has laid the foundation and has helped create the conditions for business and job creation.

With the evolution of almost 5.4 million small businesses in 2021, we must work to maintain and support these growing businesses.

The Biden-Harris administration partnered with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to reform the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The policy changes targeted small business and companies that were left out of previous relief efforts.

The data shows that these PPP policy changes provided more support in minority communities than the rounds under the previous administration.

The Small Business Relief under the American Rescue Plan included targeted grant relief and tax credits for small businesses hit by the pandemic.

The Small Business Relief produced immediate relief to more than 600,000 of the hardest hit small businesses.

The Biden-Harris administration was able to provide more than 6 million small businesses with $450 billion in emergency relief via the Small Business Administration.

Investing more in our small businesses has had a profound impact on the job market in the United States.

In the first three quarters of 2021, small businesses with 50 employees or less created almost 2 million jobs in the United States, the fastest start to small business job growth in any year on record.

Investing in main street should continue to be a priority for Congress.

Through this bipartisan bill, certain financial institutions would have the ability to invest more into small business investment companies by raising the statutory cap.

I urge my colleagues to join me and support this important legislation that will expand access to capital, increase the number of small businesses, and create jobs at home.

We must show the American public that improving the economy is a priority in Congress. This bill is a good first step at doing so.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the SBIC program fills the gap between the availability of venture and private equity capital and the needs of small businesses in startup and growth situations.

For decades, this program has channeled capital to leading-edge, high-growth companies. Without it, some of the Nation's most successful corporations would not be the companies they are today.

H.R. 400 raises the investment cap for banks and Federal savings associations from 5 percent to 15 percent. This will lead to significant small business investment by SBICs, which will result in economic growth in our local communities and job creation.

I applaud Ms. CHU and Mr. GARBARINO for their bipartisan work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the SBIC program has delivered for small businesses for many years. It is time we update the program to match other Federal rules and ensure the program continues to serve our communities in the future. This is a commonsense step to increase the amount of investment that an SBIC can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 400, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COMMENDING THE BRAVERY, COURAGE, AND RESOLVE OF THE WOMEN AND MEN OF IRAN DEMONSTRATING IN MORE THAN 133 CITIES AND RISKING THEIR SAFETY TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE IRANIAN REGIME'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 7) commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution, as amended, is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 7

Whereas, on September 16, 2022, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini passed away in the custody of Iranian ''morality police'' following a 3-day coma due to wounds, including bone fracture, hemorrhage, and cerebral edema consistent with severe beating, inflicted by the police for purportedly wearing a hijab improperly;

Whereas, on September 16, Iranians gathered in the streets of Tehran to protest the killing of Mahsa Amini;

Whereas demonstrations have since spread to more than 133 cities and 130 universities in Iran, where women are removing or burning hijabs, cutting their hair, and dancing in front of Iranian security forces, joined by their fellow Iranian citizens;

Whereas Iranian security forces have responded to such demonstrations with violence and detentions, including detentions of journalists and activists for covering the protests;

Whereas the security forces have reportedly killed more than 450 protestors, including at least 58 children; however, the number of injuries and deaths is likely higher but unobtainable due to internet blackouts;

Whereas at least 18,000 Iranians have been arrested across Iran according to official sources, and many thousands more have been detained according to independent reports;

Whereas videos, images, and demonstrations have spread to social media platforms and are an important way for the voices of the Iranian people to be heard;

Whereas internet monitoring groups have reported that the Iranian regime has—

(1) caused near-total disruption of internet connectivity in parts of Iran and partial disruptions in city centers; and

(2) blocked WhatsApp, Twitter, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram, and video games with chat functions;

Whereas common protest chants include—

(1) ''Women, life, and freedom!'';

(2) ''Iranians die but will not be suppressed!''; and

(3) ''Death to the dictator Ayatollah Ali Khamenei!'';

Whereas the Iranian regime has a long history of structural and legal discrimination against women, including barriers for women seeking justice against domestic violence and criminal prohibitions against women singing or showing hair in public and studying certain technical subjects;

Whereas the Iranian regime approved of ''depriving one social right or more'' for any woman who posts an unveiled picture of herself on social media, and, in August 2022, approved of enforcing mandatory hijab laws through facial recognition;

Whereas, through misogynistic criminal statutes, the Iranian regime for decades has detained and engaged in the ongoing persecution of women, including—

(1) Saba Kord Afshari, who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for posting videos to social media without a hijab and transferred into Ward 6 of the notorious Qarchak Women's Prison, identified by the Secretary of the Treasury for gross violations of human rights;

(2) Yasaman Aryani, her mother Monireh Arabshahi, and Mojgan Keshavarz, who were sentenced to serve five and a half years in prison for posting a video for International Women's Day in 2019, during which they walked without headscarves through a metro train in Tehran, handing flowers to female passengers;

(3) human rights attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh, who was sentenced in 2019 to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes for providing legal defense services to women charged with not wearing a hijab;

(4) Narges Mohammadi, a prominent rights advocate, who—

(A) was arrested in November 2021 on the second anniversary of countrywide protests and is currently serving a 2-year sentence in prison;

(B) was handed a further sentence of 15 months imprisonment for ''propaganda against the state''; and

(C) previously, had been sentenced to 10 years in prison in May 2015 for ''establishing an illegal group'', ''assembly and collusion to act against national security'', and ''propaganda against the state'';

(5) former Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Shahindokht Molaverdi, who was charged with encouraging ''corruption, prostitution, and sexual deviance'', a common charge against women refusing mandatory hijab laws, and sentenced in December 2020 to 30 months in prison for defending the right of women to attend sporting events and criticizing the practice of child marriage;

(6) six women who were sentenced by the Culture and Media Court of Tehran in July 2022 to each serve 1 year in prison for the offense of singing songs in public;

(7) Niloofar Hamedi, one of the first Iranian journalists to report on Mahsa Amini's death, who was arrested on September 22, 2022, and is being held in solitary confinement; and

(8) countless other women; and

Whereas peaceful protests in Iran over the last year have focused on grievances that include—

(1) mismanagement of the economy and national resources;

(2) prioritization of funding for terror groups and pariah regimes over social services for the people of Iran; and

(3) widespread political corruption: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns—

(A) the brutal beating and death of Mahsa Amini; and

(B) the violent suppression by the Iranian regime of women and men participating in the current demonstrations, including children, and calls for transparent accountability for all killings of protesters by Iranian security forces;

(2) supports the women and men of Iran who are—

(A) participating in the current protests to defend their fundamental human rights; and

(B) risking their safety to speak out against the human rights abuses committed by the Iranian regime;

(3) supports internet freedom programs that circumvent the regime and provide support for VPNs and other alternatives that can be used to bypass attempts by authoritarian governments to censor internet access during times of protest, and commends private entities willing to provide programs to circumvent such censorship;

(4) encourages continued efforts by the Biden Administration to respond to the protests, including the recent sanctioning of the Iranian morality police, and further encourages the Biden Administration—

(A) to immediately impose, under existing authorities, additional human rights sanctions on officials and entities responsible for the repression of the current protests;

(B) to prioritize efforts to expand unrestricted internet access in Iran, consistent with existing law; and

(C) to work to develop a strategy to prevent the Iranian regime from obtaining and exploiting facial recognition data and software for the use of mass surveillance and enforcement of mandatory hijab;

(5) encourages the private sector, following the recent clarification by the Biden Administration of sanctions exemptions on communications technology, to work with the Biden Administration to ensure protestors and activists have access to tools needed to circumvent government surveillance and repression; and

(6) welcomes the efforts of the international community to support protestors in Iran, and calls on the international community—

(A) to publicly condemn violence by the Iranian regime against peaceful protesters;

(B) to speak out against violations by the regime of fundamental human rights, including the freedom of expression, assembly, and redress of grievances of the Iranian people; and

(C) to impose human rights sanctions on officials and entities that are responsible for the repression of current protests and involved in violating the human rights of the Iranian people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, we consider an urgent bipartisan concurrent resolution condemning the Iranian regime for its gross human rights abuses against protesters in Iran, who are bravely speaking out and standing up to this terrorist regime after being brutally silenced for two generations.

I thank my Democratic co-lead, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair MCCAUL for their support of this resolution.

While I was disappointed we were not able to get this resolution to the floor last Congress when I partnered with former Congressman MALINOWSKI, I am grateful that this resolution is now

being brought up for a vote so quickly in our new Congress and with such broad bipartisan support.

Whether it be China, Iran, or Russia, this new House Republican majority is ready and willing to stand up to our adversaries and protect America's vitally important national security interests.

Since the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in the custody of Iran's religious police in September of last year, the Iranian people have boldly taken to the streets to demand justice. Now, almost 4½ months later, Iranian men, women, and children continue to protest the regime and its cruelty, despite the immense risk to themselves and their families. They are literally risking their lives for a just cause greater than themselves.

These demonstrations are the most significant popular protests against the brutal regime's authoritarian rule since it came to power in 1979. The response from the regime has been vicious, violent, and vindictive, not surprisingly.

Hundreds of protesters have been murdered by regime security forces. Thousands more have been detained on trumped-up charges. Many of those in custody, especially women, have been subject to cruel and inhumane torture.

The regime has unjustly executed Iranian protesters in sham trials that lack any modicum of due process. Many dozens more face the imminent possibility of execution.

The brave Iranian people are not backing down. In fact, they are more resolved than ever. They are demanding a government that respects their rights at home, stops funding terrorism abroad, and makes peace with its neighbors. They are demanding a future built on freedom, justice, the rule of law, and a chance at prosperity.

It is vital that we, the U.S. Representatives, a body that is among the greatest symbols of freedom and democracy around the world, stand with one voice to affirm our support for the brave Iranian people.

The resolution we are considering today does just this. It reaffirms our resounding support for the brave Iranians who continue to put their lives on the line to secure their fundamental rights and freedoms.

The resolution is a call to action. It urges the Biden administration to do more. Instead of negotiating with this brutal regime at a moment of weakness and true vulnerability, the Biden administration must meet the moment and do everything in its power to stand with the Iranian people. It must sanction those responsible for these brutal killings. It must do everything it can to counter the Iranian regime's cowardly attempts to restrict internet access that prevents its citizens from sharing images and videos and communicating with the outside world.

We have the power to give the Iranian people the voice they need to tell the truth about their oppression at the hands of the Ayatollah, and we must exercise it.

Finally, the Biden administration must lead the effort to press our allies and partners around the world to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps uses terror to silence Iranian citizens at home and targets innocent citizens abroad.

The United States rightly designated the group a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 2019. Now, the rest of the world must join in this noble cause. The IRGC's reign of terror must come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution says loudly, clearly, and with a strong bipartisan voice that the American people are on the side of the courageous Iranian people. The U.S. House of Representatives condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the regime's horrific violence.

Finally, as we recognize the bravery of the protesters in Iran, I also want to take a moment to remember that we have American citizens being held hostage in Iran today. These innocent American citizens have endured years of false allegations, wretched conditions, and separation from their loved ones simply because they are Americans. They must all be released. No American can be left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the 60 Members who have cosponsored this resolution, and I urge the entire House to support its passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Let me first thank Representative TENNEY and former Representative MALINOWSKI for their hard work on this bill. We wanted so much to get it done in the last Congress, but it is important that it is one of the first things that we get done in the 118th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the world held their breath as Iranian women took to the streets protesting the devastating murder of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was detained for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. The world thought maybe, just maybe, the regime would be ushered by their own people into the dustbin of history.

The protests quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's theocracy and posed one of the most serious challenges to the ruling clerics since the 1979 revolution that brought them to power.

Although today the protests have slowed some, and the regime remains firmly in place, something has changed. The Iranian people have a new understanding of their power. Despite bullets, despite arrests and the threat of execution, they have persisted. Cracks have been formed within the Iranian leadership elite.

The regime is not willing to meet the people's demands, and the people are not willing to accept the status quo forever. This is going to be a long, drawn-out domestic conflict.

The Supreme Leader is a corrupt old man who has stolen from and killed his own people for decades. The Iranian people know it. The Iranian President has not delivered on any of his promises and has left the Iranian economy in tatters through mismanagement, corruption, and international pressure. And guess what? The Iranian people know it.

It will not be instant, and it will not be easy, but change will come. Brighter days await the Iranian people.

□ 1400

The Iranian people, and also this regime know, it is only a matter of time. This resolution commends the bravery, the courage, and the resolve of the women and men of Iran who have participated in the protests to defend their human rights, their dignity, at the risk of their own safety to speak out against the horrific abuses committed by the Iranian regime.

It asks the Biden administration to continue its important work to support the people of Iran, as well as encourages the private sector to do even more to help Iranians to communicate with one another in a safe manner.

Also, this resolution before us today sends a clear message to the Iranian people that we in the United States Congress and the millions of Americans that we represent stand with them in their time of struggle for freedom. We want the Iranian people to know that we see you. We know the risk you are taking and the danger that you face. Stay strong. Stay strong, as freedom will always win over tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, we want the Iranian people to hear our voices. We want the world to hear our voices that the United States of America, in a bipartisan way—I know it is bicameral—and people all across this country stand with those brave people.

It reminds me of struggles of others when they had to fight for their freedom in the streets. Freedom will come in the morning because the voices of the people cannot be deterred.

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MEEKS for his support, which I greatly appreciate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and colleague, Ms. TENNEY, for yielding and for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 7. Today, the United States House of Representatives stands up for human rights, for the same freedoms that we as Americans hold so near and dear in our own country and against the brutal regime in Iran.

The Iranian Government has a long track record of vile human rights

abuses. Notably, they are the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, not just against the United States, but also against countries such as our own democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel.

In September, the senseless murder of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini at the hands of the so-called morality police for wearing her hijab improperly once again put the regime's human rights record front and center for the world to see.

Now, as the Iranian people protest in the streets of more than 133 cities across the country, demanding basic human rights, the regime's response is to crack down even harder. Since the protests broke out in September, more than 450 have been killed, including 58 children. At least another 18,000 were arrested.

This is reprehensible, unacceptable, and inexcusable. No government should ever treat its people this way.

The United States must continue to support the Iranian people in their struggle for freedom. The Biden administration should take a strong stand and end its quest for a new Iran nuclear deal. Great American companies, like Starlink, should help bring much-needed internet access to those protesting in the streets, which will significantly increase their communication and information sharing.

That is why I am proud to stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives today and support H. Con. Res. 7.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the brave women and men in Iran who are risking their lives to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

Today marks 131 days of ongoing protests in Iran. It has been 131 days since Mahsa Amini was laid to rest after being harassed, arrested, and ultimately killed by Iran's so-called morality police for simply wearing her hijab incorrectly.

Since her murder, the people of Iran—women and men alike—have taken to the streets in more than 133 cities across the country to demand their basic rights and freedoms be respected.

For nearly 19 weeks, protesters have gone out into the streets making their voices heard and demanding to be treated with dignity. But instead of listening, the Iranian regime is brutally cracking down on its own citizens, gunning down protesters, arresting people en masse, and resorting to torture and sexual violence.

Since the protests began, human rights activists in Iran have reported that nearly 20,000 people have been detained and more than 500 people have been killed, including children.

What is more, the Iranian regime has also executed four protesters, with many more being sentenced for crimes that carry the death penalty. These brutal human rights abuses must stop immediately.

The international community must stand with the Iranian people and against this violent suppression.

The Iranian regime must stop supporting Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine, stop spreading terror across the region, and start listening to its own people.

Today, the House is coming together to condemn unequivocally the Iranian regime's brutality and to express support for the Iranian people. Their bravery in the face of suffocating repression and increased impunity is inspiring the world and deserves our respect and strong support. They must know America stands with them.

Mr. Speaker, I will end by applauding the Biden administration for working with our allies and our partners to hold the regime accountable for the human rights abuses by imposing sanctions on Iranian officials deemed responsible for the violent crackdown on peaceful protesters.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing our bipartisan work to advance the cause of human rights in Iran.

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

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased at the bipartisan support of this resolution, I think it is important to reinforce that there can be no legitimacy or lifeline for this inhumane regime; that means no sanctions relief or nuclear negotiations.

Just a few months ago, the Biden administration was actively negotiating sanctions relief as part of a new nuclear deal with a regime that is detaining, torturing, and killing its own citizens.

Let me be clear, Iran did not comply with the last nuclear deal. Why would they comply with a new deal?

The only thing a new nuclear deal could accomplish is giving the autocratic regime more resources to attack its own people.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the Biden administration to not resume these foolhardy efforts. We do not negotiate with terrorists, and the Ayatollah and his regime are terrorists. They use fear, violence, and intimidation to achieve political goals.

We must return to a position of firm pressure and strong resolve while enhancing our deterrence in the region. Until this regime changes its behavior, it must remain under pressure.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 7, a bipartisan resolution supporting the brave women and men peacefully protesting for their rights and freedom in Iran.

Fundamental human rights are under attack in Iran. It has been nearly 4 months since the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of Iran's so-called morality police for allegedly wearing her headscarf incorrectly.

Since then, thousands of Iranians have peacefully protested the regime, calling for their basic rights and freedoms to be respected. Young women and girls have been horribly beaten for protesting a repressive, authoritarian government that controls how they dress and act in public.

In response to these demonstrations, Iran's security forces have reportedly used live ammunition and tear gas against the protesters, and horrifically, have killed more than 500 people, including at least 70 children.

It is clear Iran has no problem sentencing their own people to death simply for joining demonstrations. They are willing to do almost anything to maintain their grip and control.

The United States must stand unified against the oppressive Iranian regime and stand up for the Iranian people, whose basic human rights are being violated. The Iranian people deserve justice and accountability.

That is why I recently led a bipartisan letter, with my friend and colleague, JOE WILSON, calling for the United Nations to take urgent action to hold Iran accountable for its human rights abuses. Following our bipartisan effort, I was glad that the U.S. and 43 other countries supported our call for a U.N. special session on Iran.

At that special session, the U.N. Human Rights Council voted to establish an independent investigative mechanism into Iran's brutal use of force and grave human rights abuses.

Today, the bipartisan resolution we are all voting on will also help shine a light on Iran's human rights abuses. It makes clear that the United States stands with the people of Iran, that we are watching closely, and that all Iranians, including young women and girls, are entitled to the same human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am voting ''yes'' on this resolution today, and I encourage all my colleagues to join with me.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to point out that this is a bipartisan bill in which we are working together. Just last week, the Biden administration hit Iran with fresh new sanctions.

Not only did he do that individually, as he has been doing throughout the world, but he is bringing others together so that we can speak with one voice. Of course, the European Union was a part of it. Of course, he brought along other countries so that the world is speaking with one voice, collectively, keeping us together.

As things go on, we are continually ratcheting it up so that the people of Iran can get their freedom. In fact, the only thing that was somewhat changed and was done in this bill is where it encouraged the private sector, following

the recent clarification by the Biden administration of sanction exemptions or communication technology, to work with the Biden administration to ensure protesters and activists have access to tools needed to circumvent government surveillance and repression.

The only thing that was eased some, so that we can make sure we are communicating and allowing the Iranian people to communicate with others as they protest, is what is in this bill. I think, in a bipartisan way, we agree with that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member and I thank Ms. TENNEY for her leadership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the name of Iranian freedom. Freedom now for Iran and the Iranian people.

This legislation is brave, as it speaks clearly in a clear tone without fear for the courageous persons who have gone to the streets, not regarding their life or the lives of their families. I call them brave, courageous, resolved freedom fighters, fighting for their very life.

This legislation is absolutely necessary, and it is, of course, bipartisan. I thank Mr. MEEKS for indicating the strength of the Biden administration and the sanctions that have been offered, and the manner in which the Biden administration, Democrats, and Republicans have said to Iran: No nonsense. No nonsense, and certainly no nuclear capacity.

□ 1415

Anything that we have to do to ensure that that does not happen should not be tabled. But what should be tabled is the unbelievable brutal fighting and killing that has occurred against freedom-loving people.

I have been a longtime fighter with the people of Iran who are here in the United States. Iranian Americans have taken to the streets to be able to say: No more.

We will stand with our brothers and sisters in Iran.

I have seen the various attacks that have resulted in mass killings. I have seen the fight in Camp Ashraf in Iraq where there has been a large loss of life of people who have been fighting for freedom. I went to the camp to see the devastation.

I have supported plans for democracy in Iran. I understand that they need us to stand by them.

What a horrible and brutal scene that we have seen: children falling dead, mothers, brothers, fathers, and uncles.

What about Mahsa Amini?

She was just 22 years old, wanting her life to be before her, seeking democracy and freedom. She was a young, bright woman with courage that was taken away viciously in an ugly attempt to show how domineering this regime is. In the course of taking her away, her life was snuffed out.

We don't know her last hours, last days, last minutes, or last seconds. We don't know how brutal it might have been, how she might have cried out for someone to be able to be empathetic and sympathetic, someone to understand that her life deserved an opportunity to live, and yet this brutal regime continues to be without concern for anything that it does.

I want to say to all of the Iranian women, men, and children protesters who are leading the fight, I say loudly and clearly that we are standing with you.

I support this legislation entirely, and I want to continue the U.S.-Iran friendship with those people who are fighting for freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me conclude my remarks by saying I support Iranian women struggling against dictatorship.

Let me continue to say that I want this relationship between the U.S. and Iran to continue with the Iranian people who are fighting for democracy. I believe it is important that this legislation pass to show that America is a champion for global democracy.

I would like to also indicate that I look forward to organizing the Iranian women's struggle against dictators congressional caucus, and I hope there will be many who will join us. Let us keep our voices alive.

I rise again to support H. Con. Res. 7. I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership, and I thank the sponsors of this legislation for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 7, a resolution that commends the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran protesting and speaking out against the Iranian Regime's human rights abuses.

As a long-time advocate and fighter for justice and equality, I am inspired by the millions of Iranians that are putting their lives on the line day after day in hopes that one day they will live in a country that values justice, freedom, and the rule of law.

The U.S. Department of State cites Iran for a wide range of human rights violations; among them injustices such as arbitrary arrest, torture, and unjust executions.

I remember the attack on Iranian refugees at Camp Ashraf by Iraqi soldiers on April 3, 2011.

Camp Ashraf was the home to more than 3,000 members of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI), an opposition group against the Iranian regime.

I went to Camp Ashraf in solidarity and support of the democracy and freedom loving Iranian people and that support continues to this day.

In July 2019, I penned a letter to President Maryam Rajavi to commemorate the occasion of the Annual Gathering for a Free Iran and to extend my heartfelt congratulations on her election.

I expressed my support for her 10-Point Plan for the future of Iran, which ensures freedom of parties and assembly, an abolition of the death penalty, a separation of church and state, gender equality and several other promising policy positions that will thrust Iran into the future.

Under President Maryam Rajavi's leadership, women have risen to hold pivotal positions in the Iranian Resistance.

Iranian women will be the engine for change in Iran.

The uprising in Iran started with the murder of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman arrested by morality police in Tehran on September 13, 2022, for allegedly violating Iran's strict rules requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf.

Since the day of Mahsa Amini's funeral, women, men, and children have taken to the streets, risking their lives for a free and democratic Iran.

It is estimated that since the start of the protests in September, over 500 protesters have been killed, and thousands more arrested.

To all the Iranian women, men, children, and protestors who are leading the fight, I say loud and clear that I stand with you. America stands with you.

I am proud to support the women of Iran, the youth, and the brave men and women who are struggling to make these freedoms possible for the people of their nation.

Let us continue to foster U.S.-Iran friendship and collaboration as we work together to advance the universal rights of all humans, including basic respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The mountaintop of justice for women, for men, for children and for all Iran is on the horizon.

I will always champion global democracy, stand against human rights violations, and never shy away from speaking truth to power in the presence of oppression.

That is why I encourage my colleagues to work toward putting human rights at the center of America's diplomacy by supporting H. Con. Res. 7.

Together, we will put an end to the indiscriminate violation of human rights in Iran.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her strong compassion for these horrific situations in Iran and for the women of Iran.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

Iran is the leading aggressor in the Middle East, the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world, and a longstanding oppressor of its own people.

The Iranian regime, which has repressed far too many for far too long, has been shaken to the core by a revolution led by powerful women. The women in Iran who are risking their lives in confronting a monstrous and murderous regime are among the most courageous freedom fighters in the world.

The United States must stand unequivocally with our Iranian sisters in their fearless fight for freedom.

On September 13, 2021, Mahsa Amini was brutally beaten to death by Iran's Orwellian morality police merely for not wearing a head covering. Out of the tragedy of Mahsa's murder came a spontaneous groundswell of thousands of Iranian women rising up for their freedom, some removing their head coverings and cutting their hair as a poignant form of protest.

The revolution reminds us that the future of Iran does not belong to a regime whose malevolence and obsolescence have become too glaring to ignore.

Iran's future belongs to its people led by its fearless formidable female freedom fighters. The vision of a free and democratic Iran is an unrealized dream whose time has come and whose realization is long overdue.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York also for his compassionate remarks in support of this resolution.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 7 commends the brave people—the brave Iranian freedom fighters—for their fight against the brutal Iranian regime and demonstrates that the United States' commitment is with them, standing with the men and women of Iran.

In the face of so many human rights abuses, the Iranian people have remained strong.

I say to our Iranian friends: Though change won't happen overnight, continue to stand strong because the time of this regime will soon be up.

The international community recognizes—and that is us pulling together, all of the people of the United States and the international community around the world—the bravery and the strength of the Iranian people in the fight for their human rights, for their freedom from tyranny, and for a better tomorrow.

We have got to keep our voices.

Dr. King once said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We have got to stand together, and that is what this resolution does. It puts the regime on notice that its people are on the march because freedom cannot be denied.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that there will be a resounding voice by this United States Congress by passing this bill to say to the Iranian people who put everything on the line that we hear you, we see you, and we stand with you until you get your freedom.

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker MCCARTHY, Majority Leader SCALISE, Whip EMMER, and the new chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for prioritizing this important resolution and bringing it to the floor.

The fact is that this resolution was brought to the floor so quickly this week because the House majority demonstrates the importance of this issue.

I want to thank Mr. MEEKS for his continued support and help in ushering through unanimous support for this resolution in the last Congress. We are finally here getting it through, and I am grateful to the gentleman for his leadership and also for being so supportive.

Again, I thank Mr. GOTTHEIMER, especially, and Mr. MCCAUL for cosponsoring this resolution with me and all the speakers and everyone who have spoken in support of this resolution. It is important that we stand as a united voice against the Iranian regime and in support of the people of Iran.

I say to the people of Iran: We commend your bravery, we mourn your losses, and the American people are with you as you stand up for freedom.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 7, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ESTES) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

H.R. 346;

H.R. 400; and

H. Con. Res. 7.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NOTAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 346) to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 4, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 34]

YEAS—424

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)

Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Santos
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—4

Biggs
Burlison
Massie
Roy

NOT VOTING—6

Bonamici
Eshoo
García (IL)
Mullin
Schneider
Steube

□ 1622

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INVESTING IN MAIN STREET ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 400) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) 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 411, nays 13, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 35]

YEAS—411

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Santos
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—13

Biggs
Brecheen
Burlison
Crane
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Harris
McClintock
Ogles
Rosendale
Spartz
Tiffany

NOT VOTING—10

Bonamici
Courtney
Eshoo
García (IL)
Goldman (NY)
Griffith
Lamborn
Mullin
Schneider
Steube

□ 1631

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.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was not able to be present to

vote on H.R. 400. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 35.

COMMENDING THE BRAVERY, COURAGE, AND RESOLVE OF THE WOMEN AND MEN OF IRAN DEMONSTRATING IN MORE THAN 133 CITIES AND RISKING THEIR SAFETY TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE IRANIAN REGIME'S HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

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 agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 7) commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 36]

YEAS—420

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
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Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
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Ferguson
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Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green (TX)
Greene (GA)
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Grothman
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Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
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Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
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Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
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Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
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Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
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LaHood
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LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
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Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
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Menendez
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Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
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Moore (AL)
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Moore (WI)
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Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Santos
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
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Spanberger
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Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—13

Bilirakis
Bonamici
Crenshaw
De La Cruz
Eshoo
García (IL)
Granger
Mullin
Schneider
Steube
Takano
Tlaib
Wexton

□ 1641

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: ''A concurrent resolution condemning the Iranian regime's human rights abuses against the brave women and men of Iran peacefully demonstrating in more than 133 cities.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on H. Con. Res. 7—Commedning the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 36.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 36.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I regret to inform you that I was unable to attend today's legislative session. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 34, YEA on Roll Call No. 35, and YEA on Roll Call No. 36.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 57

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Ms. Eshoo, Ms. DeGette, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Peters, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Veasey, Ms. Kuster, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Mr. Soto, Ms. Craig, Ms. Schrier, Mrs. Trahan, Mrs. Fletcher.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES: Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Meeks, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Green of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Himes, Mr. Foster, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Casten, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Torres of New York, Mr. Horsford, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Mr. Nickel, Ms. Pettersen.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Morelle, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Kilmer, Mrs. Torres of California.

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Leger Fernandez.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Doggett, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. Higgins of New York, Ms. Sewell, Ms. DelBene, Ms. Chu, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Evans, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Panetta.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE MONTEREY PARK DANCE STUDIO SHOOTING

Ms. CHU. This last Saturday night, a shooter came into my hometown of Monterey Park, California, to a dance studio and killed 11 innocent people.

Today, I rise to honor the memories of the 11 lives we lost: Diana Tom, Mymy Nhan, Lilian Li, Xiujuan Yu, Hong Jian, Muoi Ung, Valentino Alvero, Yu-Lun Kao, Chia Yau, Wen-Tau Yu, Ming Ma.

I also wish for the speedy recovery for the nine who are injured, many of whom are still in the hospital.

Lunar New Year is a time of celebration for the thriving Asian-American community in my hometown. Saturday's senseless murders pierced the peace and joy of our celebrations and tore a hole through our hearts.

This Lunar New Year was supposed to be a celebration of the Year of the Rabbit, characterized by hopefulness and peace.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to keep hope alive and work together to make our country a peaceful one free from this kind of horrific violence.

Thank you for helping me honor the memories of those lost by observing a moment of silence.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 212

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 212, the Protecting our Land Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

□ 1645

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the record-breaking completion rates at the University of Georgia.

In just one year, the university's 4-year completion rate for freshmen has increased from 72.1 percent to 75.1 percent.

The university's 6-year completion rate has reached a new high of 88.1 percent, and the retention rate of students remains strong at 94.3 percent.

I commend the university's faculty hiring initiatives that have bolstered this already prestigious institution.

High-demand areas of study such as the Terry College of Business and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences continue to provide students with very talented professors, thanks to these initiatives.

The university has also continued to grow tutoring and peer learning programs to provide students with all the resources they need to succeed.

I am proud of the hard work the University of Georgia is doing to ensure student success across the board. Go Dawgs.

SALUTING CASSADY DAVIS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today early to kick off Black History Month. Cassady Davis, a third grader from Evening Street Elementary School, we salute her.

She is the daughter of McKenzie and Shawna Davis. She enjoys soccer, swimming, reading, and spending time with her sister, Collins.

Students have the opportunity to select past and present-day leaders for their Black history showcase. I am honored that Cassady chose me as her modern-day leader.

I commend the work of America's educators who are instilling in our students the importance of Black history, which is American history, and empowering young girls like Cassady to become the Nation's next generation of leaders.

So to all listening today, we salute a 9-year-old, Cassady Davis.

REPRESENTING PENNSYLVANIA'S 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to represent Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

The 15th Congressional District encompasses 18 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, nearly one-third of the land mass.

It includes all of Armstrong, Cameron, Centre—including my hometown of Howard—Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union, and Warren Counties. It also includes parts of Indiana, Lycoming, and Venango Counties.

Madam Speaker, I take great pride in my service to the people of the 15th Congressional District, and I work hard to earn their trust, help solve their problems, and be a diligent Representative.

When I am not here in Washington, I spend my days on the road in the district, traveling to meetings and events, and I work to connect with my constituents and truly be a voice for each community I serve.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here as I gave 144 1-minute speeches in the 117th Congress and to be a strong voice for the citizens of the 15th District.

The challenges before us remain great. It is my hope that we will tackle these challenges head on. It is the American way.

ATTACKS ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE IN FLORIDA

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the recent attacks on African-American culture in Florida.

Recently, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis blocked a new advanced placement course on African-American studies.

The course was inclusive of study of African-American culture that included literature, the arts, politics, science, and even geography. In addition, it included discussions about the Black struggle in modern America.

Govern DeSantis said that the class lacks educational value because it includes other subjects and the theory of slave reparations.

Clearly, Governor DeSantis believes education should reject any content that allows students to think for themselves, and he wants Americans to think that nothing bad ever happened in American history.

That does not sound like education to me. It sounds like indoctrination, and it should not be welcome anywhere in America.

Wokeness on the Republican side has become a new word, a code word. Let's eradicate that position.

SUPPORTING IRANIAN PROTESTERS

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

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the brave Iranian protestors who are fighting against barbaric forces of immorality.

During his 1967 inaugural address as Governor of California, Ronald Reagan said that ''Freedom is a fragile thing, and it is never more than one generation away from extinction.''

Iranian protestors have based this revolution on three principles: women, life, and freedom, all of which America has rightfully championed.

With a considerable population of Iranian Americans in New York's Third Congressional District, let America serve as a Democratic beacon of light for the Iranian men and women who are fighting abroad.

I acknowledge Representative TENNEY, who introduced a House concurrent resolution commending the bravery of the men and women of Iran.

I declare, with every bullet and with every act of violence imposed by the Iranian government, comes a call for us to condemn their actions and urge the Biden administration to take far greater actions than mere sanctions to address the countless murders and examples of senseless brutality.

RECOGNIZING RANDY SAWYER

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend and a wonderful professional, Randy Sawyer.

Randy has been a dedicated public servant in the county I represent in San Francisco Bay Area, Contra Costa. Contra Costa is home to a heavily industrialized part of the bay area with refineries and chemical plants.

Randy has served important roles at the Contra Costa Health Services, beginning as a specialist engineer in the Hazardous Materials Division, then becoming the Chief Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials Officer, and ultimately ending as the Deputy Director.

Among Randy's efforts to promote public health, he helped to champion the county's community warning system, one of the best response teams in the State and the country, to alert county residents and businesses when they are impacted or in danger of being impacted by an emergency.

He also helped Contra Costa lead the county in refinery safety with his work on the industrial safety ordinance, which I am proud to be an author of.

The legacy of Randy's work will continue to protect residents in the bay area for years to come. Please join me in congratulating Randy on his retirement and honoring him for his 30 years of public service.

□ 1700

LET'S PREPARE FOR DISASTER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, recently, my home State of California has suffered from a series of devastating storms on the flood side of the equation. We received at least 11 inches of rainfall and were hit by extreme flooding as a result.

Now, in California, unlike any other places, we have a simultaneous flood emergency and drought emergency; only in modern California. Many people were forced to evacuate. Twenty people lost their lives.

The damage was extensive, but the real disaster is that we already know how to reduce the fallout from flood events. If we built more water storage, such as Sites Reservoir, raising Shasta Dam, et cetera, we could store more of this rainfall that would not become floodwater, rather than also allowing it to flush out to the ocean where we will need that water in a regular drought period for agriculture, et cetera.

Storing water from these storms also allows us to weather our periodic droughts, such as in San Luis Reservoir. If we could run the pumps hard enough, we could be filling that facility.

So, again, that removes water from a flood zone and puts it into a good place where we can use the water.

We get fatalities from these disasters; they flood out roads; they do destructive damage to infrastructure.

We need better evacuation routes for people. We need to think ahead and plan for storage and for flood infrastructure, instead of letting climate change and environmental issues stop it.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the historic Supreme Court decision that gave women legal access to abortion.

Now, 50 years later, an extreme MAGA Supreme Court has reversed Roe, taking us to a new dark place in history; and now Republicans are racing full steam ahead toward a nationwide abortion ban, creating hardship and even death for pregnant women, and prison for their doctors.

To that, I say, my, my, my.

People, not politicians, should have the freedom to control their own reproductive destinies. On the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I rise to say that the American people want more freedom, not less; and that means the ability of each person to make the personal decision about their health, their lives, and their future.

INTRODUCING FRESHMAN REPUBLICAN MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. 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 subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I would like to kick off our first Wednesday Special Order Hour of the year by extending my congratulations and warm wishes to all of our colleagues, all the new Members, all the Members who are returning here. We have very, very important work to do in the 118th Congress.

I want to thank our House Democrat counterparts, as well, for working with us to ensure a smooth transition from the minority to the majority. It is an important part of our institution, and we are grateful for how this has gone so far.

We should all be rooting for the success of this Congress, obviously, because when Congress succeeds, everyone in our country benefits; and so we have an important responsibility before us.

We are under no illusion that the governing in such a closely divided body over these divided times is going to be any easy task. We know that. We know what the challenges are.

But we are also under no illusion that Congress has been operating as it should be. We think this can be done better, and our endeavor here is to show everyone how.

This problem that we faced here has been around for a long time. Look at just what happened in the last Congress. We had trillions upon trillions of dollars in government spending, which sent inflation soaring.

We had votes on immensely consequential, complex, 1,000-plus page bills sent to us just hours before we were called to vote upon them.

We had Congress steadily outsourcing its authority over to unelected bureaucrats in the executive agencies.

We had Members dial into congressional hearing, literally, from their bedrooms and their basements. We had Members voting by proxy while they were on vacation abroad.

With the 118th Congress, we are here to declare that those days are over. The House is getting back to work. We are ending remote voting and remote committee work in the House. That is going to restore greater transparency and accountability in the legislative process.

I actually believe that when we restore in-person work, as this was designed to be done, as the Founders intended, as they drew it up, it is going to have an added benefit because I believe it will help us rebuild comity and foster more civility in the House.

I am not going to belabor this point, but I would just say, at the end of last

year, Congress passed a 4,155-page bill. We spent $1.7 trillion on that omni; and I think it was one of the worst government funding bills in the history of Congress.

Instead of individual bills to fund each Federal agency one by one, with a roll call vote and amendments and deliberation process, we didn't have any of that. We had all the agencies lumped together right before the end-of-the-year deadline with dozens of unrelated policies attached to it. I mean, everything from electoral college changes to retirement changes, cosmetics regulation, healthcare policies, salmon fishing, and horse racing regulations, all crammed in there together, under the guise of a government funding bill.

The process for passing this bill was almost as ugly as the substance. It was written behind closed doors, I mean, literally, behind closed doors by a handful of people. It was brought to the House for a vote before anybody could possibly read it, much less debate or amend it.

Is there a single Member, is there a single Member of this body who thinks that is the way we should conduct the people's business? I don't think so.

So this should go without saying, but if we are going to fund each government agency and make changes to those unregulated policies, we should do it in regular order. We should do it in the regular process.

It should require a full, open debate in committee and on the floor, with the opportunity to make amendments. Republicans are committed to do this. We are back in charge, and that status quo that we have had here, where there is no transparency, no accountability, outright disregard for regular order, those days are over.

Campaign season is over. The House has elected our Speaker, and now it is time to get to work.

Madam Speaker, tonight, with the remaining time that we have in our hour, we reserved the time because we want to introduce the American people to some of the bright, new Republican Members that have joined the body here. They are going to discuss some of the problems that are currently facing our country.

They bring a fresh, new perspective to this, and their voices are very, very important. And we are also going to talk a little bit about the Republican vision for how we are going to address all of these crises.

We are in charge. We are here ready to work, and I am delighted to introduce a few of these key Members.

I would start first, Madam Speaker, by yielding to the gentleman from east Texas, Congressman NATHANIEL MORAN. I will say just a moment before I yield him the time, that we are neighboring districts. I represent Northwest Louisiana, and then right over the Texas border is my friend there. He is replacing the great LOUIE GOHMERT who has finally retired from Congress.

I will tell you just a quick bit about Nathaniel. He is formerly a West Point student, a graduate of Texas Tech University. He has a B.A. in Russian language and area studies, an MBA, and a law degree. He had a civil practice in the east Texas area, focused primarily on business and commercial litigation and transaction work.

He served on the City Council in the city of Tyler, Texas. He was mayor pro tem and, ultimately, he was appointed the Smith County judge, and he served in that capacity from 2016 until he was elected to Congress in 2022.

The thing about a county judge in Texas is they are, effectively, the boss in that area. They hold all the power. They do all kinds of stuff. They are not just a judge in a court; they are like an administrator over the whole area; and he did it so well.

What I love about him most is he is a family man who is dedicated to his faith, and he is a patriot. They have four children, just like we do. He represents a great area, and we are delighted to have him.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for this opportunity to speak.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce myself and to re-introduce the First District of Texas to this distinguished body, the people's House.

For those of you that do not know, the First District of Texas is made up of 17 counties in east and northeast Texas. The people there are faith-based, they are family-loving, they are hardworking, they are tough-minded, and they are service-oriented individuals.

They use their independent spirits, their patriotic hearts, and their rugged hands to build a future centered around faith, family, and freedom.

There are simply no better people in this world than those who reside in Congressional District 1 in Texas, and there are none more dedicated to seeing this world be a better place for our children and our grandchildren than my constituents.

The First District of Texas boasts a landscape of pine trees, dogwoods, roses, azaleas, pecan and peach orchards, lakes, and beauty beyond imagination.

Its economy is as diverse and strong as its people. It is not just home to some of the best oil and gas operations in the world, but it is home to innovative manufacturing, world-class healthcare, top-notch educational institutions, farming and ranching operations, food processing plants, steel and pipe companies, and so much more. You name it, our folks do it, and they do it with a spirit of excellence, innovation, and service toward one another.

The people in east Texas know that liberty gives rise to prosperity, but prosperity should always give rise to generosity.

In east Texas, the people love their God, their families, and their Nation, and they are willing to sacrifice all for those things. That is why we have so many veterans in our community.

East Texas is filled with individuals who, out of reverence and respect for the most important things in life, still stand for the national anthem and bow at their church altar. They know how to stand firm for their principles and to ask for forgiveness when they make mistakes.

To be sure, they know that strength and humility are not mutually exclusive; rather, they are values that support and build on one another.

I am so proud and humbled to represent Texas' First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

When I was just shy of 2 years old, my parents moved me and my three older brothers from Arizona to east Texas in Southern Smith County, and they worked with other families in that area to start a Bible college. For almost a decade, I lived on that Bible college campus and spent most of my time either going to church or exploring the woods and the county roads that surrounded our little single-wide trailer.

From climbing trees, to shooting snakes, drinking the nectar of honeysuckles along the roadside, playing football with the neighborhood kids, or recovering from multiple broken bones from all the adventures we had living in the country, several things became clear to me from my upbringing.

Among them, I learned, first: that Almighty God has a call for each of us in this life; that we were created for a divine purpose.

I learned that each of us have equal and eternal value.

I learned also that the great commandment in Matthew 22, of loving God and loving others, should guide our every decision and action in life.

I learned simply that we are all sinners in need of a savior; and I learned that these United States form the greatest Nation that has ever existed; and our Republic is great because of the breadth of the freedoms offered here, which come only from heaven above.

I am proud to be the first graduate of Whitehouse High School to serve as a Member of Congress, and I am deeply thankful that my calling in life has led me to this place, to this floor, where I hope to fan the flames of liberty, and to create more opportunities for my children, my four children, and for the children of every family in east Texas and beyond.

As a city councilmember in Tyler, I learned quickly that sound policy is so much more important than soundbites. Those 4 years on the city council solidified my desire to serve my community in whatever way possible.

Whether as a Sunday school teacher, a church deacon, a trombone player in the worship band, Cub Scout den leader, assistant Scoutmaster for the Boy

Scouts, or coach for my daughters' basketball teams, or simply just a volunteer for nonprofits across the community, I discovered that giving is so much better than receiving.

I am blessed with a loving wife and four children, two boys and two girls, from high school down to kindergarten, and they are a primary motivator for me to fix what is so wrong with this country.

I want my kids to grow and to know a country where freedom reigns supreme; where government is limited; and where their good decisions can lead to good consequences but, equally as important, where their bad decisions can lead to bad consequences so they can learn from their mistakes.

The road ahead for America will not be easy. As a country, we must make tough decisions to reverse our current trajectory. If we make these good decisions, we will see good consequences. But if we fail in that task, in that mission, the consequences will get more dire and the future will become more bleak.

□ 1715

In fulfilling our mission, we should never compromise our principles, but we can be both principled conservatives and pragmatic policymakers.

As a county judge in one of the most conservative counties in the State of Texas, I was proud to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in the State while still addressing critical areas of county government like improving roads and bridges, supporting law enforcement, working to improve election integrity, and addressing longstanding facility needs.

It is possible to do both, to keep the burden of taxes low while still addressing the critical needs of this country, but it takes the wisdom to see the right path forward and the courage to take it. In short, it means channeling the greatness of the character of this country, the type of bold and strong character evident in the people of the First Congressional District in east Texas and in so many other places in this great country.

I thank my constituents for this opportunity to serve; to be strong and courageous for them and for this country; and to work with all my might to preserve, protect, and defend this Constitution and the United States of America. I pledge to do just that and to do all that I can to make that happen.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas. Texas is well represented, and the First District certainly is.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to introduce next for his first Special Order hour speech one of the bright lights in the new incoming class in the 118th Congress, Representative MIKE LAWLER from New York. He represents the 17th Congressional District there, which includes Rockland County, Putnam County, and portions of Westchester and Dutchess Counties.

Before serving in the U.S. House, he represented New York's 97th District in the State Assembly and served on really important committees there—banks, education, housing. He has a broad range of experience.

In the New York State Assembly—this is a neat statistic—he passed more bills than any other member of his conference. It really is a testament to his ability to work in a bipartisan, pragmatic fashion to approach the problems that we face. That is a skill that is going to come in handy here.

He previously served as a deputy town supervisor and as a senior adviser to a county executive. He was also the executive director of the State Republican Party in New York—that is no small task—and did a great job there.

He graduated from Manhattan College with degrees in accounting and finance. He was the valedictorian there, I would note, but his greatest accomplishment, of course, is his wife and daughter. They live in Pearl River.

We are delighted to have Congressman MIKE LAWLER here. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Louisiana for the kind words and gracious introduction.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk with respect to School Choice Week here in the United States and to address the dire need for education reform across our country.

As a child, I attended public schools. In New York, we have some truly phenomenal public schools. When I was in second grade, I was among the youngest people in my class with a September birthday, and my teacher, an immigrant from Russia, said to my parents that she felt it was important for me to be left back because I needed time to mature and grow.

My parents were open to the idea so long as she was my teacher again, and at the time, that was not the program. They would give you another teacher within the grade.

So, my parents pushed until the school acquiesced and allowed her to teach me a second time. It was the best thing that ever happened to me because it gave me the opportunity to grow, to mature, to develop. I went from being one of the youngest in my class to the oldest in my class, and that had a profound impact on me.

As my colleague pointed out, when I graduated college, I graduated as the valedictorian of my class. I don't say that as a bragging point; I say it as the result, the direct impact, that that moment had on my life from an education standpoint.

As I think about education and the impact that it has on our communities and our children, I believe in school choice. I believe not only in the right of parents to choose what education is best for their child but in the right of a child to get the education that will put them on a path to success in their careers, an education that will accentuate their skills and their talents.

Whether that is a public school education or a private school education, a charter school or a vocational school, those options must be available to every child. No child should ever be victim to a poor education because of their parent's wealth or their ZIP Code.

Too often, we see that children are left in substandard schools because of politics, and it is wrong. As I mentioned, I am a product of public schools. My sister-in-law is a special education teacher in the very district that I graduated from. She is part of the teachers union. I respect and admire our teachers across America who provide a valuable education to our children, but we must ensure, number one, that every child has access to a quality education and, number two, that parents, not bureaucrats, certainly not the teachers union, have a say over their child's education.

As we recognize School Choice Week, I think it is important to recognize the quality education that is provided in our public schools, yes, but also in our private schools, our religious schools, our parochial schools, and yeshivas. They provide an important education, not just with respect to the basics of math, science, English, and history, but a religious foundation that plays such a pivotal role in a child's life.

We must recognize the role vocational schools play. At a young age, we should be helping children identify what their skills are, what their talents are, what their interests are so that they have a path to success.

Not everyone is meant to go to college. College is a great thing. As somebody who graduated at the top of my class, I believe in a college education, but it is not necessary for everyone.

In this country, some of our most successful people don't have college degrees. They went the route of a vocational school. They own and operate their own business within the trades. They employ hundreds, if not thousands, of people. They contribute greatly to our economy and communities.

For me, as we move forward, we need to continue to invest critical resources in education at the Federal level, at the State level, and at the local level. We need to protect local control of schools, and we need to protect the rights of parents when it comes to their child's education.

All of this is so critical as we move forward to ensure that our children have a bright future and that they are productive and contributing members of our society.

Education is the civil rights issue of our generation. It is so critical to ensure that every child receives the quality education they are entitled to.

When we look at what has happened over the last few years, especially with the COVID–19 pandemic, where so many schools were shut down and children were forced to learn remotely, we

saw devastating impacts and irreparable harm put upon our children. Nine-year-olds lost ground in math for the first time since the 1970s. Scores in reading fell by the largest margin in more than 30 years.

The damage was not felt equally across all demographics. Schools that remained open, or were closed for a shorter duration, did not see the same decline in student performance. Unfortunately, high-poverty districts that went remote for a majority of the pandemic will need to spend nearly all of their Federal education aid just to recover from these losses.

Such disparities are not new, and the COVID–19 pandemic has shone new light on issues that have been plaguing many communities for a long time.

Students in poor communities, whether they are urban or rural, tend to have lower test scores, literacy rates, and graduation rates than their peers. Meanwhile, the presence of alternatives to underperforming schools has been able to improve student outcomes substantially, slashing the achievement gap.

In the two decades since school choice programs were enacted in Florida, fourth grade reading performance rose 26 percent among African-American students, 27 percent among Hispanic students, and 29 percent among students from low-income households. Similarly, math performance rose 27 points among African-American students, 19 points among Hispanic students, and 21 points among low-income students.

In my State of New York, charter schools have made a big difference in some of the same students that struggle. According to 2019 test scores, 63 percent of charter school students in grades three through eight passed the State math exam compared to 46 percent for traditional public school students. Additionally, 57 percent of charter school students in the same grade levels were proficient in English language arts while the percentage for traditional public school students was 47 percent.

Any discussion on education reform must include school choice and support for it and support for our vocational schools, parochial schools, traditional private schools, and charter schools. We have to have an all-of-the-above approach. We need to empower communities, parents, and students, as well as our educators, to ensure that every child gets the education they deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from New York.

School choice is such an important issue. I love what he said: Education is the civil rights issue of our time. So well said.

Madam Speaker, there is a theme here tonight. We brought in incoming Members of the freshman class of the 118th Congress from the largest States, I think. It is not just a coincidence that we chose them for that duty tonight. We have had Texas and New York, and we will go to Florida next.

I am delighted to introduce a new Member from there, Representative CORY MILLS. I will tell you just a little bit about him.

He is a decorated U.S. Army combat veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star. He left his home State of Florida to serve his country in uniform and then served further our U.S. State Department and other government agencies in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

In fact, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division and was a member of the Joint Special Operations Command, Combined Joint Task Force 20 in Iraq. He spent significant time there, 7 years of service in Iraq and approximately 2 years in Afghanistan. He served in the Kosovo campaign in 2000. He has traveled to the front lines of Ukraine during the Russian invasion to provide information for USAID and Department of State officials.

He is a busy guy. President Trump appointed him to the Pentagon as a Department of Defense adviser and foreign policy expert.

With his wife, I love that he, in the private sector, cofounded PACEM Solutions International LLC and PACEM Defense LLC.

We love that he is here with us because he is a husband and a father, a patriot and a combat veteran, an entrepreneur, a foreign policy expert, and a true American conservative. We are going to have a lot of work for him to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

Mr. MILLS. Madam Speaker, today, I want to introduce myself not just to the great people of Florida's Seventh District but to the rest of America.

While I may not be in your district and your exact Representative, if you believe in our constitutionality, if you believe in the rights, liberties, and freedoms in which American exceptionalism once excelled in, then I will be your Representative.

□ 1730

I came from a very humble upbringing. I grew up in a small town called Auburndale, Florida, in central Florida.

My mother and father both suffered from drug and substance issues. They were in and out of prison nearly all of my life—my father spent nearly 30 years, my mother spent nearly 7 years. I bounced house to house until I was finally adopted and taken in by my grandparents.

That is a very humbling experience for me, not just because so many Americans today are suffering from these things, but to also understand that I can hear your plight. Also, I understand the significant importance of being a nuclear family member.

My grandparents didn't have much. My grandfather was a welder, my grandmother used to do hair on the back patio for women in the community. We lived on very little after my grandfather's disability. But the one thing that we always had was our love, our faith, and this Nation.

I went on to serve in the 82nd Airborne and as a member of the Joint Special Operations Command, to serve honorably in our Armed Forces, and to be a Bronze Star recipient.

My socioeconomic status and how I was born into what family did not define who I am. That is something very rare in this world. That is something that only exists here in America.

I have been honored and blessed to create tremendous businesses with my wife, where we have gone on to serve over 200 of our law enforcement departments: SRT, HRT, the FDLE, the Department of Corrections, as well as for our members of the Armed Forces. In my family, we truly believe in the ideas of defend, not defund our men and women in blue, and that matters to us.

I would just add that as I stand here, willing to serve yet again in a new uniform, I want you to know that accountability, transparency, and accessibility to your Members should be a top priority. That also means accountability for the wrongdoings of our Federal Government, whether it is the overstepping of State's rights and individual rights and the violations of the 10th amendment, or whether it is getting accountability for the wrongdoings of open borders, a failed Afghan withdrawal, and the America-last policies that have threatened our energy independence.

Madam Speaker, I know something about these failed withdrawals. When Congressman RONNY JACKSON from Texas reached out to me, he had a mother, Miriam, with three children, a 15-year-old boy, an 11-year-old little girl, and a 2-year-old little girl. They were left behind in Afghanistan after the Biden administration chose to abandon Bagram Air Base to hand over to the Chinese, that enabled over 40,000 Taliban, Haqqani, and ISIS Khorasan to be released from their detention centers, but it also shut down the commercial flights that many Americans had planned on using to return home.

This mother and her three children only wanted to do one thing, return back home to America. When RONNY JACKSON called the Department of Defense and the Department of State under this Biden administration, they failed to answer the call.

That is why when he called me, we put together a great team that went over, and after 11 days and three failed attempts, the Biden administration not only threatened to shoot down an aircraft of Americans, which was a November aircraft that was there to save other Americans, but he thwarted us in three other efforts.

The great thing about America is that we are not defined by the minority, which is our Federal Government. We are defined by the voice of the American people, which is the majority that cannot be silenced. That is why

after 11 days, multiple attempts, and crossing into impermissible environments, we were able to rescue and conduct the very first successful overland rescue of Americans out of Afghanistan and return that mother and her three children back and they finished out their school year.

Madam Speaker, the one thing I believe in is action. While I take this time to speak before you today, I want you to know that that is not what the American people are about—politicians speaking, but acting.

When it came to the 2020 riots, we didn't sit back and ask to defend and dismantle our law enforcement. My wife and I, we stood strong as we donated hundreds of thousands of dollars and less lethal goods to defend our law enforcement, our communities, their businesses, and their homes.

If I have learned nothing in my time in the military as a combat veteran, as a businessowner, as a foreign policy expert, and as an American, it is that it is time for action.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and I thank him for his service to our country. We are glad he is here.

Madam Speaker, we have many bright lights from Florida. Another one that I would like to introduce next is Congresswoman ANNA PAULINA LUNA, who is here to serve her first term. She represents Florida's 13th Congressional District.

She is a member of the House Freedom Caucus and the Second Amendment Caucus, and is already very busy here on the grounds.

She is the first Mexican-American woman elected to the United States Congress to represent the big State of Florida. She was raised by a single mother in one of southern California's low-income neighborhoods. She tells the story often that she experienced firsthand the devastating consequences of radical, Big Government policies in cities like the one she grew up in. It was a tough childhood.

She joined the military at a young age and she went on to graduate from the University of West Florida with a bachelor's degree in biology. She served in the U.S. Air Force, and that is where she met her husband Andy, who is a Bronze Star recipient who earned a Purple Heart when enemy combatants shot at him in Afghanistan.

She brings an extraordinary work ethic and an inspiring life story and her fresh perspective to our Republican Conference. We are so happy to have her join our group here and our conservative cause.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA).

Mrs. LUNA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the politicization of what is happening at our southern border against the American people.

Several years ago, before politics was even a factor or thought for me, I got involved as a counter-trafficking activist. During that time, I had the honor and privilege of working next to some very brave people who were working to expose what was happening with the whole immigration debate.

One of the more alarming things that I found is the more that I addressed this issue, the more that I got involved to really shed light on it to the American people, the more that I was called a ''coconut,'' the more the color of my skin became a topic of discussion, and the more that the left sought to, if anything, underestimate and undermine my capability to address this topic because of the fact that I am a conservative.

Yes, I am Hispanic. Yes, I am a veteran. Yes, I grew up and saw things that a lot of people, probably in this very body, haven't had to experience.

But what I am standing here today to say is: What I have realized over that journey—what I have realized over the past couple of years—is that I thought that in politics some people would be here to do the right things, and I found that it is actually the exact opposite.

I found that within this body people will lie to the American people about what is happening at our southern border, not because they want to help people, not because they actually care about these issues, but because they simply seek power. I think that we are seeing that today.

Only several years ago you could see some Members of the Democrat Party, some people like former-President Barack Obama say: Don't come here, you will get hurt in the process. Yet, the media seems to forget about that.

They say now that if you are a Republican, if you embrace border security, if you want to stand up for people that are being trafficked that you are a racist, that you are xenophobic, and they seek to label us. It is simply not true.

I have been down to the border three times, and I can tell you that on my last experience down there I went with a member of the Border Patrol Union, his name is Art Del Cueto. We went down to a portion of the border that was completely open. It was on an Indian reservation. What I saw and heard down there was alarming. It was alarming for several reasons, one mainly being that the media wasn't discussing it. But also, too, one of the most horrifying stories that I heard was actually from him saying that on just regular walkie-talkies that you could purchase at Walmart, you could pick up the radio frequency of some of the ''coyotes'' working with the cartels to actually scout out women that were crossing illegally and they would be brought up to the top of these mountains and raped. That was their right of passage they would say; they would joke about it.

That is something that we should all be talking about. We pride ourselves in this country—being that we are a free country, free of slavery. Yet, that is happening every single day. We have the opportunity to fix it and we don't.

Why?

It is not because we can't fix it, we can.

It is because of partisan politics. That has to end. In 2021 alone, 147,000 unaccompanied minors were crossing along the U.S.-Mexico border. There is no question in my mind that these young people are absolutely exploited for entry and abuse of the asylum process that has been actively happening over the last couple of years, especially under this administration.

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women estimated that 60 percent of Latin-American children caught by cartels are actually exploited for child pornography or drug trafficking purposes.

If we, as a country, cannot come together and address the simple issue of trafficking, of modern-day slavery, of the exploitation of children—minority children at that—then are we any better than a Third World country or a place like China that engages in human rights abuses every single day?

I am tired of this. I am sitting here willing to work with Members across the aisle, but I don't see that olive branch because of the fact that I am a conservative Republican. That is wrong, and that is why I am standing here today.

I hope that we, as a country, can come together. That this administration can accept responsibility for the absolutely inappropriate abuse of the media saying that they want to legalize everyone, that is encouraging people to come here and people are hurt on both sides because of it.

Madam Speaker, if there are people willing to work with me, I hope to work with them. I hope to end this awful slavery that we are seeing every single day.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That is such an important issue and we can't talk about it enough. Thank you for drawing the Nation's attention to it tonight.

Madam Speaker, our final new Member that we wanted to introduce tonight comes from another big State, and that is California.

I want to tell you a little bit about Representative KEVIN KILEY. He serves the people of California's Third District in the House. He is from that district. He was born there. He attended the local public high school there. His mom was a special education teacher. I guess that inspired him because he began his career as a 10th grade English teacher at Manual Arts High School in inner city LA.

He chaired the English Department there. He led his students to significant academic gains and he founded an award-winning speech and debate team.

After graduating law school, he helped prosecute the civil case against China's Huawei Technologies for intellectual property theft. He defended the

Constitution in California courts—we have that in common. We did a lot of that work in the courts before we came to Congress. He became a prosecutor and he represented the people of the State of California against violent felons as a deputy attorney general.

He was first elected to the California State Assembly in 2016, and he did some significant work there in his tenure. He introduced significant school choice legislation. He authored groundbreaking new laws and protections for sexual assault victims, and privacy and criminal justice reform, and freedom of speech. In fact, in 2020, he was named the National Legislator of the Year for that work for advancing economic freedom.

I could go on about his bio, but I do want to mention this one little minor note. He has a bachelor's degree from Harvard, a law degree from Yale, and a master's in secondary education from Loyola Marymount. Clearly, he is overqualified to serve in the U.S. Congress, but we are glad he is here. I think he brings a lot to this body and will be an extraordinary Member.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that kind introduction. It is an honor to represent California's Third District.

Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an important issue regarding aid for my constituents harmed in the Caldor fire, which I had the chance to discuss with President Biden yesterday.

The Caldor fire tore through El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador Counties in August of 2021. The community of Grizzly Flats was leveled and 800 homes were destroyed. With 20,000 residents under mandatory evacuation orders, further devastation was only narrowly avoided.

Americans may remember the surreal images of ski slopes set aflame, smoke billowing from the foothills, and ash raining down on cities across the Sacramento Valley. Entire communities in the Lake Tahoe area had their survival hanging on a razor's edge and could well have been consumed by the flames if not for the heroics of our first responders.

By the time the blaze was extinguished, it ranked among the most destructive fires in California's recorded history.

I had the chance to walk through the hollowed out streets and roads of Grizzly Flats just days after the fire. To his credit, President Biden visited the following month as well. President Biden traveled to California in September of 2021 to survey the damage. After landing at Mather Airport, President Biden joined Governor Newsom, California Office of Emergency Service Director Mark Ghilarducci, and other State and Federal officials for an aerial tour of the smoldering remains of Grizzly Flats, and the surrounding area.

After landing, CAL OES Director Ghilarducci thanked President Biden for the relief that had been provided to victims of the recent Dixie and River fires, and the relief that would soon be provided for victims of the Caldor fire.

□ 1745

At that point, President Biden interjected. He said: ''We are going to take care of them.'' ''. . . there's a lot we can do, and it starts off being a Federal responsibility, in my view.''

These are President Biden's words as he was present shortly after the fire: ''We are going to take care of them.'' ''. . . there's a lot we can do, and it starts off being a Federal responsibility, in my view.''

Yet, well over 1 year later, President Biden has yet to fulfill that promise and provide individual assistance through FEMA to hundreds of people—hundreds of my constituents—who lost everything. In fact, FEMA has twice denied individual assistance, even though this same Federal aid was provided in similarly destructive wildfires such as the 2021 River fire.

Yesterday, I spoke with President Biden. I reminded him of his visit to Grizzly Flats and of the promise that he made. The President was receptive and seemed genuinely troubled that the residents of Grizzly Flats have not received relief. He said that he would get to the bottom of it, and I thank him for that.

The reality is that the President has the power with the stroke of a pen to grant this aid to the residents of Grizzly Flats. In fact, just a few years ago, President Trump did precisely that, providing individual assistance to victims of another California fire, the Creek fire. So I am calling on President Biden to keep his word and to give victims of the Caldor fire the relief that they deserve.

Now, while we must remember the debt that is owed to the community of Grizzly Flats, we also need to reflect on how we got here. The fact is that these catastrophic wildfires that ravage California year after year are not inevitable. They are a direct result of failed policies and of neglect, and Grizzly Flats is a perfect example.

The United States Forest Service actually had a fire mitigation plan that was announced in 2013 that would create a 15,000-acre fuel reduction buffer east and south of Grizzly Flats. Now, although that project began in 2014 and was scheduled to be completed by 2020 before the fire, it became mired in delays, and by the time of the fire in 2021, only 14 percent of the work had been done.

By the way, the Forest Service exaggerated this. They overstated the amount of work that had been done. They claimed that it was twice that, and it took an investigation by Capital Public Radio to reveal the truth.

Wildfire experts believe that if the project had been completed on schedule, it could well have saved Grizzly Flats.

A key architect of the mitigation project, former El Dorado National Forest District Director Duane Nelson, said that if the project had been completed, then there would have been a high probability that Grizzly Flats would not have burned in the Caldor fire. He continued that it could have meant survival.

So even though the damage was caused in part by Federal negligence, we still have not gotten Federal aid. That is what makes this such a bitter pill to swallow for my constituents, that it was neglect on the part of the Federal Government that led to the fire, and then after the fire, the promises of the Federal Government for relief have gone unfulfilled.

More broadly, as we do everything we can to get assistance to the community of Grizzly Flats, we need to do everything we can to assure that other communities don't suffer the same fate. This means taking the simple and scientifically backed steps that we know reduce the risk of wildfires: actively and responsibly managing Federal forests, clearing underbrush and dead trees that serve as ladder fuels, conducting controlled burns, and selectively harvesting mature trees for logging to ensure healthy forest density.

Those are just the beginning of the steps that we can take to make sure that this doesn't keep happening again and again. I am calling on all of us to work together across the aisle to take the steps to do the work that needs to be done.

In the meantime, I am calling on the President to please, today, tomorrow, as soon as he possibly can, with the stroke of a pen make good on his promise and give the residents of Grizzly Flats the relief they deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. California's Third District is well-represented as everyone can see.

Madam Speaker, as is also obvious by the sample of new Members that we presented here tonight from New York, Florida, California, and Texas, this is an extraordinary class of Republican Members who have joined our conference here in the Congress. We look forward to serving with them. These will be fateful days for our country, and there is much hard work ahead in the 118th Congress.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

RULES AND REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(d), executive communications [final rules] submitted to the House pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1) during the period of August 9, 2022, through January 3, 2023, shall be treated as though received on January 25, 2023. Original dates of transmittal, numberings, and referrals to committee of those executive communications remain as indicated in the Executive Communication section of the relevant CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–133. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County; Power Plants [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0107; FRL-9426-02-R9] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–134. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Arkansas; Control of Emissions From Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [EPA-R06-OAR-2022-0546; FRL-10189-02-R6] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–135. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; NC; Miscellaneous NSR Revisions and Updates; Updates to References to Appendix W Modeling Guideline [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0782; FRL-10215-02-R4] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–136. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Minor Revisions to Nitrogen Oxides Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0433; FRL-10402-02-R4] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–137. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Area Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0265; FRL-9781-02-R4] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–138. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extract of Caesalpinia Spinosa; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0209; FRL-10495-01-OCSPP] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–139. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — NuScale Small Modular Reactor Design Certification [NRC-2017-0029] (RIN: 3150-AJ98) received January 13, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–140. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Hong Kong that was declared in Executive Order 13936 of July 14, 2020, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–141. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–142. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–143. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the drawdown of defense articles and services and military education and training under Sec. 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide immediate military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–144. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–145. A letter from the Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report for FY 2022, 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 Accountability.

EC–146. A letter from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassifying Fender's Blue Butterfly From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2020-0082; FF09E22000 FXES1113090FEDR 223] (RIN: 1018-BD97) received January 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–147. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments (RIN: 2900-AR79) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–148. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment [FRL-5906.7-01-OECA] received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–149. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Colored Federal Airway Blue 26 (B-26); Fort Yukon, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0110; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–150. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; Fort Belvoir, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1447; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AEA-35] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–151. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1306; Project Identifier AD-2022-01040-E; Amendment 39-22289; AD 2022-27-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–152. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1234; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00289-E; Amendment 39-22280; AD 2022-26-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–153. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1570; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01269-T; Amendment 39-22268; AD 2022-25-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–154. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1569; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01267-T; Amendment 39-22267; AD 2022-25-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–155. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.:

FAA-2022-1571; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01359-T; Amendment 39-22270; AD 2022-25-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–156. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1567; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00099-T; Amendment 39-22265; AD 2022-25-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–157. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1568; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00910-T; Amendment 39-22266; AD 2022-25-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–158. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0978; Project Identifier AD-2022-00460-E; Amendment 39-22276; AD 2022-25-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–159. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1054; Project Identifier AD-2022-00278-T; Amendment 39-22255; AD 2022-24-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–160. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1061; Project Identifier AD-2022-00441-T; Amendment 39-22271; AD 2022-25-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–161. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0588; Project Identifier AD-2022-00114-T; Amendment 39-22249; AD 2022-24-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–162. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revised Definition of ''Waters of the United States'' [EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0602; FRL-6027.4-01-OW] (RIN: 2040-AG19) received January 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–163. A letter from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Joint Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Voluntary Arbitration Program for Small Rate Disputes [Docket No.: EP 765] received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–164. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Reimbursement of Emergent Suicide Care (RIN: 2900-AR50) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–165. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modifications of Approval Requirements for Courses Designed to Prepare Individuals for Licensure or Certifications (RIN: 2900-AQ91) received January 19, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–166. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. (Type Certificate Previously Held by WALTER Engines a.s., Walter a.s., and MOTORLET a.s.) Turboprop Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1239; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00301-E; Amendment 39-22279; AD 2022-26-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–167. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Procedures for determination letters and private letter rulings under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, Employee Plans Rulings and Agreements, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 494. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 495. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to authorize assignment to States of Federal agency environmental review responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 496. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNCAN (for himself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Ms. MACE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARL, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. LATTA, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. MAST, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GUEST, Mr. PALMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. FRY, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 497. A bill to eliminate the COVID-19 vaccine mandate on health care providers furnishing items and services under certain Federal health care programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 498. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to secure the suicide prevention lifeline from cybersecurity incidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 499. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain additional annual disclosures by public companies and exchange-traded funds investing in companies with ties to the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 500. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 501. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require registrants to decline to fill certain suspicious orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 502. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. BUCK:

H.R. 503. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to TikTok, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 504. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require an executive agency to submit information to any committee of the House of Representatives upon the request of 7 of the members of the committee, and to submit information to any committee of the Senate upon the request of 5 of the members of the committee, if the information relates to any matter under the jurisdiction of the committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 505. A bill to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage to $15 an hour; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LIEU, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 506. A bill to designate the Russian-based mercenary Wagner Group as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 507. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office, to prohibit the use of funds for official travel expenses of Members of Congress and legislative branch employees for airline accommodations other than coach-class, to reduce the pay of Members of the House of Representatives if a Speaker is not elected on the first day of a Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Ethics, Rules, and Oversight and Accountability, 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. CRENSHAW (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 508. A bill to provide procedures for appealing certain Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives rulings or determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. ROY, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CAREY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. BALDERSON):

H.R. 509. A bill to prevent class-based loan forgiveness for Federal student loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 without the explicit appropriation of funds by Congress for such purpose; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 510. A bill to require the United States Governor of, and the United States Executive Director at, the International Monetary Fund to oppose an increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 511. A bill to assist States in, and pay for the Federal share of the cost of, defraying the cost of pre-apprenticeships or related instruction associated with qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 512. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit the Election Assistance Commission from making payments under such Act to States and jurisdictions which fail to meet certain standards to protect the integrity and certainty of elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. HERN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 513. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. KHANNA:

H.R. 514. A bill to establish a National Development Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 515. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on repurchase of corporate stock; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California):

H.R. 516. A bill to fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FALLON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 517. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H.R. 518. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 519. A bill to amend the Act of December 19, 1913 (38 Stat. 242), to expand access to the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Lake Eleanor Basin areas for recreational purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 520. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that artificially propagated animals shall be treated the same under that Act as naturally propagated animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 521. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 522. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing a vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, to pay expenses associated with the delivery of such vehicle, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. BOWMAN):

H.R. 523. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the authorization of appropriations for homeless veterans reintegration programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 524. A bill to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 525. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 526. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from issuing a temporary standard with respect to COVID-19 vaccination or testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. STEUBE, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 527. A bill to void existing non-compete agreements for any employee who is fired for not complying with an employer's COVID-19 vaccine mandate, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 528. A bill to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. WALTZ (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 529. A bill to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. SCALISE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HUNT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. STEWART, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. HILL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CARL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. OWENS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. BICE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. OGLES, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. BUCK, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SELF, Mr. BOST, and Mr. GUEST):

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LATURNER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. MACE, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H. Con. Res. 10. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement with Taiwan, and support Taiwan's membership in international organizations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H. Res. 56. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 57. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H. Res. 58. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the chair of a committee or subcommittee to recognize members at a meeting of the committee or subcommittee in the order in which they seek recognition; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CASE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CROW, and Mr. EVANS):

H. Res. 59. A resolution recognizing January 2023 as ''National Mentoring Month''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER:

H.R. 494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Providing oversight of federal funding for the EcoHealth Alliance.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal student aid for postsecondary education

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

Single Subject Statement:

This legislation eliminates the COVID–19 Vaccine mandate on health care providers furnishing items and services under certain Federal health care programs.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FALLON:

H.R. 499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Securities and Exchange Commission shall require Chinese-based companies listed on US exchanges to disclose information regarding their business opertaions.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Affairs

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

national security

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN

H.R. 505.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Government ethics.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 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, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Protect the Second Amendment by creating an appeals process to ATF rulings.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
The United States' input regarding the special drawing rights at the International Monetary Fund.
By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 511.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''
By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:
H.R. 512.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Election Integrity
By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:
H.R. 513.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. KHANNA:
H.R. 514.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws that are necessary and proper to carry out its enumerated powers.
By Mr. KUSTOFF:
H.R. 515.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article 1, SectIon 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This legislation pertains to the excise tax on the repurchase of certain corporate stock.
By Mr. LIEU:
H.R. 516.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Financial Services (Housing)
By Ms. MACE:
H.R. 517.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to disseminate information about family planning resources.
By Mr. McCLINTOCK:
H.R. 518.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause)
The single subject of this legislation is:
Endangered Species Act reform.
By Mr. McCLINTOCK:
H.R. 519.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2
The single subject of this legislation is:
Uses of Hetch Hetchy reservoir.
By Mr. McCLINTOCK:
H.R. 520.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
Endangered Species Act reform.
By Mr. MOONEY:
H.R. 521.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Social Security
By Mr. MOYLAN:
H.R. 522.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To provide for the needs of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 523.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Increase funding for Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
By Mr. ROUZER:
H.R. 524.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
The single subject of this legislation is:
To Amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites.
By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 525.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18.
The Congress shall have Power . . .
To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
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. TENNEY:
H.R. 526.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3,
The single subject of this legislation is:
Preventing OSHA from enacting COVID–19 vaccine mandate.
By Ms. TENNEY:
H.R. 527.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
The single subject of this legislation is:
Nullifying non-complete clauses for persons fired due to COVID–19 vaccine mandates
By Mrs. WAGNER:
H.R. 528.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution
By Mr. WALTZ:
H.R. 529.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Trade

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 24: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 38: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 41: Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 45: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 51: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 53: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 82: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. CHU, and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 139: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 148: Mr. FRY.
H.R. 163: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 173: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 185: Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 190: Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 208: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 223: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 233: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 239: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 243: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 246: Mr. MANN and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 247: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 263: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 267: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 279: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 291: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 292: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. DUARTE, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 293: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 330: Mrs. BOEBERT, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BOST, and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 336: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 341: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 345: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 346: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 347: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 353: Mr. EZELL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 356: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 361: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 362: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 371: Mr. BOST and Mr. ROY.
H.R. 372: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 374: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 381: Mr. FULCHER and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 398: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CLINE, and Mrs. BOEBERT.
H.R. 400: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 407: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 413: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 424: Mr. BERGMAN and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 427: Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. ROY.
H.R. 431: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 435: Mr. BOST and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 436: Mr. MAST, Mr. BOST, and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 448: Mr. OWENS and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 451: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 453: Mr. OGLES and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 461: Mr. CLINE, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. BOST, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 463: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 467: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 484: Mr. MANN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 490: Mr. ALLRED.
H.J. Res. 7: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FALLON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. MOONEY.
H.J. Res. 8: Ms. FOXX.
H.J. Res. 10: Mr. ROUZER.

H.J. Res. 13: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H. Res. 42: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 54: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H. Res. 55: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. SLOTKIN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 212: Mr. TRONE.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. PLASKETT

AMENDMENT NO. 43: Add to the end the following:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON RAISING ENERGY PRICES.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, submits to Congress a certification that implementation of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, will not increase the average price of energy for American consumers.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. SOTO

AMENDMENT NO. 44: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a certification that, in the opinion of the Secretary, the price of gasoline and diesel fuel will not increase in any Petroleum Administration for Defense District while the Secretary develops the plan described in such paragraph.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. PORTER

AMENDMENT NO. 45: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR PARTICIPATION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for the financial benefit or participation of any entity which is allowed any allowance for depletion which is determined under section 613 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. JACKSON

AMENDMENT NO. 46: Page 2, line 11, after ''(d)'' insert ''or if the Secretary determines that a situation exists in which a delay in executing a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve in order to comply with this paragraph will harm national security''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT NO. 47: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON CERTAIN WITHDRAWALS OF FEDERAL LANDS FROM MINERAL LEASING.

This Act, and any amendments made by this Act, shall not affect the Presidential memorandum titled ''Presidential Memorandum -- Withdrawal of Certain Areas off the Atlantic Coast on the Outer Continental Shelf from Mineral Leasing'' and dated December 20, 2016.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. BARR

AMENDMENT NO. 48: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any rule issued by a Federal financial regulator that has the effect of limiting access to financing for oil and gas companies shall have no force or effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy reports to the Congress (and makes such report available to the public) that the amount of petroleum products in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is equal to or greater than the amount contained in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve on the day before the relevant drawdown.

(b) FEDERAL FINANCIAL REGULATOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Federal financial regulator'' means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Financial Stability Oversight Council, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CARBAJAL

AMENDMENT NO. 49: Page 2, line 17, insert ''and excluding lands within the boundaries of a national monument'' after ''Shelf''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 50: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary certifies that the oil and gas leasing on Federal lands contemplated in the plan to be developed under paragraph (1) is necessary to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to the amount of petroleum products held by the Reserve on February 23, 2022.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. KEATING

AMENDMENT NO. 51: Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not—

''(A) provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; or

''(B) provide for any oil and gas lease sales of any area of the Outer Continental Shelf off the Atlantic coast.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PERRY

AMENDMENT NO. 52: Page 2, beginning on line 9, amend paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has—

''(A) developed a plan to increase the number of barrels of petroleum products produced on Federal lands (including submerged lands of the Outercontinental Shelf) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense leased for oil and gas production by the same number of barrels of petroleum products in the Reserve that are to be drawn down in that first and subsequent drawdowns, subject to the limitation under paragraph (2); and

''(B) submitted to Congress a certification that the number of barrels of petroleum products to be produced pursuant to subparagraph (A) have been produced.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GARCIA OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 53: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a certification that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands (including submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf) leased for oil and gas production pursuant to the plan required by paragraph (1) will not result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PERRY

AMENDMENT NO. 54: Page 2, beginning on line 9, amend paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has—

''(A) developed a plan to increase the number of barrels of petroleum products produced on Federal lands (including submerged lands of the Outercontinental Shelf) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense leased for oil and gas production by the same number of barrels of petroleum products in the Reserve that are to be drawn down in that first and subsequent drawdowns, subject to the limitation under paragraph (2); and

''(B) submitted to Congress a certification that the number of barrels of petroleum products to be produced pursuant to subparagraph (A) have been produced.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GRIJALVA

AMENDMENT NO. 55: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include a Tribal consultation plan with Tribal governments and the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Energy.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GRIJALVA

AMENDMENT NO. 56: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

''(4) COMMUNITY PROTECTIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing on any Federal land where oil and gas leasing would result in or exacerbate disproportionate burdens on communities of color, low-income communities, and Tribal and Indigenous communities.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GRIJALVA

AMENDMENT NO. 57: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

''(4) EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing on any federal lands that are viable for renewable energy production.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. MAGAZINER

AMENDMENT NO. 58: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary determines that implementation of paragraph (1) will not negatively affect consumers the homes of which are heated using heating oil or other petroleum-based fuels.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. MAGAZINER

AMENDMENT NO. 59: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as impacting the authority of the President or the Secretary of Energy to initiate a drawdown of petroleum products from the Reserve in order to lower gas prices.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. SCHOLTEN

AMENDMENT NO. 60: Page 2, line 11, after ''(d)'' insert ''or if the Secretary determines that a situation exists in which a delay in executing a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve in order to comply with this paragraph will increase gas prices''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LIEU

AMENDMENT NO. 61: Page 2, line 11, insert ''and any drawdown that the Secretary determines will result in a net profit for the Federal Government'' after ''(d)''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LIEU

AMENDMENT NO. 62: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

(4) MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located on the Outer Continental Shelf if oil and gas leasing of such tract would adversely impact any marine mammal.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. VASQUEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 63: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''effective date of this subsection''.

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and any amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, publishes a report on the number, location, and owner of all unused permits to drill for oil and gas on Federal land.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. VASQUEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 64: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS FOR THE SPR.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Energy shall, to the greatest extent possible, acquire petroleum products for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that are produced from sources located in the United States.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. HUFFMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 65: Page 3, line 5, strike ''percent.'' and insert ''percent, nor shall it include any tract of Federal land where oil and gas leasing would decrease land and water available for outdoor recreation.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CASTEN

AMENDMENT NO. 66: Page 2, line 20, strike ''and gas''.

Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) PARTICIPATION BY FOSSIL INDUSTRY ENTITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not allow for the participation of a fossil industry entity in oil production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil production as a result of such plan unless such fossil industry entity submits to the Secretary a plan for—

''(I) reducing the total global warming pollution of the fossil industry entity by 2030 by not less than 50 percent of the total global warming pollution of the fossil industry entity in calendar year 2022, without the use of offsets;

''(II) eliminating the total global warming pollution of the fossil industry entity by 2050, without the use of offsets; and

''(III) allowing, in any given calendar year, the release into the atmosphere of not more than 1 percent of the methane brought to the surface through such oil production activities.

''(ii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

''(I) FOSSIL INDUSTRY ENTITY.—The term 'fossil industry entity' means an entity or individual that engages in the production, purchase, or sale of oil or natural gas.

''(II) GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION.—The term 'global warming pollution' includes each of the following:

''(aa) Any gas that is determined by the Secretary to trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to an increase in heat waves, flooding, drought, sea level rise, storm intensity, disease, disruption of agricultural production, or ecosystem disruption.

''(bb) Carbon dioxide.

''(cc) Methane.

''(dd) Nitrous oxide.

''(ee) Sulfur hexafluoride.

''(ff) Any hydrofluorocarbon.

''(gg) Any perfluorocarbon.

''(hh) Nitrogen trifluoride.

''(ii) Any fully fluorinated linear, branched, or cyclic—

''(AA) alkane;

''(BB) ether;

''(CC) tertiary amine; or

''(DD) aminoether.

''(jj) Any perfluoropolyether.

''(kk) Any hydrofluoropolyether.

''(ll) Any other fluorocarbon, except for a fluorocarbon with a vapor pressure of less than 1 mm of Hg absolute at 25 degrees Celsius.

''(III) TOTAL GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION.—The term 'total global warming pollution' means, with respect to a fossil industry entity, the aggregate amount by weight of global warming pollution released into the atmosphere in association with the production, processing, refinement, transportation, combustion, and use of oil or natural gas that is produced, purchased, or sold by the fossil industry entity.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CASTEN

AMENDMENT NO. 67: Page 2, line 20, strike ''and gas''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil production—

''(A) in excess of 10 percent; and

''(B) unless the Secretary determines that—

''(i) the amount of oil that the Secretary intends to draw down from the Reserve in the first and subsequent drawdowns described in paragraph (1) is greater than the amount of oil produced in the United States that is reasonably expected to be exported from the United States during the 6 month period following the date of the intended drawdown;

''(ii) the expected exports of oil produced in the United States during the 6 month period described in clause (i) cannot be curtailed by an amount that is greater than the quantity of oil planned to be released from the Reserve; and

''(iii) the curtailment of exports of oil by an amount that is greater than the quantity of oil planned to be released from the Reserve would not have a comparable or greater effect than the planned drawdown of the Reserve in—

''(I) ensuring the energy security of the United States;

''(II) maintaining the stability of the price in the United States of petroleum products, including gasoline and diesel fuel; or

''(III) the achievement of other objectives cited by the Secretary to justify the drawdown from the Reserve.

''(3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representative and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the data and analyses used in the determination of the Secretary under paragraph (2)(B) upon publication of the determination.

Page 3, line 6, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (4).

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CASTEN

AMENDMENT NO. 68: Page 2, line 20, strike ''and gas''.

Page 3, line 4, strike ''and gas''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. BEYER

AMENDMENT NO. 69: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include any tracts where oil or gas production would harass or take a North Atlantic Right Whale.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. ROSS

AMENDMENT NO. 70: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

''(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. BLUNT ROCHESTER

AMENDMENT NO. 71: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and that net-zero greenhouse gas emissions must be achieved by 2050, if the United States is to satisfy its commitment under the Paris Agreement and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 72: Page 3, line 2, strike ''shall not provide'' and insert ''may not—''.

Page 3, line 2, before ''for a'' insert the following:

''(A) provide

Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert ''; and''.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

''(B) include any Federal land that, if leased for oil and gas production, will increase net carbon emissions.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 73: Page 3, line 2, strike ''shall not provide'' and insert ''may not—''.

Page 3, line 2, before ''for a total'' insert the following:

''(A) provide

Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert ''; and''.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

''(B) include tracts of Federal land where oil and gas leasing would be inconsistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Accords.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ

AMENDMENT NO. 74: Page 3, line 2, strike ''shall not provide'' and insert ''may not—''.

Page 3, line 2, before ''for a total'' insert the following:

''(A) provide

Page 3, line 5, strike the period at the end and insert ''; and''.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

''(B) include the lease of any land for oil or gas production to a company that has, within the previous decade, purchased an equity security of the company that is listed on a national securities exchange.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

AMENDMENT NO. 75: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located within the Big Cypress National Preserve.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PAYNE

AMENDMENT NO. 76: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that communities of color and low-wealth communities face the greatest harms due to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. NICKEL

AMENDMENT NO. 77: Page 2, line 11, after ''(d)'' insert ''or if the Secretary determines that a situation exists in which a delay in executing a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve in order to comply with this paragraph will worsen inflation''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. ESCOBAR

AMENDMENT NO. 78: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless such activities will not negatively impact water quality.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. PEREZ

AMENDMENT NO. 79: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) COASTAL FISHERIES EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for oil and gas leasing in any tract in the Washington/Oregon Planning Area if such oil and gas leasing would adversely impact coastal fisheries.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 80: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before finalizing the plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the plan for a period of at least 90 days.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 81: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the number of inactive but approved Federal oil and gas leases and permits to drill issued before the date of enactment of this subsection.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. TAKANO

AMENDMENT NO. 82: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''effective date of this subsection''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not—

''(A) provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; or

''(B) provide for any increase in oil and gas drilling if that oil and gas drilling would impact deployment of renewable energy projects on Federal lands.''.

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and any amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary of Energy certifies that increased oil and gas drilling on Federal lands will not impact deployment of renewable energy projects on Federal lands.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. SCANLON

AMENDMENT NO. 83: Page 2, beginning on line 9, amend paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan to increase the production and stockpile of renewable energy technologies that can produce the same or a similar amount of energy as the energy that would be produced by the petroleum products in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that are to be drawn down in that first and subsequent drawdowns.

Page 3, beginning on line 1, strike paragraph (2).

Page 3, line 6, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 84: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that the Secretary certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to paragraph (1) would not perpetuate environmental injustice.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOTTHEIMER

AMENDMENT NO. 85: Page 3, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for—

''(i) a total increase in

Page 3, line 5, strike ''percent.'' and insert ''percent; or''.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

''(ii) the financial benefit or participation of any entity that has a contractual relationship with, or is owned, controlled, or under the influence of, a foreign entity of concern.

''(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'foreign entity of concern' means—

''(i) the People's Republic of China;

''(ii) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(iii) the Russian Federation;

''(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

''(v) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOTTHEIMER

AMENDMENT NO. 86: Page 3, beginning on line 6, amend paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense—

''(A) prepare the plan required by paragraph (1); and

''(B) ensure such plan will not result in the sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Reserve to Iran, China, North Korea, or Russia.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CARTER OF LOUISIANA

AMENDMENT NO. 87: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) DEEPWATER HORIZON.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the environmental harms caused by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico have been completely remedied.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. SHERMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 88: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the President produces a plan to limit the amount of oil and gas exported from the United States by the same percentage as the percentage of petroleum in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve that is drawn down in each drawdown that occurs after the date of enactment of this subsection.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. DEGETTE

AMENDMENT NO. 89: Page 3, line 1, strike ''LIMITATION'' and insert ''LIMITATIONS''.

Page 3, line 2, strike ''shall not'' and insert ''shall—''.

Page 3, line 2, strike ''provide for'' and insert the following:

''(A) not provide for''.

Page 3, line 5, strike ''percent.'' and insert ''percent; and''.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

''(B) only allow for a lease or permit if accompanied by a certification to the Secretary that it would not excessively increase the sales price of any petroleum products during—

''(i) a severe energy supply interruption; or

''(ii) any period of decreased supply of petroleum products.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CLYDE

AMENDMENT NO. 90: Page 2, line 15, strike ''a plan to'' and insert ''a plan—''.

Page 2, line 15, before ''increase'' insert the following:

''(A) to

Page 2, line 25, strike the period at the end and insert ''; and''.

Page 2, after line 25, insert the following:

''(B) to narrow the qualifications of eligible bidders determined by the Secretary, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §6241, for all future sales, exchanges, or loans from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to only include bidders that—(1) are based in the United States; and (2) will distribute petroleum products in the same quantities as purchased from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to United States end-consumers within 18-months of purchase.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CLYDE

AMENDMENT NO. 91: Page 2, line 15, insert ''and submitted to Congress'' after ''developed''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. BOWMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 92: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 and 2, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not—

''(A) provide for a total increase in

Page 3, line 5, strike ''percent.'' and insert ''percent; or''.

Page 3 after line 5, insert the following:

''(B) authorize the participation, including in any lease auction that occurs pursuant to such plan, by any corporation or entity that the Secretary determines contributed to price-gouging in the oil and gas sector in 2022.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 93: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as impacting the authority of the President or the Secretary of Energy to initiate a drawdown of petroleum products from the Reserve in order to lower gas prices.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 94: Page 3, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for—

''(i) a total increase in

Page 3, line 5, strike ''percent.'' and insert ''percent; or''.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

''(ii) the financial benefit or participation of any entity that has a contractual relationship with, or is owned, controlled, or under the influence of, a foreign entity of concern.

''(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'foreign entity of concern' means—

''(i) the People's Republic of China;

''(ii) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(iii) the Russian Federation;

''(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

''(v) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 95: Page 2, strike lines 1 through 3 and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Buy Low and Sell High Act''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Compensatory Production Increase Plan.

TITLE I—PETROLEUM RESERVES

Sec. 101. Economic Petroleum Reserve.
Sec. 102. Establishing Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserves.
Sec. 103. Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.
Sec. 104. SPR Petroleum Account.
Sec. 105. Prohibition on certain exports.
Sec. 106. Strategic Petroleum Reserve reforms.
Sec. 107. Strategic Petroleum Reserve drawdown and sale.
Sec. 108. DOE study and plan for delivery of fuel during pipeline disruptions.

TITLE II—FUEL DEMAND

Sec. 201. State energy transportation plans.
Sec. 202. Transportation electrification.
Sec. 203. Federal fleets.

TITLE III—FUEL SUPPLY

Sec. 301. Assistance for Western Hemisphere refineries.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

TITLE I—PETROLEUM RESERVES

SEC. 101. ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 154 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6234) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall establish and maintain within the Strategic Petroleum Reserve an Economic Petroleum Reserve of up to 350,000,000 barrels of crude oil.

''(2) SOURCE.—The Economic Petroleum Reserve shall consist of—

''(A) 90,000,000 barrels of crude oil that are stored in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve on the date of enactment of this subsection, less any amounts drawn down and sold under section 161(l) after such date; and

''(B) any crude oil purchased under section 160(i).''.

(b) PURCHASES.—Section 160 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6240) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) PURCHASE OF CRUDE OIL FOR ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 154(g), the Secretary may acquire crude oil under this section only by purchase from domestic producers for a contract price of not more than $60 per barrel, in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.—The Secretary may enter into a contract under paragraph (1) at any time for immediate delivery of crude oil.

''(3) FUTURE DELIVERY.—

''(A) AUTHORIZED PERIOD.—During the period that begins on the date of enactment of this subsection and ends on December 31, 2024, the Secretary may enter into a contract under paragraph (1) for delivery of crude oil to occur during the period that begins on January 1, 2025, and ends on December 31, 2027.

''(B) PRIORITY.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), to the extent there are multiple offers for contracts on equivalent terms, the Secretary shall give priority to contracts for crude oil produced by wells, including drilled but uncompleted wells, that are minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from activities at such wells, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

''(4) FUNDING.—The Secretary may enter into a contract under paragraph (1) using

amounts deposited in the SPR Petroleum Account under section 167(c)—

''(A) that are attributable to covered receipts described in section 167(e)(3)(A); or

''(B) that were appropriated for such purpose pursuant to section 166.

''(5) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS.—The objectives described in subsections (b)(4), (c)(2), and (c)(5) shall not apply to the acquisition of crude oil pursuant to a contract under paragraph (1).''.

(c) DRAWDOWN AND SALE.—Section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE FROM ECONOMIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may draw down and sell crude oil from amounts in the Economic Petroleum Reserve established under section 154(g) at any time the front-month futures price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil has remained greater than $90 per barrel for at least one week.

''(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(A) STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 367 an amount equal to $9 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.

''(B) PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 131(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17011) an amount equal to $2 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.

''(C) LARGE-SCALE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 131(c) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17011) an amount equal to $3 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.

''(D) ASSISTANCE FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE REFINERIES.—Notwithstanding section 167, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out section 301 of the Buy Low and Sell High Act an amount equal to $1 for each barrel of crude oil sold under this subsection.''.

SEC. 102. ESTABLISHING STRATEGIC REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCT RESERVES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6234) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART E —STRATEGIC REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCT RESERVES

''SEC. 191. DEFINITIONS.

''In this part:

''(1) DISTRICT.—The term 'district' means, as designated by the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration—

''(A) a Petroleum Administration for Defense District; or

''(B) a sub-district of a Petroleum Administration for Defense District.

''(2) NETWORK.—The term 'network' means the network of Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserves established under this part.

''(3) RESERVE.—The term 'Reserve' means a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve established under this part.

''SEC. 192. ESTABLISHMENT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary shall establish, maintain, and operate a national network of Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserves.

''(b) LOCATIONS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall establish, maintain, and operate at least one Reserve in each district.

''(c) CAPACITY.—Each Reserve shall have the capacity to contain at least 4,000,000 barrels of gasoline and 2,000,000 barrels of diesel fuel, and the network shall have the capacity to contain up to 250,000,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel fuel.

''(d) RELATIONSHIP TO SPR AND NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.—A Reserve established under this part is not a component of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve established under part B of this title or the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve established under part D of this title.

''SEC. 193. AUTHORITY.

''To the extent necessary or appropriate to carry out this part, the Secretary may—

''(1) purchase, contract for, lease, or otherwise acquire, in whole or in part, storage and related facilities, and storage services;

''(2) use, lease, maintain, sell, or otherwise dispose of storage and related facilities acquired under this part;

''(3) acquire by purchase, exchange (including exchange of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve or received as royalty from Federal lands), lease, or otherwise, gasoline or diesel fuel for storage in a Reserve;

''(4) store gasoline or diesel fuel in facilities not owned by the United States; and

''(5) sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of gasoline or diesel fuel from a Reserve established under this part, including to maintain the quality or quantity of the gasoline or diesel fuel in a Reserve or to maintain the operational capability of a Reserve.

''SEC. 194. CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE.

''(a) GASOLINE RELEASE.—The Secretary may sell gasoline from a Reserve only upon a finding by the President that there is a severe gasoline supply interruption within the district in which the Reserve is located. Such a finding may be made only if the President determines that—

''(1) a dislocation in the gasoline market has resulted from such interruption; or

''(2) a circumstance, other than that described in paragraph (1), exists that constitutes a regional gasoline supply shortage of significant scope and duration and that action taken under this section would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage.

''(b) DIESEL RELEASE.—The Secretary may sell diesel fuel from a Reserve only upon a finding by the President that there is a severe diesel fuel supply interruption within the district in which the Reserve is located. Such a finding may be made only if the President determines that—

''(1) a dislocation in the diesel fuel market has resulted from such interruption; or

''(2) a circumstance, other than that described in paragraph (1), exists that constitutes a regional diesel fuel supply shortage of significant scope and duration and that action taken under this section would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) the term 'covered entity' means—

''(A) the People's Republic of China;

''(B) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(C) the Russian Federation;

''(D) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

''(E) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

''(F) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

''(i) a country referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F); or

''(ii) the Chinese Communist Party;

''(2) a 'dislocation in the gasoline market' shall be deemed to occur only when—

''(A) the price differential between crude oil and finished gasoline, as reflected in an industry daily publication, increases by more than 50 percent over its 10-year rolling average, and continues for 7 consecutive days; and

''(B) the price differential continues to increase during the most recent week for which price information is available; and

''(3) a 'dislocation in the diesel fuel market' shall be deemed to occur only when—

''(A) the price differential between crude oil and diesel fuel, as reflected in an industry daily publication, increases by more than 50 percent over its 10-year rolling average, and continues for 7 consecutive days; and

''(B) the price differential continues to increase during the most recent week for which price information is available.

''(d) CONTINUING EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct a continuing evaluation of the price data supplied by the Energy Information Administration and data on gasoline and diesel fuel prices from published sources.

''(e) RELEASE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—After consultation with the gasoline, diesel fuel, and crude oil refining industries, the Secretary shall determine procedures governing the release of gasoline and diesel fuel from a Reserve. The procedures shall provide that—

''(1) the Secretary may—

''(A) sell gasoline or diesel fuel from a Reserve through a competitive process; or

''(B) enter into exchange agreements for gasoline or diesel fuel that results in the Secretary receiving a greater volume of gasoline or diesel fuel as repayment than the volume provided to the acquirer;

''(2) in all such sales or exchanges, the Secretary shall receive revenue or its equivalent in gasoline or diesel fuel that provides the Department with fair market value;

''(3) the Secretary shall only sell or dispose of the gasoline or diesel fuel in the Reserve to entities customarily engaged in the sale and distribution of gasoline or diesel fuel; and

''(4) the Secretary shall prohibit the sale or export of gasoline or diesel fuel released under this section to a covered entity, except that the Secretary may issue a waiver of such prohibition if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(f) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall transmit to the President and, if the President approves, to the Congress a plan describing—

''(1) the acquisition of storage and related facilities or storage services for the network, including the potential use of storage facilities not currently in use;

''(2) the acquisition of gasoline and diesel fuel for storage in the network;

''(3) the anticipated methods of disposition of gasoline and diesel fuel from the network;

''(4) the estimated costs of establishment, maintenance, and operation of the network;

''(5) efforts the Department will take to minimize any potential need for future drawdowns and ensure that distributors and importers are not discouraged from maintaining and increasing supplies to the United States; and

''(6) actions to ensure quality of the gasoline and diesel fuel in the network.

''SEC. 195. PROCEEDS FROM SALES.

''The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 any receipts from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of gasoline or diesel fuel from the network.

"SEC. 196. RESTRICTIONS.

''(a) SOURCE.—No gasoline or diesel fuel produced at a refinery located outside of the United States may be stored in a Reserve.

''(b) TIMING.—The Secretary may not purchase gasoline or diesel fuel under this part until 2026.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 166 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6246) is amended by striking ''and part D'' and inserting '', part D, and part E''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended in the matter relating to title I by striking the items relating to the second part D (relating to Expiration) and the second section 181 and inserting the following:

''PART E—STRATEGIC REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCT RESERVES

''Sec. 191. Definitions.
''Sec. 192. Establishment.
''Sec. 193. Authority.
''Sec. 194. Conditions for release.
''Sec. 195. Proceeds from sales.
''Sec. 196. Restrictions.''.

SEC. 103. NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.

(a) STRENGTHENING THE NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.—Section 181(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250) is amended by striking ''2 million'' and inserting ''4 million''.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE.—Section 183 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DEFINITION'' and inserting ''DEFINITIONS'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively (and adjusting the margins accordingly);

(C) by striking ''For purposes of this section a 'dislocation in the heating oil market' '' and inserting the following: ''For purposes of this section—

''(1) the term 'covered entity' means—

''(A) the People's Republic of China;

''(B) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(C) the Russian Federation;

''(D) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

''(E) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

''(F) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

''(i) a country referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F); or

''(ii) the Chinese Communist Party; and

''(2) a 'dislocation in the heating oil market' ''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) the Secretary shall prohibit the sale or export of petroleum distillate released under this section to a covered entity, except that the Secretary may issue a waiver of such prohibition if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.''.

(c) PROCEEDS FROM SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 184 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250c) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 184. PROCEEDS FROM SALES.

''The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 any receipts from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of petroleum distillate from the Reserve.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by striking the item relating section 184 and inserting the following:

''184. Proceeds from sales.''.

(d) ELIMINATION OF LIMITATION.—Title III of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74; 125 Stat. 869)), is amended, under the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve account, by striking ''*: Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 181 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250), for fiscal year 2012 and hereafter, the Reserve shall contain no more than 1 million barrels of petroleum distillate''.

SEC. 104. SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, for test sales of petroleum products from the Reserve, and for the drawdown, sale, and delivery of petroleum products from the Reserve'' and inserting ''covered activities''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''the receipts to the United States from the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section, or from the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f)'' and inserting ''covered receipts'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section, and from the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f)'' and inserting ''covered sales''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term 'covered activity' means—

''(A) the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve;

''(B) the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section;

''(C) the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f);

''(D) an activity under part D; and

''(E) an activity under part E.

''(2) COVERED SALE.—The term 'covered sale' means—

''(A) the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161, including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section;

''(B) the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f);

''(C) the sale, exchange, or other disposition of petroleum distillate from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve; and

''(D) the sale, exchange, or other disposition of gasoline or diesel fuel from a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve.

''(3) COVERED RECEIPTS.—The term 'covered receipts' means—

''(A) receipts to the United States from the sale of petroleum products in any drawdown and distribution of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under section 161 (including a drawdown and distribution carried out under subsection (g) of such section), less amounts equal to any amounts appropriated by subsection (l)(2) of such section;

''(B) receipts to the United States from the sale of petroleum products under section 160(f);

''(C) receipts to the United States from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of petroleum distillate from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve; and

''(D) receipts to the United States from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of gasoline or diesel fuel from a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve.''.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The assets and liabilities of the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve Account established in the Treasury under section 184 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250c), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, are hereby transferred to the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247), and such Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve Account is hereby abolished.

SEC. 105. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 163 (42 U.S.C. 6243) the following:

"SEC. 164. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, under any provision of law, to—

''(1) the People's Republic of China;

''(2) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(3) the Russian Federation;

''(4) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

''(5) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

''(6) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

''(A) a country referred to in any of paragraphs (1) through (5); or

''(B) the Chinese Communist Party.

''(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may issue a waiver of the prohibition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(c) RULE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Buy Low and Sell High Act, the Secretary shall issue a rule to carry out this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—Section 161(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(a)) is amended by inserting ''and section 164'' before the period at the end.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 163 the following:

''Sec. 164. Prohibition on certain exports.''.

SEC. 106. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE REFORMS.

(a) USE OF UNDERUTILIZED STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FACILITIES.—Section 168 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247a) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 168. USE OF UNDERUTILIZED FACILITIES.

''(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may establish and carry out a program to lease underutilized Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities

to the private sector, or a foreign government or its representative. Petroleum products stored under this section are not part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

''(b) PROTECTION OF FACILITIES.—Any lease entered into under the program established under subsection (a) shall contain provisions providing for fees to fully compensate the United States for all related costs of storage and removals of petroleum products (including the proportionate cost of replacement facilities necessitated as a result of any withdrawals) incurred by the United States as a result of such lease.

''(c) ACCESS BY THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) does not impair the ability of the United States to withdraw, distribute, or sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in response to an energy emergency or to the obligations of the United States under the Agreement on an International Energy Program.

''(d) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) to a foreign government or its representative will not impair national security.

''(e) DEPOSITS OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 during the fiscal year in which such amounts are received.

''(2) COSTS.—The Secretary may use for costs described in subsection (b) (other than costs described in subsection (f)), without further appropriation, amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a).

''(f) PREPARATION OF FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall only use amounts available in the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund established by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 for costs described in subsection (b) of this section that relate to addition of facilities or changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to lease such facilities, including costs related to acquisition of land, acquisition of ancillary facilities and equipment, and site development, and other necessary costs related to capital improvement.''.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 170. PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STORAGE AND RELATED FACILITIES.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out section 168 and not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a pilot program to make available for lease—

''(1) capacity for storage of up to 200,000,000 barrels of petroleum products at Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities; and

''(2) related facilities.

''(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) identify appropriate Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to lease, in order to make maximum use of such facilities;

''(2) identify and implement any changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to so lease such facilities, including any such changes necessary to ensure the long-term structural viability and use of the facilities for purposes of this part and part C;

''(3) make such facilities available for lease; and

''(4) identify environmental effects, including benefits, of leasing storage facilities and related facilities.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the pilot program established under subsection (a).''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding after the item relating to section 169 the following:

''Sec. 170. Pilot program to lease storage and related facilities.''.

SEC. 107. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE DRAWDOWN AND SALE.

(a) RECONCILIATION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.—Section 20003(a) of Public Law 115–97 (131 Stat. 2237) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''during the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2027'' and inserting ''by the end of fiscal year 2027''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TIMING.—In determining the timing of each draw down and sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maximize the financial return to the United States taxpayers.''.

(b) AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2018.—Section 3009(a) of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270; 132 Stat. 3870) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''during'' and inserting ''by the end of''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TIMING.—In determining the timing of each draw down and sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maximize the financial return to the United States taxpayers.''.

(c) INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT.—Section 90002(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 1342) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''during the period of fiscal years 2028 through 2031'' and inserting ''by the end of fiscal year 2032''; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) TIMING.—In determining the timing of each draw down and sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall maximize the financial return to the United States taxpayers.''.

SEC. 108. DOE STUDY AND PLAN FOR DELIVERY OF FUEL DURING PIPELINE DISRUPTIONS.

Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) conduct a study on how the Department of Energy could deliver products sold from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a Strategic Refined Petroleum Product Reserve, or the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve in the event of an attack or disruption that renders pipelines to deliver such products unusable; and

(2) submit to Congress a plan, based on the results of such study, to carry out such delivery.

TITLE II—FUEL DEMAND

SEC. 201. STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.

(a) STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 367. STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to a State to develop a State energy transportation plan, for inclusion in a State energy conservation plan under section 362(d), to promote the electrification of the transportation system, reduced consumption of fossil fuels, and improved air quality.

''(b) DEVELOPMENT.—A State developing a State energy transportation plan under this section shall carry out this activity through the State energy office that is responsible for developing the State energy conservation plan under section 362.

''(c) CONTENTS.—A State developing a State energy transportation plan under this section shall include in such plan a plan to—

''(1) deploy a network of electric vehicle supply equipment to ensure access to electricity for electric vehicles, including commercial vehicles, to an extent that such electric vehicles can travel throughout the State without running out of a charge;

''(2) promote modernization of the electric grid, including through the use of renewable energy sources to power the electric grid, to accommodate demand for power to operate electric vehicle supply equipment and to utilize energy storage capacity provided by electric vehicles, including commercial vehicles; and

''(3) implement other measures to reduce the consumption of petroleum-based fuels.

''(d) COORDINATION.—In developing a State energy transportation plan under this section, a State shall coordinate, as appropriate, with—

''(1) State regulatory authorities (as defined in section 3 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602));

''(2) electric utilities;

''(3) regional transmission organizations or independent system operators;

''(4) private entities that provide electric vehicle charging services;

''(5) State transportation agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, and local governments;

''(6) electric vehicle manufacturers;

''(7) public and private entities that manage vehicle fleets; and

''(8) public and private entities that manage ports, airports, or other transportation hubs.

''(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon request of the Governor of a State, the Secretary shall provide information and technical assistance in the development, implementation, or revision of a State energy transportation plan.

''(f) ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'electric vehicle supply equipment' means conductors, including ungrounded, grounded, and equipment grounding conductors, electric vehicle connectors, attachment plugs, and all other fittings, devices, power outlets, or apparatuses installed specifically for the purpose of delivering energy to an electric vehicle.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Sec. 367. State energy transportation plans.''.

(b) STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLANS.—Section 362(d) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (17), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (18) as paragraph (19); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (17) the following:

''(18) a State energy transportation plan developed in accordance with section 367; and''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) STATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION PLANS.—In addition to the amounts authorized under paragraph (1), for the purpose of carrying out section 367, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary.''.

SEC. 202. TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION.

Section 131 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17011) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', including ground support equipment at ports'' before the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting ''and vehicles'' before the semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (I)—

(i) by striking ''battery chargers,''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) installation of electric vehicle supply equipment for recharging plug-in electric drive vehicles, including such equipment that is accessible in rural and urban areas and in underserved or disadvantaged communities and such equipment for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, including at depots and in-route locations;

''(K) multi-use charging hubs used for multiple forms of transportation;

''(L) medium- and heavy-duty vehicle smart charging management and refueling;

''(M) battery recycling and secondary use, including for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles; and

''(N) sharing of best practices, and technical assistance provided by the Department to public utilities commissions and utilities, for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle electrification.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting '', components for such vehicles, and charging equipment for such vehicles'' after ''vehicles''; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking ''$90,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012'' and inserting ''such sums as may be necessary'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the header, by striking ''NEAR-TERM'' and inserting ''LARGE-SCALE''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''$95,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2013'' and inserting ''such sums as may be necessary''; and

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e) and inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall give priority consideration to applications that contain a written assurance that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors during construction, alteration, or repair that is financed, in whole or in part, by a grant provided under this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sections 3141 through 3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40, United States Code (and the Secretary of Labor shall, with respect to the labor standards described in this clause, have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code).''.

SEC. 203. FEDERAL FLEETS.

(a) MINIMUM FEDERAL FLEET REQUIREMENT.—Section 303 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13212) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall ensure that in acquiring medium- and heavy-duty vehicles for a Federal fleet, a Federal entity shall acquire zero-emission vehicles to the maximum extent feasible.'';

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) PERCENTAGE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES.—Beginning in fiscal year 2026, 100 percent of the total number of light-duty vehicles acquired by a Federal entity for a Federal fleet shall be alternative fueled vehicles, of which—

''(i) at least 50 percent shall be zero-emission vehicles or plug-in hybrids in fiscal years 2026 through 2034;

''(ii) at least 75 percent shall be zero-emission vehicles or plug-in hybrids in fiscal years 2035 through 2049; and

''(iii) 100 percent shall be zero-emission vehicles in fiscal year 2050 and thereafter.

''(B) MEDIUM- AND HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES.—The following percentages of the total number of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles acquired by a Federal entity for a Federal fleet shall be alternative fueled vehicles:

''(i) At least 20 percent in fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

''(ii) At least 30 percent in fiscal years 2030 through 2039.

''(iii) At least 40 percent in fiscal years 2040 through 2049.

''(iv) At least 50 percent in fiscal year 2050 and thereafter.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services where appropriate, may permit a Federal entity to acquire for a Federal fleet a smaller percentage than is required in paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, so long as the aggregate percentage acquired for each class of vehicle for all Federal fleets in the fiscal year is at least equal to the required percentage.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) FEDERAL FLEET.—The term 'Federal fleet' means a fleet of vehicles that are centrally fueled or capable of being centrally fueled and are owned, operated, leased, or otherwise controlled by or assigned to any Federal executive department, military department, Government corporation, independent establishment, or executive agency, the United States Postal Service, the Congress, the courts of the United States, or the Executive Office of the President. Such term does not include—

''(i) motor vehicles held for lease or rental to the general public;

''(ii) motor vehicles used for motor vehicle manufacturer product evaluations or tests;

''(iii) law enforcement vehicles;

''(iv) emergency vehicles; or

''(v) motor vehicles acquired and used for military purposes that the Secretary of Defense has certified to the Secretary must be exempt for national security reasons.

''(B) FLEET.—The term 'fleet' means—

''(i) 20 or more light-duty vehicles, located in a metropolitan statistical area or consolidated metropolitan statistical area, as established by the Bureau of the Census, with a 1980 population of more than 250,000; or

''(ii) 10 or more medium- or heavy-duty vehicles, located at a Federal facility or located in a metropolitan statistical area or consolidated metropolitan statistical area, as established by the Bureau of the Census, with a 1980 population of more than 250,000.''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(2)(B)—

(A) by striking '', either''; and

(B) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' and inserting ''and''.

(b) FEDERAL FLEET CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 400FF(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6374e) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''18 months after the date of enactment of this section'' and inserting ''12 months after the date of enactment of the Buy Low and Sell High Act'';

(B) by striking ''2010'' and inserting ''2023''; and

(C) by striking ''and increase alternative fuel consumption'' and inserting '', increase alternative fuel consumption, and reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) GOALS.—The goals of the requirements under paragraph (1) are that each Federal agency shall—

''(A) reduce fleet-wide per-mile greenhouse gas emissions from agency fleet vehicles, relative to a baseline of emissions in 2015, by—

''(i) not less than 30 percent by the end of fiscal year 2026;

''(ii) not less than 50 percent by the end of fiscal year 2030; and

''(iii) 100 percent by the end of fiscal year 2050; and

''(B) increase the annual percentage of alternative fuel consumption by agency fleet vehicles as a proportion of total annual fuel consumption by Federal fleet vehicles, to achieve—

''(i) 25 percent of total annual fuel consumption that is alternative fuel by the end of fiscal year 2026;

''(ii) 50 percent of total annual fuel consumption that is alternative fuel by the end of fiscal year 2035; and

''(iii) at least 85 percent of total annual fuel consumption that is alternative fuel by the end of fiscal year 2050.''.

TITLE III—FUEL SUPPLY

SEC. 301. ASSISTANCE FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE REFINERIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish and carry out a program to increase the amount of crude oil refined in oil refineries located in covered countries by—

(1) developing, producing, or procuring resources, materials, or equipment that can be used at such oil refineries to increase the amount of crude oil refined at such oil refineries;

(2) providing to covered entities, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Energy determines appropriate, resources, materials, or equipment that can be used at such oil refineries to increase the amount of crude oil refined at such oil refineries;

(3) issuing grants, loans, or loan guarantees to covered entities, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Energy determines appropriate, to carry out projects in covered countries that can increase the amount of crude oil refined in such oil refineries; and

(4) providing technical assistance to covered entities, as the Secretary of Energy determines necessary to increase the amount of crude oil refined in such oil refineries.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary of Energy may partner with other Federal agencies to carry out the program established under subsection (a).

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary of

Energy may enter into one or more agreements directly with third parties under such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Energy determines appropriate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COUNTRY.—The term ''covered country'' means a foreign country located in the Western Hemisphere, other than Venezuela, with respect to which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy, determines that increased crude oil refining in that country would promote the national security and economic interests of the United States.

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means a covered country or a third party that owns or operates an oil refinery located in a covered country.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this section $90,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 96: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that the Secretary certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to paragraph (1) would not perpetuate environmental injustice.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 97: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the required bonds, sureties, or other financial arrangements provide adequate incentives for oil and gas companies to meet their reclamation obligations under section 17(g) the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(g)).''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 98: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE TRUE CAUSES OF OIL AND GAS PRICE VOLATILITY.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that Russia's unconscionable and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, at Vladimir Putin's direction, caused volatility in the global oil and natural gas markets that resulted in increased energy prices for consumers in the United States.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 99: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as—

''(A) an endorsement of greenhouse gas-emitting fuel sources; or

''(B) a denial of the effects of petroleum products on global greenhouse gas emissions.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 100: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO GAS PRICES.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that, according to the Energy Information Administration, the per-gallon retail gasoline price in the first week of January 2023 was lower than it was in the first week of January 2022.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 101: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

''(k) PLAN.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to decrease the overall annual national demand for, and consumption of, petroleum products through increased usage of public transportation.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 102: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that the solutions to greenhouse gas-fueled climate change represent once-in-a-generation opportunities to rebuild the crumbling infrastructure of the United States, lower energy prices for countless Americans, and create millions of clean energy jobs.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 103: At the end, insert the following:

SEC. 3. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE REFORMS.

(a) USE OF UNDERUTILIZED STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FACILITIES.—Section 168 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247a) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 168. USE OF UNDERUTILIZED FACILITIES.

''(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may establish and carry out a program to lease underutilized Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to the private sector, or a foreign government or its representative. Petroleum products stored under this section are not part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

''(b) PROTECTION OF FACILITIES.—Any lease entered into under the program established under subsection (a) shall contain provisions providing for fees to fully compensate the United States for all related costs of storage and removals of petroleum products (including the proportionate cost of replacement facilities necessitated as a result of any withdrawals) incurred by the United States as a result of such lease.

''(c) ACCESS BY THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) does not impair the ability of the United States to withdraw, distribute, or sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in response to an energy emergency or to the obligations of the United States under the Agreement on an International Energy Program.

''(d) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) to a foreign government or its representative will not impair national security.

''(e) DEPOSITS OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the SPR Petroleum Account established in the Treasury under section 167 during the fiscal year in which such amounts are received.

''(2) COSTS.—The Secretary may use for costs described in subsection (b) (other than costs described in subsection (f)), without further appropriation, amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a).

''(f) PREPARATION OF FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall only use amounts available in the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund established by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 for costs described in subsection (b) of this section that relate to addition of facilities or changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to lease such facilities, including costs related to acquisition of land, acquisition of ancillary facilities and equipment, and site development, and other necessary costs related to capital improvement.''.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 170. PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STORAGE AND RELATED FACILITIES.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out section 168 and not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a pilot program to make available for lease—

''(1) capacity for storage of up to 200,000,000 barrels of petroleum products at Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities; and

''(2) related facilities.

''(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) identify appropriate Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to lease, in order to make maximum use of such facilities;

''(2) identify and implement any changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to so lease such facilities, including any such changes necessary to ensure the long-term structural viability and use of the facilities for purposes of this part and part C;

''(3) make such facilities available for lease; and

''(4) identify environmental effects, including benefits, of leasing storage facilities and related facilities.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the pilot program established under subsection (a).''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding after the item relating to section 169 the following:

''Sec. 170. Pilot program to lease storage and related facilities.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 104: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

''(4) OFFSHORE EXCLUSIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in any tract located in the North Atlantic Planning Area.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 105: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) DEFICIENCIES IN FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the deficiencies in the Federal oil and gas leasing program identified in the Department of the Interior's Report on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program (issued November 2021) have been fully remedied.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 106: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE SQUANDERING OF FEDERAL LANDS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that the fossil fuel industry only produces oil and natural gas on approximately half of the lands leased by such industry from the Bureau of Land Management.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 107: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO WINDFALL PROFITS OF OIL AND GAS COMPANIES.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that oil and gas companies are using windfall profits to reward wealthy shareholders and executives with record stock buybacks and dividends.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 108: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

''(k) PLAN.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to decrease overall methane emissions from oil and gas production on Federal lands.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 109: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date on which the Secretary certifies that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has ended''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 110: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that climate change is real and is an existential threat to humanity.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 111: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless such activities will not negatively impact air quality.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 112: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, issues a finding that the Federal lands that would be leased pursuant to the plan would produce a similar amount of oil during the first five consecutive years such Federal lands are leased as the amount that would be released from the associated drawdown.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 113: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ROLE OF FEDERAL LANDS IN SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that Federal lands can play a critical role in solving the climate crisis if the management of such lands prioritizes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the responsible deployment of renewable energy, and the enhancement of natural carbon sequestration.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 114: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO THE POTENTIAL COSTS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to controvert the fact that, per the Office of Management and Budget, failing to take rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions could cost the United States $2 trillion per year in lost revenue by the year 2100, and would require tens of billions of dollars in additional Federal spending on crop insurance, coastal disaster relief, flood insurance, healthcare insurance, wildland fire suppression, and flooding at Federal facilities.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 115: At the end, insert the following:

SEC. 3. NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.

(a) STRENGTHENING THE NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE.—Section 181(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250(a)) is amended by striking ''2 million'' and inserting ''4 million''.

(b) CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE.—Section 183 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DEFINITION'' and inserting ''DEFINITIONS'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively (and adjusting the margins accordingly);

(C) by striking ''For purposes of this section a 'dislocation in the heating oil market' '' and inserting the following: ''For purposes of this section—

''(1) the term 'covered entity' means—

''(A) the People's Republic of China;

''(B) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(C) the Russian Federation;

''(D) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

''(E) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

''(F) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

''(i) a country referred to in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F); or

''(ii) the Chinese Communist Party; and

''(2) a 'dislocation in the heating oil market' ''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) the Secretary shall prohibit the sale or export of petroleum distillate released under this section to a covered entity, except that the Secretary may issue a waiver of such prohibition if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.''.

(c) ELIMINATION OF LIMITATION.—Title III of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74; 125 Stat. 869)), is amended, under the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve account, by striking '': *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 181 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6250), for fiscal year 2012 and hereafter, the Reserve shall contain no more than 1 million barrels of petroleum distillate''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 116: Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) NONBINDING PLAN.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not be binding.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 117: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that the Federal Government would receive a fair return from the Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to the plan to be developed under paragraph (1).''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 118: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense leased for oil and gas production pursuant to the plan required by paragraph (1) will have no impact on national security.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 119: At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES FOR THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendment made by this Act, may be construed to provide a further government subsidy for fossil fuel production in light of the oil and gas industry's recent, record profit margins.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 120: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

''(k) PLAN.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to decrease the overall annual national demand for, and consumption of, petroleum products, including through increased use of biofuels.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 121: Page 2, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 3, line 9, and insert the following:

''(k) PLAN.—Except in the case of a severe energy supply interruption described in subsection (d), the Secretary may not execute the first drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve after the date of enactment of this subsection, whether through sale, exchange, or loan, until the Secretary has developed a plan, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to decrease the overall annual national demand for, and consumption of, petroleum products through increased transportation electrification.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 122: At the end, insert the following:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 163 (42 U.S.C. 6243) the following:

''SEC. 164. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, under any provision of law, to—

''(1) the People's Republic of China;

''(2) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(3) the Russian Federation;

''(4) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

''(5) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

''(6) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

''(A) a country referred to in any of paragraphs (1) through (5); or

''(B) the Chinese Communist Party.

''(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may issue a waiver of the prohibition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(c) RULE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Strategic Production Response Act, the Secretary shall issue a rule to carry out this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—Section 161(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(a)) is amended by inserting ''and section 164'' before the period at the end.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 163 the following:

''Sec. 164. Prohibition on certain exports.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 123: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this paragraph takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that the Secretary certifies that any increase in the percentage of Federal lands leased for oil and gas production pursuant to paragraph (1) would not harm cultural resources.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT NO. 124: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, certifies that—

''(i) such entity adheres to best management practices; and

''(ii) any oil and gas production activity carried out pursuant to any current lease of such entity is being carried out safely.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. QUIGLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 125: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date on which the Secretary certifies that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has ended''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

AMENDMENT NO. 126: Page 2, line 15, insert ''that is approved by Congress'' after ''plan''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 127: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as a denial of the effects of petroleum products on global greenhouse gas emissions, including the effects on the ability to meet the nationally determined contribution of the United States under article 4 of the 2015 Paris Agreement.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT NO. 128: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the South Atlantic Planning Area.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. COHEN

AMENDMENT NO. 129: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) TOTAL INCREASE.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent.

''(B) IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not provide for any entity to engage in oil or gas production activities on Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production as a result of such plan unless such activities will not negatively impact air quality.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. GARAMENDI

AMENDMENT NO. 130: Add at the end the following new sections:

SEC. 3. NATIONAL POLICY ON STRATEGIC ENERGY ASSET EXPORT TRANSPORTATION.

(a) LNG EXPORTS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is hazardous to national import and export terminals and ports when mishandled.

(B) LNG is a strategic national asset, the export of which should be used to preserve the United States tanker fleet and skilled mariner workforce that are essential to national security.

(C) For the safety and security of the United States, LNG should be exported on vessels documented under the laws of the United States.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) TRANSPORTATION OF EXPORTS OF NATURAL GAS ON VESSELS DOCUMENTED UNDER LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.—

''(1) CONDITION FOR APPROVAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Commission shall include in an order issued under subsection (a) that authorizes a person to export natural gas a condition that the person transport the natural gas on vessels that meet the requirements described in paragraph (2) (including vessels with respect to which a waiver is in place for the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable), so as to ensure the following:

''(A) A minimum of two percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 7 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(B) A minimum of three percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 8th

and 9th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(C) A minimum of four percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 10th and 11th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(D) A minimum of six percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 12th and 13th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(E) A minimum of seven percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 14th and 15th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(F) A minimum of nine percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 16th and 17th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(G) A minimum of eleven percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 18th and 19th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(H) A minimum of thirteen percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 20th and 21st calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(I) A minimum of fifteen percent of the natural gas that is exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in—

''(i) the 22nd calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted; and

''(ii) in each calendar year thereafter.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS.—A vessel meets the requirements described in this paragraph—

''(A) with respect to each of the 5 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted—

''(i) if—

''(I) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States; and

''(II) with respect to any retrofit work necessary for the vessel to export natural gas—

''(aa) such work is done in a shipyard in the United States; and

''(bb) any component of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) that is installed during the course of such work is manufactured in the United States; or

''(ii) if—

''(I) the vessel is built in the United States;

''(II) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States;

''(III) all major components of the hull or superstructure of the vessel are manufactured (including all manufacturing processes from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings for iron or steel products) in the United States; and

''(IV) the components of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) are manufactured in the United States; and

''(B) with respect to the 6th calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted and each calendar year thereafter, if the vessel meets the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii).

''(3) COMPONENTS.—The components of a vessel listed in this paragraph are the following components:

''(A) Air circuit breakers.

''(B) Welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain with a diameter of four inches or less.

''(C) Powered and non-powered valves in Federal Supply Classes 4810 and 4820 used in piping.

''(D) Machine tools in the Federal Supply Classes for metal-working machinery numbered 3405, 3408, 3410 through 3419, 3426, 3433, 3438, 3441 through 3443, 3445, 3446, 3448, 3449, 3460, and 3461.

''(E) Auxiliary equipment for shipboard services, including pumps.

''(F) Propulsion equipment, including engines, propulsion motors, reduction gears, and propellers.

''(G) Shipboard cranes.

''(H) Spreaders for shipboard cranes.

''(I) Rotating electrical equipment, including electrical alternators and motors.

''(J) Compressors, pumps, and heat exchangers used in managing and re-liquifying boil-off gas from liquefied natural gas.

''(4) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Commission may waive the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable, with respect to a component of a vessel if the Maritime Administrator determines that—

''(A) application of the requirement would cause a cost increase of more than 25 percent for such component or unreasonable delays to be incurred in building or retrofitting the vessel; or

''(B) such component is not manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality.

''(5) EXCEPTION.—The Commission may not include in any order issued under subsection (a) authorizing a person to export natural gas to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in natural gas a condition described in paragraph (1), or a condition described in paragraph (7), if the United States Trade Representative certifies to the Commission, in writing, that such condition would violate obligations of the United States under such free trade agreement.

''(6) USE OF FEDERAL INFORMATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission—

''(A) shall utilize information made available by the Energy Information Administration, or by any other Federal agency or entity the Commission determines appropriate; and

''(B) may not utilize information made available by a private entity unless applicable information described in subparagraph (A) is not available.

''(7) OPPORTUNITIES FOR LICENSED AND UNLICENSED MARINERS.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Commission shall include in any order issued under subsection (a) that authorizes a person to export natural gas a condition that the person provide opportunities for United States licensed and unlicensed mariners to receive experience and training necessary to become credentialed in working on a vessel transporting natural gas.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by striking ''or the exportation of natural gas'' and inserting ''or, subject to subsection (g), the exportation of natural gas''.

(b) CRUDE OIL.—Section 101 of title I of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 6212a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''subsections (c) and (d)'' and inserting ''subsections (c), (d), and (e)'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) TRANSPORTATION OF EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL ON VESSELS DOCUMENTED UNDER LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.—

''(1) CONDITION.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), as a condition to export crude oil, the President shall require the person exporting the crude oil to transport the exports on vessels that meet the requirements described in paragraph (2) (including vessels with respect to which a waiver is in place for the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable), so as to ensure the following:

''(A) A minimum of three percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 7 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(B) A minimum of six percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 8th, 9th, and 10th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(C) A minimum of eight percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels in each of the 11th, 12th, and 13th calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted.

''(D) A minimum of ten percent of crude oil exported by vessel is transported on such vessels—

''(i) in the 14th calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted; and

''(ii) in each calendar year thereafter.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS.—A vessel meets the requirements described in this paragraph if—

''(A) with respect to each of the 4 calendar years after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted—

''(i) if—

''(I) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States; and

''(II) with respect to any retrofit work necessary for the vessel to export crude oil—

''(aa) such work is done in a shipyard in the United States; and

''(bb) any component of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) that is installed during the course of such work is manufactured in the United States; or

''(ii) if—

''(I) the vessel is built in the United States;

''(II) the vessel is documented under the laws of the United States;

''(III) all major components of the hull or superstructure of the vessel are manufactured (including all manufacturing processes from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings for iron or steel products) in the United States; and

''(IV) the components of the vessel listed in paragraph (3) are manufactured in the United States; and

''(B) with respect to the 5th calendar year after the calendar year in which this subsection is enacted and each calendar year thereafter, if the vessel meets the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii).

''(3) COMPONENTS.—The components of a vessel listed in this paragraph are the following components:

''(A) Air circuit breakers.

''(B) Welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain with a diameter of four inches or less.

''(C) Powered and non-powered valves in Federal Supply Classes 4810 and 4820 used in piping.

''(D) Machine tools in the Federal Supply Classes for metal-working machinery numbered 3405, 3408, 3410 through 3419, 3426, 3433, 3438, 3441 through 3443, 3445, 3446, 3448, 3449, 3460, and 3461.

''(E) Auxiliary equipment for shipboard services, including pumps.

''(F) Propulsion equipment, including engines, propulsion motors, reduction gears, and propellers.

''(G) Shipboard cranes.

''(H) Spreaders for shipboard cranes.

''(I) Rotating electrical equipment, including electrical alternators and motors.

''(4) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The President may waive the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II)(bb) or the requirement under paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(IV), as applicable, with respect to a component of a vessel if the Maritime Administrator determines that—

''(A) application of the requirement would cause a cost increase of more than 25 percent for such component or unreasonable delays to be incurred in building or retrofitting the vessel; or

''(B) such component is not manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality.

''(5) EXCEPTION.—The President may not, under paragraph (1), condition the export of crude oil to a nation with which there is in effect a free trade agreement requiring national treatment for trade in crude oil if the United States Trade Representative certifies to the President, in writing, that such condition would violate obligations of the United States under such free trade agreement.

''(6) USE OF FEDERAL INFORMATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the President—

''(A) shall utilize information made available by the Energy Information Administration, or by any other Federal agency or entity the President determines appropriate; and

''(B) may not utilize information made available by a private entity unless applicable information described in subparagraph (A) is not available.

''(7) OPPORTUNITIES FOR LICENSED AND UNLICENSED MARINERS.—The Maritime Administrator shall ensure that each exporter of crude oil by vessel provides opportunities for United States licensed and unlicensed mariners to receive experience and training necessary to become credentialed in working on such vessels.''.

SEC. 4. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION.

The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall collect, and make readily available to the public on the Internet website of the Energy Information Administration, information on exports by vessel of natural gas and crude oil, including—

(1) forecasts for, and data on, such exports for—

(A) the calendar year after the calendar year in which this Act is enacted; and

(B) each calendar year thereafter; and

(2) forecasts for such exports for multiyear periods after the date of enactment of this Act, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. SCHNEIDER

AMENDMENT NO. 131: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) GREAT LAKES EXCLUSION.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall not include oil and gas leasing in the Great Lakes.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CARTER OF LOUISIANA

AMENDMENT NO. 132: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation marks and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) AEQUIREMENT.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall include a requirement that any entity entering into a contract relating to oil or gas production occurring on Federal lands leased pursuant to the plan may not provide for the participation of a entity that offers a health plan that does not provide coverage of screening and preventative services, including contraceptive services, to at least the extent and level as required under the essential health benefits pursuant to section 1302 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT NO. 133: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the South Atlantic Planning Area.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. MACE

AMENDMENT NO. 134: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the South Atlantic Planning Area.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. CICILLINE

AMENDMENT NO. 135: Page 3, line 1, strike ''LIMITATION'' AND INSERT ''LIMITATIONS''.

Page 3, line 2, strike ''shall not'' and insert ''shall not—''.

Page 3, line 2, strike ''provide for'' and insert the following:

''(A) provide for''.

Page 3, line 5, strike ''percent.'' and insert ''percent; and''.

Page 3, after line 5, insert the following:

''(B) provide for leasing for oil and gas production in any area of the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of the State of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, or New York.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT

AMENDMENT NO. 136: Page 3, line 9, strike the closed quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may execute a drawdown of petroleum products in the Reserve without developing the plan under paragraph (1) if the Energy Information Administration determines that executing such drawdown of petroleum products would lower gas prices or increase energy stability.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. BOEBERT

AMENDMENT NO. 137: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) THOMPSON DIVIDE.—As part of the plan developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall identify areas to lease within the approximately 224,793.73 acres, including approximately 200,518.28 acres of National Forest System lands, approximately 15,464.99 acres of public lands, and approximately 8,810.46 acres of reserved Federal mineral interest within the Thompson Divide area in Colorado.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MRS. BOEBERT

AMENDMENT NO. 138: Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, insert the following:

''(4) MINERAL WITHDRAWALS.—As part of the plan developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include information regarding the effects of administrative mineral withdrawals, including the proposed withdrawal titled 'Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Public Meeting, Thompson Divide Area, Colorado' and published October 17, 2022, on increasing the total percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT NO. 139: Page 2, line 24, strike ''limitation'' and insert ''limitations''.

Page 3, beginning on line 1, amend paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) may not—

''(A) provide for a total increase in the percentage of Federal lands described in paragraph (1) leased for oil and gas production in excess of 10 percent; or

''(B) provide for the participation of a company that—

''(i) holds an oil or gas lease issued under any of the mineral leasing laws; and

''(ii) provided executive level employees of such company with a bonus using profits made from holding such lease in the 10 years preceding the date of enactment of this subsection.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT NO. 140: Page 3, line 8, after ''with'' insert ''Native Nations, Tribes, Indigenous communities,''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT NO. 141: Page 2, line 13, strike ''date of enactment of this subsection'' and insert ''date this subsection takes effect described in paragraph (4)''.

Page 3, line 9, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period.

Page 3, after line 9, add the following:

''(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a report containing a quantification of the economic effects on the national debt of the implementation of this subsection.''.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MS. OMAR

AMENDMENT NO. 142: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendment made by this Act shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a report quantifying the potential economic costs of any subsidies that may be provided to entities engaged in oil and gas leasing pursuant to the amendment made by this Act.

H.R. 21

OFFERED BY: MR. LALOTA

AMENDMENT NO. 143: Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO EFFECT ON EXISTING LEASING RESTRICTIONS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall affect any statutory or regulatory restrictions in effect on the date of enactment of this Act (including any withdrawal of Federal land) that may prohibit oil and gas leasing within the area designated as the North Atlantic Planning Area.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023 No. 16

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, we trust You to guide our Nation and world. Permit us to feel Your nearness and to know the inspiration of Your presence. May our closeness to you help us to choose truth over falsehood, love over hate, and good over evil.

Lord, move among our lawmakers, instructing, lifting, and guiding them so that whatever they do in word or deed they will glorify You. Show our Senators what needs to be done and give them the courage and wisdom to do Your will.

We pray in Your glorious 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, here on the floor yesterday, I called on America's European allies, including Germany, to do more to equip Ukraine with long-requested tanks, not just to resist Russian aggression but to defeat it.

I have consistently called on the Biden administration to be more proactive and to lead by example in delivering lethal aid, like the long-range weapons, with a greater sense of urgency.

I was happy to learn yesterday and this morning that, indeed, both the White House and their counterparts in Germany are finally moving forward with these overdue steps.

Germany has announced it will supply Ukraine with an initial 14 Leopard 2 tanks, and the Biden administration is expected to send at least 30 M1 Abrams tanks as well. Good news.

Now that Berlin has taken this step, I hope and expect that Germany and other European countries with tanks in their inventory will move expeditiously to send them to Ukraine.

Modern main battle tanks will provide highly maneuverable armored firepower that will help Ukraine liberate territory and keep pressure on the Russian aggressors, but, as I have said repeatedly, time is of the essence.

Of course, as we rush these long-overdue capabilities to Ukraine, the West's work is far from over. These drawdowns of Western arsenals must also prompt serious work to expand the capacity of our defense industrial base. The Biden administration's efforts on this front are overdue but important, and I hope more of our allies will follow through by moving quickly to put critical munitions and weapons systems under contract and expanding each of their industrial capacities.

CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, here are just a few scenes from across our country in the last few weeks.

Thirty people were shot in Chicago this past weekend alone. That is up from 21 the weekend before.

In Philadelphia, police are investigating a carjacking spree that is reportedly being carried out by armed juveniles:

They put a gun to my head and they took the van. [And] I haven't found it back again.

Out in San Francisco, just one neighborhood has seen a beating, an attempted robbery, a 2-year-old suffering fentanyl poisoning after playing in the park, and 17 car windows smashed—all on one street, all on one night.

Streets, neighborhoods, and cities across our country are being swamped—literally, swamped—by a level of crime that is unsafe, uncivilized, and totally unacceptable.

My hometown of Louisville, KY, saw 10 homicides in just the first 10 days of 2023, and already 5 more since then—the latest additions to the list of 500-plus homicides we have seen since the start of this violent crime wave 3 years ago.

As Louisville's mayor said a few weeks ago, ''these are not just numbers; these are people.''

Many of the individuals our city lost were young, just starting out their careers and families. Far too many were children, including a 14-year-old boy we lost just 10 days ago.

Of course, for every victim who lost their life to violent crime, there are even more who have been injured or traumatized or literally forced to live in fear. As one resident said, ''I got to lock my doors all the time . . . I'm worried about my children going outside. It's not fair.''

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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It is not fair. Of course, he is absolutely right. It is not fair that once-safe neighborhoods have become war zones. It is not fair that children are being murdered.

Or look at what is happening right here in the Nation's Capital. Right here in Washington, law and order have been in a free fall. Over the weekend, in broad daylight, a rideshare driver had his car stolen by a group of men brandishing rifles. City-wide, Washington is averaging a carjacking every day. Homicides this year are up 17 percent. Just yesterday, two 18-year-olds, fresh off a carjacking spree in a nearby county, came right here to the capital, ran into two separate Capitol Police vehicles, and then tried to flee on foot. Fortunately, the Capitol Police brought them into custody.

Yet the DC City Council is so completely captured by the woke far-left, they have responded to the crime wave with a new criminal code that—listen to this—reduces penalties even further. That is the response of the DC City Council.

Just last week, the council overrode the mayor's veto and pushed through a measure that shreds—shreds—the maximum punishment for gun crimes. It eliminates almost all mandatory minimum sentences. It will clog up the court system with massive expansions of new jury trials for misdemeanors.

Well, the good news on this front is that the U.S. Congress gets to have the final word over reckless local policies from the DC government. Senate Republicans will have a lot more to say on this subject. Stay tuned.

The American people know crime is getting worse, and they know it hasn't happened by accident. From Los Angeles to Philadelphia, to Chicago, the Democratic Party has backed radical district attorneys who have tried to unilaterally take parts of the local criminal code offline. They simply decline to prosecute serious crimes, from drug possession to criminal threats, as a matter of principle. In some cases these woke prosecutors are seeking early release for felons convicted of violent crimes.

Many other Democrats have spent years fanning the dangerous flames of the far-left's antipolice rhetoric. Of course, studies have proven that public hostility to police leads directly to more crime, including more homicides, in the at-risk communities that need law and order the most.

Furthermore, the Biden administration and Senate Democrats have spent 2 years working to stack the Federal judiciary with former public defenders and others whose sympathies lie more with criminal defendants than with innocent victims.

Nobody is arguing that criminal defenders should never become judges, but this has been a dramatic, deliberate transformation project that is skewed overwhelmingly in one direction. Even the New York Times has admitted it has been ''a sea change in the world of traditional nominations.''

The Biden administration never misses an opportunity to make crime even worse. Deaths from cocaine have quintupled over the past decade, but, just a few weeks ago, this President and his Attorney General took the radical and borderline lawless step of unilaterally reducing the penalties for dealing crack.

These liberals respond to soaring overdose fatalities by going even softer on drugs.

Democrats are struggling with the basics. Actually, this shouldn't be that hard. Drugs belong off the streets. Career criminals belong behind bars, and far-left politicians who put innocent citizens last belong far away from the levers of power.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I get into my remarks, there is just some floor business.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 23, H.R. 26, S.J. RES. 4, H.R. 22

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there are four measures at the desk that are due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 23) to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

A bill (H.R. 26) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 4) removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

A bill (H.R. 22) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the measures on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to their further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the measures will be placed on the calendar.

WELCOMING PETER WELCH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I believe this is the first time our new Senator from Vermont is sitting in the Chair.

Congratulations. There will be many more opportunities just like this.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as the debate over raising the debt ceiling continues, Leader MCCONNELL said something yesterday that, I think, is right on the mark. He said that when it comes to moving a debt ceiling proposal through Congress, the House should go first. He is correct. Not only should the House go first, but they must quickly show the American people what their plan actually is for avoiding a first-ever default on the national debt. So far, we haven't heard anything beyond vague and troubling talking points about the need to cut Federal spending. That is not going to fly when you are in the majority, as Speaker MCCARTHY, of course, is. The substance and details make all the difference. The debt ceiling is not some political game, and Speaker MCCARTHY has an obligation to level with the American people on what precisely the new House plans to do in order to avoid a default.

President Biden and the Speaker have reportedly agreed to sit down in the near future on this topic, and the Speaker is apparently heralding this development as some sort of big win or concession. But look, Speaker MCCARTHY sitting down without a clear plan is no win. Sitting down to talk about the debt ceiling without a plan is like coming to the table with no cards. President Biden, meanwhile, has a plan. He has cards. He has been clear that there must be no brinksmanship and no default on the debt ceiling.

Speaker MCCARTHY, what about you? The House GOP is threatening spending cuts. Well, what are they? why the evasion? Why is your conference hiding from the American people?

House Republicans, where are your cards?

Again, I want to be clear that the debt ceiling is a subject of the highest consequence, and using it as a bargaining chip—using it as brinksmanship, as hostage-taking—as Republicans are trying to do, is exceedingly dangerous because if the House of Representatives continues on their current course and allows the United States to default on its debt obligations, every single American is going to pay a terrible and expensive price.

The consequences of default are not some theoretical abstraction. If default happens, Americans will see the consequences in their daily lives. Interest rates will go soaring on everything from credit cards and student loans to cars, mortgages, and more. That is thousands of dollars for each American going right out the door. That will happen and through no fault of their own.

Retirement plans, like 401(k)s, would lose their value, robbing people of their hard-earned livelihoods. For millions

of Americans who one day dream of owning a home—their own piece of the rock—a default would add $130,000 to the lifetime cost of a new home. Imagine spending years putting a little bit of your paycheck aside every month in order to buy a house, only to find out that suddenly that dream is entirely out of reach because radical politicians in Washington bumbled their way into a financial catastrophe. That is precisely the danger we approach, thanks to the House GOP's reckless approach to the debt ceiling.

None of this need be inevitable or even likely if only House Republicans would quit their radical posturing and work with Democrats in a serious way to raise the debt ceiling together, and we should do it soon, not months from now when America finds itself staring straight into the abyss of a financial catastrophe.

I would remind my Republican colleagues they did it before, when Trump was President, three times, with no Democratic obstruction or hostage-taking, and we did it once together when Biden was President. Much of this debt comes from spending when Trump was President, voted on by a Republican House and a Republican Senate. So it is a bit of hypocrisy now to say that they can't do it again and are holding it hostage and are playing a dangerous form of brinksmanship. It shouldn't matter who is President. These are still bills we already incurred that must be paid for the good of all Americans.

NATIONAL SALES TAX

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Republican national sales tax, the House Republicans keep churning this stuff out. It is unbelievable. In the 118th Congress, it is already a tale of two parties: Democrats united on one side, Republicans in chaos on the other.

While Democrats are laser-focused on making life better for everyday families, Republicans are making it clear they want to help the very, very wealthy—the ultrarich. While Democrats want to embrace collaboration and bipartisanship wherever possible, Republicans seem to be trapped by MAGA extremism. That is the contrast in a nutshell: Democratic unity versus Republican chaos, Democratic unity versus Republican chaos.

Yesterday, I joined with President Biden, the Vice President, Leader JEFFRIES, and Democratic colleagues from both Chambers to talk about how we Democrats can maintain our unity and turn it into action in order to help the American people.

Later today, I will join with Leader JEFFRIES to further highlight the contrast between Democrats' ''people first'' agenda and Republicans' radical plans—radical plans—for a national sales tax.

Multiple extreme-right Republicans say that Speaker MCCARTHY has promised them a vote on their national sales tax bill, which they guilefully refer to as the ''FairTax Act.'' Nothing could be less fair to the American people. In a universe of bad ideas, a Republican national sales tax reigns supreme. This proposal, pushed by the MAGA fringe, who now controls the House Republican conference, would impose a 30-percent tax on every single purchase Americans make just as inflation is beginning to drop. This so-called FairTax is truly foul legislation for American families.

For young families who want to buy a home, well, the Republican tax plan would add nearly $125,000 extra on top of the price you pay for your house—an impossible sum for many young people struggling to get their start in life.

And what about Americans out there thinking of buying a car? Under the Republican tax plan, the average American would pay $10,000 more on that single purchase alone.

What about seniors getting ready for retirement? A Republican national sales tax means people's life savings would suddenly lose 30 percent of their value. Imagine working your entire life, playing by the rules, paying your taxes, saving a little of each paycheck only to have Republicans swoop in and erase nearly a third—a third—of what you have saved up.

And it doesn't end there.

Under the Republican tax plan, a mere trip to the grocery store would be torture. Eggs are high enough right now at $4.25 a dozen. They would be $5.50 under the Republican plan. Milk, right now, is $4.40. It would cost $5.70 under the Republican plan. The same holds true for everything else: bread, produce, canned goods, cleaning supplies, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers—you name it. All of it would go up by a third for millions of families—millions, tens of millions, probably hundreds of millions. It would be a devastating blow.

But do you know who wouldn't mind a Republican national sales tax? The ultrarich, the ultrawealthy. The top 1 percent of our earners wouldn't notice much change in expenses. That is who would win under the Republicans' proposal—the very, very rich—because their taxes would be greatly reduced even further, even worse than under the Trump tax cuts. No wonder, then, that even Grover Norquist—no friend of the Democrats—calls this bill a ''terrible idea'' and an ''assault on your retirement savings.''

Look, if Republicans want to start their majority with a debate on their national sales tax bill, Democrats would welcome it. Let the American people see which party is fighting for everyday folks and which party is trying to rig the game in favor of the ultrarich. It is a debate the American people need to see.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

118TH CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the new Congress is a chance for a fresh start, and we need a fresh start. We cannot afford a repeat of the past 2 years.

Despite the fact that Democrats controlled Congress by the slimmest of margins in the last Congress, Democrats acted as if they had a mandate for radical, far-left change.

Democrats shoved through multiple partisan spending sprees, including the so-called American Rescue Plan Act which kicked off our current inflation crisis. And what they got through was mild compared to what they wanted to push through—from a Federal takeover of elections to some of the most extreme abortion legislation in the world. Fortunately, some of the Democrats' most radical proposals didn't ultimately make it through Congress, but not for a lack of trying on Democrats' part.

Despite the fact that they had nothing more than a technical majority, Democrats did their best to eliminate a voice for the minority party in the Senate by attacking the Senate filibuster rule. Some contemplated packing the Supreme Court to secure judicial support for Democrat policy priorities. And Democrats' rhetoric was often as extreme and divisive as their policies, with the standout example being an address the President gave a year ago this month in which he suggested that half the country was racist.

Mr. President, we have had another election, and the American people rejected one-party rule by electing a Republican House of Representatives. They have created a situation in which both parties will have to work together to get anything done.

I hope this will mark a new less partisan moment here in Congress. I hope we can move on from the past 2 years and start afresh to work together to address the challenges facing our country, because there is a lot that we can do together.

Despite the partisanship of the Democrat agenda over the last 2 years, there were still moments that reminded us that there are many areas where we can agree or are close enough to work together.

I introduced a number of bipartisan bills in the last Congress, and I am looking forward to working with colleagues of both parties on a number of issues in the new Congress.

One major piece of legislation we take up every few years is the farm bill, which has a strong bipartisan history. During my time in the Senate, I have introduced farm bill legislation with both Democratic and Republican

colleagues, and I think that working together, we can produce a bill this year that will meet the needs of our Nation's farmers and ranchers and strengthen U.S. agriculture production.

Another obvious area for bipartisan cooperation is the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization that is coming due this year, and none too soon, as recent air travel fiascos have made clear. Our last FAA reauthorization bill was a strongly bipartisan piece of legislation, and this year's bill should be the same.

Another area where I think there is a lot of room for bipartisan cooperation is promoting transparency and accountability in Big Tech.

President Biden recently published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal calling for, among other things, section 230 reform. I already have bipartisan legislation with Senator SCHATZ to reform section 230 and increase transparency and due process for users around content moderation actions taken by Big Tech platforms, and I will work to advance that legislation in this Congress.

I also think there is a lot we can do on a bipartisan basis to advance trade agreements to expand markets for American products and services around the world. The Biden administration has been slow to take action on trade, and I think there is a real interest from Members of Congress of both parties to accelerate our trade efforts and create new market access opportunities for American workers and producers.

I would also like to think we can agree on the need to conduct serious oversight of government spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. Democrats forced through trillions of dollars in new spending during the last Congress, and conducting oversight of how that money is being spent is nothing less than our responsibility as Members of Congress. I am thinking in particular of the massive funding infusion—$80 billion the Democrats handed to the IRS. Especially given the IRS' shaky record when it comes to handling taxpayer data, I would hope we can agree that rigorous oversight of the IRS is required.

I also hope that my Democrat colleagues will be open to working to extend tax relief for American businesses and American families. Americans and small businesses are going to face serious tax hikes if the tax relief from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act isn't extended or made permanent. I would like to think that Members of both parties could work together to extend this tax relief and the benefits it provides for Americans.

Another thing that I am hoping will happen in this Congress is a return to regular order when it comes to appropriations bills and other legislation. Omnibus appropriations bills are not an ideal way to fund the government, to put it mildly. They are an invitation for waste and all the other problems that come with hastily thrown together legislation, and we need to do everything we can to make sure individual appropriations bills go through the committee process and are individually debated on the floor.

I am very encouraged that the incoming Democrat chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee has joined Senator COLLINS, who will be the top-ranking Republican on the committee, to announce her desire to pass appropriations bills through regular order. I really hope that that will be a bipartisan priority this year.

For similar reasons, we need to put a greater emphasis on making sure non-appropriations bills—especially the biggest bills that we consider—go through regular order in committee, where they could be publicly debated and amended and receive input from all committee members.

I hope that we can move forward a more collaborative and transparent process, which is the kind of process that best serves the American people.

Getting anything done in divided government requires a genuine attitude of compromise, with both sides conceding things, rather than the ''my way or the highway'' approach that we have seen from Democrats over the past 2 years. But if we can get there, then I think we can achieve a lot together in this new Congress.

I am eager to work with my colleagues from both parties to address the challenges facing our country. And for the good of the American people, I hope we will build a record of bipartisan accomplishment over the next 2 years.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL EDELMAN

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing a true Montana hero, Dr. Daniel Edelman. Dr. Edelman is a veteran of the U.S. Army who was seriously injured on a mission while deployed overseas as the non-commissioned officer in charge of security and intelligence of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Despite his severe injuries, Dr. Edelman pursued and obtained bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees, along with several professional certifications, allowing him to have a long and distinguished career serving his fellow Montanans.

While serving as chancellor at Montana State University Billings, Dr. Edelman championed many student causes, with a particular focus on veterans, disabilities, first-generation, underserved, and Native American students. He worked with the FBI and other agencies to provide educational opportunities for victims of human trafficking and also entered into an agreement for MSUB to partner with the University of North Texas Health Science Center to identify human remains, particularly those of murdered Native Americans. Additionally, he created a veterans success center at MSUB. Dr. Edelman helped raise the final funds for a science building and student scholarships.

Outside of his work at MSUB, Dr. Edelman volunteers by serving on the board of Horses Spirits Healing, a nonprofit that helps veterans with PTSD.

After a career dedicated to serving Montana and our Nation, Dr. Edelman recently retired from MSUB due to a terminal condition connected to his time in the U.S. Army. Dr. Edelman truly embodies the values and the spirit of a Montanan, and I have no doubt that his legacy of service will continue for many generations to come.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. Edelman, who is here in the Chamber today in the Gallery with his family. I want to recognize Dr. Edelman for his service to our great State, our great Nation, and for his dedication to improving the lives of his students and his fellow Montanan veterans.

Dr. Edelman, you have made Montana and our country very proud.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The majority whip.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PENN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the State of Illinois is my home, and it holds an important place in the history of the American labor movement. All of us learned the name Upton Sinclair in our early days in school, the author of the 1906 novel ''The Jungle,'' which told the story of the horrendous working conditions endured by, largely, immigrant workers in Chicago's meatpacking plants and led to Federal regulation.

A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, one of America's first unions for African-American workers, was a civil rights champion and a leader of the 1963 March on Washington.

There is also the story of Mary Harris ''Mother'' Jones, an Irish immigrant who survived the Great Famine in Ireland, the yellow fever epidemic of 1867, which took the lives of her husband and children, and after her own dress shop was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, she went on to become a woman labor organizer and a fierce and beloved champion of coal miners. Before she died, she said she wanted to be buried in a place of honor among coal miners. She is buried in a town near my home called Mount

Olive, IL, in the Union Miners Cemetery, the only union-owned cemetery in America.

Aside from being legends of labor history, Upton Sinclair, A. Philip Randolph, and Mother Jones had something else in common. They are all members of the Illinois Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor, which was founded in 1969 to make sure that important figures and defining chapters of America's labor history are not forgotten.

The society's highest honor is to be named to its Union Hall of Honor. Last month, a longtime friend of mine, John Penn, was inducted into the Illinois Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor. After nearly 60 years of protecting workers' rights in Illinois, the Midwest, and our Nation, John has certainly earned that honor. He is one of 113 men and women who have been inducted into the Union Hall of Honor, but to me John is one in a million.

He got his first union card in 1965, when he was 16 years old, joining the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 362 in Bloomington, IL. He took a break by joining the United States Air Force, serving in Vietnam, Korea, Guam, and then returning back to Bloomington and Local 362.

It was the same path taken a generation earlier by his father, Paul Penn, a World War II veteran who rose to become president of the same local. But John's family connections didn't win any special treatment. He had to rise through the ranks, and rise he did—from business manager of Local 362 to business manager of the 36-county North Central Illinois Laborers' District Council, then business manager of the four-state Great Plains Laborers' District Council, and, in 2008, vice president and regional manager of LIUNA's 10–State Midwest region and a member of the international union's general executive board, positions to which he has been reelected three different times.

Under John Penn's leadership, LIUNA Local 362 grew, giving a voice to scores of workers who previously had never benefited from union representation.

Some years ago, in response to several tragic accidents, John made himself known to many by stopping all highway construction in McLean County to force the State of Illinois to improve protections for vulnerable construction workers and others on the State's roadways. That action culminated in the creation of the Illinois State's Work Zone Safety Committee and implementation of numerous policies that saved lives.

Somehow, John also found time to resurrect Bloomington's Labor Day parade, to serve on several community and State boards, including the United Way of McLean County, the Children's Christmas Party for Unemployed Families, Illinois Special Olympics, the McLean County Promise Council, and the Bloomington-Normal Advancement and Economic Development Council.

He was honored by his hometown newspaper, the Bloomington Pantagraph, as its 2003 Person of the Year. He received a Thousand Points of Light Foundation award from then-President Clinton in 1997 in recognition of his volunteer efforts and those of all Bloomington-Normal building tradespeople who he recruited over the years to take part in these organizations.

At the end of this month, John Penn is retiring from this position with the Laborers' union. As he begins this new chapter, Loretta and I wish John and Mary, his wife of 55 years, good health, good times with their daughter Shawn, their children and grandchildren.

John, you made a real difference for so many people. You are truly a hall of famer, and thanks for all that you have done.

MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the last two centuries, Federal support for scientific research has helped to split the atom, defeat polio, explore space, create the internet, map the human genome, develop vaccines and treatments for COVID–19, and so much more.

No nation has made such significant investments in science, and no nation's scientists have done more to improve the quality of life.

But with the challenges we face today, from devastating diseases to climate change, there is more progress to be made.

So America is at a turning point, and unless we commit to providing strong and sustained funding increases for our Nation's premier medical and scientific researchers, our position as the world leader will be at risk.

That is exactly why, since 2014, I have continued to introduce legislation to keep our Nation on the cutting edge. It is entitled the American Cures Act.

This bill will provide our top medical research Agencies with 5 percent real funding growth every year. That is steady, predictable growth, pegged above the rate of inflation.

This money would support the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program, and the Veterans' Affairs Medical and Prosthetics Research Program.

This investment would be game-changing for the Agencies. Consider the National Institutes of Health. It is our Nation's—if not the world's—premier medical research Agency. Their pioneering work at this single agency saves lives and fuels our economy, supporting nearly 20,000 jobs just in my home State of Illinois.

Today, the NIH budget is $47.5 billion. More than 95 percent of this funding is competitively awarded to scientists, research institutions, and small businesses in every State across the country.

Researchers supported by the NIH make tens of thousands of new discoveries every year—breakthroughs that could literally change the world.

In recognition of these remarkable feats, Congress has, on a bipartisan basis, increased the NIH annual budget by more than $17 billion since I first introduced the American Cures Act in 2014.

This chart is an indication of that growth. It has gone from $30 billion to $48 billion in that period of time since 2014—a 58-percent increase.

These increases would not have been possible without a bipartisan effort in the U.S. Senate.

I enlisted a willing participant and ally and really effective Member of the Senate, PATTY MURRAY, to be part of this; former Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri, who, when the Republicans were in majority control of the Senate, kept up this promise to increase the spending; and retired Senator Lamar Alexander from Tennessee, who shared our passion for medical research.

Luckily, we had a leader at the time, Dr. Francis Collins, former Director of the NIH, who really did his part in enlisting support for these increases.

NIH is not the only Federal medical research Agency to see significant funding increases. We have also secured $2.4 billion in increased funding for the CDC over the last 9 years. That is a 35-percent increase since fiscal year 2014.

And while it is not reflected in the chart I just showed, both the CDC and NIH also received billions in supplemental funding from COVID rescue bills passed by the Senate in 2020 and 2021.

While this year's budget provided a 5.8-percent bump to the NIH, a $2.5 billion increase, I am sorry to say we fell short of the 5-percent real-growth target above inflation.

If we had met this target, NIH would have received $650 million, up to a level of more than $48 billion.

That said, I am still encouraged about how far we have come. We finally reversed a 22-percent decline in NIH purchasing power that took place after 12 years of flat funding, but we need to step up our efforts.

Diseases like cancer, stroke, opioid addiction, and mental illness will not wait on us. Half of all men and one-third of all women in the U.S. will develop cancer in their lifetime. Someone's mother, father, brother, sister, or spouse is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease every 65 seconds.

And 1 in every 300 people will be diagnosed with ALS in their lifetime. Sadly, a number of my closest friends already have received this diagnosis.

Sustained and robust NIH funding will help cure, prevent, and treat these diseases. It will help the people that we all care about the most, and it already has.

Because of NIH funding—listen to this—the American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 3½ million lives were saved between 1991 and 2019 as a result of improvements in cancer treatment, detection, and prevention—a 32-

percent drop in the cancer death rate since 1991.

Thirty years ago, HIV was a death sentence, but because of NIH research, that is no longer the case.

And because of NIH funding, we are also on the verge of curing—yes, curing—sickle cell anemia, an inherited blood disorder that primarily affects African Americans.

Consider this: NIH funding contributed to research associated with every new drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration from 2010 to 2019.

Let me repeat that for emphasis. There are only two countries in the world that allow general advertising of prescription drugs—the United States and New Zealand. You can't turn on the television without hearing the story of a new drug. Every single drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration from 2010 to 2019 started off with government-funded, taxpayer-funded research at the National Institutes of Health.

So when you see these wonderful drugs, understand we, as Americans, put down the initial investment that made these drugs all possible.

However, there is a real threat to our Nation's investment in medical research. The new House Republican majority, after more than a dozen—in fact, 15—painful and embarrassing failed votes to secure the Speaker, announced that Speaker McCarthy had finally won the day, he made some deals, agreements with MAGA Republicans for that to happen.

One of those agreements would literally devastate funding for medical research in the future. What a price to pay.

He reportedly agreed to hamstring government funding for 2024 at 2022 levels—a senseless move—senseless move—that would cut funding for scientific breakthroughs by roughly 7 percent and delay the delivery of new cures and treatments for those most in need.

So I would like to know, for the record, which diseases and conditions would Speaker MCCARTHY and the House Republicans like us to slash funding for? Cancer? Alzheimer's? Parkinson's? Diabetes? ALS? Heart disease? Which one?

Speak up, Mr. Speaker. This is supposed to be a new transparent House of Representatives. If you are going to cut funding in medical research, what can we put on the back of the burner, and how can we explain that to the families across America?

Now is not the time for political horse-trading that puts one person in power at the expense of everyone waiting for a cure.

We need to build on the bipartisan success which we have had to date and we have achieved over the past decade and continue to prioritize medical research funding that creates jobs but, most importantly, saves lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the border one more time, but I was intrigued by the rhetorical questions my friend from Illinois has asked the Speaker.

I have got a question for President Biden: When you say that you are not going to negotiate on the debt ceiling, does that mean that the Federal Government is going to continue to rack up more and more debt on top of the $30 trillion that we already owe, particularly during inflationary times when interest rates on that debt basically are eating up more and more of our discretionary budget?

To me, if the answer is yes, I am going to refuse to negotiate as we continue to rack up more and more debt, about two-thirds of which is on autopilot, as the Presiding Officer knows—it is mandatory spending. That is a supremely irresponsible position to take.

President Biden, when he was in the Senate, was known as a dealmaker, and as I said yesterday, during 2011, he negotiated with Senator MCCONNELL the Budget Control Act, which was probably the most recent response, sort of a mixed bag as it was, to try to control Federal spending. It was a noble effort, although it did not succeed.

So I know our friends on the Democratic side would like to sort of add to Mr. MCCARTHY's challenges. We have got 6 months, perhaps, between now and the time the extraordinary measures the Treasury Department is going to be using to make sure we don't actually breach that debt limit, but I would suggest that the time would be better used, rather than sort of to add gasoline to the fire, to actually try to solve the problem. And the problem—the debt limit—is real. It needs to be addressed by two people: Speaker MCCARTHY and the President of the United States. Because anything the Senate were to pass with 60 votes, which would be required, would certainly be dead on arrival in the House of Representatives.

And so as a practical matter, while we are going to be very interested and engaged in the debate and discussion, that is where the decision is going to have to be made sometime between now and the time extraordinary measures are exhausted, perhaps as early as June.

But in the meantime, for the President of the United States, who represents not just Democrats, who represents all Americans—all 330 million-plus of us—to say: I am not negotiating, even though he has got a track record as a Senator and as a Vice President of negotiating hard things like this, to me, is an irresponsible answer, and I hope he will reconsider.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Now, Mr. President, to talk about what I came here to talk about—talk about the border.

I live in a border State. We have 1,200 miles of border with Mexico. We have, as a country, 2,000 miles of border with Mexico. And we are seeing numbers of people showing up at the border that we have never seen before—millions of people since President Biden was sworn in as President on January 20, 2021, millions of people showing up, many of whom are claiming asylum and seeking to immigrate permanently into the United States under the asylum laws. Because the administration has a policy of releasing those individuals into the interior of the United States to await a future immigration court hearing, which may be years in the future because of backlog, many of those individuals do not show up at their immigration court hearing but simply are willing to play the odds that they can just melt into the Great American heartland and not be returned or repatriated to their country of origin or actually have to appear at an asylum hearing.

We know that, statistically, the number of people who actually do show up for an asylum hearing in front of an immigration judge, only roughly 90 percent of them fail to meet the very stringent requirement for asylum, which is basically a credible fear of persecution based on some classification: race, sex, ethnic origin, or the like. That is a very narrow test, and it certainly does not include fear of poverty or even violence in your home country. Yet the policy of the Biden administration to basically create open borders and place individuals who show up and claim asylum—these are not people trying to run away from the Border Patrol, by the way. These are people who are turning themselves in because they know they can play the system, and they will be able to make their way into the United States without any consequences—certainly, no legal consequences.

I am sure those of my colleagues who have visited the border—and we had a bipartisan group just a couple weeks ago who did visit again both Yuma, AZ, and El Paso. But as my colleagues can attest, there is no data, there is no image there, frankly, or no words to adequately convey the complexity of what is happening at the border today. To understand, you have to see and hear for yourself.

Several years ago, I traveled to Brooks County, which is a little county in South Texas, where I visited a ranch that the Border Patrol had a rescue beacon in the middle of.

And just to explain, the Border Patrol does a lot of humanitarian rescues because, as you can imagine, people coming from Central America, up across the land bridge into Mexico, up to the United States, many of them show up dehydrated, suffering from exposure, and some of them, frankly, die on the trip. But the Border Patrol, while they have the responsibility of enforcing our immigration laws at the border and interdicting illegal drugs,

they also rescue migrants who are in distress. And what these rescue beacons are, out in the middle of nowhere, frankly—what they are are large poles with a light on top that allows migrants who are sick, injured, or otherwise in distress to contact law enforcement for help and immediately get access to first aid, water, food, whatever they need. There is a sign at the bottom of these rescue beacons that instructs the migrants to press a red button for help and to remain in the area.

Well, when I first went to Brooks County, which is where this—Falfurrias is probably the largest inland port where the Border Patrol has a checkpoint in Brooks County. I was surprised to see the rescue beacons not written in just English, not just written in Spanish but in Mandarin. Mandarin. This is Brooks County, TX, a rural county 70 or so miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, and the rescue beacon is in Chinese, the Chinese language. This is a factoid about the border crisis that doesn't get nearly the attention that it deserves. What this tells me and what I have learned subsequently is that migrants aren't just coming from Mexico. They are not just coming from Central America. They are literally coming from all around the world.

Now, when I hear, for example, Vice President HARRIS or the President of the United States or Secretary of State Blinken talk about the migration crisis, they want to talk about root causes. And I think, although that is a little bit vague, I think what they are talking about is they view migration as an economic crisis: people living in their home country who are seeking a better life, which we all certainly understand, or fleeing violence—they want to talk about root causes.

But I think what they don't understand or certainly aren't articulating is the fact that this is far broader than a regional problem concentrated in Mexico and Central America. I think the fact that these rescue beacons have been, for many years, written in English, Spanish, and Mandarin is evidence of the fact that this is a far larger problem but one that the administration has simply not acknowledged.

A couple of weeks ago, I traveled with a bipartisan delegation of colleagues to El Paso, TX, which is the westernmost point in my State. Actually, just a bit of trivia, the city of El Paso is closer to the Pacific Ocean than it is to the eastern tip of Texas, to give you an idea of the scope of what we are talking about. It is a big place.

But we traveled to El Paso, TX, which is an urban area, but we also went to Yuma, AZ, which, if you look on the map, is the southwestern portion of Arizona, another border State, just right up against California. But it is an agricultural community. I think it is fair to say—I am not disparaging it—it is kind of a sleepy little agricultural town.

We met a number of people in El Paso and Yuma whom I want to mention. In El Paso, we went out on a night patrol with the Border Patrol. They got on their horses, and they rode over this large area where there is a lot of traffic. And then we were informed that they had detained two migrants. And so we walked over there to sort of see what was going on, and the Border Patrol said: Well, these two are from China. El Paso, TX, two Chinese migrants trying to make their way across the border. As a matter of fact, one of the Border Patrol Agents had to use an app on the phone, I think it is called Google Translate, in order to communicate with these migrants.

Then, when we went to one of the detention facilities or processing facilities, actually—not actually detention—we met a family from Uzbekistan while touring the Border Patrol Central Processing Center in El Paso—not in Mexico, not Central America, but Uzbekistan. You can look that up on the map. It is not a part of the region that the President, the Secretary of State, and Vice President are talking about when they are talking about root causes of illegal immigration.

But when we went to Yuma, the little sleepy agricultural town on the border of Mexico and the United States, the Acting Border Patrol Chief told us that one of the unusual features of a number of the migrants who came across Yuma were they came from 176 different countries, and they spoke more than 200 languages.

And you might ask: How in the world is that possible? Well, Senator KELLY, one of the Arizona Senators, said: Well, there is an airport right across the border in Mexico, at the northern border, in a city called Mexicali. Again, if you look at your map of Mexico, you will see that Mexicali is a pretty large urban area right there on the Arizona border. And people fly into there. Of course, they have to pay human smugglers, criminal organizations that are a network that smuggle human beings for money from anywhere in the world to that airport, and then they walk across or walk up to the Yuma Border Patrol and claim asylum.

They noted that many of them are apparently well-to-do. Somebody mentioned Gucci luggage. I don't know whether Gucci makes luggage or not, but you get the idea. These are the not the sort of mental pictures that I think many people have of migrants who are seeking a better life, necessarily, fleeing poverty, I should say, or fleeing violence.

So the reason I mention this is because the reality of what is happening on the ground along the border undercuts the rhetoric we hear from the administration about how to solve this problem.

The White House has pushed a narrative that the only way to fix the border crisis is to fix the ''root causes'' of migration, meaning the economic and security concerns that cause people to come here. It has honed in on the Northern Triangle, including El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as the primary region of concern.

The administration's border czar, Vice President HARRIS, even led the development of the ''root causes strategy.'' The problem is the data shows that this is not the region driving illegal migration.

Last month, Customs and Border Protection encountered more than a quarter of a million migrants at the southern border. Fewer than 33,000 of those 250,000 were from Northern Triangle countries—33,000 out of the 250,000 were from Northern Triangle countries. So these are the three countries that the administration is focused on.

It reminds me of the story of people who look through a soda straw at a problem. Well, they can look down the soda straw, and they can see what is happening there, but they don't see what is happening around it, and they lose any sense of context or the complete picture. That is what the administration is doing when they are looking at the border and the humanitarian and national security crisis occurring there on a daily basis and in my State's backyard.

As a matter of fact, these three countries represent only about 13 percent of the migrants encountered at the southern border in December. Mexican nationals, the large country right on our southern border—Mexico is not driving the numbers either. Only 19 percent of the border encounters in December were Mexican nationals.

So where are all these men and women and children coming from? Well, you can take a global map, a map of the world, and you can take a dart and throw the dart at the map and you are likely to hit a place where these migrants are coming from. Last year, across the entire border, Customs and Border Protection encountered migrants from 174 different countries. People from every corner of the globe are traveling through Mexico and crossing America's southern border.

There is no question that the conditions in Mexico and the Northern Triangle are contributing, but they are only a small fraction of the problem. People around the world see the Biden administration catching and releasing migrants by the thousands on a daily basis. They see the yearslong wait for asylum cases to be adjudicated. They see the lack of any interior enforcement by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and as they look at this picture, they realize that if they can make it across the southern border, they are likely to be able to stay in the United States for years, if not a lifetime.

Despite what the administration may think, this is not just a regional problem; it is a global phenomenon, run by transnational criminal organizations. That ought to concern all of us.

Last year, CBP encountered migrants from 174 different countries. If the administration wants to fix the ''root

causes'' of this crisis, are they going to fix the world? You can see why their misconception, their misunderstanding, their erroneous narrative of what the problem is doesn't help solve the problem.

It is time for the Biden administration to acknowledge the reality of the situation and look at solutions that are realistic and effective. In order to get this crisis under control, we have to move quickly on a bipartisan basis to insist on the enforcement of our immigration laws when people attempt to enter our country other than through legal means. That is the only viable path forward, and the sooner the administration understands that, the better off we will all be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Nebraska.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Texas, for his comments and his perspective and his insight, as a Senator serving from a border State, on what they are facing every single day. I would say to my colleague that Nebraska has become a border State. I know Colorado has become a border State. Every State in this country now is feeling the effects of the chaos that we see at our southern border, so my thanks to the senior Senator from Texas for offering his perspective on that.

I would say that on January 13 in Nebraska, we had two Nebraska State Patrol officers who pulled over two separate vehicles that were hours away from each other. One car contained 50,000 suspected fentanyl pills. The other contained a suspected fentanyl-cocaine mixture. Both cars were driven up from the border. These are only the latest instances of synthetic opioid trafficking in my State of Nebraska. In 2022, the Nebraska State Patrol confiscated 66 pounds of fentanyl, and that is up from 25 pounds the year before and 10 pounds in 2020.

In Nebraska and throughout this Nation, the numbers of drug seizures are staggering. At the southwest border, there was a 55-percent increase in fentanyl seizures from just November to December. Heroin seizures increased by 52 percent the month before. Methamphetamine seizures increased as well.

We know what is driving these drug trafficking numbers: We have a crisis at our southern border. The effects of that crisis are rippling across the country, felt by communities in Nebraska and beyond.

When we cannot control who is entering the United States, what they are bringing in, or where they are going, that is a serious national security risk.

Let's go over the numbers. Customs and Border Protection encountered 2.3 million migrants at the southern border this past fiscal year—more encounters than any other year in our history. Migrant encounters in December reached the highest monthly level ever recorded, with over 250,000 encounters in 1 month. That number had tripled in just 2 years. And it gets even worse. Border Patrol agents have stopped individuals on the government's terror watch list 38 times so far since October. Suspected terrorist encounters will hit record levels if this trend continues through 2023. Gang-affiliated encounters skyrocketed last year as well, from 348 to 751.

These historic statistics should concern anyone who cares about our country's security and the safety of our communities and the safety of American families. But this administration doesn't consider what is going on at the border to be a crisis. In fact, our President hardly seems to consider what is going on at the border at all. Despite his recent trip south for what I thought was a photo op, his administration has exacerbated the border crisis.

In case anybody has forgotten, let me refresh your memories. With simple strokes of his pen, President Biden ended the national emergency declaration at the border. He halted construction on the border wall, and he scaled back ICE enforcement in the first few months of his Presidency.

No amount of photo ops can change what we all know: This administration has not only failed to prioritize the safety and security of our border, it has put forward policies over the past 2 years that have worsened this crisis.

Only a month ago, President Biden himself insisted that ''there are more important things going on.'' I happen to think the national security threat posed by an influx of suspected terrorists across the border is important. I think that human trafficking overrunning our border is important. I think the massive increase in overdoses due to drug smuggling across the border is important. Across the country, fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 49. Between 2019 and 2021, Nebraska's largest county saw an appalling 400-percent increase in fentanyl overdose deaths.

Complacency is not an acceptable response to this atrocious uptick in loss of life. My Republican colleagues and I have real, commonsense solutions to the problems that our border is facing. We need to invest more in new border security measures and resources for the men and women who serve us honorably as Border Patrol agents. We need to end the lenient policies like catch-and-release and increase penalties for people who don't show up for their immigration court hearings. We need the Department of Homeland Security to create a serious, comprehensive strategy to address those issues.

Simply throwing more tax dollars toward a smartphone app that offers migrants appointments to cross our border—well, that is what the Biden administration has proposed. It is not the right response to the mayhem we are seeing. Their policies do nothing to secure the border and to reinforce our Nation's security.

Until President Biden and my Democratic colleagues seriously work with us to fix this border chaos once and for all, we can expect to see more drugs brought into our country, more women and children facing a life of sex trafficking, and more threats to the security of our Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today at the beginning of this new year to talk about a problem we have talked about a lot, but unfortunately we haven't gotten the results we need, and that is to talk about our southern border.

It is not a new topic for me—I have been on the floor many times talking about this, as have my colleagues—and it is not a new topic for the American people because they see this every day, and many people are living it very close-up. Many of my colleagues can say the same because this is a topic they have unfortunately had to discuss over and over and over again, with no real results, and we are going to hear from some of them today.

Years ago on this Senate floor, I said:

> I urge my colleagues here in the Senate to take a long—hard look at the undisputed facts that demonstrate the crisis at the border is escalating.

When I said those words, it was December 2018. The number of apprehensions along the southern border then was a little more than 60,000. Over the weekend, Customs and Border Protection released the numbers for this past December, and apprehensions along our southern border were reported at 251,487—an alltime high.

You can see from the chart I have here—you might not be able to read the numbers, but the dark blue is what we have been doing all through 2022, far eclipsing the light blue of 2021, which

were record numbers. But, here again, in the dark purple, which is the lower one, this is the average from fiscal year 2013 to 2020, and many times, this is five times, six times the amount in December. That is startling—startling.

But one thing that has changed over these last 2 years, fortunately, is that the President finally decided to visit the southern border. He went to El Paso several weeks ago. Well, it is about time. It certainly shouldn't have taken that long to visit a part of our country that is deeply affected by these numbers, but he finally went down.

I have been to the southern border many times. I am sure, Madam President, you have been there many times as well—quite a bit over the years. We just had several codels go down these past couple weeks.

The President has been saying of Republicans that ''it is easy to demagogue the issue and reject solutions.'' So here is what I have to say to the President in response to that: No, Mr. President, it is not easy to demagogue. It is easy to see that the issue is not getting the attention that it deserves by this administration.

The chart pretty much says it all right there.

The Biden administration often pivots to calling for comprehensive immigration reform and that Congress needs to provide the resources. Some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are discussing these very issues. But this is not an either/or scenario. Any discussions about the need for and the way we reform our immigration system are separate and apart from the need to enforce the laws to secure the border.

I am particularly struck by the President's comment on solutions. To explain these record numbers almost each and every month, we have been told: The surge is seasonal.

By the way, December is traditionally, as you can see, one of the lower months over the years, so the seasonal charge cannot be the issue.

The surge was the result of particular political conditions in relative countries.

Well, we see people coming in from hundreds of countries, not just surging from political conditions in a country.

Our economy is a magnet.

It very well could be.

It is a surge for asylum or those fleeing countries that are impacted by natural disasters.

All of these things, these excuses, are from the administration.

One thing is clear: Thousands of individuals and families are continually coming into our country unaccounted for, draining the resources of many of our communities.

But Congress needs to do our part to provide the funds and support for the men and women in the Agencies that are tasked with securing our border, enforcing our immigration laws, and stemming the flow of drugs, particularly fentanyl, from getting into our country. I stand ready to do that and have done that through my work on the Appropriations Committee as the ranking member on Homeland Security.

Now, you may disagree with the tone and tactics of the last administration, but I think everyone can agree that border security was certainly a priority, and that is why so many of us called for President Biden to go to the border himself and see the crisis for himself. The numbers under President Trump were measurably less because of his policies.

There is an irony here because after 2 years of neglect, we have seen the need to go to the border in a way dwindled because the border crisis has actually come to the President, come to Washington, DC, come to West Virginia, come to Denver.

But some of the most critical comments about the impacts and failures of these policies have not come from Republicans but from a mayor of a town along the Rio Grande or from the Democratic mayor of the city of New York. Mayor Adams, mayor of New York City, has called this situation not just a crisis, but, instead, he has called it a disaster—exactly what it is. Mayor Adams is now seeking funds to help house those tens of thousands of migrants who are arriving in New York City.

Cities far into the interior of our country are being stretched to the max from the migrant surge. This is why we have to do everything we can to stem the influx.

We just passed an Omnibus appropriations bill that increases funding for these activities, particularly at CBP, ICE, and FEMA, for personnel and for technology. But imagine the men and women who have to deal with this all the time—the fatigue, the morale, the difficulties when you are so overrun. They are just pressed beyond capacity month after month and year after year. Each year, we have worked in a bipartisan way within Homeland Security to encourage and fund increased hiring for Border Patrol agents, for example. We are way down on those. But it has been difficult to fill these positions or to even maintain the current force.

One of the things I am most proud about in my tenure as ranking member on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee is the creation and funding of a new position for CBP called the processing coordinators. We did this because too many of our trained agents were pulled from their duty stations and their mission to perform tasks that they are not prepared to do. This balance enables Agencies to go back to actually performing tasks they are supposed to do, they are equipped for, and they are trained for.

In addition to increasing resources for CBP, we must also be making efforts to increase interior enforcement. Once they get through the border and they declare asylum, they are told to come back in 5 to 7 years. Many of them don't, but that is what they are—and they are in the interior of the country, and we don't use the interior enforcement mechanisms that we have. It is very unacceptable that thousands upon thousands are waiting—in some cases waiting 7 years before they can even begin any kind of removal procedures.

We just cannot let this crisis continue.

Bottom line: The issue was not a priority of the first 2 years of this administration. That is very obvious. As I said, the chart—this is the second year of the President's administration. This is the first year which is way above the averages, but it definitely cannot be ignored. The impact on too many families, too many businesses, and too many communities along the southern border, even in our State of West Virginia, simply cannot be ignored.

I am glad the President went, and now he is fully aware, hopefully, of the problem. I sure hope he is ready and willing to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I gave my remarks on border security, and as the new vice chair of the Republican conference, I have gathered some really strong voices here to share in the concerns that I have. I am really pleased to have the chair of our policy committee here, Senator ERNST from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Thank you, Vice Chair CAPITO. Wow. It is great to have another woman in leadership and leading these floor events now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

BORDER SECURITY

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I do want to thank my friend and colleague Senator CAPITO of West Virginia for her leadership in bringing Senate Republicans to the floor to talk about what is a very important issue to all of our constituents—the safety and the security of our great Nation.

Joe Biden created a crisis that has now turned into a complete catastrophe—one a mere photo op at a cleaned-up site in Texas won't fix. In just 2 years, under President Biden, over 4 million illegal immigrants have crossed the southern border—151 who are on the terror watch list. To top that off, we know of at least 1.2 million individuals who evaded the authorities. Those are the individuals we call the ''got-aways.''

This border catastrophe is so much more than a flood of illegal immigrants hoping to jump the legal immigration line to get in the door. An open border is an invitation for mischief. It is a drug lord's dream.

In my home State of Iowa, drug overdoses among young people have risen 120 percent in the last few years. According to the State's Division of

Criminal Investigation, there were four times the amount of fentanyl pills disguised as prescription drugs in 2022 as compared to the previous year.

We must act now to counter this deadly fentanyl epidemic. We, as lawmakers, should make the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death punishable by Federal felony murder charges. It is past time the consequences for intentionally inflicting an overdose fits the crime.

The cartels producing and smuggling this deadly drug into the United States are also funneling a significant number of illegal firearms and weapons, leading to barbaric violence. Just last week in California, a family of six, including a 10-month-old baby girl, was killed in a drug cartel execution. Unfortunately, the suspects are still at large.

Folks, this death and devastation cannot continue. In the coming weeks, I am looking forward to leading a bicameral delegation to the California-Mexico border. There, we plan to hear directly from Customs and Border Protection personnel about fentanyl and their ongoing drug interdictions. We will tour the port in San Diego—the epicenter for fentanyl trafficking into the United States—and get a firsthand look at the dangerous and critical work our Border Patrol agents are doing day in and day out.

I anticipate a common theme in all of our conversations: the need to physically secure our border, something my colleagues on the other side of the aisle used to support.

In 2007, then-Senator Joe Biden argued:

> No great country can say it's secure without being able to secure its borders.

In 2010, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER supported border security and agreed the border lacked ''the resources to fully combat the drug smugglers, gun runners, human traffickers, money launderers, and organized criminals that seek to do harm to innocent Americans along our border.''

Amen, folks. I agree with both of them. But where is that same attitude now, when the southern border has become immensely more dangerous, more permeable, and more lethal?

At every single one of my townhalls, over the past 3 weeks, and in dozens of interviews with Iowa media, I was asked about the crisis at the southern border.

So, to those on the left who say this is just a Republican stunt, I think you had better get out of the beltway and into Middle America, hear directly from the people you are supposed to serve, and you will quickly find out it is no stunt; it is reality.

Iowa families want solutions. They want safety, and they want to curtail the ever-increasing access to deadly drugs for their children, and they are not alone. The American people want a solution. In fact, over a majority of Americans—73 percent, according to one Pew Research poll—say they believe we need to increase security along the U.S.-Mexico border.

It is a great place to start, a place to find common ground.

In fact, there are left over border materials from the Trump administration just lying out in the desert, materials that taxpayers have paid for that are just collecting dust. And get this: The Federal Government is actually paying—yes, they have hired contractors, and they spend our tax dollars to do this—to watch over those materials that are lying there in the desert.

Without a secure border, we cannot have a larger conversation about reforming our immigration system.

So maybe, just maybe, a good place to start is for this administration to allow States that want to complete the border barrier to do so, instead of taking them to court.

Besides, doesn't Biden's Justice Department have enough on their hands right now?

So I agree with the Senator from West Virginia that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.

With that, 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. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I have been on this floor many times to speak to this body about the issue of immigration on our southwest border. It is an issue. It has been an issue for the past couple of years, and, unfortunately, it continues to get worse.

As I talk to people in Oklahoma, they are very open to immigration. They just want legal immigration, and they want our system set up in such a way to incentivize legal immigration. But that is not what is happening right now.

Seven of us, 2 weeks ago, in a bipartisan codel, went to the southwest border, and we spent a couple of days there in the El Paso area and then over into Yuma, AZ, just to be able to visit with the folks on the line, with the folks in the communities, to be able to talk to those individuals who are taking care of human needs, to say: What is going on on the ground? What do we need to know?

I have been to the border many times. So I have had the opportunity to be able to hear some of the other reports, but it is always interesting just to be able to get the perspective of what is happening right now, because, as they say along the border, if you have been to one spot on the border, you have been to one spot on the border because it is different in each area, what they are facing.

Let me give you just one story from this. When we visited with the sheriff and with the city manager and with the mayor of a small town in Arizona named Yuma, AZ—Yuma, AZ, is right on the border. It is an ag community. If you have eaten a salad in the past year, you have eaten something from Yuma, AZ, because they grow the vast majority of the lettuce for our country. Yuma, AZ, 3 years ago, in that area, had 8,100 people illegally cross in that year. For that one small town, they were trying to manage 8,100 people crossing 3 years ago. This past year, Yuma, AZ, had 310,000 people illegally cross the area.

So in 3 years, they went from 8,000 people illegally crossing to 310,000 people illegally crossing in a year. They are overwhelmed.

May I remind you, the mayor of New York is worried about an additional 40 to 50,000 people in New York City and having a difficult time absorbing that. Yuma, AZ, is trying to figure out how to absorb 310,000 people coming through their community.

The issues are complicated and they are difficult, but they are not unachievable. It is an issue of how are we going to enforce the law.

Now, I would tell you that I have met with the Border Patrol many times over the years, and one of the things they will often talk to me about is that they finally get a break each December because, typically, of Christmas, quite frankly, not as many people cross illegally during Christmastime. They stay home with families. And so December is usually a down month for illegal crossings, and it is year after year after year, until this year.

This year, there was a record number of people illegally crossing in December. So instead of going down, it actually went up when a quarter million people illegally crossed our southwest border in 1 month. That was last month, in December, a quarter million people.

This is a growing issue that requires attention, and it is not just the people this year. It is also all the other complications that come with it, because the Border Patrol is very clear: While we are managing this massive number of people coming from all over the world across that border, we can't go interdict drugs, we can't go interdict other things because we don't have the manpower to be able to do both.

So, again, last month, drug seizures in the United States increased 17.5 percent. In 1 month, it went up. This is an issue that requires real focus, and my concern is that the numbers are so large and it is so out of control that people are just saying: It is too big. I am not going to deal with it.

But the chaos along our border is continuing.

Now, the administration has made some bold statements of late. They said we are going to dramatically increase the number of people who are going to have expedited removal attached to them. Now, that sounds really severe—''expedited removal.'' They

are going to have extradited removal when they get there. Except, when we ran the numbers to be able to look at it, at how many people are actually removed who get expedited removal, the number came back 7 percent.

So expedited removal doesn't actually mean removal. It is just a title that is being placed on individuals. So nothing is really changing there.

And as I mentioned before, these are not just individuals from Central America or from Mexico. These are individuals coming from all over the world.

When our bipartisan codel was down on the border a few weeks ago, we watched two individuals who had just been picked up by mounted patrol as they were running across the border. But they were not running faster than the mounted patrol, which was able to catch up with them, and they were able to arrest them. Those two individuals were Chinese nationals who were making their way across the border illegally at night, running from the Border Patrol.

People from all over the world are coming because there is an invitation to illegally cross the border. People are coming right now because it is actually easier to get a job in America. If you are living in another country and you want to work in America, it is easier to get a job in America if you illegally cross.

That is not just me saying that. That is the data saying that. If you are outside the United States and you apply for a work visa and want to be able to come in in a legal, normal process, to be able to go through, currently it is 6½ months to be able to get that work visa—6½ months. But if you illegally cross our border and you are labeled with ''parole''—and the mass number of people are labeled with ''parole'' when they illegally cross our border—you get a work permit within 3 to 4 weeks. So you could legally do this and wait 6½ months or you could illegally do this and you get it in 3 to 4 weeks. Literally, this administration is incentivizing illegal activity with how they are setting up the work permits.

Listen, there are a lot of things this Congress needs to do to be able to deal with illegal immigration. I have stated over and over and over again that the asylum laws need to change. We have got to do a real fix. This is the issue, and it has been multiple administrations that have said that this is the problem. In fact, this administration, just in the last month, has floated the idea of changing the regulation on how they actually handle asylum, and I have affirmed them for that. That has got to change in the way it is being implemented. It also needs to change in law in the way we handle it here.

But there is also the legal process of actually enforcing our laws on the southern border that will make a significant difference not incentivizing individuals to be able to illegally cross our border. There are things the administration can do, and they are not doing currently. There are things that this body needs to do that we have not taken up.

Two hundred and fifty thousand people illegally crossed our southwest border last month. When are we going to act on this problem? It needs to be now.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I started the new year by joining Senator BLACKBURN of Tennessee and our new colleague Senator BRITT of Alabama on a recent tour of the Del Rio Border Sector in Texas.

We traveled to the border to gain more firsthand knowledge of the ongoing mass migration of illegal immigrants into our Nation, to hear from Border Patrol agents about how they are handling this crisis, and to, perhaps more powerfully, hear from young women and girls who are victims of President Biden's careless border and immigration policies.

We learned more how States are taking action to protect their citizens and their borders when the administration won't. Few States are affected more than Texas, which instituted Operation Lone Star in March of 2021 to counter illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

We looked on as a family led by a coyote crossed the Rio Grande in dangerously cold waters and witnessed the family's struggle to help their grandmother wade through rushing waters to enter our Nation illegally. She made it safely across, but, sadly, that is not always the case for many people, including children who have drowned making the same trek under the misguided belief that our borders are open.

We visited a massive migrant processing center where illegal immigrants were taken upon arrival. An astonishing fact about this processing center is that it costs U.S. taxpayers $16 million a month to operate, and that is just one of five on the southern border. Let me say that again. It is costing American taxpayers $16 million per month to process illegal immigrants at just one of these five centers.

What was especially gut-wrenching to me was hearing directly from human trafficking victims. We heard from one young lady who was trafficked from the age of 12 to the age of 16. She told a story I will never forget, and there are thousands of stories just like hers.

Yes, we learned about the true severity of the crisis. We learned how Border Patrol agents simply cannot carry out their jobs. We learned how States are forced to use up resources on border security and migrants—resources meant for U.S. citizens. We learned how ranchers and U.S. property owners are being overwhelmed and in constant fear of being robbed and assaulted by smugglers. We learned how all of this affects our entire Nation—not just the unbelievable pricetag, but in the incidences of human trafficking across the country and tens of thousands of overdose deaths linked to fentanyl smuggled across our border.

And, heartbreakingly, we learned of the wickedness of the cartels. They are thriving, thanks to President Biden's apathetic attitude toward his own country's border.

This should not be a political debate. People and children are dying in an attempt to enter our country illegally. Drug cartels are taking control of not just the border towns on the Mexican side of the border but on the American side too. Human trafficking is now a $13 billion industry.

How did we get here? Why do they come? Well, because our President basically invited them. Immediately after President Biden was sworn in, he started dismantling vital policies like ''Remain in Mexico'' and restarted catch-and-release, halted construction on the border, and, essentially, set up a big neon sign on the southwest border that read ''Vacant.''

The rest is history: 4.5 million border apprehensions with an estimated 1.5 million undetected got-aways, a staggering increase in the number of women and children who are being subject to assault and domestic violence, fentanyl flowing into our communities and skyrocketing deaths.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to go and listen to Border Patrol agents. Hear the stories of the cartel victims. See for yourself the heartbreaking scenarios the greatest country in the world is allowing to unfold.

I learned much from my visit to the border, but perhaps the worst thing I learned is this: The Biden administration is not lacking any resources or authority to address this crisis. No, it can support our Border Patrol and border States. It can secure our border. It can save children from dying and drowning in the Rio Grande or 14-year-old girls from being sold. But it won't, either through incompetence or, worse, by design.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I want to thank my friend and colleague from Mississippi for her comments on this subject.

I am down here on the floor to also talk about the crisis at the border—the humanitarian crisis, the Homeland Security crisis, and a crisis that is resulting in cartels making $800 million a year in human trafficking.

I joined a bipartisan delegation 2 weeks ago. We visited the border. It was very productive. It was one of the first bipartisan delegations in quite some time. The reason that was important is, if you go down there with a

partisan delegation, you are only going to actually talk about one side of the issue. If you go down there with a bipartisan delegation, you can talk about what we need to do on a bipartisan basis to solve the crisis at the border.

I want to start where Senator HYDE-SMITH finished—the humanitarian crisis. I am one of the Members who has been trying to negotiate a bipartisan immigration reform bill that has border security and asylum reform in it. I had a lot of my staff ask me: Why would you do that? You know it is going to be unpopular. You are going to get criticized from the left for going too far. You are going to get criticized from the right for having any discussion about immigration reform.

I have been down to the border several times. I told my staff that it is hard for me to forget border security telling me that they just transported an 11-year-old girl who had been repeatedly raped, so much so, she screamed so long she couldn't even speak anymore before she crossed the border.

I told them I can't forget going down the Rio Grande River and seeing a corpse taken out of the river, realtime, while I was down there. It wasn't staged because it is happening repeatedly every year.

When you hear stories of truckloads of people being bused across the border—53 of them dying through suffocation and heat exposure on American soil—I can't forget that. That is a humanitarian crisis that has to be solved.

Then I went to the border last week and I started at the Rio Grande Sector and then I went over to the Yuma sector. At night, at the Rio Grande Sector, we saw two Chinese nationals who had been apprehended.

Chinese nationals pay, on average, about $35,000 to cross the border. In many cases, they don't have the money to do it. They have somebody invest in them, and then they become indentured servants in the United States to pay off that debt.

You have people pay $5,000, $6,000, $10,000 who have an expectation from the cartel that they have a debt to be repaid. That may be an honest job that they could get or that could be an illegal activity that helps the cartels.

Now we go over to the Yuma Sector. The Yuma Sector is in Western Arizona. There is a section of border there that hasn't been completed. It is about 7 miles wide. But the most important part of that 7 miles is about a 12-foot gate. Three years ago, 8,000 people crossed through that gate; 2 years ago, 200,000 people crossed through that same 12-foot gate; and over the last 12 months, 300,000 people have. Five thousand of them were Russian nationals; another 5,000 were Chinese nationals.

Look, I understand why people want to get out of Russia, and I understand why people want to get out of China. What I don't understand is why on Earth in transit to that border—that dangerous crossing that you are paying tens of thousands of dollars to a cartel, a transnational criminal organization—why on Earth wouldn't you stop in a nation that is safe, the first safe country that you can get to out of the country that you are trying to flee from?

That is how international asylum treaties work. You get out of the dangerous country. You go to a country that has international agreements on asylum. You claim asylum. And then you may even want to seek asylum in the United States.

We had reports in the Yuma Sector of people who are flying into Mexicali. They are flying in, not making the trek as many people think of caravans coming from Central America through Mexico—flying into Mexicali with suitcases and bags and taking a cab to the border, making sure their toll is paid and then crossing the border. There is no way on Earth that people coming from many of these nations could not have sought asylum somewhere closer to home and then give us a chance for orderly entry.

In total, it is estimated that the transnational criminal organizations, the cartels, are being paid almost $800 million a year. What are they doing with that? If you go down to the border—particularly if you go down there around midnight—they play the same play every night, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They will take innocent people who are going to come across the border, and they tell them: Once you get across the border, present yourself to a Border Patrol agent, and you will be processed, which is exactly what happens.

Under the Biden administration, you are likely to be released within a few days or not more than about a week. The disturbing trend is the one that Senator HYDE-SMITH talked about, the disturbing number of people who are evading Border Patrol. Why on Earth would you not opt to go into a facility that is heated in the winter and cooled in the summer and spend a week of being fed three times a day, to have access to facilities, to have changing tables for babies, to have play areas while they are being detained and processed? Why on Earth would you avoid all that and take the dangerous step of evading detection, unless, at least for some of them, there is a nefarious purpose.

Then they are moving into communities where we have already seen—in North Carolina, an illegal immigrant murdered a young lady just a couple of years ago. We have seen this crime, and it tracks back almost invariably to the people who are the so-called got-aways.

Now I want to go to the Yuma Sector and talk about those 300,000 Border Patrol. I am wearing a ''Back the Blue'' flag. But as you all know, if it is Border Patrol, they wear green uniforms, so I say, ''Back Law Enforcement.''

Right now, Border Patrol only has less than half of the people who are sworn to protect the border doing those jobs. They are in processing facilities. They are driving buses. They are providing support for daycare. Literally, I am not exaggerating.

So that means that we have half as many people protecting a border that has wide-open spaces. There are no structures whatsoever. Come across. Walk through the Rio Grande. In most cases, you can. You don't have to swim. But when those 300,000 people get there—this is the most amazing thing about this country—they are going through that 12-foot gate. If Border Patrol goes there, then the rest of the border is open for the got-aways. Our country is so extraordinary that they say: I know that it is only about a 10-minute ride from that 12-foot gate to the processing facility, but they won't transport a child unless they have a car seat for them. If somebody has disabilities, they have to make special accommodations. Imagine 300,000—300,000—people coming across the border in a 12-month period, what Border Patrol has to do to conform to our laws and treat these people humanely and safely.

They need time. Time can only come when Congress recognizes that we have to secure the border. We have to fill the gaps. We have to insist that if you want to come to this country, present yourself at a legal port of entry, present a request for asylum, you will be processed.

We need to send the message: If you want to come to the United States, thank you for the compliment you are willing to risk your life to come to the United States, but respect our laws and don't pay cartels $800 million a year so that they can create a conduit for fentanyl and other drugs that are poisoning almost 100,000 Americans a year.

Now let's talk about immigration reform. I think that one of the ways that we can provide a future flow—a downward pressure on future flow—is to simply say to people who want to respect our laws and apply for citizenship, for work visas, or other forms of being in this country legally, we need to actually fix the immigration laws that we have on the books to do that.

If we do that, I am not going to have to worry about those memories of that little girl. I am not going to have to worry about the corpses that we are picking up in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. I believe we will have fewer people dying from fentanyl because less of it will come here, for a couple reasons: We will have better security at the border, and we will bankrupt the cartels that are making, over the last 2 years, almost $2 billion.

We need people in Congress to recognize that a bipartisan solution is possible. We have a crisis at the border that needs to be solved, and we have to have an administration that spends more than four hours in 2 years at the border recognizing it is on them to help us fix it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Tennessee.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I had the opportunity this month to make a trip down to the southern border. And this was not my first trip down to that southern border. And I will have to say that I found our Border Patrol more discouraged than ever before. And I looked at it, and I really kind of used it as a basis for comparison every time I go down there, whether I am in California or Arizona or Texas, just talking with them and hearing where they are and what they are seeing and what their experiences are on the border every single day. And many of them feel like their job is an impossible task.

And this trip, I was in the Del Rio sector in Texas and had the opportunity to also talk with the Texas military that is down there on the border with the Texas DPS. They are down there on the border working. And there at Eagle Pass is where so many people are crossing into the country. And one of the things that they pointed out was they really can't stop this flow because, basically, the Biden administration has told them they can't stop this flow.

So we did a little checking into what has actually transpired since Joe Biden went into office. And, according to the Migration Policy Institute—which is not a conservative group, by any means; it is a more liberal policy think tank—in Joe Biden's first 100 days, he took 94 Executive actions that undermined the job that the Border Patrol is trying to do on that southern border.

So think about this. You are in service to your country, and the Commander in Chief is taking actions that make your job—the job that you have taken an oath to do—making that job harder to do, harder to execute your job.

Well, now, those who believe in open border policy, they think that taking 94 Executive actions to make it easier for people to illegally enter the country—they would see that as a good thing. But those of us who are constitutionalists, those of us who really believe in the rule of law, those of us who want our Nation to have an immigration policy that honors the rule of law, we look at that and we say: 94 Executive actions take a branch of this government, an Agency of this government, and makes it more difficult for them to do their job.

Now, many of my colleagues across the aisle have been no help in getting this situation at the border under control. They have voted to keep sending checks, basically, to those who illegally enter the country. They have approved a payday—a massive payday—a lot of funding going out to many of these sanctuary cities.

And, in 2022, Democrats voted to expand the Biden administration's catch-and-release policy. This is people who are apprehended at the border and then they kind of get a checkmark. They get a plane ticket or a bus ticket to somewhere in the country and are told to show up on a date, maybe 2 years in the future, and have their asylum claim heard.

What they have also done—my Democratic friends across the aisle—is they have voted against giving Border Patrol the funding that they need to control the chaos that that policy has created.

So to many of us, it seems like things are backward; they are upside down. There should be agreement that we are going to honor the rule of law. There should be agreement that we are going to protect our sovereignty. There should be agreement that our border will be closed. There should be agreement that we are going to fund the Border Patrol. There should be agreement that we are going to fund ICE. There should be agreement that we are going to fund title 42, that we are going to fund building the border wall, and that we are going to fund additional screening for dangerous narcotics like fentanyl. But that has not been the case.

So open border, yes. But also, according to Border Patrol, what we have in this country with this administration is a lawless border policy. That is right—a lawless border policy.

And here is the reason for that. That was not said lightly. But it has become the reality because of the intentionality of this administration to leave that border open, to pass those Executive actions—a President, 94 Executive actions—that make it more difficult for Border Patrol to do their job—94. That is what you call intentional. That is what you call undermining what should be the policy and the support on the southern border for our Border Patrol.

Now, if you want to look at it on a month by month basis—December. Let's take just the month of December. Traditionally, you don't have as many people crossing in December, but because we have seen the border open and the ''You all come'' sign hanging out on that border, you have people coming across that border in record numbers.

In Yuma, AZ, they said they had people from 176 different countries speaking 200 different languages coming across that border.

In the month of December alone, there were 250,000—a quarter million—illegal encounters. These are the ones that the Border Patrol was able to apprehend. They are the ones who touch U.S. soil, raise their hands, and say: We claim asylum—250,000.

And over the past 2 years, there have been more than 4.1 million illegal border crossings. This is a record.

And you have the got-aways—the known got-aways—that you can see on surveillance but you can't get to them.

And as Border Patrol will tell you, the really bad guys—the really, really bad guys—the unknown got-aways, they are the ones they don't see, but they are slipping into the country.

How do they know they are here? They find what they drop when they come across the river. They find clothes and shoes—carpet shoes. They see tracks. They see cars that come and pick these individuals up.

Do we have criminals coming into this country? Absolutely, we do.

In Eagle Pass, they told us that in the first 3 months of this fiscal year, in fiscal 2023, they apprehended 143 convicted criminals. Now, these are people who had committed felonies, whether it is rape or armed robbery or manslaughter. These are people with a criminal record.

Last year, in 2022, they apprehended 98 terrorists. They have apprehended dozens of gang members, MS–13 gang members.

And the thing that is so critical about this is that these individuals don't stay in Yuma or El Paso or Eagle Pass. That is where they come across, and they are ending up in your towns. They are ending up in Wisconsin. They are ending up in Tennessee, my beloved State.

I was talking with a police chief from Tennessee before I came over here. In rural Tennessee, the vast majority of the drugs they apprehend are either fentanyl or fentanyl-laced. They are using Narcan more than they ever thought they would need to use Narcan. TBI told us last month that the cartel is active in Tennessee.

Last week, I was visiting with a police chief from another city there in my State, and he said: Oh, it is not only active in the State; it is active right here in our town. He talked about some of the loss of life.

So as we discuss what is happening at the border, we have to look at the humanitarian crisis there.

Yes, everybody coming across that border, they will pay the cartel. Now, think about that. They paid $5,000, $7,000, $10,000, whatever is the going rate. They are flying into places like Mexicali, Mexico, and then they are coming across the border.

Cartels are global organizations now. They are Big Business. Human trafficking is a $13 billion-a-year business. It has grown in the last few years from a $500 million-a-year business to a $13 billion-a-year business. All of this ends up in our communities.

Indeed, every town is a border town. Every State is a border State right now because of this lawless border policy that is taking place at our southern border.

When you talk to the Border Patrol, they will tell you that there is a way to get this under control.

Was it better under the previous administration? Yes. The numbers were down. They did not see as many crossings because people understood that we were going to do some basic things. We were going to enforce the law. We were going to eliminate and we did eliminate the incentives for people to come.

We had ''Remain in Mexico.'' We ended catch-and-release. We had title 42. And we were doing what the Border Patrol has said for three decades they need: a physical barrier.

People commonly called it ''Build the wall.'' And wherever a wall could be built, there was a plan to build it, and they were working on it. And having people working on that border made certain that you didn't have those border crossings.

Border Patrol has also said that they need better surveillance because, right now, the cartels have better technology than our Border Patrol. Think about this. With the cartels—multinational, big business—you don't cross the border any way, shape, or form—sex trafficking, human trafficking, gangs, drug trafficking. Nobody and nothing comes across that border without the cartel getting their cut.

That is what is happening, and our Border Patrol is saying: Here is what we need. There is a way to fix this. We can fix this issue.

The Border Patrol says: Look, let us enforce the laws that are on the books. We have immigration laws. Let's enforce them.

So you see why it is frustrating to them when you have a President and a Department of Homeland Security, and the President is signing 94 Executive actions that make it harder for them to do their job. It defies common sense.

Eliminate the monetary incentives that are out there. The cartel feels like they have a great business model. They get people to the border. People raise their hands, claim asylum. Then the U.S. taxpayer picks up the tab, buys them a plane ticket, a bus ticket, and gets them wherever they are wanting to go in the country.

When was the last time the Federal Government did something like that for you? Wherever you want to go, we will give you a ticket. We will get you there. We will provide you food, housing, shelter.

Look at those economic incentives and remove those.

As I said, ''Remain in Mexico,'' building the wall, those are things that the Border Patrol—those are the things that people who live on the border—tell us need to be done.

I was down here earlier this week talking about this trip and talked about a visit I had at a ranch. It was out in Uvalde. I met with people from Kinney County, TX, and from Uvalde, and some ranchers, some farmers, some business owners. Right now, with this border policy, it is making it very difficult for them to ranch. Some of them have cattle on their ranches. The migrants come in. They cut fences. So they are bearing that cost of fences.

Some are farmers with watermelons, lettuce, and cabbage, and their fields are getting torn up. Pecan orchards are being run through. And they are saying: Help us.

One rancher looked at me, and he said: Marsha, how long can we continue this, and what is the endgame? Because he has people who die and they end up on his ranch, he finds it hard to do their cattle business.

We need to think carefully about this. The Border Patrol has said these are steps that would stop the chaos. This would bring some law and order back to the southern border, but the Biden administration is going to have to say: We got this policy wrong. We need to take these steps. We need to honor the service of the Border Patrol. We need to respect the people who live and work on this border. We need to make certain that we build that wall, that we secure this area.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this is becoming a regular appearance on the Senate floor to talk about Social Security. It is something that most Americans think that Congress supports almost unanimously.

It is a program that has been with us. President Roosevelt, on August 14, 1935, signed the Social Security Act. Out of that came Medicare, when a Democratic Congress in 1965, with President Johnson's signature, signed it.

We know what Medicare means. We know what Social Security means for people who live longer, healthier lives. No matter your income, no matter if you have been a Senator for 20 years, no matter if you are a CEO, no matter if you are a UAW member and at a Ford plant in Avon, no matter if you are a low-income worker at the Hilton Hotel on West Market in Akron, no matter your work, you are eligible, at a certain age, for Social Security and Medicare.

So what is the debate about? Well, the debate is philosophical, and I am not even sure what. It is partly my conservative colleagues who generally want to privatize Medicare and Social Security. For them, it seems to be something philosophic or ideological or sometimes it is just people wanting to support the insurance industry because if you privatize Medicare and Social Security, yes, it will help the insurance companies; yes, it will help the banks. If you privatize the VA, like many want to do—the Veterans' Administration—undermining what veterans have earned by serving their country, it may help some private sector corporations. It will help pad their bottom line. It will help many CEOs make even more money, but it is wrong. When work has dignity, people have a secure retirement, veterans have benefits, and pensions are protected, Americans can count on Medicare and count on Social Security.

A secure retirement shouldn't be a partisan issue. It wasn't a partisan issue, particularly in the 1930s. It is not a partisan issue to the American people. I don't think you can tell a Republican from a Democrat who is 70 years old or 80 years old drawing Social Security and Medicare. They know they have earned it. They have paid into it for decades. As I have said, they have earned it.

It is one of the most unifying institutions in the country. Americans want to protect Social Security and Medicare. They want to make those programs stronger, Americans do. But elected officials—far too many people on this side of the aisle, as the Senator from Connecticut knows—far too many people from this side of the aisle think that we should privatize those programs; that they will be more efficient or some such philosophical jargon that they throw forward. But we know what will happen: insurance companies will make more money, banks will make more money, and people who have worked in this country and played by the rules all their lives get squeezed.

Today, down the hall—especially straight down the hall in the House of Representatives down there—the Republicans are threatening, in order to raise the debt limit—the debt limit is simply, we should pay our bills. The Trump administration and all administrations have run this deficit up. We should pay the bills. That is what it is about. They are refusing to pay the bills our Nation owes, and they are saying that if we don't do what they want to do, then they are going stop Social Security checks from going out. They are going to try to privatize Social Security.

They want to take this country and the American economy to the brink of default. They want to leverage their fiscal lunacy. It really is leveraging their fiscal lunacy, frankly, to cut your Social Security. It is that simple.

Then, as I said, there is privatizing Social Security. The details differ. The terms may change, but the goal is the same.

I have been in the Senate now, this is the beginning—it is my 17th year. Every couple of years, a few of the ''wunderkinds'' on that side of the aisle want to try to find a way to privatize Social Security, privatize Medicare, and privatize the Veterans' Administration. It is nothing less than an attempt to go back on a bedrock promise.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

The Senator from Nevada understands that people pay into Social Security every paycheck. They tend to pay into Medicare every—well, that is not actually true. If you are really, really, really rich, you only pay into Social Security for the first part of the year because you have already paid enough for the year, and it is some philosophy that I don't really understand.

But it is a bedrock promise to all of us. You pay in; you get those benefits.

Last year, I introduced a resolution—the Senator from Nevada cosponsored it—affirming the Senate's commitment to protecting and expanding Social Security. It was pretty simple. It simply said we affirm, we pledge we will protect Social Security and Medicare from any kinds of cuts from the far right that doesn't believe in the program. Almost every Democrat signed on. Not one Republican signed on. Not one Republican committed to our promise, recommitted to our promise to the American people, that if you work hard all your life, Social Security will be there for you.

So Americans shouldn't have to worry that politicians, secure with their government pensions, are going to try to take away their retirement. I urge my colleagues to do what the American people want us to do overwhelmingly. They want us to protect and expand Social Security and Medicare.

As I said, just look down the hall in the House of Representatives. There is a new majority there—a new majority controlled by the far right—of what used to be a pretty centrist Republican Party, from the far right, that—whenever they try to privatize Social Security and Medicare, they get all kinds of contributions from the rightwing and from Wall Street and from some big healthcare companies and some big energy companies and all that, and it is wrong. We know it is wrong. Whether it is Nevada, whether it is Las Vegas or Cleveland, whether it is Reno or Columbus, whether it is Carson City or Dayton, we know that overwhelmingly people in this country want a strong Social Security that will always be there for our kids and our grandkids and our great-grandkids. They want a Medicare that will provide healthcare to people regardless of your wealth, regardless of your income, regardless of your station in life.

That is my pledge. I know the Senators on the floor from Connecticut and Nevada also support that commitment and pledge. It is where we are as a country. It is not, unfortunately, where some of my colleagues sit.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

MASS SHOOTINGS

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this week, the country has been riveted again by scenes of mass shootings, this time in California. I spoke on the phone to my seatmate Senator PADILLA just a few days ago, and it is a conversation that I have had with the Presiding Officer. It is a conversation I have had with Senators from Colorado and Virginia. We all now increasingly come from States where we have seen dozens of people murdered at one time in these horrific, horrific mass shootings.

I am proud that in the wake of the Uvalde massacre and the shooting in Buffalo, last summer this Congress came together and finally passed, after 30 years of inaction, legislation that begins to make our communities safer, but what we saw in Monterey and Half Moon Bay is just confirmation—reaffirmation—that we have enormous work to do.

Let me first tell you the good news, and that is this: The legislation we passed last summer, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, is saving lives as we speak. If you recall, that legislation set up a new background check process for younger buyers of weapons in this country. It eliminated the boyfriend loophole so that no domestic abusers in this country can get their hands on weapons. It gave funding to States to set up red flag laws. It strengthened our background check system. It is a set of really important changes.

A bipartisan group of us went out to West Virginia just a few weeks ago—Senator CORNYN, Senator TILLIS, Senator CAPITO—three Republicans—and myself and Senator MANCHIN—to see the background check system at work. We went out and sat right next to the background checks operators in their cubicles, and we watched them process these new background checks that are required because of the law we passed.

We got briefings from the FBI in which they laid out for us the details of incredibly dangerous individuals, individuals who were in crisis, many of them under 21, who would have gotten a weapon in their moment of crisis had it not been for the legislation we passed.

I also saw how diligent these background checks operators were, how serious they were about their job, how proud they were of their job, because they knew that in their hands they held the safety of the American public; that every time they click that button, there was an individual walking out of the store with a gun, and they wanted to make sure of two things: First, they were protecting the American public—make sure that only those who were qualified under the law, who weren't deemed to be too dangerous, were getting those weapons. The second thing they were concerned about—and every single one of them told us this—they were there to uphold the Second Amendment as well. They were there to make sure—to make sure—of the guarantee that if you are a law-abiding citizen, you can get a legal weapon.

I think all of us who visited were really impressed by the work that our background checks operators do and were confident that the bill we passed last summer is saving lives as we speak. But everybody in this country knows it is not enough. Everybody in this country knows it was just a start. I hope this year we will be able to build on the progress we made last year to find additional common ground because what you are seeing in California and what you have seen all across the country are individuals—largely men, mostly younger men—whose brains are breaking, and in that moment of crisis, they are reaching for a weapon, they are seeing their path to exorcise those demons as running through an episode of mass slaughter.

But it is important to note that this is not the only country in the world where brains break. This is not the only country in the world where people have paranoias. This is not the only country in the world with severe mental illness. So the story of American mass murder is not a story of mental illness; it is not a story of paranoia; it is not a story of grudge or grievance because every other country has that. But only in the United States does that grudge, grievance, paranoia, and mental illness lead to mass assassination. That is because in this country we are flooded with weapons—and not just any weapons but weapons of mass destruction.

These killers, they use the same set of weapons, semiautomatic weapons with attachable clips that can fire 300 bullets out of 1 cartridge. They all use the same set of weapons because they are trying to kill as many people as quickly as possible. Only in this country can those individuals, who have decided to take out their anger, their grudge, and their grievance through mass murder, get their hands on a weapon that will allow them to do that. Other countries don't allow that to happen.

I have told this story many times before, but on the same day that Sandy Hook occurred, there was an equal number of students attacked in a school in Henan Province, China. Every kid who was shot in Sandy Hook died. Why? I won't describe it for you on the floor today, but the damage that a bullet fired from an AR–15 does to the body of a little child is irrevocable. It literally tears you apart, the bullet is going so fast through your body. So none of those kids survived. But in Henan Province, China, every child who was attacked survived. Why? Because in Henan Province, the attacker, who was just as unhinged, likely, as the attacker in Sandy Hook, had a knife and not a gun. Knives can do damage, too, but not as much damage as an AR–15.

So States that are more serious about keeping assault weapons off the streets and guns away from dangerous people have a lot less gun crime—a lot less. Countries that are more serious about making sure that people who have these grudges, grievances, and paranoias don't get their hands on dangerous weapons—they have almost rock-bottom levels of gun violence.

I think we are at a moment in time where Americans know this. Americans are sick and tired of the status quo. That is why we were able to pass this law last summer. It was a start—a really important start—but it was not a result of any of the advocates in the Senate perfecting their argument; it was a

result of parents and students and families out there in America compelling Congress to do something because this country has had enough.

This country has not just had enough of the mass shootings but of the hundred-plus people who die every day from gunshot wounds—suicides, accidental shootings, homicides—all of which can be prevented through limiting the access by dangerous people or people who are going through a crisis to weaponry and particularly weaponry of mass destruction.

So I think that message from the American public we heard last summer—it is not going away. The good news is, we found common ground. And right now in the U.S. Congress, you have no choice if you want to get something done but to find common ground. We found it. I don't think that anybody who voted for it paid any substantial political price. I think there was only political upside to supporting a compromise that was wildly popular.

If you remember, Senator MCCONNELL showed a PowerPoint presentation to the Republican caucus in May of last year and showed his Republican colleagues how popular all of the things that we voted on last summer were—red flag laws, stopping domestic abusers from getting guns—no political downside in continuing to make progress when it comes to making our communities safer.

As we live amidst another moment in American history where the country is recognizing the unique problem of mass shootings; as we think about 20-some-odd days gone in the year with 40 mass shootings already; when we think about the fear that our kids live in when they go to school, wondering whether they will be next, and now the fear that workplaces have and churchgoers have of whether they will be next, it is more reason for us to make 2023 a year in which we don't follow the pre-2022 precedent of doing nothing but we follow the 2022 precedent of finding the common ground between Republicans and Democrats to make this country safer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT S. RES 13

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 13, submitted earlier today, be held at the desk; that following morning business tomorrow, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on adoption of the resolution; that if the resolution is agreed to, the preamble be considered 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.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 81, S. 82, and H.R. 300

Mr. MURPHY. I understand there are three bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 81) to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

A bill (S. 82) to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

A bill (H.R. 300) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask for a second reading and in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WALTER ULLOA

• Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Walter Ulloa, a trailblazing figure in the media and entertainment industry, a role model to many in California, and my personal friend.

Walter grew up in Brawley, CA, at a time when Latinos were still segregated in his community. He graduated from the University of Southern California in 1970, before earning his law degree from Loyola School of Law in 1975.

After earning his degrees, Walter embarked on what would become a nearly five-decade career in media, playing a pivotal role in the growth of Spanish-language television and radio across the United States.

At KMEX in Los Angeles, there were some early signs that Walter's work ethic, intellect, and mind for media would make him successful. During his 13 years there, he worked as operations manager, production manager, news director, local sales manager, and account executive before venturing out to create his own projects.

In 1996, he cofounded Entravision, a now global Latino media, marketing, and technology company. For over 25 years, he served as chairman and chief executive officer at Entravision, where he grew his young company to own over 100 television and radio stations, as well as digital platforms throughout the United States. Whether in Los Angeles or across the country, if you watched or listened to Spanish-language media in the last five decades, there is a very good chance you have Walter Ulloa to thank.

But away from his industry impact, communities in California knew him for his generosity and his commitment to public service. So respected was Walter for his expertise and appreciation of the arts, that President Barack Obama appointed him to the board of trustees for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

For more than 20 years, I had the privilege of knowing and working with Walter. I always admired how he generously gave his time and contributed resources to help increase Latino civic engagement and voting in California. The fact that after growing up in a segregated community in the 1950s, Walter could go on to not only an extraordinarily successful career, but to help future Latino communities prosper time and time again is a testament to his character.

The life of Walter Ulloa is nothing less than the American dream come true, from his educational and economic success, his philanthropy, and his service to our country. He will be missed.

Angela and I send our love to his wife Alexandra Seros and son Bruno Seros-Ulloa and to all those whose lives were touched by his service.•

REMEMBERING DR. ROBERT COPE

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, today I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Robert Cope, a public servant and cattle veterinarian of Lemhi County, ID, who lost his battle to cancer last month. I had the great fortune of being friends and working with Dr. Cope through the many public and private roles he served. Those who knew Dr. Robert Cope affectionately called him ''Cope.''

Cope dedicated his whole life to serving agricultural families after he received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Kansas State University in 1975. Shortly, thereafter, he moved to Idaho, where his clients became his extended family. Cope owned and operated the Blue Cross Vet Clinic in Salmon, ID, for 44 years. He loved children and the youth of his community, and he supported them through 4–H and his veterinarian practice. Idaho ranchers can share countless stories of Cope's service at all hours of the day and night. Even as his cancer progressed, Cope offered his advice and expertise to his loyal clients.

Cope served as Lemhi County Commissioner for 14 years and sat on many committees related to natural resources and environmental challenges. In March of 2002, he was inducted in the Eastern Idaho Agricultural Hall of Fame.

With wisdom, common-sense, and humor, Cope tackled life head-on and was never afraid to address tough issues and find collaborative solutions.

After having a particularly challenging experience with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife over a wolf-killed calf, Cope was tasked with writing a Memorandum of Understanding—MOU—to allow the State to allocate Federal funds to livestock owners who lost cattle due to predation.

When I served as Idaho's Governor, I led a collaborative effort to adopt the Idaho Roadless Rule. Cope assisted in that effort and served on the Idaho Roadless Commission. I trusted his opinion and judgement, and he provided invaluable insights from a local perspective in the development and implementation of that rule.

For Cope, his life was about serving people and sustaining the Western ranching and farming lifestyle. God broke the mold when he made Cope, and he will be missed by many in Lemhi County and the State of Idaho. Rest in Peace, Cope.●

RECOGNIZING PALOUSE ANIMAL WELLNESS AND SURGERY

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Palouse Animal Wellness and Surgery—''PAWS''—as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for January 2023.

PAWS, originally named Garfield Street Pet Clinic and located on its namesake in Moscow, was founded in 1995, by Dr. Don Kubasch and his wife, Jan. Dr. Kathy Miller and her husband Jim bought the practice in 2002 when Dr. Kubasch retired. Dr. Miller worked at the clinic as a technician while studying at the Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine. The Millers built a new clinic on Main Street in Moscow in 2005, renaming the practice to Palouse Animal Wellness and Surgery, PAWS. Jim joined the practice full time in 2021 as the director of business operations.

PAWS has become an integral part of the local community; its owners and staff pride themselves on excellence in service, education, and enhancement. Along with providing educational and employment opportunities to veterinary students, for over a decade, PAWS has maintained accreditation with the American Animal Hospital Association. This voluntary accreditation, achieved by a mere 15 percent of businesses in the United States and Canada, means PAWS' patients receive the best care possible in state-of-the-art facilities, from a team that meets high standards in every aspect of veterinary medicine.

The Millers' high standards come from their love for their community. Both Jim and Kathy are Moscow natives, who graduated from Moscow High School and the University of Idaho. Over the years, they raised four children in this close-knit community who have all worked at the clinic in some capacity.

Congratulations to the Miller family and all of the employees at PAWS on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for January 2023. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 159. An act to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes.

H.R. 300. An act to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 159. An act to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills and joint resolution were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 4. Joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

H.R. 22. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 23. An act to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

H.R. 26. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following resolution was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous consent:

S. Res. 13. Resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2023 as ''National Stalking Awareness Month''.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 300. An act to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 81. A bill to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

S. 82. A bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

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–21. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor/Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity Contracts for Federal-aid Construction'' (RIN2125–AF83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–22. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Priorities List'' (FRL No. 10435–01–OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–23. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Oregon; Updates to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 10172–01–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–24. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 10031–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–25. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 10004–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–26. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Site Remediation'' (FRL No. 4866.1–02–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–27. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reconsideration of the 2020 National

Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review'' (FRL No. 6494.1–02–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–28. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits'' (FRL No. 10268–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–29. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Alaska; Updates to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 10023–01–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–30. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Washington'' (FRL No. 9881–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–31. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Right-To-Know; Adopting 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting; Correction'' (FRL No. 10268–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–32. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States' '' ((RIN2040–AG19) (FRL No. 6027.4–01–OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–33. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment'' (FRL No. 5906.7–01–OECA) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–34. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan for the Indian Wells Valley PM10 Planning Area; Claifornia'' (FRL No. 8856–02–R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–35. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County; Power Plants'' (FRL No. 9426–02–R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–36. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Area Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS'' (FRL No. 9781–02–R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–37. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Dsignated Facilities and Pollutants; Arkansas; Control of Emissions From Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills'' (FRL No. 10189–02–R6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–38. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Miscellaneous NSR Revisions and Updates; Updates to References to Appendix W Modeling Guideline'' (FRL No. 10215–02–R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–39. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Minor Revisions to Nitrogen Oxides Rule'' (FRL No. 10402–02–R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–40. A communication from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Dolphin and the Union Caribou'' (RIN1018–BD03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–41. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Whitebark Pine (Pinus albicaulis)'' (RIN1018–BE23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–42. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status and Designation of Critical Habitat for Tiehm's Buckwheat'' (RIN1018–BF94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–43. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment'' (FRL No. 5906.7–01–OECA) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–44. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; South Coast Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9304–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–45. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9870–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–46. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Disapproval; Missouri; Control of Sulfur Dioxide Emissions'' (FRL No. 9976–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–47. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards'' (FRL No. 7165–02–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–48. A communication from the Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Mandated Analysis of Home Health Service Utilization From January 2016 Through March 2022''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–49. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Procedure: procedures for determination letters and private letter rulings under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, Employee Plans Rulings and Agreements'' (Rev. Proc. 2023–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–50. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''List of No-Rule Areas of IRC for Letter Rulings or Determination Letters'' (Rev. Proc. 2023–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–51. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations

Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Treatment of Special Enforcement Matters'' (RIN1545–BP01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–52. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''TD: Information Reporting of Health Insurance Coverage and Other Issues under Sections 5000A, 6055, and 6056'' (RIN1545–BQ11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–53. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship Initial Guidance Under Section 45 (b) (6) (B) (ii) and Other Substantially Similar Provisions'' (Notice 2022–61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–54. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Quality Reporting Program Requirements; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Expanded Model Requirements; and Home Infusion Therapy Services Requirements'' (RIN0938–AU85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–55. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2023 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Implementing Requirements for Manufacturers of Certain Single-dose Container or Single-use Package Drugs to Provide Refunds with Respect to Discarded Amounts; and COVID–19 Interim Final Rule'' ((RIN0938–AU81) (RIN0938–AU95) (RIN0938–AU31) (RIN0938–AU32)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–56. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor''; to the Committees on Foreign Relations; and the Judiciary.

EC–57. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of $50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22–049); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–58. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2022–0173–2022–0177); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–59. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Numerical Limitation for FY 2023 for the H–2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program and Portability Flexibility for H–2B Workers Seeking To Change Employers'' ((RIN1615–AC66) (RIN1205–AC14)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–60. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Security Bars and Processing; Delay of Effective Date'' ((RIN1615–AC57) (RIN1205–AB08)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–61. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–62. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing each public event conducted in accordance with the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018's requirements during the previous fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–63. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to bankruptcy judgeship recommendations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–64. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Zipeprol in Schedule I'' ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA–477)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–65. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Mesocarb in Schedule I'' ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA–397)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–66. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Removal of [18F] FP–CIT From Control'' ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA–837)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–67. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–68. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Dairy Foods Association and Chobani, Inc.; Response to the Objections and Requests for a Public Hearing on the Final Rule To Revoke the Standards for Lowfat Yogurt and Nonfat Yogurt and To Amend the Standard for Yogurt'' (RIN0910–AI40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–69. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations'' (Docket No. FDA–2000–N–0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–70. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Basic Health Program; Federal Funding Methodology for Program Year 2023 and Changes to Basic Health Program Regulations'' (RIN0938–AU89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–71. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2022 Update''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–72. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program Third Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–73. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on the Affordability of Insulin''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–1. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County , New York, supporting the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act and urging the United States Congress to fully fund and appropriate the necessary funding for the World Trade Center Health Program to pay for the current and future health care needs of 9/11 responders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PAUL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 62. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 63. A bill to adjust the effective date for application of certain amendments made with respect to the credit for new clean vehicles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 64. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 65. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education , and the workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 66. A bill to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 67. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on conduct related to oil and gas prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 68. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 69. A bill to amend the SOAR Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 70. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 71. A bill to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 72. A bill to prevent class-based loan forgiveness for Federal student loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 without the explicit appropriation of funds by Congress for such purpose; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 73. A bill to allow community supports to meet specific needs of families and children through an electronic care portal under the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 74. A bill to provide support and assistance to unborn children, pregnant women, parents, and families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 75. A bill to ensure equal treatment for religious organizations in the Federal provision of social services programs, grantmaking, and contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 76. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 77. 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 Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 78. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 79. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 80. A bill to establish an Inspector General of the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 81. A bill to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research; read the first time.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BUDD, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 82. A bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached; read the first time.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 83. A bill to assist States in, and pay for the Federal share of the cost of, defraying the cost of pre-apprenticeships or related instruction associated with qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 84. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 85. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to TikTok, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 86. A bill to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 87. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the termination of certain retirement benefits for Members of Congress, except the right to continue participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 88. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 89. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 90. A bill to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 13. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2023 as ''National Stalking Awareness Month'' ; ordered held at the desk.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 14. A resolution amending rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to include amendments of the House of Representatives in the requirements for identifying spending items, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution requiring the Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to contract with food service contractors and vending machine contractors for the Capitol Complex that accept cryptocurrency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 9, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

S. 27

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 27, a bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from requiring contractors to provide information relating to greenhouse gas emissions.

S. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 11, a resolution designating the week of January 22 through January 28, 2023, as ''National School Choice Week''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 65. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 65

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to make assistance available for school-based mentoring programs for at-risk students in order to—

(1) establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs;

(2) assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills; and

(3) prepare such at-risk students for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

SEC. 3. SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAM.

Part C of title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 136. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAMS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AT-RISK STUDENT.—The term 'at-risk student' means a student who—

''(A) is failing academically or at risk of dropping out of school;

''(B) is pregnant or a parent;

''(C) is a gang member;

''(D) is a child or youth in foster care or a youth who has been emancipated from foster care, but is still enrolled in high school;

''(E) is or has recently been a homeless child or youth;

''(F) is chronically absent;

''(G) has changed schools 3 or more times in the past 6 months;

''(H) has come in contact with the juvenile justice system in the past;

''(I) has a history of multiple suspensions or disciplinary actions;

''(J) is an English learner;

''(K) has one or both parents incarcerated;

''(L) has experienced one or more adverse childhood experiences, traumatic events, or toxic stressors, as assessed through an evidence-based screening;

''(M) lives in a high-poverty area with a high rate of community violence;

''(N) has a disability; or

''(O) shows signs of alcohol or drug misuse or abuse or has a parent or guardian who is struggling with substance abuse.

''(2) DISABILITY.—The term 'disability' has the meaning given the term for purposes of section 602(3) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401(3)).

''(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity'—

''(A) means a high-need local educational agency, high-need school, or local government entity; and

''(B) may include a partnership between an entity described in subparagraph (A) and a nonprofit, community-based, or faith-based organization, or institution of higher education.

''(4) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term 'English learner' has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

''(5) FOSTER CARE.—The term 'foster care' has the meaning given the term in section 1355.20(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

''(6) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'high-need local educational agency' means a local educational agency that serves at least one high-need school.

''(7) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term 'high-need school' has the meaning given the term in section 2211(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6631(b)).

''(8) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The term 'homeless children and youths' has the meaning given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

''(9) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term 'school-based mentoring' means a structured, managed, evidenced-based program conducted in partnership with teachers, administrators, school psychologists, school social workers or counselors, and other school staff, in which at-risk students are appropriately matched with screened and trained professional or volunteer mentors who provide guidance, support, and encouragement, involving meetings, group-based sessions, and educational and workforce-related activities on a regular basis to prepare at-risk students for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

''(b) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs that—

''(A) are designed to assist at-risk students in high-need schools in developing cognitive skills and promoting social-emotional learning to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce by linking them with mentors who—

''(i) have received mentor training, including on trauma-informed practices, youth engagement, cultural competency, and social-emotional learning; and

''(ii) have been screened using appropriate reference checks and criminal background checks, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (3)(B)(v)(ii);

''(B) provide coaching and technical assistance to mentors in each such mentoring program;

''(C) seek to—

''(i) improve the academic achievement of at-risk students;

''(ii) reduce dropout rates and absenteeism and improve school engagement of at-risk students and their families;

''(iii) reduce juvenile justice involvement of at-risk students;

''(iv) foster positive relationships between at-risk students and their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members;

''(v) develop the workforce readiness skills of at-risk students by exploring paths to employment, including encouraging students with disabilities to explore transition services; and

''(vi) increase the participation of at-risk students in community service activities; and

''(D) encourage at-risk students to set goals and plan for their futures, including making plans and identifying goals for postsecondary education and the workforce.

''(2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section for a period not to exceed 5 years.

''(3) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application that includes—

''(A) a needs assessment that includes baseline data on the measures described in paragraph (6)(A)(ii); and

''(B) a plan to meet the requirements of paragraph (1), including—

''(i) the targeted outcomes, mentee age and eligibility, mentor type, and meeting frequency for the program;

''(ii) the number of mentor-student matches proposed to be established and maintained annually under the program;

''(iii) the capacity and expertise of the program to serve children and youth in a way that is responsive to children and youth of color, expectant and parenting youth, indigenous youth, youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or queer, and youth with disabilities;

''(iv) actions taken to ensure that the design of the program reflects input from youth;

''(v) an assurance that mentors supported under the program are appropriately screened and have demonstrated a willingness to comply with aspects of the mentoring program, including—

''(I) a written screening plan that includes all of the policies and procedures used to screen and select mentors, including eligibility requirements and preferences for such applicants;

''(II) a description of the methods to be used to conduct criminal background checks on all prospective mentors, and the methods in place to exclude mentors with convictions directly related to child safety that occur during the mentor's participation in the program or in the 10-year period preceding the mentor's participation; and

''(III) a description of the methods to be used to ensure that the mentors are willing and able to serve as a mentor on a long-term, consistent basis as defined in the application.

''(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that—

''(A) serve children and youth with the greatest need living in high-poverty, high-crime areas, or rural areas, or who attend schools with high rates of community violence;

''(B) provide at-risk students with opportunities for postsecondary education preparation and career development, including—

''(i) job training, professional development, work shadowing, internships, networking, resume writing and review, interview preparation, transition services for students with disabilities, application assistance and visits to institutions of higher education, and leadership development through community service; and

''(ii) partnerships with the private sector and local businesses to provide internship and career exploration activities and resources;

''(C) seek to provide match lengths between at-risk students and mentors for at least 1 academic year; and

''(D) consult and engage youth in the development, design, and implementation of the program.

''(5) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may use such funds to—

''(A) develop and carry out regular training for mentors, including on—

''(i) the impact of adverse childhood experiences;

''(ii) trauma-informed practices and interventions;

''(iii) supporting homeless children and youths;

''(iv) supporting children and youth in foster care or youth who have been emancipated from foster care, but are still enrolled in high school;

''(v) cultural competency;

''(vi) meeting all appropriate privacy and confidentiality requirements for students, including students in foster care;

''(vii) working in coordination with a public school system;

''(viii) positive youth development and engagement practices; and

''(ix) disability inclusion practices to ensure access and participation by students with disabilities;

''(B) recruit, screen, match, train, and compensate mentors;

''(C) hire staff to perform or support the objectives of the school-based mentoring program;

''(D) provide inclusive and accessible youth engagement activities, such as—

''(i) enrichment field trips to cultural destinations; and

''(ii) career awareness activities, including job site visits, informational interviews, resume writing, interview preparation, and networking; and

''(iii) academic or postsecondary education preparation activities, including trade or vocational school visits, visits to institutions of higher education, and assistance in applying to institutions of higher education; and

''(E) conduct program evaluation, including by acquiring and analyzing the data described under paragraph (6).

''(6) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the end of each academic year during the grant period, an eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report that includes—

''(i) the number of students and mentors, and the demographics of the students and mentors, who participated in the school-based mentoring program that was funded in whole or in part with the grant funds;

''(ii) data on the academic achievement, dropout rates, truancy, absenteeism, outcomes of arrests for violent crime, summer employment, and postsecondary education enrollment of students in the program;

''(iii) the number of group sessions and number of one-to-one contacts between students in the program and their mentors;

''(iv) the average attendance of students enrolled in the program;

''(v) the number of students with disabilities connected to transition services;

''(vi) data on social-emotional development of students as assessed with a validated social-emotional assessment tool; and

''(vii) any other information that the Secretary may require to evaluate the success of the school-based mentoring program.

''(B) STUDENT PRIVACY.—An eligible entity shall ensure that the report submitted under subparagraph (A) is prepared in a manner that protects the privacy rights of each student in accordance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g; commonly known as the 'Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974').

''(7) MENTORING RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATION.—

''(A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall work with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to—

''(i) refer grantees under this section to the National Mentoring Resource Center to obtain resources on best practices and research related to mentoring and to request no-cost training and technical assistance; and

''(ii) provide grantees under this section with information regarding transitional services for at-risk students returning from correctional facilities and transition services for students with disabilities.

''(B) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, to the extent possible, coordinate with the Corporation for National and Community Service, including through entering into an interagency agreement or a memorandum of understanding, to support mentoring and community service-related activities for at-risk students.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028.''.

SEC. 4. INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES STUDY ON SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall conduct a study to—

(1) identify successful school-based mentoring programs and effective strategies for administering and monitoring such programs;

(2) evaluate the role of mentors in promoting cognitive development and social-emotional learning to enhance academic achievement and to improve workforce readiness; and

(3) evaluate the effectiveness of the grant program under section 136 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, as added by section 3, on student academic outcomes and youth career development.

(b) TIMING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall submit the results of the study described in subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 70. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 70

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE BUREAU OFFICE.—The term ''applicable Bureau office'' means—

(A) a Regional office of the Bureau;

(B) an Agency office of the Bureau; or

(C) a Land Titles and Records Office of the Bureau.

(2) BUREAU.—The term ''Bureau'' means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Bureau.

(4) FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.—The term ''first certified title status report'' means the title status report needed to verify title status on Indian land.

(5) INDIAN LAND.—The term ''Indian land'' has the meaning given the term in section 162.003 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(6) LAND MORTGAGE.—The term ''land mortgage'' means a mortgage obtained by an individual Indian who owns a tract of trust land for the purpose of—

(A) home acquisition;

(B) home construction;

(C) home improvements; or

(D) economic development.

(7) LEASEHOLD MORTGAGE.—The term ''leasehold mortgage'' means a mortgage, deed of trust, or other instrument that pledges the leasehold interest of a lessee as security for a debt or other obligation owed by the lessee to a lender or other mortgagee.

(8) MORTGAGE PACKAGE.—The term ''mortgage package'' means a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document submitted to an applicable Bureau office under section 3(a)(1).

(9) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ''relevant Federal agency'' means any of the following Federal agencies that guarantee or make direct mortgage loans on Indian land:

(A) The Department of Agriculture.

(B) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(C) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(10) RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENT.—The term ''right-of-way document'' has the meaning given the term in section 169.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(11) SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.—The term ''subsequent certified title status report'' means the title status report needed to identify any liens against a residential, business, or land lease on Indian land.

SEC. 3. MORTGAGE REVIEW AND PROCESSING.

(a) REVIEW AND PROCESSING DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after receiving a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender that the proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, or right-of-way document has been received.

(2) PRELIMINARY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 calendar days after receipt of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall conduct and complete a preliminary review of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document to verify that all required documents are included.

(B) INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTS.—As soon as practicable, but not more than 2 calendar days, after finding that any required documents are missing under subparagraph (A), the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender of the missing documents.

(3) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) LEASEHOLD MORTGAGES.—Not later than 20 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage.

(B) RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed right-of-way document, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the right-of-way document.

(C) LAND MORTGAGES.—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed land mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the land mortgage.

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—The determination of whether to approve or disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage under subparagraph (A), a right-of-way document under subparagraph (B), or a land mortgage under subparagraph (C)—

(i) shall be in writing; and

(ii) in the case of a determination to disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, right-of-way document, or land mortgage shall, state the basis for the determination.

(E) APPLICATION.—This paragraph shall not apply to a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage with respect to Indian land in cases in which the applicant for the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage is an Indian tribe (as defined in subsection (d) of the first section of the Act of 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1150; 25 U.S.C. 415(d))) that has been approved for leasing under subsection (h) of that section (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1151; 25 U.S.C. 415(h)).

(4) CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—

(A) COMPLETION OF REPORTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office approves a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (3), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of, as applicable—

(I) a first certified title status report, if a first certified title status report was not completed prior to the approval of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document; and

(II) a subsequent certified title status report.

(ii) REQUESTS FOR FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—Notwithstanding clause (i), not later than 14 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office receives a request for a first certified title status report from an applicant for a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (1), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of the first certified title status report.

(B) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after completion of the processing of, as applicable, a first certified title status report or a subsequent certified title status report under subparagraph (A), but by not later than the applicable deadline described in that subparagraph, the applicable Bureau office shall give notice of the completion to the lender.

(ii) FORM OF NOTICE.—The applicable Bureau office shall give notice under clause (i)—

(I) electronically through secure, encryption software; and

(II) through the United States mail.

(iii) OPTION TO OPT OUT.—The lender may opt out of receiving notice electronically under clause (ii)(I).

(b) NOTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the applicable Bureau office does not complete the review and processing of mortgage packages under subsection (a) (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report under paragraph (4) of that subsection) by the applicable deadline described in that subsection, immediately after missing the deadline, the applicable Bureau office shall provide notice of the delay in review and processing to—

(A) the party that submitted the mortgage package or requested the first certified title status report; and

(B) the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested.

(2) REQUESTS FOR UPDATES.—In addition to providing the notices required under paragraph (1), not later than 2 calendar days after receiving a relevant inquiry with respect to a submitted mortgage package from the party that submitted the mortgage package or the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested or an inquiry with respect to a requested first certified title status report from the party that requested the first certified title status report, the applicable Bureau office shall respond to the inquiry.

(c) DELIVERY OF FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any first certified title status report and any subsequent certified title status report, as applicable, shall be delivered directly to—

(1) the lender;

(2) any local or regional agency office of the Bureau that requests the first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report;

(3) in the case of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage or land mortgage, the relevant Federal agency that insures or guarantees the loan; and

(4) if requested, any individual or entity described in section 150.303 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(d) ACCESS TO TRUST ASSET AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Federal agencies and Indian Tribes shall have read-only access to the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System maintained by the Bureau.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(A) for the most recent calendar year, the number of requests received to complete residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any requests for corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports), including a detailed description of—

(i) requests that were and were not successfully completed by the applicable deadline described in subsection (a) by each applicable Bureau office; and

(ii) the reasons for each applicable Bureau office not meeting any applicable deadlines; and

(B) the length of time needed by each applicable Bureau office during the most recent calendar year to provide the notices required under subsection (b)(1).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In submitting the report required under paragraph (1), the Director shall maintain the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of the parties involved in requesting the completion of residential leasehold mortgage packages,

business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports).

(f) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the need for residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages of each Indian Tribe to be digitized for the purpose of streamlining and expediting the completion of mortgage packages for residential mortgages on Indian land (including the corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports); and

(2) an estimate of the time and total cost necessary for Indian Tribes to digitize the records described in paragraph (1), in conjunction with assistance in that digitization from the Bureau.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REALTY OMBUDSMAN POSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish within the Division of Real Estate Services of the Bureau the position of Realty Ombudsman, who shall report directly to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Realty Ombudsman shall—

(1) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices are meeting the mortgage review and processing deadlines established by section 3(a);

(2) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices comply with the notices required under subsections (a) and (b) of section 3;

(3) serve as a liaison to other Federal agencies, including by—

(A) ensuring the Bureau is responsive to all of the inquiries from the relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) helping to facilitate communications between the relevant Federal agencies and the Bureau on matters relating to mortgages on Indian land;

(4) receive inquiries, questions, and complaints directly from Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders in regard to executed residential leasehold mortgages, business leasehold mortgages, land mortgages, or right-of-way documents; and

(5) serve as the intermediary between the Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders and the Bureau in responding to inquiries and questions and resolving complaints.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 79. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 79

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Interagency Patent Coordination and Improvement Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Decisions by the United States Patent and Trademark Office relating to patents may implicate, or have relevance to, information housed at or involving other Federal agencies.

(2) Entities submitting patent applications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office may also submit information to, or share information with, other Federal agencies, necessitating accuracy and consistency in those representations.

(3) Research has shown that patent examiners may benefit from additional information that is housed at, or is available to, Federal agencies other than the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to assess prior art and the state of science and technology.

(4) The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is encouraged to work with other Federal agencies.

SEC. 3. REPORT BY UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) a description of the frequency with which—

(A) information is provided by the Food and Drug Administration to the United States Patent and Trademark Office through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15 of title 35, United States Code, as added by section 4(a) of this Act, or under processes established by that Task Force; and

(B) the information described in subparagraph (A) is used in patent examinations;

(2) an identification of which methods of providing information, as described in paragraph (1)(A), and types of information so shared, are most useful to patent examiners;

(3) any recommendations for changes to be made by Congress to the mandate, funding, or operations of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(4) an identification of other Federal agencies with which the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office should explore opportunities for coordination that are similar to those undertaken with the Food and Drug Administration through the activities of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A).

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON PATENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2(c), by adding at the end the following:

''(6)(A) In exercising the Director's powers and duties under this section relating to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents, for human drugs and biological products, the Director shall, through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15, consult with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in the manner described in that section.

''(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'decisions or actions involving patents' means decisions or actions taken with respect to patents under this title.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15. Interagency Task Force on Patents

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an interagency task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force on Patents (referred to in this section as the 'task force'), to coordinate efforts between the Director and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (referred to in this section as the 'Commissioner') regarding communication about, evaluation of, and effective implementation of the activities of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration with respect to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents (as defined in section 2(c)(6)(B)), for human drugs and biological products.

''(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Director and the Commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, or update an existing memorandum of understanding, for the purposes of implementing and carrying out the duties of the task force.

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall be comprised of employees of the Office, who shall be appointed by the Director, and employees of the Food and Drug Administration, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner, who have appropriate expertise and decision-making authority regarding operational, administrative, technical, medical, pharmacological, clinical, and scientific matters to carry out the functions of the task force.

''(d) ACTIVITIES.—The task force shall carry out the following functions regarding interagency coordination to promote reciprocal access of information:

''(1) Sharing information on the general processes of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration, what each such agency considers in its respective review of applications, and how each such agency evaluates those applications, which may be undertaken through routine and ongoing meetings, workshops, and training sessions.

''(2) Sharing information on new approvals of patents, human drugs and biological products, new technologies and prior art (as appropriate on a case-by-case basis), and scientific trends and developments.

''(3) Establishing a process that requires—

''(A) the Director to request from the Commissioner (and the Commissioner to provide to the Director, upon receiving such a request)—

''(i) appropriate information for use by employees of the Office with responsibility to examine patent applications under section 131 (referred to in this section as 'patent examiners') regarding when certain information relating to a human drug or biological product approval, which may include updates to a label or newly approved indications, is made publicly available, including when such information is posted online; and

''(ii) appropriate access for patent examiners to relevant sources of product application, approval, patent, and labeling information or communications between the Food and Drug Administration and the human drug or biological product sponsors that may not currently be subject to public disclosure, as appropriate and only to the extent necessary for the Office to carry out the responsibilities of the Office, such as ensuring accurate representations and access to information on whether the claimed invention that would be the subject of the patent was on sale before the effective filing date of the claimed invention, as described in section 102(a)(1); and

''(B) the Office to assist the Food and Drug Administration in its ministerial role of listing patents.

''(4) Establishing a process to ensure that, in appropriate circumstances, at the request

of the Director, the Commissioner shall consult with or otherwise furnish specific, available information to the Office with respect to certain applications, responses, or affidavits after rejections in order to assist patent examiners in carrying out the duties of those patent examiners.

''(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (d)(3)(B) shall be construed as—

''(1) directing the Office to interfere with, delay, or supersede the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents;

''(2) indicating the position of the Office regarding the ability to assert a patent in infringement litigation; or

''(3) changing the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents.

''(f) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any record or other information of the Food and Drug Administration or the Office that is confidential, either such agency may share any such information with the other agency in furtherance of the activities described in this section, which shall remain subject to such protections as if the information were held by the Food and Drug Administration.

''(2) PROTOCOLS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The task force shall establish appropriate protocols to safeguard confidentiality and prevent the inappropriate disclosure of information when sharing information between the Office and the Food and Drug Administration.

''(B) CONTENTS.—The protocols established under subparagraph (A) shall provide that—

''(i) before sharing any information described in paragraph (1), the sponsor of the human drug or biological product to which that information relates shall be provided notice of that sharing by the applicable agency and with a period of 30 days to consult with the agency sharing that information; and

''(ii) the Director shall, in order to protect against the inadvertent disclosure of information, maintain any information shared with the Director by the Commissioner separate from pending patent applications and establish procedures for the identification of confidential information.

''(C) POTENTIAL REMEDIES.—In establishing protocols under this paragraph, the task force shall identify appropriate remedies for any potential injury suffered when confidential information is made available, including inadvertently, through the sharing of information described in this subsection.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as superseding any other remedy available for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15. Interagency Task Force on Patents.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 13—RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING THE PREVENTION OF STALKING BY DESIGNATING JANUARY 2023 AS ''NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH''

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was ordered held at the desk:

S. RES. 13

Whereas approximately 1 in 3 women in the United States, at some point during her lifetime, has experienced stalking victimization, causing her to feel very fearful or believe that she or someone close to her would be harmed or killed;

Whereas it is estimated that, each year, 13,400,000 individuals in the United States report that they have been victims of stalking;

Whereas more than 85 percent of victims of stalking report that they have been stalked by someone they know;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of intimate partner stalking victims are threatened with physical harm by stalkers;

Whereas stalking is a risk factor for intimate partner homicide;

Whereas 3 in 4 female victims of intimate partner homicides were stalked during the year preceding the homicide by their killers;

Whereas 11 percent of victims of stalking report having been stalked for 5 or more years;

Whereas ⅔ of stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week;

Whereas many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including relocating, changing jobs, or obtaining protection orders;

Whereas the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than the general population;

Whereas many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law, the laws of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

Whereas stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas national organizations, local victim service organizations, campuses, prosecutor's offices, and police departments stand ready to assist victims of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking, including online stalking;

Whereas there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution;

Whereas there is a need for an increase in the availability of victim services across the United States, and those services must include programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking;

Whereas individuals between 18 and 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victimization, and a majority of stalking victims report their victimization first occurred before the age of 25;

Whereas up to 75 percent of women in college who experience behavior relating to stalking also experience other forms of victimization, including sexual or physical victimization;

Whereas college students with disabilities are twice as likely as college students without disabilities to experience stalking;

Whereas there is a need for an effective response to stalking on each campus;

Whereas almost twice as many victims of stalking are stalked using technology, such as phone calls, text messages, social media platforms, internet posts, emails, and electronic tracking, as victims of stalking who are stalked without the use of technology; and

Whereas the Senate finds that ''National Stalking Awareness Month'' provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 2023 as ''National Stalking Awareness Month'';

(2) applauds the efforts of service providers, police, prosecutors, national and community organizations, colleges and universities, and private sector entities that combat stalking, support victims, and bring awareness to this crime;

(3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of stalking and continue to support the availability of services for victims of stalking; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through ''National Stalking Awareness Month''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 14—AMENDING RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO INCLUDE AMENDMENTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFYING SPENDING ITEMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 14

Resolved, That rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) in paragraph 2(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (1)—

(i) by striking ''Senate''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or a message from the House of Representatives'' after ''by committee''; and

(B) in clause (1)—

(i) by striking ''or joint resolution'' each place it appears and inserting '', joint resolution, or message''; and

(ii) by striking ''Senator'' and inserting ''Member of Congress'';

(2) in paragraph 3(a)(1), by striking ''Senator'' and inserting ''Member of Congress'';

(3) in paragraph 5(a), by striking ''Senator'' and inserting ''Member of Congress''; and

(4) in paragraph 7, by striking ''or conference report'' and inserting ''conference report, or message from the House''.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—REQUIRING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL, THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, AND THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTRACT WITH FOOD SERVICE CONTRACTORS AND VENDING MACHINE CONTRACTORS FOR THE CAPITOL COMPLEX THAT ACCEPT CRYPTOCURRENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the ''Adopting Cryptocurrency in Congress as an Exchange of Payment for Transactions Resolution'' or the ''ACCEPT Resolution''.

SEC. 2. ACCEPTING OF CRYPTOCURRENCY AT RESTAURANTS, VENDING MACHINES, AND GIFT SHOPS IN THE CAPITOL COMPLEX.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Capitol Buildings'' means the Capitol Buildings described in section 5101 of title 40, United States Code; and

(2) the term ''digital asset'' means a natively electronic asset that—

(A) is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger; and

(B) is designed to confer only economic or access rights.

(b) ACCEPTANCE OF CRYPTOCURRENCY.—The Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall each, for the Capitol Buildings that are under their jurisdiction—

(1) subject to subsection (c), solicit and enter into contracts to provide food service and vending machines in such Capitol Buildings with persons that will accept digital assets as payment for goods; and

(2) encourage the gift shops in such Capitol Buildings to accept digital assets as payment for goods.

(c) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—The Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives may not enter into contracts described in subsection (b)(1) if the Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, reports to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives that entering into such contracts would preclude the selection of alternatives that are cost-effective and value-centered for patrons.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Thursday, January 26; 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 the consideration of the Klobuchar-Grassley resolution as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MURPHY. Madam 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 5:16 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN CHARLES SIMPSON'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF DEARBORN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Charles Simpson on the occasion of his retirement from the Dearborn Fire Department after almost 25 years of service to the City of Dearborn, Michigan. His significant service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Captain Simpson joined the Dearborn Fire Department in 1998 and that same year received the Fire Chief Life Saving Award. He consistently moved up the ranks of the Department, being promoted to Fire Engineer in 2007, Lieutenant in 2012, and finally Captain in 2017. Captain Simpson's dedication to duty is evident in earning a Perfect Attendance award 3 times in his career, as well as completing the Rope Rescue Operations training in 2016. Over the course of his extensive career, Captain Simpson has been the recipient of countless awards for excellence in service including the Fire Chief Life Saving Award, Fire Chief Unit Commendation, multiple Meritorious Company Commendations, Fire Chief Company Citation, and the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Charles Simpson for his exemplary 25 years of service. He has selflessly served the City of Dearborn in his role as a Captain of the Fire Department and has been steadfastly dedicated to the safety of our community. I join with Captain Simpson's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in retirement.

GERMANY STANDS FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, friends of democracy are grateful that today the Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz, announced in a speech before the German Federal Parliament that Berlin will send German-made Leopard 2 tanks to defend Ukraine. Germany is well represented in Washington with Ambassador Emily Haber.

Chancellor Scholz recognizes we are in a worldwide competition of democracies with Rule of Law opposed by authoritarians with Rule of Gun.

This was an historic decision by the German government and one which will help Ukraine in its time of need as a renewed Putin spring offensive likely draws near. This decision will not only help Ukraine win on the battlefield, and save thousands of lives, but it will also enhance European and transatlantic security. I am also appreciative that our Polish allies are making a vital contribution by sending their own tanks to support Ukraine.

There is no doubt that the decision by President Biden to finally send American-made M1 Abrams tanks was essential in convincing our German allies to send the Leopard tanks to Ukraine. However, I am deeply concerned that it may take months for the Abrams tanks to reach Ukraine, time that the innocent people of Ukraine cannot afford.

Unfortunately, the administration continues to block essential weapons like the long-range Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS), which could help Ukraine win on the battlefield and end the conflict sooner. The ATACMS are crucial for Ukraine to defend itself against attack from Iranian drone systems and Russian forces based in Crimea. I call on President Biden to do the right thing and give Ukraine what it needs.

I especially appreciate Germany in that my home county of Lexington, South Carolina, was originally named Saxe Gotha being settled by enterprising German farmers. Also my maternal family was significantly German with my ancestor Daniel Weisiger born in Frankfort in 1803, immigrating from Rotherdam in 1830 to Philadelphia then to Chesapeake, Virginia. I am named for his son David Addison Weisiger of Petersburg, Virginia.

God Bless the United States of America. God Bless Germany. God Bless Ukraine. God Bless President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine will achieve victory.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LISA RENEE RANSOM, EXTRAORDINARY MARYLANDER, CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER, AND PUBLIC SERVANT.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Lisa Renee Ransom, who sadly passed away just a few days ago. I join countless people across Maryland and the country in mourning Lisa and in wishing strength to her loved ones as they cope with this terrible loss.

Throughout her life—which was tragically cut short—Lisa distinguished herself as a public servant and as a champion for greater equity. justice, and progress in America. She spent more than a dozen years in service to the American people as a Congressional staffer here in the House. Early in her career, she worked as an advisor to her lauded grandfather, Congressman Augustus 'Gus' Hawkins. She also served on the staffs of Representatives MAXINE WATERS and John Olver. helping them—and this entire institution—address challenges facing our economy and the workers and families upon which it depends. She understood that promoting economic justice is essential to fulfilling America's founding promise to protect our citizens' right to "life, liberty. and the pursuit of happiness." That mission continued to define Lisa's later work for organizations like the National Congress for Community Economic Development, the Center for Policy Alternatives, the Center for Responsible Lending, the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, and the Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation. From her support for the Bowie Economic Development Committee to her historic election to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, she also made important contributions to the state of Maryland. Additionally, she was a key member on the planning committee for my Annual Women's Equality Day Luncheon and frequently helped my team bring attention to pressing issues facing Southern Maryland. I will always be grateful for her partnership in our ongoing effort to build stronger, safer, and more prosperous communities throughout the state.

We were so fortunate to have Lisa return to the House just a few years ago to serve as the Outreach and Engagement Director on the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness and Growth. She helped ensure that the committee's critical work remained grounded in the real stories and experiences of Americans who must navigate the complexities and challenges of the 21st Century economy every day. I have long shared her belief that for Nation to continue outcompeting the rest of the world, we cannot afford to leave workers and underserved communities behind. Lisa and the Select Committee played an important role in identifying not only the obstacles we may face as we address inequity but also the tools and strategies we can use to overcome them. Indeed, throughout her career, Lisa served as a crucial voice for women, communities of color, and others who are too often excluded from economic opportunities.

Despite the gravity of her work, Lisa remained a woman of gaiety. All those around her appreciated her warmth and humor—her family and friends most of all. Our long friendship certainly brightened my own life. Whether through Lisa's service to her fellow Marylanders and Americans, her leadership in the community, or her personal interactions with others, a sense of compassion and joy was evident in every dimension of her life. Lisa's lively spirit remained strong even as I spoke with her in her final days.

Just as her work will continue to benefit countless Americans across the country, memories of Lisa's amity will continue to enrich the lives of all those lucky enough to have known her. I hope that knowledge will bring some peace and comfort to her many loved ones in this time of mourning.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in praying for them and in showing our gratitude for Lisa's life of service. May God bless and keep Lisa.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) for its service to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans.

The Foundation began in 2003 by the inspiration of Catherine Roberts of Delaware, whose son was serving in Iraq. Tormented at the thought of a soldier sitting on his lonely cot in despair, Ms. Roberts enlisted the service of her local quilt guild to make quilts for Walter Reed Military Medical Center.

Since 2003, QOVF has expanded to over 10,000 volunteer members in over 600 groups nationwide, recently awarding its 350,000th Quilt of Valor. These quilts are made of the finest materials and designs, with each being appraised at a value between $600–$1,400. These quilts, however, are not charity quilts—they are ceremoniously bestowed awards earned by servicemembers and veterans for their commitment and sacrifices.

While the estimated impact to the economy is $10,000,000 per year, the real benefits of these quilts cannot be quantified. Ms. Roberts' vision of providing comfort sends an unequivocal message to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans: ''Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation.'' One such veteran, John Rowdy Oxley—a Vietnam-era veteran—served at the Battle of Ap Bac and suffered from extreme PTSD. Now a Board Member of QOVF, John says that his receipt of a Quilt of Valor turned his life around. QOVF boasts of many such testimonies of lives changed by this simple, yet profoundly impactful gift.

QOVF has partnered with American Gold Star Mothers, Authentically American, the National Grange, Wreaths Across America, JDX Racing, the Vietnam War Commemoration, and has a Platinum Rating by GuideStar.

QOVF's contribution to our Nation cannot be overstated. Through the vision provided by Ms. Roberts to wrap the lonely soldier on a cot in a quilt, and through the tireless efforts of the Foundation and its many members, our servicemembers and veterans experience hope and healing. On behalf of the United States Congress, and as a veteran myself, I congratulate the Quilts of Valor Foundation on reaching 335,000 servicemembers and veterans and thank them for their indispensable service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HASSELL FRANKLIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hassell Franklin. Hassell passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at the age of 87. The northeast Mississippi native grew up on a farm and was a classmate of Elvis Presley in Tupelo. He served in the U.S. Army and commanded the company that protected James Meredith during the integration of the University of Mississippi. He later graduated from Mississippi State University, having earned an industrial engineering degree.

Hassell was the founder and CEO of Franklin Corp., one of the largest privately owned furniture manufacturers in the nation, based out of Houston, Mississippi. The esteemed businessman began Franklin Corp. in 1970, which has been supplying upholstered furniture worldwide for over 50 years.

He was also a philanthropist, establishing a $1 million endowment at Mississippi State University to build the Franklin Furniture Institute, a research and training center benefiting the furniture community. Hassell was recognized and honored as a Mississippi State Alumnus of the Year, as well as an Itawamba Community College Alumnus of the Year.

During his career, Hassell was actively involved in the community, serving as a past president and board member of the CREATE Foundation, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Regional Rehabilitation Center, United Way of Northeast Mississippi, and Sanctuary Hospice House. He served as lead director of BancorpSouth (now Candence Bank) as well as on the boards of the Mississippi Economic Council, North Mississippi Health Services, the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal Publishing Co., Journal Publishing Houston, Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi, Community Development Foundation, and Community Relations Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, due to illness I was unable to be present on January 24th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATI0N

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on January 21, 2023, a mass shooting in Monterey Park, California, claimed the lives of 11 people in my district. I remained in my community to respond to this crisis and participate in a vigil for the lives lost during this tragedy. I was unable to be in Washington for votes on January 24, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

IN MEMORY OF EDITH ''MIMA'' MORISSEAU

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Edith ''Mima'' Morisseau, a longtime resident of Detroit, as we mourn her passing.

Whether you knew her as Edith, Edie, or Mima, her warm-hearted nature shined through in all that she did. She was an active member of Detroit's Haitian Network Group, where she served as treasurer. She was an awe-inspiring woman and an advocate for the immigrant community.

Edith emigrated to the U.S. in 1951 and to Detroit in 1956 from Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She and her husband, the Reverend E. Dumont Morisseau, came to Detroit with their 3 young children so that the Reverend could perform his work at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Alongside her husband, she was deeply committed to the church and the community, but she also had career goals of her own. Edith enrolled in classes at Mercy College and earned her bachelor's degree in nursing, and much later went on to earn a master's from Wayne State University in psychiatry. Edith was employed by the State of Michigan for numerous years as Head of Psychiatric Nursing, retiring in 1984. She then transitioned to work as a marriage therapist for several years.

Always one to remember those who are less fortunate, she served for more than 20 years as a volunteer with Haiti Outreach Mission, assisting the people of Haiti with various medical needs. She served as warden at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and has provided counseling and nursing to numerous residents of Detroit.

Please join me in recognizing Ms. Edith Morisseau's outstanding contributions to the communities of southeast Michigan as we honor her memory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM MINNERY

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Minnery, who passed away on Christmas Eve.

Tom will be remembered most for his devotion to family and to God. As one of the greatest champions of family values our country has ever known, I am proud to have called him a friend.

In 1987, Tom co-founded Citizen magazine with Dr. James Dobson, a publication dedicated to educating and encouraging Christians to become more engaged citizens. Tom cited Proverbs 11:11 in his very first column, ''The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill.''

Tom also founded and became senior vice president of Focus on the Family's department of Government and Public Policy. He positioned himself in this role as a leading voice for family values in our nation's most important conversations. This colored his founding of Citizenlink—now Family Policy Alliance—in October 2013, in which he served as CEO and president until his retirement in 2017.

Even in retirement, he remained an active pro-family policy advocate. He was a beloved member of his church, where he served as an elder, and was the recipient of several awards from local civic and church groups. He is survived by his wife, Deb, their 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

This document stands as a testament to Tom's life and legacy, which so profoundly touched the lives of so many people. I pray his family finds comfort and peace, knowing they will be reunited with him again one day in the heavenly mansion in which he now resides with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LOURDES E. ''ALFIE'' ALVARADO-RAMOS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lourdes Alvarado-Ramos, also known as Alfie. After a career that has spanned over 52 years of distinguished service in the military and public service, Alfie will retire from her role as Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs at the end of this month. I wish to recognize her enormous contributions to the lives of servicemembers and veterans and to express our nation's gratitude for her enduring service.

Born in Puerto Rico, Alfie enlisted in the United States Army in 1971. She would rise to the rank of Troop Command Sergeant Major overseeing the Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis. Upon her retirement from military service in 1993, Alfie continued her commitment to service with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and has served as the Director of WDVA for the last decade. Before then, she served as Superintendent for the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting and the Washington Veterans Home and was the Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Operations for the agency at large.

Under Alfie's leadership, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs has been recognized as the leading state veteran's affairs department in the nation, offering the largest portfolio of services. These programs include suicide prevention, clinical counseling, military spouse community integration, peer support, transitional housing, apprenticeships, long-term care, and services for women and LGBTQ+ veterans.

For her service to the veteran community in Washington State and our nation at large, Alfie has received the Army Legion of Merit Medal and the Military Order of Medical Merit. She has also received state and national awards that include the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Leadership Award. She presently serves as an executive member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of State Veterans Homes.

Mr. Speaker, Lourdes Alvarado-Ramos exemplifies a devotion to public service and a commitment to providing exceptional public service to veterans at the highest level. Through her career, Alfie has broken barriers and empowered the next generation of soldiers, especially women, to lead at the highest levels of military and public service. I am proud to recognize Director Alvarado-Ramos.

HONORING NORA MANELLA UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Nora Margaret Manella, who will soon retire as Presiding Justice for the California Second District Court of Appeal, Division Four.

Justice Manella has held numerous highly esteemed positions over the course of her career ranging from being a complex civil litigator in private practice and a federal prosecutor in Los Angeles to being a U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California and U.S. District Judge.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Justice Manella received her Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College and her Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California Law School. She began her judicial career as a law clerk for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, before serving as a counsel to the Subcommittee on the Constitution in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. After some time in private practice, she returned to working for the government as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. I had the pleasure of being her colleague in that office when she led the appellate division. Her sparkling intellect, quick wit, expansive knowledge, analytical skills and brilliant oratory were legendary in the office. An accomplished lawyer in the courtroom as well, she prosecuted a wide variety of cases ranging from homicide to commodities fraud to international narcotics trafficking. She later served as a judge on the Los Angeles Municipal Court and Los Angeles Superior Court.

In 1994, former President Bill Clinton recognized her dedication and public service by nominating Judge Manella to be the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, where she oversaw an office of over 200 lawyers. During her time as U.S. Attorney, she was recognized by the National Law Journal as one of ''The 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in the United States'' and by the Daily Journal as one of ''The 100 most Powerful Lawyers in California.'' After being nominated again by former President Clinton to be a U.S. District Judge, where she was unanimously approved by the United States Senate, she was named ''Federal Judge of the Year'' by Century City Bar Association, Criminal Section. In 2006 she was nominated by former Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Court of Appeal and in 2018 to her final position as Presiding Justice by former Governor Brown.

While her list of accomplishments is far longer than can be included here, it is clear that Justice Manella's expertise in the legal field and her devotion to serving and improving her nation is unmatched. She is a true role model and inspiration for all, but above all else, Nora is a fierce friend, with an everpresent smile and zeal for life that extends beyond the courtroom. She has been a trusted mentor to countless young people and women across the legal field in Southern California, service that will continue past her time on the bench.

The Honorable Nora Margaret Manella has been truly indispensable to not only Southern California, but to California and the Nation. Her public service will not only be remembered, but cherished. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in thanking Justice Manella for over 4 decades of unwavering and exceptional public service.

RECOGNIZING CELIA GOULD

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the retiring director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and my close personal friend, Celia Gould. An Idaho native, third-generation cattle rancher, and dedicated public servant, Celia exemplifies Idaho's spirit and respect for agriculture.

Celia was born and raised in an Idaho ranching family, and used the generations of knowledge she gained growing up to run her own cattle operations as an adult. Always interested in public service, Celia served 16 years in the Idaho House of Representatives before becoming the first woman to lead the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, a position she held for another 16 years. She saw the Department through the 2008 recession, during which she kept Idaho agriculture as the state's strongest industry, and is leaving her office with Idaho's agricultural exports worth over a billion dollars more per year than when she entered. As if her ranching and public service didn't keep her busy enough, Celia raised a wonderful family with her husband and former Idaho House Speaker Bruce Newcomb. I know she will do a great job implanting her long-held love for agriculture in her grandchildren.

I first got to know Celia personally while we were both serving in the Idaho House of Representatives, and she quickly became one of my and my wife Kathy's best friends. In my last term as Speaker of the House, Celia served as the chair of the House Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee. She was an effective legislator who I was always glad to have in my conference. Of course, in politics it is hard to always keep everyone happy. Bruce and I learned one cardinal rule of working with Celia Gould: never mess with her when she is wearing a red dress.

I join Celia's family and many friends and colleagues in congratulating her on an extraordinary career in public service and wishing her luck in her next chapter.

COMMEMORATING ARIANNE SLAY'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR AND WASHTENAW COUNTY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Arianne Slay of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the occasion of her investiture as a judge of the 22nd Circuit Court of

Washtenaw County. Having won the faith and trust of her fellow citizens in our most recent elections, Arianne is set to be a fantastic addition to the 22nd Circuit Court. Her contributions to Washtenaw County and the city of Ann Arbor are worthy of commendation.

Arianne is a native of Ann Arbor, having graduated from Pioneer High School. Raised by two municipal employees, a love of community and dedication to her city was imbued in her from the very beginning. Though she left us for a while to study at Michigan State University in East Lansing, she came back to us with a bachelor's and juris doctor degree, ready to get to work.

Arianne began her career of service in 2005 when she joined Community Corrections as a program manager. After years of dedication, she reached the position of Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney. For the last 5 years, Arianne has served as a Deputy City Attorney for the city of Ann Arbor where she worked on municipal matters and criminal justice reform.

Arianne is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Washtenaw County Bar Association. She is also a member of the Woman Lawyers Association of Michigan, Black Woman Lawyers of Michigan, and the NAACP—Ann Arbor Chapter. Prior to taking the bench, she was also the co-chair of the Bias Awareness Committee of the Washtenaw County Bar Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Judge Arianne Slay on the occasion of her investiture to Washtenaw County's 22nd Circuit Court. While on the bench, she will ensure that members of our community of all races, genders, religions, and sexual orientations will have equal access to our judicial system. This is a culmination of her hard work and dedication to her community, and I wish her the best as she takes on this new role.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 1

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on trade and horticulture.

SR–328A

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S79–S104

Measures Introduced: Twenty-nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 62–90, S. Res. 13–14, and S. Con. Res. 1. **Pages S97–99**

National Stalking Awareness Month—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that S. Res. 13, raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2023 as ''National Stalking Awareness Month'', be held at the desk; that following morning business on Thursday, January 26, 2023, Senate begin consideration of the resolution; and that at 1:45 p.m., Senate vote on adoption of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S94**

Messages from the House: **Page S95**

Measures Referred: **Page S95**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S80**

Measures Held at the Desk: **Page S95**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S95**

Executive Communications: **Pages S95–97**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S97**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S99**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S99–S104**

Additional Statements: **Pages S94–95**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S104**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:16 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S104.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AROUND THE WORLD THREAT ASSESSMENT

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on around the world threat assessment from Brett M. Holmgren, Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Charnelle Bjelkengren, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, who was introduced by Senator Murray, Matthew P. Brookman, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, who was introduced by Senator Young, Michael Farbiarz, and Robert Kirsch, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, who were both introduced by Senators Menendez and Booker, and Orelia Eleta Merchant, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 36 public bills, H.R. 474–529; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 9–10; and H. Res. 56–59, were introduced. **Pages H322–24**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H325–26**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Tenney to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H283**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H291**

Electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives: The House agreed to H. Res. 56, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H293**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:24 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H311**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act: H.R. 255, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments; **Pages H293–95**

Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act: H.R. 259, to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance; **Pages H295–97**

Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act: H.R. 388, to amend title 40, United States Code, to eliminate the leasing authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission; **Pages H297–99**

NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023: H.R. 346, amended, to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 424 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 34; **Pages H299–H301, H311–12**

Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2023: H.R. 399, to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration; **Pages H301–03**

Microloan Transparency and Accountability Act of 2023: H.R. 449, to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency; **Pages H303–04**

Investing in Main Street Act of 2023: H.R. 400, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 13 nays, Roll No. 35; and **Pages H304–06, H312–13**

Commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses: H. Con. Res. 7, amended, commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 133 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 36; **Pages H307–11, H313**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Condemning the Iranian regime's human rights abuses against the brave women and men of Iran peacefully demonstrating in more than 133 cities.". **Page H313**

Electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives: The House agreed to H. Res. 57, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Pages H313–14**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H311–12, H312, and H313.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine countering Russian aggression, focusing on Ukraine and beyond, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Nancy G. Abudu, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be

United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Rachel Bloomekatz, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Cindy K. Chung, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Bradley N. Garcia, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Maria Araujo Kahn, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Daniel J. Calabretta, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Tiffany M. Cartwright, and Jamal N. Whitehead, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, and Natasha C. Merle, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Jessica G. L. Clarke, and Dale E. Ho, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Matthew L. Garcia, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Margaret R. Guzman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Lindsay C. Jenkins, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Kenly Kiya Kato, and Hernan D. Vera, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Araceli Martinez-Olguin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Gina R. Mendez-Miro, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, Adrienne C. Nelson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Ana C. Reyes, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Jamar K. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Rosemarie Hidalgo, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, and Amy Lefkowitz Solomon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH–216.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, January 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will begin consideration of S. Res. 13, National Stalking Awareness Month, and vote on adoption of the resolution at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, January 26

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: To be announced.

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