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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANNA PAULINA LUNA 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 on January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from the 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.

KPMG AUDIT

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I have had enough with the Biden Department of Education's utterly dishonest accounting tricks. The Department of Education's 2022 financial statement doesn't have a leg to stand on.

KPMG, an independent auditor, stated that there were material weaknesses in the department's estimates regarding how much the Biden administration's student loan debt relief plan would cost.

The Biden administration claims that its plan would cost $30 billion annually over 10 years, but this is assuming that the Department of Education has properly estimated the participation numbers. According to KPMG, the Department has no evidence behind these numbers, and these numbers matter a lot.

If these numbers are off by just 10 percent, then the cost of Biden's program would rise to $400 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Folks in the Biden Education Department need to go back and learn some math.

At worst, the department is trying to hide the true cost to taxpayers of these debt bailout schemes. At best, the department is practicing shoddy accounting again. Either way, this is a completely irresponsible way to govern such a major program.

It is obvious to anyone paying attention that the department hasn't learned anything from its past mistakes. It was assumptions like this that got our student loan systems into this mess in the first place.

When Democrats passed the Income-Driven Repayment program, IDR, they grossly underestimated the number of borrowers who would participate. This, in conjunction with the student loan moratorium, has led to a $311 billion budget deficit within the Federal student loan program.

In other words, the Federal student loan program is already costing taxpayers a fortune, and the Biden administration's actions will make the problem far worse.

To put salt in the wound, the Biden administration's proposed changes to IDR will cost far more than they are letting on. While the department claims that its changes will cost taxpayers $138 billion over the next 10 years, a nonpartisan student loan expert has estimated that the true cost could be $1 trillion.

Senator Everett Dirksen said: ''A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you are talking real money.''

This is real taxpayer money.

Once again, the Biden administration is trying to pull the wool over our eyes.

As chairwoman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I cannot let this pattern of deception and mismanagement continue. I will spend the 118th Congress doing everything in my power to hold this administration accountable. Taxpayers deserve nothing less.

DEMOCRATS PUT 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, House Democrats are putting people over politics by lowering healthcare costs and creating better-paying jobs.

We are cutting costs for healthcare coverage, capping insulin at $35 for Medicare patients, and giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices. We expanded the Affordable Care Act program which will lower premiums for over 13 million Americans.

Just in my district alone, 62,000 seniors with Medicare will pay less for prescription drug coverage, and 29,000 people in my district will have access to affordable healthcare coverage due to lowered premiums under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Meanwhile, some extreme MAGA Republicans are threatening to cut Social Security and Medicare.

House Democrats will always protect seniors from Medicare cuts or Social Security cuts because we put seniors over politics. In fact, House Democrats increased benefits by 8.7 percent last year to ensure a dignified retirement for Americans who worked hard for

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these vital benefits. Let me repeat that: They worked hard for these vital benefits.

This increase helped more than 80,000 people in my district who are on Social Security. 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. They have earned them. They paid into them.

Social Security and Medicare are a lifeline for our seniors and especially those in my district. We will always defend these programs, and we will always put seniors over politics.

We will never cut Medicare. We will never cut Social Security. We will fight for our working families until the end.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats are creating good-paying jobs for all our American families. Democrats have created a record 12 million jobs since President Biden took office, and we aren't stopping there. Let me repeat that: 12 million, and we are not stopping there. That is almost as many jobs in 2 years as any President has created in a 4-year term.

House Republicans are trying to undermine all this through bad lies and made-up stuff suggesting that President Biden has hurt our economy. He has not.

Republicans want to raise the cost of everything 30 percent while giving the wealthiest Americans cuts on their taxes. This is outrageous and just plain wrong.

While extreme MAGA Republicans hand out tax breaks to the wealthy, Democrats are focused on lowering everyday Americans' costs.

We will continue to fight for working families.

I am not willing to use politics over people. I will always put people over politics and always, always people first.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ''BARRY'' DAGENHART AS AN OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedicated service and call to the ministry of Dr. Barry Dagenhart who has served as a pastor for over 40 years.

Dr. Dagenhart grew up in Statesville, North Carolina, and was spiritually nurtured in the New Sterling Associate Reformed Presbyterian (A.R.P.) Church.

Graduating in 1979, he studied economics at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. He also holds a master of divinity degree and a doctor of ministry degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. While at Erskine, he met his loving wife, Sarah Lynn Richie, of Fairfield, Virginia, and they were married on June 26 of 1982.

Dr. Dagenhart had the honor and privilege of serving on various boards and agencies throughout the A.R.P. denomination. He served on the board of stewardship and A.R.P. Foundation, as well as the Erskine College and Seminary Board of Trustees. He was also blessed to serve as the vice moderator of the A.R.P. General Synod.

He currently serves on the Bonclarken Board of Trustees, the conference center for the A.R.P. denomination. In addition to his service at the Synod level, he also has served on various commissions and committees on the Presbytery level in First Presbytery, Second Presbytery, and, most recently, Catawba Presbytery where he served as moderator from 2013 to 2014.

Not only has Dr. Dagenhart generously served on various boards and committees in his community, he also enjoyed being able to use his call to the gospel ministry to impact youth, adults, and individuals with special needs at various week-long summer camps at Bonclarken located in Flat Rock, North Carolina.

Throughout his decades of ministry, Dr. Dagenhart has frequently served as camp minister for Camp Joy, a camp for those affected by physical and mental disabilities. Dr. Dagenhart's caring and generous heart is what makes him stand out as an honorable citizen and follower of Jesus Christ, sacrificing his time to help those around him.

Dr. Dagenhart has an encouraging and loving family—his wife Sarah, son Jamey, and daughter Rachel—who support him in walking his path of placing others above himself.

Dr. Barry Dagenhart has set the gold standard for decades of dedicated service and commitment to his congregation and to the community. He will long be remembered for that.

Madam Speaker, we all join in saying thank you and Godspeed in his well-deserved years of retirement.

TOXIC WASTE IN MICHIGAN

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 12th Congressional District and the State of Michigan to say to Norfolk Southern: Don't dump your toxic waste in our State.

Late last Friday, we learned that shipments of solid and liquid toxic waste from the East Palestine train derailment in Ohio were being transported to Michigan for disposal.

Norfolk Southern chose to dispose truckloads of hazardous materials at multiple sites, including one operated by U.S. Ecology, one of our region's most negligent and notorious corporate polluters. These companies treat poisoning our communities as the cost of doing business, and we are done with it.

I am so proud of our residents who spoke up and who helped halt further shipments into our State. I want to thank every single one of them from the bottom of my heart for speaking the truth and demanding better from all of our officials from the State and the Federal EPA.

We will never give permission for corporate polluters to continue sacrificing the health and well-being of our communities and our families.

Our environmental regulators State and Federal must aggressively protect all of us from this threat and hold these polluters accountable.

DTE ENERGY

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say that DTE Energy, an investor-owned utility monopoly in my district, charges some of the highest rates in our Nation while providing some of the most unreliable service and performs hundreds of thousands of utility shutoffs per year.

Right now many of my residents are in the seventh day of no power: no gas, heat, or electricity.

This past week has been yet another nightmare for more than close to 1 million DTE customers as well as 200,000 consumer energy customers in our State who have endured days on end without power and heat after a completely foreseeable winter storm.

Why?

Because DTE doesn't invest in reliability. It invests in profits and pays for shareholders and executives. The company made $1.1 billion in profits last year alone.

Investor-owned utilities like DTE will always put profits over the people whom we serve in this Chamber.

During the worst of the pandemic in 2020, Madam Speaker, DTE shut off power to customers more than 80,000 times despite being subsidized by our Federal Government to the tune of $268 million in CARES Act funding.

The reason?

They paid out $807 million to shareholders instead of keeping the power on for our residents who were struggling through the pandemic.

□ 1015

Since 2015, DTE has received over $775 million in rate hikes, the second highest rate of increase in our Nation, and they just announced their intention to seek another massive rate hike.

DTE has failed to invest in the infrastructure upgrades necessary to prevent outages, instead choosing to maximize profits for its shareholders and spending millions on campaign contributions to avoid real accountability.

I am sick and tired of wealthy corporate executives lining their pockets while our communities suffer and continue to be exploited.

That is why, last year, I introduced the Resolution Recognizing the Human Rights to Utilities with Representatives CORI BUSH and JAMAAL BOWMAN.

Madam Speaker, access to utilities is not a privilege; it is a fundamental human right. People depend on it for medical and for safety, again, in their

own homes. In the richest country on Earth, every single family should have access to electricity, heat, and water. We need public power for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EVA ALVAREZ

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Eva Alvarez, a community activist who worked to improve the lives of countless immigrant families across southeast Michigan. Her life was suddenly cut short this past weekend in a tragic accident.

Eva worked on public policy advocacy for the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, one of the State's strongest immigrant empowerment agencies, where she championed policies to improve the lives of immigrants, Dreamers, farmworkers, and TSP holders.

She was an incredible leader. Eva will be missed. She is known for her spirit of hope and optimism, which helped her persevere and remain steadfast in her work. She could always be counted on to offer a kind word to uplift others.

Eva's sudden passing will be felt deeply throughout our communities. Please join me in honoring the life of Ms. Eva Alvarez, and please extend our condolences to her family as we mourn her loss. May she rest in power.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JAMES THOMAS BROYHILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, right now, family and friends have gathered in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to celebrate the life of a giant of North Carolina politics, Jim Broyhill, who passed away last week at 95.

Mr. Broyhill served in this House for 23 years and briefly as a Member of the United States Senate.

His story began in the town of Lenoir, where he was born the son of James Edgar and Satie Hunt Broyhill, whose Broyhill Furniture had become a thriving business and brand name known nationwide.

Ed Broyhill, Mr. Broyhill's father, despite living in a State where the Republican Party was almost extinct, was a Republican national committeeman. Jim Broyhill listened at the kitchen table as community and business leaders and politicians discussed current events with his father. It sparked Jim's interest.

He attended and graduated from the University of North Carolina, class of 1950, joined the family business, and emerged as a leader of the business community in his own right. He married Louise, and they started a family, raising three children.

Like his father, Mr. Broyhill was passionate about politics. He also believed fervently in competition. More than anything, he wanted to build in North Carolina a competitive two-party system. In 1962, he materially advanced that ball in a surprise election to Congress.

In the preceding districting process, the Democrat-dominated State legislature drew districts designed to eliminate the only North Carolina Republican in the State's congressional delegation, Charles Jonas of Charlotte, but the plan backfired and elected two Republicans to Congress, Mr. Jonas and Mr. Broyhill.

Once in Washington, Representative Broyhill formed relationships with members of both parties and learned how to be an effective Member. He served patiently his entire career in the minority as Democrats ran Congress, just as he patiently nursed political competition back home. He advocated for lower taxes and less regulation, but he set the gold standard in constituent service.

As a result, after that first bare win in 1962, he never again faced a serious challenge in reelection campaigns. Even now, North Carolina Members pay heed to the Broyhill model for serving constituent needs.

Mr. Broyhill worked across the aisle for more rational business regulation and served as a mentor to fellow Republicans in Congress, meeting one-on-one with freshman Members and instructing them on the importance of constituent service and attending local events in the district.

After his retirement, he briefly returned to Lenoir, and then served as secretary of commerce and chairman of the North Carolina Economic Development Commission. He worked hard to bring new business to the State and had a great deal of success.

Mr. Broyhill leaves behind his wife of 71 years, Louise; son Ed, who serves as a Republican national committeeman himself; daughter Marilyn; 6 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. His son Phil passed away, sadly, in 2014. In addition, he leaves many friends and supporters, grateful constituents, loyal former staff, and Members of Congress who followed him into this Chamber.

Just 15 months ago, I had the privilege to meet Mr. and Mrs. Broyhill myself. It cemented for me the larger-than-life figure of Jim Broyhill, who has long since entered the pantheon of foremost North Carolina leaders.

For all the care he furnished to the Republican Party as it broke one-party dominance in North Carolina, his first priority was Louise, Ed, and Marilyn, his extended family whom he loved.

Jim Broyhill was a distinguished gentleman, a humble public servant, and a loyal husband, father, and friend. It is my honor to pay tribute to his memory today.

Jim Broyhill, rest in peace.

SUPPORTING FTC'S NONCOMPETE BAN

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

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, our economy thrives on competition and freedom. No employer should be able to block their workers from taking a better job, but that is what noncompete contracts do. They strip Americans' freedom to work at the job that is best for them.

As a result, workers are losing out on nearly $300 billion in wages every year. Companies stop incentivizing workers to stay because they don't need to. They are stuck.

Noncompetes also drag down the entire economy, hurting even those of us who aren't covered by them. Everyone is harmed when wages are suppressed, innovation is stifled, and competition is prevented.

I am thrilled that the Federal Trade Commission is ending this toxic practice. Banning noncompetes will promote the ideals our country was founded on—open markets, economic mobility, and the right to control one's own life.

Madam Speaker, I commend this effort to make our capitalist economy more fair, free, and prosperous.

STANDING UP FOR RENTAL MARKET FAIRNESS AND AFFORDABILITY

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm on the housing crisis crushing millions of Americans.

Skyrocketing rents across the country are pummeling families and squeezing them out of their homes. Let's face it, the rental market is broken and riddled with unfair practices.

Unreasonable background checks, crooked screening algorithms, and anticompetitive information sharing are just some of the many obstacles locking renters out from obtaining safe and affordable housing.

I am grateful that the Biden administration announced new actions to increase fairness in the rental market, protect tenants, and make housing more affordable. Rooting out predatory tactics and developing strong guardrails will help prevent future egregious increases in rent.

As California's watchdog during the last foreclosure crisis, I know it takes fight to keep families in their homes. I urge leaders across government to stand up for renters.

KEEPING AAPI COMMUNITIES SAFE

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to address how our government can address the issues facing our AAPI communities.

Supporting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans requires recognizing the diversity within those communities. Inadequate data limit our ability to serve all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Federal data on AAPI people fail to capture differences across ethnic backgrounds. Grouping all AAPI people into one supercategory erases important distinctions in cultural traditions and lived experiences.

Blunt data instruments cannot produce targeted policy solutions to

the dangers AAPI communities face, like hate crimes.

In California, anti-AAPI hate crimes are up 177 percent, but some communities experience these threats more acutely. For example, a recent survey found that Vietnamese communities are 38 percent more likely to worry about hate crimes than other AAPI communities.

I am leading efforts to fund community-based solutions to anti-AAPI hate crimes, but making these tools even more effective requires data that identify at-risk groups. Official data must guide our efforts to keep our AAPI neighbors safe.

SCOURGE OF WOKEISM

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about yet another instance of the insanity of wokeism that is permeating our society, ruining our culture, and destroying our ability to govern.

This scourge has infiltrated academia, the media, and our corporate boardrooms, and it is now taking over our government functions, all on the backs of our taxpayers, those very taxpayers who recognize this nonsense for what it is and who are being plucked clean by an elitist cabal of eco-warriors who are paid to destroy the very standard of living that allows them to focus on made-up crises rather than to do the job for which they were hired.

Of what do I speak? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has now begun offering eco-grief training for its employees. Yes, you heard me correctly. Eco-grief, a made-up condition that provides an opportunity for our oh-so-delicate employees who are allegedly struggling with a sense of trauma as they witness what they claim is a changing environment.

It is one thing for a private company to waste its own money, but it is not okay for the Federal Government to misappropriate our money to further a political agenda that is intended to increase the cost of putting food on your table, a roof over your head, and gas in your car.

It is our money that is being used for environmental activism instead of paying down some of our nearly $32 trillion in debt. It is our money that is being used to convince people that the United States is evil, despite the fact that we have lifted more people out of poverty, provided a better standard of living, and provided more opportunities for more people than any other country in the history of mankind while at the same time using and managing our natural resources in a way that protects our environment and our sovereignty.

Eco-grief is admittedly a smaller budget item than many other woke programs. That, however, is no reason to ignore what it portends, as it is just the latest made-up malady and another part of a larger scale assault on both common sense and American energy.

Biden's administration has gone to war on our energy industries by blocking the extraction, development, transport, and use of our abundant and clean fossil fuels—in other words, those energy resources that actually work, such as coal, oil and gas, and uranium.

They seek to make us energy paupers, thereby forcing the United States to beg other countries for the resources that we need to power this country and our economy.

Permitting is now longer, more complicated, more expensive, and designed to limit new energy development and production throughout every step of the process. Oil and gas leases have declined by 97 percent compared to this point in Donald Trump's Presidency.

Despite Biden irresponsibly tapping into our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, gas prices remain stubbornly high, and natural gas, a major source of home heating for half of America, is expected to increase by 25 percent.

Coal provides a quarter of America's energy. It is critical to manufacturing and is vital to not only my State of Wyoming but to anyone who wants to ensure access to clean and affordable energy. It is under constant attack by the ever-increasing and more restrictive rules issued from on high by the unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

Who suffers? The citizens of this country, with the poorest among us suffering the most. I believe that there truly is a special place in hell for people who adopt policies that are designed to create energy poverty, a situation where families must choose between buying food, heating their homes, or putting gas in their cars. This will be one of Biden's lasting legacies, shared misery for everyone except the liberal elite.

Quite simply, we cannot afford the woke energy agenda being pursued by President Biden, and we sure as heck can't indulge in the latest made-up condition of eco-grief.

While it may seem that we are in a hopeless situation with a nonstop cycle of bad policies coming out of D.C., we cannot give up. With Republicans now in control of the House of Representatives, we must pass legislation to claw back power from the administrative state, and I am filing multiple bills to do just that.

Ultimately, the solution is in producing our affordable and plentiful American energy, but we cannot wait for 2 more years. Our citizens need relief now.

I hope that everyone in this Chamber will join me in fighting against Biden's war on energy. We must call out the nonsense and remind these unelected bureaucrats who they actually work for—the American citizens who have no interest in paying for their counseling.

For our friends at the Fish and Wildlife Service who may be watching this speech, you may want to take that eco-grief seminar now, before we legislate it out of existence.

□ 1030

RUSSIA'S EXPANDED TERRORIST WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mark more than 1 year of Russia's expanded terrorist war against Ukraine after its initial unprovoked invasion in 2014.

The words of Ukraine's poet laureate Taras Shevchenko ring especially true today as when he penned them nearly two centuries ago:

" . . . rise ye up and break your heavy chains and water with the tyrants' blood, the freedom you have gained."

Ukraine's moment to victory is now. The defining accomplishment of the 20th century was the victory of liberty over tyranny. Vanquishing Nazi and imperialist tyranny and defeating the forces of Soviet-imposed communism a half century later ended the Cold War.

New institutions for the common defense of liberty, including NATO, were founded. The U.S. Marshall Plan helped to secure and rebuild a war-torn but free Europe, and both America and liberty prospered.

Through the bipartisan leadership of great Americans, including General George Marshall, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, and Presidents Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower, America rose—though somewhat reluctantly—to be liberty's standard-bearer. And even in those European nations that had fallen behind the Iron Curtain, such as Ukraine, the impulse for freedom hastened. For America, helping liberty defeat tyranny has always been bipartisan.

Recall the images of President John Kennedy in West Germany declaring "Ich bin ein Berliner."

President Ronald Reagan stood behind the Brandenburg Gate nearly two decades later near the Berlin Wall demanding, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Those images defined the boundary between East and West: free people versus subjugated people.

It was barely 2 years after President Reagan's speech and after over four decades of free world vigilance that the world witnessed the profound victory of the valiant Solidarność workers in the steelyards of Gdansk, Poland.

Soon, captive nations subjugated by the Soviet Union for decades began to tumble. First, in 1989, Poland. Then in 1991, Ukraine. Then the entirety of the captive nations held subjugated by the Soviet Union. It was a major turning point in the arc of world history.

The Allied post-war institutions created to defend liberty still exist today. Indeed, now with Sweden and Finland

joining NATO, that alliance grows stronger than it has ever been.

Ukraine, too, seeks to join its European allies who are democratic in the European Union. Ukrainian soldiers meanwhile embattled and vastly outnumbered are dying, dying, dying for the cause of self-determination and liberty. Against great odds, Ukraine faces an enemy three times their population with far more military resources, but they fight.

To gain a sense of what Ukrainians are feeling right now, visit the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C. Seek to understand the sacrifices of the more than 400,000 Americans whose lives were given to liberty in its cause on the Atlantic, Pacific, and African fronts during the 20th century so that we, our generations, could remain free.

Under Soviet domination, no nation in the world suffered more than Ukraine. More than 4 million innocent people were systematically starved to death by Joseph Stalin, with millions upon millions upon millions more, whose names we will never know, murdered by Stalin's brutal Communist regime. America has been absent those horrors, thank God.

Despite these bestial atrocities, America at times has turned a blind eye to Russian atrocities dating back to its World War II unholy alliance with the Soviet Union to defeat Nazism.

In 2008, when Russian President Vladimir Putin stormed into The Republic of Georgia, President George W. Bush looked the other way. In 2014, when Vladimir Putin, entirely unprovoked, originally invaded Ukraine and subjugated Crimea, President Barack Obama paused.

Now Putin, in trying to capture the sovereign nation of Ukraine and hold it under his tyrannical claw, has gone too far. America has resumed its role as the vigorous and uncompromising defender of free and aspiring people. Liberty must check tyranny. Today, Ukraine seeks liberty for her 40 million people—Liberty must win. Liberty will win.

President Biden, Senate leaders CHUCK SCHUMER, MITCH MCCONNELL, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI, and other impassioned advocates of both parties champion Ukraine's cause. America and our allies have responded to the crisis by sending fervent support in the form of weapons and humanitarian aid. What happens next? In one word, victory.

Our Nation does not exist alone on this globe. Isolation is strangulation. America's democratic ally Ukraine is pleading for help. President Biden has made his position clear: he will support Ukraine "as long as it takes." And he will not let Putin force Ukraine to negotiate away its territory. He takes these positions because he knows it would be aiding and abetting the enemy for America to look the other way. To do nothing is essentially choosing to side with Russia over Ukraine. In the long term that would be foolhardy and dangerous both for the United States and for a safer, more democratic world.

America is still a young land and, in some ways, largely sheltered from the lengths to which vicious tyrants will go to wipe out free people. Putin is prepared to go to those lengths. This is the time to choose. This is the time to fight. This is the time to stand up and defend liberty, at home and abroad. Each generation must make fateful choices. So must we.

When our great Nation was founded, most of the world's population were slaves, serfs, or subjugated. Even then, one of our Founding Fathers, Patrick Henry, grasped the concept of liberty. He challenged our forbearers: "Give me Liberty or give me death." He understood what was at stake then, just as the people of Ukraine do today. So must we. The free world must choose liberty. America stands with our Allies to strengthen democracy, and realize in our time and generation a free, sovereign, and independent Ukraine. Slava Ukraini! Glory to Ukraine.

HONORING THE LATE JACOB CRUZ BARNES

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the late Jacob Cruz Barnes who sadly left this world earlier this month.

Jacob, also known as Jake, was a proud son of Guam and a proud veteran of the United States Air Force who served our great country for over 29 years in uniform. Jake also spent a good number of years ensuring that the many needs of our community were addressed in public service.

Unfortunately, the last couple of years were very challenging for Jake and his family as he was unable to get needed care that he required as he fought several medical challenges, including the fight for survival. The simple and decent services were unavailable in Guam for not only Jake, but for many other of our veterans.

These are individuals who have put so much on the line to preserve freedom and democracy to our great Nation and our beautiful island of Guam, that this country, this government needs to invest more to ensure when it is their time to obtain reliable care that it is made available for them at home where they can be with their family and loved ones.

Sadly, Jake had to relocate to the mainland to obtain additional care. We need to do more.

This government needs to take note that Guam has among the highest per capita enlistments in the Nation. We have proud patriots who call Guam their home. We have American citizens who are treated as second-class citizens when it comes to care, whether it be for our veterans or even when it comes to SSI for our disabled residents.

We can't say we are a land of opportunity when American citizens on U.S. territory are not provided equity.

Jake leaves behind a legacy of leadership, courage, and commitment to his family, our island, and our Nation.

I had the honor of serving with his wife, longtime senator and former Speaker in the Guam legislature, Tina Muna Barnes, over the past 4 years. She, too, has always been a staunch advocate for equity when it comes to benefits for our community. I witnessed firsthand the challenges she and her family had to endure to ensure that care was made available for Jake. It wasn't easy.

From the Halls of this historic building which represent democracy and freedom, I honor a veteran, a son of Guam, the late Jacob Cruz Barnes.

On behalf of the 118th Congress, I express my deepest condolences to his wife, Speaker Tina, his four children, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and his many other family members.

Jake, thank you for your service and may you rest in peace.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 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. WOMACK) at noon.

PRAYER

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

God, our guardian and sure defender, cause us not to go forth into this day with such haste that we fail to wait on You to direct our steps, for You have promised time and again that You will go before us. So we pray Your guidance for this day.

May we trust You to lead us where You would have us go. May we be sure that You have already prepared us to do the work that is set before us. May we anticipate the blessings You have provided for us. Remind us that we need only follow Your lead.

Then, O God, as You go before us, be also our rearguard. Surround us with Your encouragement when we are hesitant to move forward. Protect us from those who come from behind to exploit our vulnerabilities. Uphold us as we strain under the weight of schedules and expectations.

God, go before us to lead us, behind us to defend us, and be ever with us that we may enjoy the embrace of Your love.

In Your merciful 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

BIDENFLATION BY THE NUMBERS

(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 has been in office, his irresponsible decisions, supported by the Democrat-led Congress, have left American families in financial stress.

Inflation, at a 40-year high, has increased the cost of everyday items. We have destruction of jobs. These policies have cost the typical household $10,000. Additionally, year-to-year wage growth has been negative for 22 months.

Bidenflation is a tax on all Americans. At an inflation rate of 6.4 percent in January, we have an outrageous situation with rising prices. Eggs are up an astronomical 70 percent, butter up 33 percent, fuel oil up 28 percent, flour up 28 percent, lettuce up 17 percent, bread up 15 percent, and milk up 11 percent.

The newly elected House Republican majority, led by Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY, is committed to fighting inflation, lowering the cost of living, and creating jobs.

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

RECOGNIZING ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adult and Teen Challenge, or ATC, a faith-based organization serving on the front lines to combat our Nation's spiking drug and alcohol addiction crisis.

I am really proud that ATC, headquartered in the great State of Missouri, is providing lifesaving services to thousands of people afflicted by substance abuse disorders.

Daily, more than a dozen people reach out to ATC looking for help for themselves or a loved one, and ATC is always answering the call.

ATC has provided recovery care through Christ-centered solutions for more than 14,000 persons per month in the last year.

It is really time that we recognize the importance of faith in the addiction recovery and support process for those working to see addiction numbers decrease instead of increase.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 347, REDUCE EXACERBATED INFLATION NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE NATION ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 30, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO ''PRUDENCE AND LOYALTY IN SELECTING PLAN INVESTMENTS AND EXERCISING SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS''

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 166 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 166

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights''. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

House Resolution 166 provides for the consideration of two measures, H.R. 347 and H.J. Res. 30. The rule provides for H.R. 347, the REIN IN Act, to be considered under a structured rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their designees and provides for one motion to recommit. The rule makes in order 15 amendments.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 30, a resolution of congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights'' under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and in support of the underlying bills.

Today, the Republican majority is holding the Biden administration accountable. The American people sent the Republican majority to Washington to exercise a moderating influence on the executive branch and as a

check against President Biden and the Democrats' worst policy impulses.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 years, the American people have been at the mercy of President Biden's and the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spend agenda. Having survived those 2 long years, the American public could not stomach 2 more years of unified Democratic control in Washington, so this past November, American voters elected a Republican majority in the people's House to address the people's business.

Instead of devoting all of their time and effort to service industries and projects favored by Democratic consultants, the green lobby, and woke political activists, Republicans are working at breakneck pace to address the issues that the American people actually care about: protecting the retirement savings of hardworking Americans from Green New Deal radicals. The House GOP is the last line of defense between the American people and President Biden's inflationary agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I also commend Mr. BARR for introducing H.J. Res. 30 so we can bring this important piece of legislation to the floor today. Without his leadership on this issue, pensioners and retirees would be defenseless against the designs and machinations of a loud but vocal minority planning to conscript the retirement savings of retirees and American workers to pursue an investment agenda that is not founded on a fiduciary responsibility to maximize a return on investment.

Democrats understand that their Green New Deal agenda is politically toxic as far as the American public is concerned. They know that their radical energy agenda has been exposed and laid bare to the American people. For that reason, they have orchestrated and overseen a coordinated campaign to capture the boardrooms and the pension funds, seeking to implement the change that they simply could not achieve at the ballot box.

What Democrats are trying to achieve would be more intellectually and morally defensible if they had the courage to bring these measures to the floor for a vote in the people's House. In fact, the Democrats could not take that risk, Mr. Speaker. It would be a highly embarrassing spectacle exposing their woke, ESG agenda as toxic to the American public. Instead, Democrats and their radical environmental NGO allies will continue to work in the shadows, strong-arming and intimidating corporations and investors alike, using any means necessary to conscript the life savings of pensioners and retirees to implement a dangerous and illiberal investment strategy centered not on the welfare of retirees but on their favorite pet political projects.

In addition to this being an unwise and undemocratic investment strategy, Mr. Speaker, if this investment strategy is allowed to metastasize, the traditional energy sources that heat our homes, clean our drinking water, and power our electrical grid will be seriously placed in jeopardy.

This isn't hypothetical, Mr. Speaker. Democratic policies are pushing our electrical grid to the brink. Reliable baseload generation sources are being phased out at a dizzying pace. The traditional energy projects that make the comforts of modern life possible are being prematurely marked for closure, not because they are uneconomical but because they run counter to the Democrats' crusade against fossil fuels.

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In my native Texas, Mr. Speaker, I am in communication with capital market professionals who inform me that their firms will no longer invest in energy projects that provide dispatchable and reliable power to the electrical grid; not because these projects are undeserving or won't deliver a return on investment, but for fear of being named by Democrats and their corporate allies for being insufficiently committed to their radical environmental agenda.

I am reminded of the passage from the Gospel of Matthew, Mr. Speaker: ''You will know them by their fruits.''

Democrats are once again looking to conscript the life savings of pensioners and retirees in this Green New Deal agenda.

Mr. Speaker, this is the deleterious downstream effect of the Democrats' Green New Deal and their moral panic. It is jeopardizing the health and well-being of American citizens in pursuit of a disturbing, dogmatic energy agenda that is myopically focused on potential environmental impacts rather than the flourishing and prosperity of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the conventional wisdom would suggest that President Biden and his Democrat allies in the House would step back and reassess their policies after having lost their majority in November.

One could be forgiven for thinking that having been humbled at the ballot box, Democrats would benefit from reflection and introspection to try to understand why American voters rejected their policies so thoroughly in the midterm elections.

Unfortunately for the American people, President Biden and House Democrats have doubled down on their inflationary and unpopular agenda all in the wake of November's election.

Instead of triangulating and trying to better align themselves with the priorities of everyday Americans, the Biden administration has continued this barrage of unpopular executive orders. From trying to cancel student loan debt to increasing household costs for American families through increased energy and food costs, Democrats and President Biden have demonstrated once again they are simply out of step with the American public.

This is why Republicans are united in holding the Biden administration accountable for their reckless economic policies that seek to supercharge and further embed inflation into the American economy. The Republican majority is proud to bring to the floor H.R. 347, the REIN IN Act, which would mandate that the Biden administration undertake and produce a report for any major executive order that it issues that would detail the inflationary impact of said executive action.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate our Republican colleagues on finally releasing their big plan to end inflation. What a day.

We have all been home for 2 weeks. We know inflation is a big problem. We hear about it at the supermarket. We see it in our communities. It is a global problem impacting every single country.

Now over the last 2 years, Democrats here in the House, alongside President Biden, have taken aggressive action to fight inflation and lower prices, and at every step Republicans have voted ''no,'' ''no,'' ''no.''

At every step, they have boasted about their own alternative comprehensive plan to stop inflation in its tracks. It has got to be big. It has got to be really big; can't wait to read it. Wow, wait until you hear about the Republican plan to stop inflation in its tracks.

Forgive me if I am confused today, because after months of waiting with bated breath, after all your announcements and after all your press releases and all your tweets about inflation, we finally find out what your big plan to stop inflation really is, your big bill to address the American people's number one concern.

It is a report. More government paperwork. Great.

I mean, will people be able to print out the report and trade it in for cheaper gas or lower food prices? Because unless they can, and I am not an economist here, but I don't think this is going to make a difference.

The bill, and I hesitate to call it a bill, because it might as well be a tweet or a press release, does nothing. Maybe it should be an amendment to an actual bill that fights inflation—just a suggestion. Don't try to pass this off as a real plan. Don't pretend this actually does anything.

I am embarrassed. I am embarrassed for my Republican colleagues, to be honest.

Mr. Speaker, it took 2 years to put this together?

The number one issue for the American people and this is what they come up with?

A book report on inflation.

It reminds me of the time last year when they tried to solve crime with a report. This is what happens when you

try to write a bill for Twitter instead of a bill that actually helps everyday people.

The audacity, the sheer audacity of saying all this inflation was caused by President Biden when the guy before him added nearly $8 trillion to the national debt, when the guy before him presided over a 39 percent increase in the national debt, when the guy before him accumulated 25 percent of the total debt in American history. The hypocrisy is incredible.

Now, just contrast that with what Democrats did to rein in inflation and lower costs for people.

Democrats capped insulin at $35 per month.

Democrats reduced the price of prescription drugs for seniors.

Democrats, for the first time in history, are making sure that Big Pharma faces penalties for raising their prices faster than inflation.

Democrats are saving families money with special tax credits for making good investments—all things that Republicans voted against.

Mr. Speaker, 100 percent of Republicans voted against reducing drug prices; 100 percent of them voted against cheaper insulin for our senior citizens; 100 percent of them voted against lower gas prices.

I guess we could give them some credit because only 95 percent of them voted against lower food prices.

Hear me out here. Maybe Republicans don't want to solve inflation. Maybe they know that addressing inflation takes on greedy CEOs, Big Oil, and billionaire corporations. Maybe they know it means standing up to Putin, who is driving up energy prices with his war in Ukraine.

Maybe Republicans are too scared to fight inflation, but Democrats are ready to go to bat against corporate greed, because we stand with everyday families who are being hurt by rising costs.

Today, Leader JEFFRIES is introducing the PRO Act, a bill empowering workers to unionize and hold their employers accountable for improper work practices. Because while Republicans continue standing with the billionaire corporations responsible for price gouging, Democrats stand with workers hurt by inflation. We support their right to organize for better wages.

Instead of wasting time writing a bill that only requires a book report on inflation, we spent the last 2 years taking action to actually stop inflation in the long term by bringing jobs and manufacturing back to America.

Democrats secured over $300 billion in investments in U.S. manufacturing to move supply chains back to America.

We voted to lower food and fuel prices, made the most robust updates in 70 years to the Buy American Act to boost domestic manufacturing, and after the Ocean Shipping Reform Act to cut costs for American families and bring down shipping prices, oversaw the largest 1-year decrease in the Federal deficit in American history. That is the Democratic record.

Now, we don't claim its perfect. Prices are still too high. Inflation is hurting people. I know it. Joe Biden knows it. Democratic leadership knows it. So there is a difference here. There is a difference here, and it is a big one.

Democrats are fighting for the families being hurt by inflation and taking on the greedy corporations who are driving prices up. And Republicans, their solution is to blame Democrats, blame Biden, and write a book report.

Now, I guess when you have no plans, when you have no real ideas, you will do anything to say you did something. That is all this is: a talking point, a press release, and a total waste of time. Apparently, the bar is on the ground for this new House majority, and it is a real shame.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution that affirms the House's unwavering commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare and states that it is the position of the House to reject any cuts to the programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, Social Security and Medicare are the bedrock of our Nation's social safety net. Yet, as many of my Republican colleagues demand reckless cuts in exchange for paying our Nation's bills, these programs are under threat.

Despite recent rhetoric to the contrary, Republicans claim that they won't cut Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Well, Mr. Speaker, today, Democrats are giving Republicans a chance to back up that claim with action by providing them a chance to reassure the American people not just with their words, but with their votes.

Today, they can vote unequivocally that they won't cut these vital programs. Anything short of that is an empty promise.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that none of my fellow Republican colleagues want to come down and join in with my colleague from Texas to talk about how great this bill is to fight inflation. I would be embarrassed to be here defending this measure, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Washington Post titled, ''What should the White House do to combat inflation? Experts weighed in with 12 ideas.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 26, 2022]

WHAT SHOULD THE WHITE HOUSE DO TO COMBAT INFLATION? EXPERTS WEIGHED IN WITH 12 IDEAS

(By Jeff Stein and Rachel Siegel)

The United States is experiencing its most dramatic burst of inflation in four decades, as rising prices hit nearly every sector of the economy and create new political hurdles for the Biden administration.

As the country frets over inflation and the administration weighs how to react, The Washington Post asked independent experts from across the ideological spectrum how they would respond if they controlled the White House.

Their 12 ideas include using antitrust to break up large corporations, relaxing the trade war with China, and massively scaling up U.S. manufacturing production, among other proposals. Some of the experts blamed President Biden for increasing economic demand, while others insisted that concerns about inflation have been overblown. The proposals are not meant as exhaustive, and many of these economists support each other's ideas.

1: MAKE AMERICA PRODUCE AGAIN

We can once again make the United States the world's workshop for democracy

(By Robert C. Hockett)

It should have been obvious even in February 2020 that the coronavirus was going to present the American economy with both demand-side and supply-side challenges. It should therefore also have been obvious that measures to boost demand with government programs—such as stimulus checks and unemployment benefits—would fuel inflationary pressures if not accompanied by measures to boost supply and the availability of goods and products.

Almost two years after our pandemic began, policymakers are now finally talking about supply chains, as they should have done early in 2020. But thus far they are talking almost solely about improving the domestic transport links in those chains—not the production of what is being consumed.

Attention to truck routes, warehouses and loading docks is helpful, but it isn't nearly enough in our present environment—not in a world where we needlessly *import* so much of what we used to *produce*.

This presents all of us with a grand opportunity now—to reverse inflation in a manner that restores American production and world leadership in the industries of today and tomorrow. We can, in other words, make our war on inflation a war on national decline.

For instance, America invented the semiconductor industry and then globally dominated it for decades until the turn of the millennium. Yet since we relinquished our lead over microchips to insecure sources such as China and Taiwan, the importance of this ubiquitous input to all modern products has only grown. That is why so many supply shortage stories we read about now—from autos to homes to appliances—boil down to chip shortage stories.

Next, consider electric vehicles and their lithium-ion batteries, as well as other related forms of high-capacity power storage, such as the big battery packs used by power generation stations nationwide. Here, too, production lines are bottlenecked, slowing

product availability, lengthening product waitlists and raising product prices.

Similar stories to these can be told about solar power cells; hydrogen fuel cells; steel, concrete and other housing materials; essential medical equipment; affordable cutting-edge pharmaceuticals; rare-earth metals; and a host of other essential inputs to modern life. If we want to end inflation and reclaim the mantle of ''workshop of the free world'' in one stroke, there can be no better way forward than to invest massively in restoring U.S. productive prowess.

It can be done. When Nazi Germany rolled over France in but six weeks in 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt demanded that our aircraft industry, which had produced just over 3,000 planes the previous year, produce at least 50,000 planes that year. Roosevelt then directly set about building the factories, in consultation with public officials and private-sector industries, to produce U.S. planes, ships, tanks, trucks, munitions, synthetic rubber and other materiel. The government then cheaply leased these facilities to manufacturers with plausible production plans, selling them once the war had been won.

Roosevelt also built entire neighborhoods for workers wishing to move near the new factories, schools for their children, clinics for their health and power lines for their domestic needs, making the United States the world's ''arsenal of democracy.''

This massive expansion provided the productive foundation for America's global economic leadership from the end of the war to the late 1970s. We lost that edge only when we began massively ''outsourcing'' in the 1980s and 1990s.

We have all the tools Roosevelt had. The president and White House Cabinet, in consultation with experts from industry, should plan a national reindustrialization across industries in every region of the country, and the Federal Financing Bank within Treasury can fund projects devised by all relevant federal agencies.

We can once again make the United States the world's workshop for democracy. That will reverse not only inflation, but also four decades of decline.

—Robert C. Hockett is a law professor at Cornell Law School.

2: STOP THE SPENDING

This surge in spending is a key driver of other prices

(By Brian Riedl)

A year ago, the Federal Reserve forecast that inflation would increase by 1.8 percent in 2021. Instead, consumer prices jumped 7 percent—the highest rate since 1982. Some of this unanticipated inflation was driven by knotty issues such as supply chain disruptions, rising energy prices, and shifts in demand to sectors with less capacity to maintain low prices.

Yet Washington poured gasoline on this fire by enacting the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan in March. This surge in spending is a key driver of higher prices faced by consumers. To combat it, lawmakers should begin paring back portions of the remaining $500 billion in scheduled spending from the rescue plan, put Biden's Build Back Better legislation on the back burner and resist new spending sprees.

The critics of Biden's rescue plan were ignored, mocked—and ultimately vindicated. A year ago, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the baseline economy would operate $420 billion below capacity in 2021, and then gradually close that output gap by 2025. Biden and congressional Democrats—believing that the Great Recession had been unnecessarily lengthened by insufficient stimulus—overlearned their lesson and decided to shoot a $1.9 trillion bazooka at a $420 billion output gap.

The problem is that once America's output capacity taps out, any additional stimulus will simply bring inflation rather than additional production—especially when financed in part by Federal Reserve bond purchases. Economists on the left and right warned lawmakers that ARP would accelerate inflation, with top Clinton and Obama White House economist Lawrence Summers leading the charge.

With the word ''trillion'' becoming commonplace, it is easy to downplay the sheer size of the American Rescue Plan. It is the most expensive spending law of the past 50 years, including the Cares Act approved under President Donald Trump.

In its first seven months, ARP spent $1.2 trillion—which exceeds the entire cost of the 2017 tax cuts from their enactment through the same late 2021 date. All this spending is on top of the December 2020 stimulus bill that poured in $900 billion.

The inflation damage created by Biden's stimulus would be more justifiable if it was necessary to end the pandemic. However, just 1 percent of its cost went toward vaccines and 5 percent had any direct relation to health care. Instead, the law gave state and local governments $350 billion for budget deficits that did not exist. Schools received $129 billion even as they sat on $50 billion in unused relief funds from earlier emergency bills. The unemployment bonuses were so large and self-defeating that 26 states took the rare step of refusing federal assistance and canceling the bonuses before they expired. Even the popular relief checks—which, combined with earlier checks, amounted to $11,400 for a typical family of four—contributed to the very inflation that ultimately eroded their value.

Moving forward, combating inflation requires addressing supply chains, reducing tariffs and gradually tightening Federal Reserve policy. Yet it makes no sense to push one foot on the gas and one foot on the brake. Lawmakers should explore options to pare back the $500 billion in scheduled ARP spending, such as rescinding extraneous assistance to K–12 education, businesses and private pension bailouts. They should also reject BBB legislation that would spend trillions more upfront, yet delays many of its disinflationary taxes until later years. BBB's subsidies and regulations would also drive drastic price increases in child care, and thus should be rejected.

—Brian Riedl is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

3: CONTROL THE COVID PANDEMIC

'Covid's fingerprints on inflation are unmistakable'

(By Claudia Sahm)

Consumer prices rose 7 percent in 2021—the fastest pace in 40 years—and covid deaths doubled to more than 800,000. These two facts are bound together. The solution to today's high inflation, as with labor shortages and supply chain disruptions, is clear: Contain the pandemic.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell agrees. Asked at his reconfirmation hearing by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D–Nev.) if he believes containing the pandemic is the best way to fight inflation, Powell said: ''I do. And imagine a world in which we no longer have to deal with the pandemic. . . . . We would quickly see the supply-side problems alleviate. We'd probably see significantly more labor supply. So these issues are still related to the pandemic.''

The data supports Powell and experts like me who focus on covid. As one example, economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco estimate that the price increases in the spending categories most sensitive to covid disruptions accounted for about half of the total inflation (excluding food and energy) before the pandemic. Now they account for three-quarters of it. Of course, what's pandemic-related and what's not is impossible to know for certain. But covid's fingerprints on inflation are unmistakable.

We do not have a monetary policy crisis. We have a covid crisis. In fact, up to this point, fiscal and monetary policy have been a relatively bright spot in the pandemic and notably better than after the Great Recession. Yes, inflation is high. Consumer spending, even with the higher prices, is strong. The unemployment rate dropped below 4 percent in December, less than two years after the recession began. Overall, the economy is moving rapidly in the right direction. But the pandemic is moving rapidly in the wrong direction with the omicron variant.

To fight inflation, the Biden White House must end the pandemic. The goals the administration set in January 2021, including ''expanding masking, testing, treatment, data, workforce and clear public health standards'' and ''protect[ing] those most at risk,'' are the right ones. Julia Raifman, a public health professor at Boston University, argues: ''That's what we need to do now that will help us navigate our way out of this pandemic. If we don't have that, we will continue to have the virus manage us.'' High inflation and labor shortages will continue too.

The White House must use all its influence to push business leaders, community organizers, members of Congress, governors and mayors across the political spectrum to join in these public health efforts. Instead, administration officials used their bully pulpit to bust a strike by the Chicago teachers union over a lack of coronavirus protections, saying that they ''do not believe people should be sitting at home'' and should go to unsafe workplaces. That won't solve our economic problems, but it will kill people.

The Fed is not ''behind the curve'' in fighting inflation. It's the White House that's behind on ''bending the curve'' of covid cases, and it's falling further behind every day.

—Claudia Sahm is the director of macroeconomic research at the Jain Family Institute.

4: INVEST IN CHILD CARE

Child-care policies 'can boost the capacity, productivity and the potential of our economy'

(By Lauren Melodia)

Although the unemployment rate is falling faster than expected, the pandemic continues to fundamentally disrupt our economy. Many people are choosing to remain out of the labor market altogether until public health conditions and disruptions subside, which in turn limits productive capacity and can raise prices. One policy that could address many of these issues across sectors at once has already passed the House and is waiting for Senate action: public investment in our child-care system.

Child care is the backbone of our economy and can enable all parents—who historically have some of the highest labor force participation rates across all genders, races and education levels—to get and keep a job. But as of 2018, many communities across the country are child-care deserts—a result of our nation's complex history of underfunding, undervaluing and under-compensating care work and women's labor more broadly.

The covid pandemic has further decimated this infrastructure. As of this time last year, 20,000 child-care providers were estimated to have permanently shut down. And yet ample evidence exists that access to even part-time day care and preschool programming has a

dramatic impact on parents' labor force participation.

Private markets and existing policies will not solve these problems on their own, for many reasons.

First, America's historical and continued reliance on unpaid care workers drives women's wages down throughout the economy. This is one of the major dynamics of the gender pay gap and makes the choice of paying for child care unaffordable for many families. Because care work traditionally done by women is unpaid, women are undervalued in the labor market—where they make 83 cents on the dollar to men. That disincentivizes them from entering the labor market. What results is a cycle in which women are unable to secure jobs that allow them to pay for the cost of child care, which in turn keeps the pay for child-care providers low.

Second, because of this dynamic, the child-care industry is built around low wages and thin, unsustainable profits that have contributed to the failure of the market to deliver a greater supply of child-care centers to meet demand.

Lastly, the government's existing consumer subsidies program, while making child care more affordable for many, has not resulted in the growth of the supply of child care. A 2021 Government Accountability Office report found that 78 percent of families eligible for child-care subsidies do not use them, often because there are no available spaces at local child-care facilities or because they live in a child-care desert.

By making supply-side child-care investments—building new child-care centers; offering loans and grants to existing or recently closed small-business child-care providers; and offering universal pre-K—we could both enable parents to reenter the workforce and create new jobs in child care. Those new jobs would disproportionately go to Black and Brown women, who have been hit hardest by the pandemic and are still suffering from some of the lowest employment rates. Black women, who historically have some of the highest labor force participation rates in the country, currently experience the largest gap (3.5 percent) in their employment rate, comparing December 2021 with pre-pandemic levels.

Many of these policies were passed by the House in the Build Back Better Act and are now on the table in the Senate. And once they are passed and implemented, we can boost the capacity, productivity and the potential of our economy and reduce future economic disruptions—all of which can be deflationary and stabilizing.

Insofar as today's inflation—or the fear of future inflation—is linked to labor market tightness or dynamics, investment in child care is critical for minimizing ongoing disruptions and expanding people's ability to work across all industries in our economy.

—Lauren Melodia is the deputy director of macroeconomic analysis at the Roosevelt Institute.

5: TAX WEALTHY INVESTORS

The richest 10 percent consume as much as the bottom 40 percent combined

(By William Spriggs)

The economy proved far less resilient to the shock of the global coronavirus crisis than most people had expected. We need to focus on measures that increase the supply of goods and target price inflation—particularly in markets where inequality is helping drive prices—rather than taking measures that would destroy jobs and weaken growth. One way to do so would be to raise capital gains taxes on investors and levy new taxes on income from stock dividends.

Consumption in America is currently extraordinarily ''top-heavy,'' meaning the wealthy consume far more than most people. In fact, the richest 10 percent consume as much as the bottom 40 percent combined, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Instead of taking measures that would hurt growth and cost jobs, policymakers could temper demand amid massive supply chain disruptions by slowing down the consumption of those at the very top with modest taxes on the rich.

A tax on short-term capital gains and dividends would disproportionately target wealthy Americans who are currently responsible for very high demand. This would alleviate the pressures on the supply chain without leading to a broader economic slowdown. Encouraging longer-term savings—and having companies retain earnings—will keep balance sheets strong and result in investments that can help the economy become more resilient.

It's worth stressing the potential danger of alternative approaches. Using the blunt instrument of raising interest rates, the tool of the Federal Reserve, would be an attempt at price controls. But that mechanism for lowering prices would broadly shrink demand across the income distribution. Lower demand would lower prices, at the cost of even lower production. In the case of automobiles, for instance, that would be disastrous, because the unprecedented spike in used-car prices is caused by the collapse in the current auto supply; domestic production in November was at 58 percent of its February 2020 level. We do not want to solve inflation by starving the economy and causing production to plummet.

Policymakers should remember that inflationary trends are caused in part by numerous factors outside higher demand, and we need to be careful if we are attempting to tame it. We have seen a rapid recovery in demand for consumer goods, but weak demand for services. This switch in consumption has helped protect employment by facilitating the movement of workers forced out of the service sector, but it comes with higher prices for some goods. In addition to exacting a devastating human toll, the lack of protections for workers has led to millions getting sick, creating disruptions that lead to supply shocks that drive up prices. And it's not clear exactly how broad-based inflation is. For instance, rental costs have been relatively stable—well within the Federal Reserve's target level for inflation—in another sign that price pressures have more to do with supply shocks and demand shifts than an overheating economy.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, maybe my friends on the other side of the aisle should take a look at this article. While I don't agree with all the ideas in here, at least this article has actual ideas to bring down inflation, instead of the Republican plan to write a book report on inflation to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that the American people deserve better. They deserve more than a book report. They deserve action that will make a positive difference in their lives.

I encourage my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule and vote ''no'' on the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Hill titled, ''Five actions Biden has taken in response to high gas prices.''

[From The Hill, Apr. 22, 2022]

FIVE ACTIONS BIDEN HAS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO HIGH GAS PRICES

(BY ZACK BUDRYK)

Gas prices are both a top concern for American consumers and a consistent drag on President Biden's approval rating, prompting the administration to take several measures to counter pain at the pump.

An ABC News/Ipsos poll in March indicated widespread approval for the president's decision to ban oil imports from Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, which Biden has warned could exacerbate energy costs. However, the same poll indicated 70 percent of respondents disapprove of Biden's handling of gas prices.

A number of factors impact gas prices, and experts note many of them are outside the White House's control. Still, the administration has taken several steps in hopes of providing some temporary or near-term relief.

Here are five actions the Biden administration has taken so far on gas prices:

1. RELEASING OIL FROM THE STRATEGIST RESERVE

Biden initially announced a release of 50 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in November in response to rising gas prices.

However, after a further spike around the time of Russia's invasion of Ukraine earlier this year, Biden announced another one-time release of 30 million barrels followed by an average daily release of 1 million barrels over the next six months—or about 180 million barrels overall.

Biden told reporters in late March that the price of gas ''could come down fairly significantly'' as a result of the move.

In the days after, gas prices fell about eight cents, according to AAA, although they have since crept up. However, during the same period, some regions of China imposed lockdowns in response to new COVID–19 outbreaks, which reduced overall demand.

''This is a wartime bridge to increase oil supply until production ramps up later this year. And it is by far the largest release from our national reserve in our history,'' Biden said as he announced the release. ''It will provide a historic amount of supply for a historic amount of time—a six-month bridge to the fall.''

2. REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ON SALE OF HIGHER-ETHANOL FUEL

In an executive order last week, Biden removed restrictions on the sale of E15, or fuel that is 15 percent ethanol, between June and September of this year.

Ethanol-heavy fuel is sold at a limited number of stations concentrated in corn-producing states, and sales are normally restricted during the summer months due to concerns that another mix, E10, could contribute to increased air pollution. Ethanol and renewable fuel industries, however, maintain that tailpipe emissions, rather than fuel volatility, is a bigger contributor to smog, and that E15 is less of a contributor than E10.

Biden administration officials projected at the time that the availability of E15 could save a family about 10 cents per gallon on average.

''This will also help us bridge towards real energy independence and implementing the emergency fuel waiver the [Environmental Protection Agency] EPA will work with states across the country to ensure there are no significant air quality impacts in the summer driving season,'' an official said on a call with reporters. ''EPA is also considering additional action to facilitate the use of E15 year-round, including continued discussions with states who have expressed interest in allowing year-round use of E15.''

3. ASKING OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

The U.S. has appealed to members of OPEC to step up production and exports to cover demand, including Saudi Arabia in particular.

However, this plan has encountered difficulties due to the rocky Washington-Riyadh relationship.

The Biden administration has faced tensions with the Saudis due to America's vocal criticism of the Gulf kingdom's human rights record, particularly the Yemen civil war and the 2018 killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Meanwhile, human rights advocates have called it inconsistent to seek closer ties with Saudi Arabia while seeking to isolate Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

''I hate that the Biden administration has to figure out how to leverage our relationship with Saudi Arabia to get them to do that so that my constituents aren't being squeezed at the pump,'' Rep. Tom Malinowski (D–N.J.) told reporters in March.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who numerous intelligence agencies have concluded ordered Khashoggi's killing, reportedly refused a call from Biden soon after the Russian invasion. White House press secretary Jen Psaki has denied the report.

4. PRESSURING U.S. OIL COMPANIES

Republicans have vocally blamed the Biden administration's energy policies, in particular an executive order freezing new oil and gas leasing on public lands, for gas prices and insufficient supply.

That pause has been in limbo since a court order halting it last summer, and the Biden administration last Friday officially announced a forthcoming lease sale.

In the meantime, however, the administration has sought to shift the blame to oil companies and accused them of gouging customers, pointing to the industry's numerous currently unused leases, which include some 9,000 approved drilling permits.

Biden has called for Congress to enact a ''use it or lose it'' policy that would impose fees on companies that do not make use of their leased land.

''I have no problem with corporations turning a good profit. But companies have an obligation that goes beyond just their shareholders to their customers, their communities and their country,'' Biden told reporters in late March. ''No American company should take advantage of a pandemic or [Russian President] Vladimir Putin's actions to enrich themselves at the expense of American families.''

5. PROMOTING THE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Amid concrete steps to bring down consumer prices, the Biden administration has emphasized the necessity for increased support and infrastructure for renewable fuels, saying the current market illustrates the need for less volatile resources.

In a fact sheet distributed to reporters, the administration presented its steps to increase access to clean energy as a key tenet of its response to gas prices.

Specifically, officials pointed to sales of offshore wind leases, with a goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind installed by the end of the decade. Officials further cited the Interior Department's road map this week that sets a target of doubling clean energy permits, with a goal of 25 gigawatts installed by 2025.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, President Biden has taken steps to lower prices at the pump for the American people. Since prices began to rise, President Biden released 50 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, removed restrictions on the sale of higher ethanol fuel, and called out oil companies for taking advantage of their customers, communities, and their country. He also continues to promote a transition to renewable energy.

So President Biden has acted to try to lower prices. My Republican colleagues cannot do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I will say finally that we have some serious challenges in this country. Inflation is one of them. The idea that after all the buildup, after all the talk of, We have a comprehensive plan to fight inflation. This is it? This is it?

This is an embarrassment, Mr. Speaker. There are things that we can do together to lower costs for the American people. A book report doesn't lower the cost for anybody.

□ 1230

By the way, under this bill, the book report that is required for executive orders, it is not even required to be published. They could write a book report, and no one gets to see it.

I mean, this is not what the American people had hoped for. They had hoped we would come together and kind of rally around ideas that would actually make a difference in their lives.

So, yeah. You can pass this and say, we just passed this big plan to fight inflation and then hope that nobody realizes that you did nothing.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, this is a missed opportunity. This was a time, quite frankly, where committees of jurisdiction should have come together, done hearings, heard ideas, Republican ideas and Democratic ideas, and taken the best of them and brought them to the floor; ideas that would have made a difference in people's lives. This does nothing. This does nothing.

So I guess you can tweet out that you voted for a book report on inflation and hope that your constituents will think that somehow you accomplished something big, but I would say that my constituents certainly would not be satisfied with this.

Mr. Speaker, all this talk about bringing down the deficit—and do I need to remind everybody that the first Republican bill passed this year when we came into the majority, their first bill added $114 billion to the national debt. I mean, come on.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Hill titled, ''CBO: GOP's IRS bill will add $114 billion to deficit.''

[From The Hill, Jan. 9, 2023]

CBO: GOP'S IRS BILL WILL ADD $114B TO DEFICIT

(By Mike Lillis and Aris Folley)

The Republican proposal to eliminate billions of dollars in IRS funding will pile more than $100 billion onto federal deficits, according to a new estimate from Congress's official budget scorekeeper.

The bill, which is slated to hit the House floor Monday night as the first legislative act of the new GOP majority, would claw back most of the almost $80 billion in new IRS funding provided under the Democrats' massive climate, health and tax package, which was signed by President Biden last year.

Almost $46 billion of that spending would go toward agency enforcement efforts designed to prevent certain taxpayers—largely corporations and wealthy individuals—from paying less than they owe.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated Monday that the legislation would cut federal spending by $71 billion, but would reduce tax revenue to the tune of almost $186 billion. The net effect would be a $114 billion increase in deficits over the next decade.

The numbers were not overlooked by Democrats, who wasted no time hammering Republicans for vowing to rein in deficit spending, then defying that promise in their first act of business.

''It's a giant tax cut for rich tax cheats,'' White House chief of staff Ron Klain tweeted on Monday. ''Bill #1 from the new House GOP. Adds to the deficit.''

Republicans had made the IRS funding cut a top promise on the midterm campaign trail, warning that the money would lead to the hiring of 87,000 new tax collectors to target middle-income Americans. Some Republicans said those agents would be armed.

Those claims were highly misleading, however, as much of the funding will go to hire thousands of customer service agents and other employees with no auditing responsibilities. And the 87,000 figure is a reference to the total number of employees—not just auditors—the IRS hopes to hire over the next decade, when 52,000 workers are expected to retire.

Additionally, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said that, while the new funding is crucial to streamline processing and eliminate the backlog of returns, the agency will not increase audit rates for those taxpayers making less than $400,000.

Still, few government agencies are less popular than the IRS, and the Republican message appeared to resonate with the GOP base.

''On our very first bill, we're going to repeal 87,000 IRS agents,'' Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R–Calif.), who was newly elected as Speaker, said last year as he unveiled the Republicans' agenda. ''Our job is to work for you, not go after you.''

Zach Moller, who previously worked as a Senate Democratic budget aide, says the GOP's bill would violate previous House rules targeting legislation that would add to the deficit, known as PAYGO, that were in effect when Democrats held control.

Under the prior rules, Moller explained, it wouldn't be in order for lawmakers to ''have a bill on the floor that increases the deficit over the first five or seven or first 10 years.'' The PAYGO rules were often waived, but aimed at fiscal responsibility, Moller said.

The Republican majority is expected on Monday to pass a new set of rules governing the new Congress, to include a so-called ''CUTGO'' rule that exempts tax cuts from the deficit spending prohibitions.

Mr. McGOVERN. So anyway, look, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question, and again, I want to repeat that.

The reason why you want to vote ''no'' is because the previous question basically would allow us to bring up an amendment that basically says it is not the intention of this House to do anything to cut Social Security or Medicare.

My friends, they are all upset, notwithstanding their rhetoric, that they want to go after Social Security and Medicare.

Yeah, they were all upset that they were being called out on their words. Well, here is an opportunity to put

that to rest; very, very simple. We are not going to cut Social Security. We are not going to cut Medicare.

So if you vote ''no'' on the previous question, we can do that. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule, ''no'' on the underlying bill.

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

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

You know, driving to the airport early Monday morning on the way back up here for another week in Washington, the price of gas was $3 a gallon in Texas in February.

Now, that is bad news because by the time you get to Memorial Day, the peak of the summer driving season, gasoline is always a dollar more than it is in February.

So, look. The President was able to bring the price of gas down artificially by depleting our emergency reserve, and who does that? Who does that?

Who spends all of their emergency funds and says, ''Good on me. I brought the prices down,'' when you didn't do anything to increase the supply?

Now, here is the good news. One of the reasons we aren't surrounded by a lot of our colleagues right now on the floor of the House debating this rule is because Members, both Democrats and Republicans, are in committees, in the committees of jurisdiction, doing the actual work.

I left a markup from the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Subcommittee on Energy, looking at ways to increase our supply of energy to do what? To bring down the cost of energy for consumers.

That seems like a logical thing to do. We see what the administration's response was. It was to sign an executive order to say, we are going to cut off a pipeline so you can't bring any more product into the United States.

You can't ship that product from Canada down to Port Arthur, Texas, and refine it with Texas jobs. No. They cut that off. As a consequence, it has to be made up somewhere else.

The good news is we didn't run out, and there is additional supply. There is additional energy to be pumped, harvested certainly in the Permian Basin and the Delaware Basin of Texas.

The good news is that producers, a lot of small and independent producers, are doing just that.

So rather than having to go hat in hand to OPEC or OPEC+—I guess, now because they added Russia to OPEC—rather than having to go to a dictator in Venezuela, you can buy your oil and gas from the United States of America.

Who is doing that? Well, Germany is doing that. They hastened the development of several LNG offshoring plants so that they could bring in that Texas product to heat the homes of Germans who have been cut off by Vladimir Putin in an attempt to starve Europe for energy during the Ukraine war.

You know, one of these bills that we are debating, the rule that we are debating will allow a bill to come to the floor for debate on looking into the cost of executive orders.

I already referenced one of those executive orders; one done on the very first day of the Biden administration, which was to negate the Keystone pipeline, but there were others.

The Committee for Responsible Budget actually has calculated a total of $1.1 trillion in executive orders in the last 2 years and 2 months since this President has taken office.

Digging into the numbers—and, of course, it will be a big story over at the Supreme Court later this week—but the President wants to cancel student loan debt; that is $750 billion.

Shouldn't that be a consequence that is argued in Congress? It is not done just through an executive order.

Look, we wisely rejected a monarchy, and we said we want government with the consent of the governed. That means that all of the decisions do not flow from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

By virtue of the fact that we have a divided government, the people's House is supposed to weigh in on these decisions.

They are not made unilaterally by the President of the United States, which, by definition, is what an executive order is.

So we have $185 billion in increased staff benefits. Maybe good; maybe not. The gentleman from Massachusetts and I agree on programs that tackle hunger in this country, but shouldn't we as Members of the people's House have the opportunity to debate that rather than the decision simply made by one individual down at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue?

We already talked about the Keystone pipeline. Canceling ANWR. Canceling ANWR, the exploration and development of oil in that plain in Alaska, which has been—honest Injun.

If Clinton had not prevented that, if President Clinton had not prevented that in 1997, that would be a producing field today that would reduce our trade deficit, to be sure.

So we would be able to produce American energy but also would have had a profound effect on the budget because, in fact, Mr. Speaker, you will recall it was a budget bill that year where President Clinton then blocked the development in the ANWR.

What about repealing President Trump's rules on the waters of the United States and the NEPA streamlining rules?

All of these things have been done as executive orders since this President took office, and the consequence, the fiscal consequence, the downstream consequence has been profound.

So, look. I want to encourage everyone in the House today to support these measures when they come to the floor.

If you want to remake financial markets, you can't do that by congressional fiat. You have to have the courage to bring that measure to the floor for a vote.

I would encourage Members additionally to support the REIN IN Act, and this measure will act as an important check on the Biden administration, forcing President Biden to grapple with the harm that his executive orders are inflicting on the long-suffering American people.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans remain united in pursuing legislative policies that put the American people at the forefront, put them ahead of the special interests, put them ahead of the army of lawyers and lobbyists that occupy this town. Let's put the people of America first.

The text of the material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 166

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 178) affirming the House of Representatives' commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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 question are postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes 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:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 166; and

Adoption of House Resolution 166, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 347, REDUCE EXACERBATED INFLATION NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE NATION ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 30, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO ''PRUDENCE AND LOYALTY IN SELECTING PLAN INVESTMENTS AND EXERCISING SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 166) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 213, nays 201, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 122]

YEAS—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—201

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Bush
Castro (TX)
Cleaver
Crane
Davis (IL)
Garcia (IL)
Goldman (NY)
Issa
Joyce (OH)
Kuster
Letlow
Lofgren
Luttrell
Mrvan
Norman
Sarbanes
Steube
Wild
Williams (TX)

□ 1353

Ms. TITUS, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mses. HOULAHAN, CLARKE of New York, Messrs. CORREA, BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mses. KAPTUR, DELAURO, and Mr. COURTNEY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 122.

Stated against:

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 122.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 205, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 123]

AYES—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer

Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—205

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Castro (TX)
Cleaver
Crane
Davis (IL)
García (IL)
Joyce (OH)
Lofgren
Luttrell
Sarbanes
Steube
Weber (TX)
Wild
Williams (TX)

□ 1401

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO ''PRUDENCE AND LOYALTY IN SELECTING PLAN INVESTMENTS AND EXERCISING SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS''

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 166, I call up joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights,'' and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 30

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights'' (87 Fed. Reg. 73822 (December 1, 2022)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 30, a Congressional Review Act resolution nullifying the Biden administration's attempt to politicize the retirement savings of Americans.

ESG investing puts the future of millions of Americans in jeopardy. Due to Biden's reckless economic policies, too many Americans are worried about the rising costs of living. Diverting retirement savings to fund social justice causes will make this problem even worse. For current retirees, the situation is especially salient.

Last year, the Biden Department of Labor published a rule allowing retirement plan fiduciaries to consider environmental, social, and governance, ESG, factors for making investment decisions and exercising shareholder rights.

The rule removed commonsense protections for retirement savings established by the Trump administration, which ensured that retirement plan fiduciaries evaluate investments and exercise shareholder rights based only on the financial benefits to participants and beneficiaries. That is what retirement savers expect.

Now, thanks to Democrats, workers can be placed into ESG investment vehicles by default. If a fiduciary finds that two investments are equal, the fiduciary is allowed to use collateral ESG factors to break the tie without justifying or documenting that decision.

While my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have argued that the Biden rule is neutral, they have done a poor job of hiding the administration's true intentions.

The Department issued the rule in response to two executive orders on climate change and the explanation of the rule is littered with Democrats' preferred political projects, such as labor relations, climate change, and workforce and corporate diversity.

Further, DOL officials have repeatedly stated that they will pursue additional actions concerning ESG and retirement plans.

The left is using ESG investment criteria as a political tool to cudgel companies into accepting leftist policies. This is how the left always operates. This is just the first step.

If we let this continue, the left will use ESG investing to push noncompliant companies out of the marketplace. This is pernicious and it is hypocritical.

It is unacceptable to encourage fiduciaries to sacrifice the savings of Americans to the orthodoxy of the woke left. In fact, this is prohibited under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, ERISA, as affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Yet, the Biden administration's rule permitting and encouraging retirement plan fiduciaries to consider ESG when investing workers' savings flips ERISA on its head.

By paving the way for ESG investing in employer-sponsored retirement plans, President Biden is threatening the retirement savings of Americans. Such a fundamental change to ERISA should be debated and considered in Congress, not enacted through executive fiat illegally. Americans invest to secure their future, not to fund the Green New Deal or leftist pet projects.

Fiduciaries governed by ERISA should not be allowed to make investments they know will not pay off. A fiduciary's most important responsibility is to make investments that are in the financial interests of workers and retirees.

It is time to stop this madness. That is why I support the resolution to nullify the Biden administration's destructive retirement plan rule.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to put workers and retirees above politics and vote for this resolution.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 30, a Congressional Review Act joint resolution of disapproval to nullify a popular and sensible rule issued by the Biden-Harris administration last year.

Workers should be able to invest their retirement savings in a way that reflects their values, such as combating climate change, without sacrificing investment returns.

That is why the Biden-Harris administration issued a rule to clarify that retirement plan fiduciaries may consider the economic effects of climate change and other environmental, social, and governance factors, or ESG factors, when they make investment decisions for participants in retirement plans.

Now, to be clear, this rule is not an ESG mandate.

Additionally, the rule does not change the fiduciary standard to which professionals who make investment decisions for retirement plans are bound. They must still prioritize the interests of retirement plan participants and cannot sacrifice investment returns to pursue ESG goals.

Let's be clear. Consideration of ESG factors is not at odds with making a profit. In fact, workers' profit is still central, but if a company has negative externalities, such as carbon-intensive business practices, vulnerability to sea level rise, high liability risks, or a record of mistreating workers who may go on strike, its stock could suffer in the long term.

□ 1415

Workers often contribute to their retirement for decades before drawing down on their savings, so it makes sense that retirement plan beneficiaries must consider the long-term time horizon when making investment decisions.

Finally, there is widespread support for the Biden-Harris administration's rule. Of the comment letters submitted on the proposed rule, 83 percent of the letters submitted by institutions like corporations, financial firms, and labor organizations supported the rule.

Over 97 percent of the letters submitted by individuals supported the rule. Simply put, the Biden-Harris rule reflects the best interests of the American people and our economy.

We should not get rid of this popular and reasonable rule by this resolution. The rule just simply allows retirement plan fiduciaries to appropriately consider ESG factors.

Retirement fiduciaries, not House Republicans, are best positioned and bound by law to make prudent investment decisions on behalf of retirement savers.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), the originator of this CRA.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, the chairwoman of the committee, for her leadership in fighting the politicization of capital allocation and the politicization of retirement savings.

Mr. Speaker, today House Republicans stand on the side of retail investors. We stand up for millions of Americans around the country who are increasingly asking themselves this simple question: When will I be able to retire?

This Congressional Review Act measure that I am offering is a bipartisan, bicameral joint resolution, disapproving of a Department of Labor rulemaking that will politicize Americans' retirement accounts and jeopardize their retirement security.

This measure simply states that retirement plan sponsors be required to prioritize maximum financial returns for investors ahead of nonpecuniary factors like environmental, social, and governance standards, a political agenda.

We do so in a moment where one in five Americans have saved nothing for their retirement, including one in three baby boomers, the generation closest to retirement.

We do so in a moment when 78 percent of Americans are either extremely or somewhat concerned about affording a comfortable retirement.

We do so in a moment where the gap between the amount of money that Americans have saved for retirement and the amount that they will need for retirement is $3.8 trillion.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, Congress must act to block the Biden administration's recent rule that green-lights so-called ESG investing in millions of Americans' retirement plans, plowing them into less diversified, higher fees, and lower-performing portfolios at precisely the time that we need to maximize financial security for Americans approaching retirement.

So let's consider the facts. According to a recent Wall Street Journal report, ESG funds carry 43 percent higher fees than non-ESG funds.

That is what they want. They want Americans to be forced into higher fee funds. A recent study from NYU and the University of Southern California found that over the past 5 years, global ESG funds have underperformed the broader market by 250 basis points per year, an average of 2.6 percent lower return than non-ESG funds.

This stands to reason because ESG funds are, by design, less diversified. This is investing 101.

When you discriminate against energy stocks, and you are heavy in tech, when you are in a tech sell-off, and when energy underperforms the market, who loses? The American retail investor who is unwittingly invested in these fraudulent, cancerous funds.

This means that an investor who put $10,000 into an average global ESG fund in 2017 would have realized a $1,750 lower return than if they had invested in the broader market.

While some of my friends on the other side of the aisle argue that ESG investing is actually driven by investors themselves, not ideologues at asset management firms and the White House who want to push their environmental or social causes at the expense of retail investors, a 2021 study conducted by the University of Chicago and FINRA proves investors largely do not care.

Mr. Speaker, 21 percent of investors don't even know what ESG stands for. Is that popular? Is that what popular ESG is?

And this neutrality nonsense. Look, nobody is saying you can't invest based on your values, but this bill would steer people unwittingly into these funds.

The status quo does not deny people to invest based on their values. It just says that the default has to be to maximize returns.

So, Mr. Speaker, this debate today is not about investor protection. It is about the ability of investors to maximize returns.

It is also about energy security. Even if you don't have a retirement account, this radical ESG movement is hitting your wallet.

Since President Biden took office, his administration has waged a war on

American energy production; not just holding up leases or blocking infrastructure, but through financial regulation and the weaponization of financial regulation to divert resources and capital and financing away from the American energy sector.

There has been a 25 percent decline in investment in natural gas and in oil investments since 2021, and the result? Gas prices are up 40 percent, and diesel prices are almost double.

Household energy costs hit a 10-year high this winter, costing average American families $1,200, according to a report from the National Energy Assistance Directors Association.

These price hikes and the decline in investment in our energy supply come at the exact time that the Biden administration itself estimates that by 2050, almost half of our Nation's energy supply will be made up of oil and natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, we need more, not less, capital investment and financing of American energy.

I implore the administration. It is time for you to end your assault on energy production that is fueling 40-year high inflation.

We, as Members of Congress, cannot allow this administration to continue to perpetrate their war on American energy at the expense of investors.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), the co-chair of the Congressional Sustainable Investment Caucus.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, more than half of U.S. electricity came from coal. Today, it is less than 20 percent.

We now generate more energy from renewables than from coal. This isn't anti-energy. It is about cheap energy.

In 2022, last year, 10 percent of all vehicle sales in the United States were EVs. That was up from 6 percent the year before, 2 percent the year before that.

ExxonMobil and Chevron today are trading at about 8 to 9 times their earnings. I would compare that to companies like First Solar and Tesla that are trading to 40 to 60 times earnings.

Let me dumb this down for you all. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, if you shifted your investment portfolio away from fossil energy toward climate-friendly investments, you would be richer today.

Now, my Republican colleagues, you all talk a good game about how you are into personal freedom, and yet you are taking individual investors' freedom away from them with this bill.

You all talk a good game about how government should not be picking winners and losers. Why do you all keep picking losers?

In 2011, a guy named Hugo Chavez redirected Venezuelan oil worker pensions into a Ponzi scheme run by a political ally.

My Republican colleagues a couple weeks ago voted to oppose socialism in all its form. I am thinking that Hugo Chavez guy seems pretty smart. Let's do the same thing.

You know what you call capitalism when you are losing? Woke capitalism.

So if you all are afraid of free markets, if you want to destroy workers' pensions, if you oppose individual freedom, if you want to force your constituents to invest in proven losers, then please vote for this resolution. Be honest about your values.

For everyone else, vote ''no.'' I plan to do so proudly and honestly.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 years, one thing has become clear: This administration cares more about advancing its radical Green New Deal agenda than about the financial well-being of the American people.

We have seen it with their energy policy, but the latest example is the Biden administration's rule to inject woke ESG factors into workers' retirement accounts.

Thanks to President Biden's economic policies, workers' retirement savings were down 10 percent in 2022 compared to 2021. Why is this administration doubling down to further jeopardize Americans' retirement?

Retirement plan sponsors have two responsibilities to their clients: maximize returns and minimize risk. The Biden rule would allow asset managers to impose a political agenda on Americans at the expense of retirement savings.

The Biden administration should not be jeopardizing Americans' retirement by allowing plan managers to gamble their savings on ESG funds that have proven to be riskier and charge steeper fees.

That is why I cosponsored this bill with my friend, ANDY BARR, to use our authority to nullify the Biden rule and protect Americans' hard-earned retirement savings from politically motivated mismanagement.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Department of Labor's environmental, social, and governance rule is good for retirees, and it is good for the American economy.

Allowing ESG considerations can help financial professionals identify investments that will be sustainable in the long term and in the best interest of their clients.

The rule is not an ESG mandate. It simply clarifies that the professionals who make investment decisions for retirement plans do not violate their fiduciary duties by merely considering ESG factors.

Existing law already says that these professionals' primary purpose is to make the best financial choices for the plans, and this rule does not change that at all.

It merely is a recognition that if a company is inherently risky because of the business they do or their internal practices, its stock could suffer in the long run.

Just like American consumers can be motivated to disinvest from companies that pollute or mistreat their workers, now investors will have the same abilities.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, I have seen overwhelming support for this rule, especially from the financial industry.

Rolling it back would be a significant step backward. I strongly oppose H.J. Res. 30 and encourage all Members to do the same so they can leave retirement plan decisions to the retirees and the professionals they respect and they work with.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today the House can repeal a policy from the Department of Labor that harms Americans who simply want to save for retirement.

This new rule from the Biden administration says that investment decisions in employer-sponsored retirement plans can be based on climate change and other environmental, social, or governance factors.

So typically without the knowledge of the retirees, their investment funds can be invested in underperforming investments that subsidize unreliable and unaffordable energy.

Congress never originally intended for 401Ks to be used to advance the priorities of the phony climate movement or to push a social justice agenda.

They were simply intended to help people to have the resources they need in retirement. If ESG-based stocks are higher performing, they would get those investment dollars anyway without this new rule.

But Americans inherently know that investing should be about evaluating risk and return from a financial point of view.

Hardworking Americans want to know their investments have strong economic fundamentals that will help them build wealth over a lifetime of work.

If Congress is successful in overturning this rule, the investing standard will return to one based on financial factors only.

It is bad enough that Bidenflation has eroded the spending power of many retirement savings accounts. Matter of fact, the average retirement account is down 30 percent over the last 2 years.

Many retirees are having to change their retirement plans or to downsize or to work longer. There is even an increase in the number of Americans who

are borrowing or withdrawing from the retirement accounts before retirement, just trying to make ends meet.

□ 1430

Still, the Department of Labor used executive fiat to leverage trillions of dollars that would be vested in retirement plans to advance their woke agenda that can't pass Congress.

With this vote, Congress can put some checks and balances to work for the American people, and I urge my colleagues in the House and the Senate to protect the retirement plans of hardworking Americans by voting for this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 30.

When we, as Americans, are given the opportunity to know what investments to make, the kind of investments that we can make, and the kind of impacts that they will have, that matters. That choice should always be with each one of us. The investments that we make might have an impact on the rest of the world.

Many of us would be outraged if we knew that our investments went toward forced labor activities in China and other parts of the world. Yet, this resolution would make it difficult for hardworking Americans to determine what investments are being made in their name.

Our constituents deserve the freedom to access this information and to have the right to ensure that their money is being invested in a way that is aligned with their values.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution and protect the rights of Americans to make financial and moral decisions about the kind of investments that they want their retirement to be made of.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am glad this House joint resolution is before us today. We continue to march toward a different sort of government, and part of that different sort of government is the ESG ideology being imposed or encouraged on America's corporations.

This is an ideological push on corporations, of which there is too much already. Already, particularly big corporations have seminars giving the leftwing view of the environment, the leftwing view of race, the leftwing view of agenda.

This is to further push down on them and say: Here you are, Mr. Big Corporation. We will give you a nice pat on the back if you use all of your stockholders' money to promote a political agenda.

Obviously, that should be offensive to any freedom-loving person in America.

Of course, in addition to that, studies from UCLA and New York University show that the average corporation that engages in this ESG stuff, their market goes up 6.3 percent instead of 8.9 percent, so the shareholders have to pay a price.

To me, secondarily to the shareholders paying a price is this pound, pound, pound that we already get from the universities, that we already get from the popular culture and Hollywood, and now we have to get it from big business, that the traditional, freedom-loving moral values of America are something to be stepped aside, and we, big corporate America, are going to ingratiate ourselves to the leftwing bureaucrats in Washington by following the ESG standards.

I am very grateful that my good friend from North Carolina has let me give this speech, and I sincerely hope everybody stands up for freedom.

The other side of the aisle would not like it if the people who decide what ESG was, was written by JIM JORDAN, okay? Maybe someday that will happen. I don't know.

I liked it better when the big corporations stayed out of this thing, but you want to put the sword over their throat and say: This is the view of the world that you must adopt. You must have seminars and shove it down the throats of your employees.

It will be a bad day for America if this thing doesn't pass.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS), a cochair of the Congressional Sustainable Investment Caucus.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, many times, things around here get topsy-turvy. We have a group here involved in an anticapitalist crusade against free-market principles, attempting to prevent financial institutions from allocating capital in accordance with investors' preferences and risk management priorities.

Under their proposed resolution, investment advisers can no longer consider environmental, social, and governance factors that materially impact a company's performance and bottom line. That means that your hard-earned dollars cannot be adequately invested because you, the American worker, are now exposed to greater risk.

It is interesting it doesn't say that you must invest in ESG. All that the Biden administration says is that you can if you want to.

Whatever happened to capitalistic ideals that you should be able to invest in what you want? You are trying to force people to say: No, you cannot invest looking at a strategy of ESG.

That doesn't make any sense at all. It doesn't make any sense at all. It is anticapitalistic. It is antimarket. We should not support this resolution.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN).

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, he is at it again. President Biden's war on America's energy continues.

It started on day one with the cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline, and 2 years later, this administration is pushing environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, to clog America's oil and gas production.

The Department of Labor is seeking to weaponize American retirement funds as part of President Biden's anti-fossil fuel agenda, all at the expense of your retirement savings. ESG requirements not only exacerbate high energy costs but also contribute to inflationary woes and weaken our national security.

To be clear, ESG is more government control. ESG is less freedom for Americans. ESG simply is a woke capitalist scam posing as responsible corporate governance, which robs Americans of their hard-earned retirement investments.

It is time to stand against the progressive mob, which only wants an inch but seems to take a mile. Today, we are going to say no. We are going to draw the line and say it ends now.

It is time to stand against the progressive mob and safeguard our Nation's energy independence from the outstretched claws of ESG. A correct vote on the bill today is ''yes,'' as a ''yes'' vote today says no to ESG.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this misguided resolution, which will tie the hands of investors from doing their jobs and will hurt the retirement savings of millions of hardworking Americans.

The evidence is clear. Companies that adopt thoughtful policies to manage their environmental, social, and governance risks outperform those that don't. I will say that again. Companies that have thoughtful policies to manage their environmental, social, and governance risks outperform those that don't.

Don't believe me? Ask the shareholders of BP, whose stock fell more than 50 percent after the Gulf oilspill, wiping out billions of dollars of shareholder value; or Volkswagen, whose stock fell 45 percent after they were caught cheating on emissions tests.

How about Norfolk Southern? They are in the news lately. Their stock is tanking because of their inattention to managing the safety of their operations.

The fact is that environmental, social, and governance issues are financially material to company performance. Any investor who knows what they are doing would be foolish to ignore those factors.

I know this because, as State treasurer and as an investor in the private sector, I have spent the last 10 years studying corporate performance. ESG issues matter.

Even if you don't agree with me, even if you think that environmental and social issues are not material to performance, you ought to at least believe

that, in a free market, investors should have the power to make their own decisions and to choose which factors they think are material or not.

Let them use their professional judgment. Don't try to police what investors are thinking when they are making decisions.

Why is it that the Republican majority, which claims to be the party of limited government and free markets, is abandoning its free-market principles and trying to dictate to investors what they have to think? It makes no sense.

If anyone was wondering what this is about, it is not about free markets. It is not, certainly, about protecting workers' retirement security.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. MAGAZINER. I will just say again, let's be honest about what this debate is really about. It is not about protecting worker retirement savings. If we were serious about that, we would be saying that ESG is material and should be considered.

It is not about free-market principles.

Could it be that it has to do with the oil and gas industry pouring tens of millions of dollars into campaign accounts on the Republican side? Could that be what is driving this?

Well, I think we see now where the priorities of our colleagues on the Republican side lie—not with workers, not with free-market principles, but with doing the bidding of the oil and gas industry.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't understand the existing law and what this resolution does and what the Department of Labor's new rule is, or whether they are just trying to confuse the listeners and watchers here today because the truth is that this is not material for the vast majority of Americans.

The studies show that most Americans don't even know what ESG is. To the extent Americans do find it material, nothing in this resolution prohibits an American from allocating their capital the way they want to.

What this resolution will do is stop the Department of Labor from coercing Americans into lower performing, higher fee, less diversified, politicized funds. We must stop the politicization of allocation of capital.

When my friend from Illinois says: Well, why are Republicans picking losers? Really?

In 2022, the S&P 500 energy sector ended the year a whopping 59 percent higher than where it started. Amid a brutal bear market in which the S&P 500 overall lost 20 percent, if you were invested in ESG in 2022, you were a massive loser because you were divested from energy.

Stop the politicization of capital. If you want to give Americans freedom to choose what is material for them in investing, vote against the Department of Labor rule, which would conceal what the Department of Labor is doing, which is steering Americans into investments that have political values that they disagree with.

Give Americans true transparency. Go back to the Department of Labor rule under the Trump administration, which says the default should always be consistent with ERISA, maximizing financial performance.

If you want an alternative, if you want to subordinate financial returns to the environment, to climate change, to social justice, to whatever, and you really don't care about your retirement security, then you can choose that.

Let the American investor decide, and the default should always be maximum investor returns.

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

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

It is a little ironic that our side of the aisle is being accused of being anti-capitalist and anti-free market. I would like to clarify for the record the content of the Trump Department of Labor rule on retirement plan ESG investing.

Under the Trump rule, if a fiduciary finds that an ESG factor is a pecuniary or financial factor, it can be considered when investing and exercising shareholder rights.

□ 1445

Here are a few excerpts of the Trump rule, to set the record straight:

''Nothing in the final rule is intended to or does prevent a fiduciary from appropriately considering any material risk with respect to an investment.''

Another quote: ''The ERISA fiduciary duty of prudence requires portfolio-level attention to risk and return objectives reasonably suited to the purpose of the account, diversification, cost sensitivity, documentation, and ongoing monitoring.''

''The proposal was not intended to suggest that these principles apply other than neutrally to all investment decisions. . . . ''

To suggest that the Trump rule barred a fiduciary from appropriately considering any factor that may be material to an investment is blatantly false. If anything, the Trump rule was neutral as to the prudent decisions of fiduciaries.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. Speaker, during this debate, we have heard a lot about ESG investing. It is clear there is a difference of opinion on it, but whether Members of Congress see things the same way is not the point.

What matters is that the Biden-Harris rule puts the decisionmaking when it comes to considering ESG factors where it belongs, in the hands of retirement plan fiduciaries who are best positioned and bound by law, which has not changed, to act prudently on behalf of plan participants. That is where the decisionmaking should stay.

They, not Members of Congress, know what is in the best interests of their plan participants, and they are bound by their fiduciary responsibilities to do the right thing.

Now, when supporters say that a fiduciary should not consider nonpecuniary factors, they ignore the fact that ESG factors can, in fact, be pecuniary, because often ESG factors, such as sea level rise, can have a profound effect on the value of the investment. Those who recognize this should be able to make reasonable investments based on that knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD several letters from organizations opposed to H.J. Res. 30. Eighty-three percent of institutions that submitted comments were in favor of the underlying rule. These organizations, who are opposed to H.J. Res. 30, include the AFL–CIO, Americans for Financial Reform, Public Citizen, SEIU, Environmental Defense Fund, League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, and others.

AFL–CIO,
LEGISLATIVE ALERT,
February 16, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL–CIO, we urge you to oppose the Congressional Review Act joint resolution that has been introduced by Sen. Mike Braun and Rep. Andy Barr to disapprove of the Department of Labor's recently adopted rule ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights'' (SJ. Res. 8, HJ. Res. 30).

The Department of Labor's rule clarifies that private sector retirement plan fiduciaries may consider environmental, social and governance (''ESG'') factors when making plan investments or voting proxies. The rule does not require that retirement plan fiduciaries consider ESG factors, it simply acknowledges the fact that ESG factors may be relevant to investment returns.

Indeed, the consideration of ESG factors helps protect the hard-earned retirement savings of working people. ESG risks are particularly relevant for long-term investors, such as retirement plans, who are investing over the expected lifespans of their participants and beneficiaries. For this reason, ignoring ESG risks to an investment portfolio may be financially imprudent.

Contrary to what some would have you believe, investment professionals' consideration of ESG factors is not limited to environmental risks, such as climate change. Social issues such as respect for workers' rights and governance issues such as having responsible executive compensation can also impact sustainable investment returns.

The rule affirms that proxy votes should be cast in the best interests of plan participants and beneficiaries, thereby giving workers' retirement savings a voice in corporate decision making. The rule also ensures that the default investment for defined contribution

plans is the best option available regardless of whether the investment considers ESG factors.

Finally, the rule clarifies when retirement plan fiduciaries may consider benefits other than investment returns. These benefits can include the creation of good jobs, affordable housing, and economic growth for local communities. Such benefits may only be considered as tiebreakers between competing investments that equally serve the financial interests of the plan.

This rule makes clear that any consideration of ESG factors must be consistent with the fiduciary duties of loyalty and care. Retirement plan fiduciaries cannot sacrifice risk-adjusted investment returns under any circumstances. The rule appropriately holds the consideration of ESG factors to the exact same documentation requirements as any other fiduciary decision.

The decision of whether to consider ESG factors should be left to investment professionals, not politicians. Trillions of dollars in assets under management already take ESG factors into consideration when making investment decisions. Congress should not interfere in the free market by seeking to prohibit the consideration of ESG factors.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose disapproval of the Department of Labor's rule ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights.'' Congress should not play politics with our pension plans by repealing this commonsense rule.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director, Government Affairs.

AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM,
February 24, 2023.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Senate Majority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Chairman BERNIE SANDERS,
HELP Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX,
Education and the Workforce Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
House Minority Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Ranking Member BILL CASSIDY,
HELP Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT,
Education and Workforce Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATE MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SENATE MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, HOUSE SPEAKER MCCARTHY, HOUSE MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES, HELP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SANDERS, HELP RANKING MEMBER CASSIDY, HOUSE EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN FOXX, AND HOUSE EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: The undersigned organizations urge you to defend the Department of Labor's important fiduciary rule that safeguards the savings of millions of workers who participate in private-sector employee benefit plans. The rule, titled ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights,'' has four main components: 1) removes costly and impractical record-keeping burdens on fiduciaries to ensure those who manage workers' money have the flexibility needed to consider all financially relevant risks and opportunities; 2) allows consideration of collateral benefits such as creating union jobs only if different investment options equally serve the financial interests of the plan over the appropriate time horizon; 3) increases workers' investment choices within the confines of ERISA's stringent protections; and 4) removes costly and unnecessary barriers to the exercise of shareholder rights.

A vote in favor of a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to nullify the rule is an affirmative vote for unworkable, burdensome Trump-era rules. Trump-era rules erected ''needless barriers'' and had a ''chilling effect . . . on considering environmental, social and governance factors in investments'' that are financially relevant. The Trump rules also put the thumb on the scale against workers' ability to exercise their shareholder rights, diluting workers' shareholder voice. Additionally, three lawyers, all experts in ERISA, recently published a paper that included an in-depth analysis of why the distinction between ''pecuniary'' and ''non-pecuniary,'' first introduced in the Trump-era rules and ''roundly criticized during the rulemaking comment process,'' is self-contradictory and unworkable.

The Biden DOL rule repeatedly affirms the core ERISA tenet: that fiduciaries are not allowed to sacrifice returns in the pursuit of collateral benefits. The Biden rule returns power to fiduciaries to make the best decisions regarding relevant risks and returns in their participants' best interests, in contrast to the Trump-era rules, which sought to inject politics into fiduciary decision-making.

The CRA resolution is part of a larger, failing effort to imbue ''ESG'' with false meaning, vilify it, and legislate against it. This effort is backed by powerful corporate interests—including fossil fuel companies looking to postpone the inevitable decarbonization of the economy—that are attempting to roll back progress that has been made on climate change, workers' rights, racial equity, and other ESG issues with clear financial implications. They are doing so by pushing legislation and other policies that hurt both workers' hard-fought pensions and taxpayers.

This effort is unpopular—with 63 percent of voters agreeing the government should not set limits on corporate ESG investments, including 70 percent of Republicans and 57 percent of Democrats—and has suffered numerous, recent failures including: 1) Indiana's budget office finding that a bill forcing pension funds to divest from asset managers that consider ESG factors would cost $6.7 billion over the next decade in sub-market returns, force retirees to increase their contributions, and impose an additional $550,000 administrative costs a year; 2) Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes announcing Arizona will no longer participate in investigations into banks and other financial institutions over ESG investing practices, stating that she believes ''it is not the place of government to tell corporations and their investors that they cannot invest in sustainable technologies and practices or improve their governance processes; 3) a study finding that a 2021 Texas investment blacklist would cost municipalities an additional $303 million to $532 million in bond interest; and 4) North Dakota voting down, 90–3, a Texas-style bill that would have required the state treasurer to prepare a blacklist of financial firms that have committed to reducing carbon emissions.

For all the reasons stated above, we urge you to protect workers' pensions from anti-ESG attacks and vote no on the CRA resolution. For further discussion, please contact Natalia Renta.

Sincerely,

Americans for Financial Reform; Public Citizen; 1worker1vote; 350Hawaii; 7 Directions of Service; Abacus Wealth Partners; Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board; American Family Voices; American Sustainable Business Network; As You Sow; B Lab U.S. & Canada; California Reinvestment Coalition; Change Finance; Change the Chamber; Climate Finance Action; Climate Hawks Vote.

Community Development Venture Capital Alliance; Congregation of St. Joseph; Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG); Consumer Federation of America; Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise; Demand Progress; Divest Oregon; Earth Action, Inc.; Earthjustice; Florida for Good; Fresh Water Accountability Project; Future Nexus; Green America; Harrington Investments, Inc.; Honor the Earth; Intentional Endowments Network.

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR); Kingdom Living Temple Church; League of Conservation Voters; Mercy Investment Services, Inc.; Montana Environmental Information Center; National Community Investment Fund; National Employment Law Project; Natural Investments LLC; New Alpha Community Development Corporation; NYU Stem Center for Business and Human Rights; Oil & Gas Action Network; Omidyar Network; Opportunity Finance Network; Oxfam America; Pensions & Investment Research Consultants, Ltd.; Physicians for Social Responsibility—Pennsylvania.

Predistribution Initiative; Rabbis and Cantors Retirement Plan; Revolving Door Project; Rights CoLab; Sciencecorps; Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment; Sierra Club; Shareholder Rights Group; SOC Investment Group; Socially Responsible Investment Coalition; The B Team; Toniic Institute; Trillium Asset Management; Union of Concerned Scientists; U.S. Impact Investing Alliance; Whitney M. Slater Foundation; Zero Hour.

SEIU,
Washington, DC, February 21, 2023.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the two million members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), I write to oppose S.J. Res. 8 and H.J. Res. 30, the Congressional Review Act joint resolution(s) that have been introduced by Senator Mike Braun and Rep. Andy Barr to disapprove of the Department of Labor's recently adopted rule entitled ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights.'' The rule clarifies that private sector retirement plan fiduciaries may consider environmental, social and governance (''ESG'') factors when making plan investments or voting proxies. The rule does not require that retirement plan fiduciaries consider ESG factors, it simply acknowledges the fact that ESG factors may be relevant to investment returns. Further retirement plan fiduciaries cannot sacrifice risk-adjusted investment returns under any circumstances. The rule appropriately holds the consideration of ESG factors to the exact same documentation requirements as any other fiduciary decision.

The consideration of ESG factors helps protect the hard-earned retirement savings of working people. ESG risks are particularly relevant for long-term investors, such as retirement plans, who are investing over the expected lifespans of their participants and beneficiaries. Ignoring ESG risks, or pretending that they don't exist, may be financially imprudent to an investment portfolio and could end up with long term consequences. Contrary to outlandish claims by those who oppose the rule, investment professionals' consideration of ESG factors that could impact sustainable investment returns is not limited to environmental risks, such

as climate change, but could also include other societal issues such as respect for workers' rights, or even governance issues such as having responsible executive compensation.

The rule also affirms that proxy votes should be cast in the best interests of plan participants and beneficiaries, therefore giving workers' retirement savings a voice in corporate decision making. The rule also ensures that the default investment for defined contribution plans is the best option available regardless of whether the investment considers ESG factors. Finally, the rule clarifies when retirement plan fiduciaries may consider benefits other than investment returns. These benefits can include the creation of good jobs, affordable housing, and economic growth for local communities. These benefits may only be considered as tiebreakers between competing investments that equally serve the financial interests of the plan.

The rule makes clear that any consideration of ESG factors must be consistent with the fiduciary duties of loyalty and care. The decision of whether to consider ESG factors should be left to investment professionals, and Congress should not interfere by prohibiting the consideration of ESG factors. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose and vote against S.J. Res. 8 and H.J. Res. 30. We will add any votes on this legislation to our legislative scorecard for the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

JOHN GRAY,
Legislative Director.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: Americans work hard for their retirement savings and need to be able to trust that their 401(k) and pension plans can be managed to prudently account for all financial risks. That is why the Department of Labor (DOL) issued a rule in November 2022 to ensure that retirement plan managers can consider all factors relevant to investment risk and return in their decision-making, including financial risks due to climate change. H.J. Res. 30, the Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to block the DOL rule, is a threat to Americans' retirement savings. Our organizations urge all Representatives to oppose H.J. Res. 30.

Congress passed the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to protect the hard earned retirement savings upon which workers and their families rely. For decades, DOL's ERISA rules set forth retirement plan managers' core duty to prudently consider all relevant factors, while remaining neutral on investment types. In 2020, the Trump Administration deviated from this longstanding approach by issuing ERISA rules that discouraged consideration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors—even when these factors affect investment risk and return.

The 2022 DOL rule under ERISA returns to neutrality, in which plan managers can consider all relevant factors to assess investment risk. The rule does not mandate, prohibit, encourage, or discourage any particular type of investment. The rule is clear that retirement plan managers must base their decisions on financial risk-return factors. Those financial factors may include the financial risks and economic impacts of changing climate and other environmental, social and governance factors.

The DOL rule is supported by diverse groups including the AFL–CIO, investment managers like Vanguard and TIAA, and the American Retirement Association. President Bush's Assistant Secretary of Labor, Bradford Campbell stated that ''the new rule is more consistent with the regulatory history than the 2020 rule was.'' Public comments submitted demonstrate overwhelming and broad support for the Department of Labor rule.

The DOL rule restores plan managers' freedom to consider all financially relevant factors, including financial risks due to climate change, so they can offer prudent investment choices to workers. American workers deserve no less.

Congress: protect Americans' retirement savings by voting NO on this CRA resolution H.J. Res. 30.

Sincerely,

Environmental Defense Fund, League of Conservation Voters, Americans for Financial Reform, California Reinvestment Coalition, Center for American Progress, Ceres Accelerator for Sustainable Capital Markets, Change the Chamber, Clean Water Action, Climate Action Campaign, Climate Hawks Vote, Earthjustice, Evergreen Action, Natural Resources Defense Council, Public Citizen, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, WWF.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, these organizations have diverse missions, but they all agree that H.J. Res. 30 should be rejected.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters from financial services firms who submitted supportive comments on the underlying rule. These firms are BNY Melon Investment Management and Lazard Asset Management, who have trillions of dollars in assets under management.

BNY MELLON,
December 13, 2021.

OFFICE OF REGULATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS,
Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

On behalf of BNY Mellon Investment Management, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the notice of proposed rulemaking entitled ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights'' (the ''Proposal'') published by the U.S. Department of Labor (the ''Department''). We strongly support the Department's efforts to clarify the regulatory treatment of environmental, social, and governance (''ESG'') factors under Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (''ERISA'') following the publication of ''Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments'' and ''Fiduciary Duties Regarding Proxy Voting and Shareholder Rights'' (together, the ''Current Rules''). To continue the Department's efforts to add clarity to the use of ESG factors by fiduciaries we suggest the Department add clarification in the rule or preamble that a fiduciary can use a screen to consider ESG factors based on the fiduciary's determination that a particular ESG factor will impact investment value consistent with Section 2550.404a–1(c)(2) of the Proposal.

BNY Mellon Investment Management is a division of BNY Mellon, one of the world's largest financial services groups. With a presence in 35 countries, BNY Mellon looks to connect investors with opportunities across every major asset class. BNY Mellon Investment Management encompasses BNY Mellon's affiliated investment firms and global distribution companies, constituting over $2.3 trillion in AUM (as of September 30, 2021).

BNY Mellon Investment Management follows a multi-boutique investment management model that weds the specialist expertise from its investment firms offering solutions across every major asset class, backed by the strength, stewardship, and global presence of BNY Mellon. Each investment firm has its own unique culture, investment philosophy, and proprietary investment processes, and provides a global perspective. Our seven majority owned investment firms, are as follows (all AUM figures as of September 30, 2021): Alcentra ($41.0B), ARX ($7.0B), Dreyfus Cash Investment Strategies ($342.7B), Insight Investment ($1,100.0B), Mellon ($448.6B), Newton Investment Management ($139.1B), and Walter Scott ($99.9B).

At BNY Mellon Investment Management our Responsible Investment (RI) approach varies across our investment firms, but the effective stewardship of our clients' assets is common to all and core to our own purpose. Many products or solutions offered by BNY Mellon Investment Management examine ESG factors in their investment processes and decision-making to better manage risk and generate sustainable long-term returns. Six of our investment firms—Alcentra, ARX, Insight, Mellon, Newton, and Walter Scott—are signatories of the Principles for Responsible Investment (''PRI'').

As we have noted in a previous comment letter, over the past decades, fiduciaries and investment managers have come to appreciate the materiality that ESG factors can have on investment value. We welcome the Department's clarifications to the Current Rules regarding the use of ESG factors and the exercise of shareholder rights. The acknowledgement by the Department that climate risks and other ESG factors can be and often are material to investment risk and returns will better allow fiduciaries to mitigate risk and enhance returns based on evaluating ESG factors.

Within the last decade, a deep body of research has been produced that demonstrates the material influence of ESG factors on the profitability of an enterprise and the performance of its securities. For example, weak control of environmental activities such as pollution, over-consumption of raw materials or lack of recycling of waste materials readily leads to volatile or lower achieved margins or financial penalties that reduce investor returns. Similarly with social issues: high staff turnover, high strike rates or absenteeism or death or injury rates have all been linked to lower productivity and poor quality control. Regarding governance, we know from years of empirical observation that poorly managed issuers can seriously damage investor returns. To ignore the entire category of information and analysis that comprise ESG factors, therefore, could be deemed an abrogation of a fiduciary's responsibility to consider all material information when assessing the risk and return of any investment opportunity.

The Proposal appropriately balances the materiality that ESG factors can have on investment value with the Department's longstanding principles that a fiduciary's duties of prudence and loyalty require the fiduciary to consider factors that are material to investment value. In particular, a fiduciary should not subordinate the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries to other objectives, nor sacrifice investment return or take on additional investment risk to promote goals unrelated to the plan and its participants and beneficiaries. We specifically believe that the proposed removal of the definition of ''pecuniary factors'' and the revision to the Current Rules providing that a fiduciary's evaluation of an investment or investment course of action should be based on factors that ''are material to investment value'' both clarifies the rule and ensures that the rule reflects the analysis performed by fiduciaries when making investment decisions.

We also support the removal of the special rule prohibiting certain investment alternatives from being considered qualified default investment alternatives (QDIA) because the investment references ESG factors. The QDIA restrictions in the Current Rules add uncertainty and would be difficult to apply. We agree with the Department that there is not a reason to prohibit fiduciaries from prudently selecting a fund that meets the QDIA requirements and includes the consideration of ESG factors.

We support the Department's efforts to reduce the uncertainty in the market caused by the Current Rules and we suggest additional clarification regarding the use of screens. We believe this clarification could further reduce uncertainty that might otherwise prevent fiduciaries from considering ESG factors which are expected to enhance investment value and performance or improve investment portfolio resilience against the potential financial risks.

As noted above, we support the removal of ''pecuniary factors'' and that a fiduciary's evaluation of an investment or investment course of action should be based on factors that ''are material to investment value''. We think that the Department could add additional clarity to the rule or preamble by clarifying that the proposed rule does not per se prohibit a fiduciary from using a screen on investments based in whole or in part on ESG factors.

A common method used by investment managers to incorporate ESG factors into the assessment of investment risks and returns is the use of screens. As described in the Proposal, ''negative screening refers to the exclusion of certain sectors, companies, or practices from a fund or portfolio based on ESG criteria.'' The Proposal's discussion of the benefits that can occur from the use of ESG factors in the assessment of investment risks and returns relies on sources that studied the impact of investment managers using screens based on ESG factors. However, the Current Rules and some past guidance regarding the use of ESG factors could be read to preclude the use of screens based on ESG factors.

We suggest that the Department clarify in the final rule or its preamble that the investment prudence duties and the investment loyalty duties under Sections 2550.404a–1(b) and 2550.404a–1(c), respectively, do not per se prohibit the use of screens. For example, it should be permissible for a plan fiduciary to select investment managers and funds that use screens to the extent that doing so would otherwise be consistent with its duties. It should similarly be permissible for any such investment manager to select an ''investment course of action'' that uses a screen to the extent that the resulting investment strategy would otherwise be consistent with its duties. Such a clarification would provide certainty to fiduciaries seeking to use ESG factors in the assessment of investment risks and returns in accordance with their prudence and loyalty duties. It would further ensure that plan participants realize the full benefits of fiduciaries using ESG factors as described in the Proposal.

We strongly support the Department's efforts to bring clarity to the use of ESG factors and the exercise of shareholder rights by plan fiduciaries. We believe the Proposal and the changes suggested here will promote retirement income security and further retirement savings by allowing fiduciaries to better manage risks and improve investment returns.

Sincerely,

HANNEKE SMITS,
Chief Executive Officer,
BNY Mellon Investment Management.

LAZARD ASSET MANAGEMENT,
December 12, 2021.

OFFICE OF REGULATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS,
Employee Benefits Security Administration,
U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM OR SIR: Lazard Asset Management LLC (''LAM'') submits the following comments regarding the above-referenced proposal to amend the Investment Duties regulation under Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (''ERISA''). See Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights, 29 CFR Part 2550, RIN 1210–AC03 (October 14, 2021), 86 Fed. Reg. 57272 (the ''Proposed Rule'').

LAM is pleased that the Department recognizes that climate change and other ESG factors are often material to the assessment of investment risks and returns. We agree with the Department that the changes proposed not only would clarify the duties of plan fiduciaries when selecting investment options, but also would help individuals build retirement income security and retirement savings. In particular, we believe that the Proposed Rule, if adopted, will provide plans with the freedom to leverage the advances that active asset managers have contributed to ESG analysis and investing in recent years.

LAM is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, with more than $239.8 billion of assets under management as of September 30, 2021. We manage assets on a discretionary basis for a large number of global clients, including a variety of U.S. defined benefit plans, defined contribution plans, individual retirement accounts, and variable annuity portfolios.

LAM's investment decisions are based on proprietary fundamental and quantitative research techniques that our professionals have developed over decades. Our firm seeks to manage client portfolios in a way that delivers investment performance, maximizes long-term shareholder value, and limits unwanted risks—including the risks presented by ESG factors.

The Proposed Rule would allow plan fiduciaries to consider a wider variety of factors when evaluating plan investment options under Section 404(a) of ERISA, which sets forth the standards of prudence that an ERISA fiduciary must satisfy when selecting investments for a qualified plan. The Proposed Rule is in response to the rule the Department adopted in 2020, Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments, 85 FR 72846 (Nov. 13, 2020) (the ''2020 Rule''), which is interpreted generally to require plan fiduciaries to select investments and investment courses of action based solely on the consideration of ''pecuniary factors.'' The 2020 Rule also contains a prohibition against adding or retaining any investment fund, product, or model portfolio as a qualified default investment alternative (QDIA) if the fund, product, or model portfolio reflects non-pecuniary objectives in its investment objectives or principal strategies.

LAM agrees with the Department's overall assessment of the 2020 Rule expressed in Section 3 of the preamble of the Proposed Rule—specifically, that the 2020 Rule (1) does not properly reflect the scope of fiduciaries' duties under ERISA to act prudently and solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries when evaluating investments and (2) creates uncertainty surrounding whether a fiduciary under ERISA may consider any ESG and other important factors in making investment decisions. A number of Department bulletins and pronouncements predating the 2020 Rule effectively guided plan fiduciaries that they could consider adding ESG investment options to their plans pursuant to Section 404(a). See e.g., Interpretive Bulletin 2008–01, Interpretative Bulletin Relating to Investing in Economically Targeted Investments, 73 FR 61734 (Oct. 17, 2008); Interpretive Bulletin 2015–01, Interpretive Bulletin Relating to the Fiduciary Standard Under ERISA in Considering Economically Targeted Investments, 80 Fed. Reg. 65135 (Oct. 26, 2015); and Field Assistance Bulletin No. 2018–01 (April 23, 2018). The 2020 Rule changed the guidance and standards set forth in those precedents.

The Proposed Rule would add language in paragraph (b)(2)(ii)(C) of the current regulation to recognize explicitly that ''consideration of the projected return of the portfolio relative to the funding objectives of the plan may often require an evaluation of the economic effects of climate change and other ESG factors on the particular investment or investment course of action.''

This would allow plan fiduciaries to evaluate factors that many other investors already consider material. An analysis of over 16,000 global firms over the period of 2016 to 2020 conducted by the Lazard Climate Center found investors are actively pricing in risk from company emissions profiles. The study found that with all else being equal, changes in emissions profiles can have an impact on a company's market valuation. For example, a hypothetical 10 percent decrease in carbon dioxide emissions is associated with a 0.44 percent price-to-earnings appreciation. In addition, the Swiss Re Institute's April 2021 report The Economics of Climate Change: No Action Not an Option, states that ''[t]he transition towards a low carbon economy . . . has repercussions for asset valuations. It is clear that climate transition risks can have a substantial impact on equity and credit valuations.'' Their analysis concludes that ''under the current trajectory, global GDP could be 11–14 percent less by mid-century than in a world without climate change.''

LAM's research recognizes that there will be economic winners and losers from the low carbon transition, and that economically material factors should not be ignored in investment analysis simply because they are of an environmental, social, or governance nature. The Proposed Rule properly grants fiduciaries the express permission to consider material ESG factors in their investment analysis, which we believe should result in promoting retirement income security and more secure retirement savings.

The Proposed Rule ''confirms that a fiduciary may consider *any* factor material to the risk-return analysis, including climate change and other ESG factors'' (emphasis added). It goes on to list numerous nonexclusive examples:

(i) Climate change-related factors, such as a corporation's exposure to the real and potential economic effects of climate change, including its exposure to the physical and transitional risks of climate change and the positive or negative effect of Government regulations and policies to mitigate climate change;

(ii) governance factors, such as those involving board composition, executive compensation, and transparency and accountability in corporate decision-making, as well as a corporation's avoidance of criminal liability and compliance with labor, employment, environmental, tax, and other applicable laws and regulations; and

(iii) workforce practices, including the corporation's progress on workforce diversity, inclusion, and other drivers of employee hiring, promotion, and retention; its investment in training to develop its workforce's skill; equal employment opportunity; and labor relations.

We believe that the examples given in the Proposed Rule, while necessarily incomplete, do serve the purpose of providing adequate guidance to plan fiduciaries. We also believe the Department's examples focus fiduciaries on economically material considerations.

At LAM, we have embedded ESG insights into our relevant investment research and portfolio construction functions. We have developed a proprietary ESG integration framework using (among other things) materiality mapping, which is being implemented across relevant investment platforms. As an active asset manager that has incorporated ESG considerations into its proprietary research, LAM is able to regularly provide our clients with examples of how such considerations have positively influenced investment outcomes. We have made these investments into our platform because we believe that investors—including plan fiduciaries—need to understand how ESG factors impact the financial productivity, operational risks, and valuations of the companies whose shares and bonds are in their portfolios.

Paragraph (c)(3) of the Proposed Rule amends the ''tie breaker'' standard in the 2020 Rule to allow fiduciaries to use broader discretion when comparing investment options. Under the proposal, a fiduciary evaluating two suitable investment options may select the ESG option over the non-ESG option where both would ''equally serve the financial interests of the plan over the appropriate time horizon,'' instead of limiting the use of the ''tie-breaker'' standard to situations in which both are ''economically indistinguishable.'' LAM agrees with this more comprehensive approach as it recognizes that fiduciaries should have the freedom to choose an investment for the purposes of diversification or to hedge against broad categories of risk, both of which can lead to better financial performance for a portfolio.

The Proposed Rule rescinds paragraph (d)(2)(ii) of the current regulation which prevents an investment option to serve as a qualified default investment alternative (QDIA) if it includes the use of non-pecuniary factors in its investment objectives even if the option is prudent from a risk and return perspective. LAM believes the 2020 Rule in this regard is contrary to goals of ERISA as it could potentially exclude financially prudent investment options on the simple basis that they consider economically material ESG factors. As previously stated, LAM believes that consideration of economically material factors should not be prohibited on the sole basis that they are of an environmental, social, or governance nature.

We believe that plan fiduciaries should include assessments of material ESG issues when evaluating retirement plan investments. The risks identified by an ESG-integrated assessment are often ultimately detrimental, and the opportunities identified can be quite additive, to the financial performance and value of assets in an investment portfolio. Importantly, the Proposed Rule greatly reduces the current uncertainty surrounding a fiduciary's consideration of material ESG factors. It restores trust in fiduciaries by allowing them to use their professional judgement to evaluate all material factors when selecting investment options for plan participants and beneficiaries.

In light of the foregoing, we recommend that the Department adopt and implement the Proposed Rule as written. We would be happy to provide the Department with additional information concerning our comments. Any requests should please be directed to our General Counsel, Mark Anderson.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKITA SINGHAL,
Co-Head Sustainable Investment & ESG.

JENNIFER ANDERSON,
Co-Head Sustainable Investment & ESG.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this is just a small sample of the financial industry's support for the underlying rule. We should not overturn the rule with this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I oppose H.J. Res. 30, I encourage all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 30, to stop the Biden administration from decimating the retirement savings of millions of Americans.

ESG funds will not give retirees the secure future they need. According to a former BlackRock senior executive, ESG funds underperformed the broader market compared to non-ESG funds over the last 5 years.

Retirees are already worried about the rising costs of goods and services, not whether a company is using plastic straws in its cafeteria.

Americans deserve to have a secure retirement. This means retirement plans need to focus solely on workers' financial interests. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 30, and I encourage my colleagues to vote against this measure.

H.J. Res. 30 would nullify a Department of Labor rule concerning the fiduciary duties with respect to employee benefit plans.

Under the rule issued on December 1, 2022, plan fiduciaries may consider climate change and other environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors when they make investment decisions and when they exercise shareholder rights, including voting on shareholder resolutions and board nominations.

One of my greatest joys as a Member of Congress is the opportunity to work on behalf of the people of the United States of America, to ensure that every voice is heard, and every right is upheld.

In addition, the future of the American People relies heavily on thoughtful investments in key areas that include ESG as this is the backbone of our environment and the state of livelihoods of our growing communities.

Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, fiduciaries of private pension plans must act in the interest of plan participants, including when making investment decisions.

If participants want to invest their employee benefits into environmental, social, and governance factors, the government should not be against it just because it goes against a particular party's interests.

The rule ''Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments,'' issued on November 13, 2020, required fiduciaries to make investment decisions based solely on ''pecuniary factors.''

That rule included a ''tiebreaker'' standard, under which fiduciaries could consider other benefits when ''alternative investment options are economically indistinguishable.''

The 2022 rule clarified how plan fiduciaries may consider climate change and other environmental, social, or governance (commonly referred to as ESG) factors when making investment decisions.

Under the new regulation, fiduciaries may consider ''the economic effects of climate change and other environmental, social, or governance factors,'' but investment decisions ''may not subordinate the interests of the participants and beneficiaries in their retirement income or financial benefits under the plan to other objectives and may not sacrifice investment return or take on additional investment risk.''

This bill establishes the disapproval of the final rule ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights.''

The world is seeing more climate related disasters than ever before.

These disasters are greatly impacting the way that the public prepares their finances for potential strains.

In 2017 Hurricane Harvey ravaged many communities in my home state and devastated the livelihoods of many working-class Americans.

Many of my constituents experienced economic hardships that are still being felt today.

With an increase in natural disasters, we must protect the American public and provide them with opportunities to invest in their needs.

This point serves to acknowledge the importance we must put into our people and communities as things change and we continue to progress into the future.

Strategic and thoughtful investments in our people, environments, and livelihoods should be of utmost importance.

In essence, our future is dependent on how we invest in the now.

The American people want a future, and we can provide that by thoughtfully planning through our strategic investments in the American people of all backgrounds and the diverse environments in which we aim to thrive in for decades to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the House Resolution 166, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this 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 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO ''PRUDENCE AND LOYALTY IN SELECTING PLAN INVESTMENTS AND EXERCISING SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 204, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 124]

YEAS—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—204

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Buck
Castro (TX)
Cleaver
Crawford
Davis (IL)
Garcia (IL)
Joyce (OH)
Kustoff
Lofgren
Sarbanes
Steube
Wild
Williams (TX)

□ 1716

Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia, GARAMENDI, VEASEY, MOSKOWITZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Messrs. MRVAN and HUFFMAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall No. 124. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 124.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, due to testing positive for COVID–19 and following recommended isolation protocols, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall no. 122, ''nay'' on rollcall no. 123, and ''nay'' on rollcall no. 124.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JAMES BROYHILL

(Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to gather with other Members of the North Carolina delegation on the floor this evening to acknowledge the passing of a great North Carolinian, the Honorable Jim Broyhill, who passed away at the age of 95 last week.

Today, there was a gathering in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in celebration of his life, and my fellow Members and I have come to the floor this evening to ask the House to stand in a moment of silence in recognition of the service of this North Carolinian, who served 23 years in this House, served briefly in the United States Senate, and was substantially responsible for re-creating political competition and a revitalized Republican Party in the State of North Carolina.

On behalf of the North Carolina delegation, I ask the House do now observe a moment of silence in honor of Senator Jim Broyhill.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, by direction of the House 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. 179

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Mr. Bost (to rank immediately after Mr. Bacon).

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Mr. Fleischmann (to rank immediately after Mr. Obernolte), Mr. Zinke (to rank immediately after Ms. Tenney).

Ms. STEFANIK (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REDUCE EXACERBATED INFLATION NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE NATION ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 347.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 166 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 347.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1725

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes, with Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 347, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act, or REIN IN Act.

This legislation is timely and clearly needed. Sky-high inflation started sweeping across the Nation soon after the Biden administration came into power.

Pushing one big-spending policy after another, President Biden has continued to throw fuel on the inflationary fire. That fire is rapidly consuming the wages of our constituents. They have had to pay higher and higher prices for everything from eggs to electricity, all while inflation pushes their real wages further and further behind.

President Biden just does not seem to get it or admit it. At first, he and his administration ignored warnings his policies would spark inflation. Then, they tried to spin the tale that inflation was only temporary. Then, when it became obvious to everyone that was not the case, they attempted to claim that a monthly decrease in the rate of how fast inflation was rising meant inflation was actually falling, but anyone could see that made no sense.

It is long past time the President learned and admitted more about how his actions have led to this harmful inflation. That is why we need this bill.

The REIN IN Act ensures that costly actions the President decides to take solely under his own authority through executive orders will not go into effect until he is informed of and considers the potential inflationary effects.

How does the bill require that? Simple. It requires the President to receive and consider inflation estimates from the Office of Management and Budget and the Council of Economic Advisers for each executive order that is projected to cause an annual gross budgetary effect of at least $1 billion.

The hope is the President, once he is informed of and understands the potential for inflationary harm from his own policy initiatives, will think twice about inflicting such harm. Here is hoping he does.

In addition, the bill requires regular reports to Congress on these new inflation estimates that are prepared for and considered by the President. That way, if the President ignores the dangers and marches ahead with an inflation-inducing policy, Congress will be better equipped to take timely action to rein in an irresponsible use of Presidential power.

That is our constitutional role in the legislative branch, which the REIN IN Act recognizes. This powerful legislative medicine will, I hope, lead the President to stop his inflationary onslaught on our economy.

Madam Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, St. Louis, House Democrats, and I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 347, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act.

While Democrats passed numerous laws last Congress that are successfully reducing inflation every month, House Republicans have come up with nothing more than a study in response. This is unbelievable.

The substance and process of this bill amount to nothing more than political theater to distract from and undermine the immense successes of congressional Democrats and the Biden administration.

□ 1730

If Republicans were serious about fighting inflation and cutting costs for regular, everyday people, they would have joined with Democrats to pass critical legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act to rebuild American manufacturing and lower the cost of prescription drugs, healthcare, energy, and other goods and services for the people of our country rather than pushing an extreme MAGA messaging bill that accomplishes nothing. Nothing. Not a thing.

The global spike in inflation has been caused by food and fuel disruptions resulting from the illegal and unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as auto part supply shortages connected to the COVID–19 pandemic. There is no evidence that government spending or executive orders by President Biden have increased inflation.

The President and congressional Democrats have taken steps to enact policies; not studies, not reports, but actual, tangible policies and dollars delivered to our communities to lower costs for regular, everyday people. Yet, we understand that still much more work remains.

For over 20 years, while I was a single mother of 2, I experienced countless times what it was like to see costs rise faster than my wages. I know what it is like to have to choose between paying the electric bill or paying rent.

I remember thinking to myself, who is it that is fighting for me and for other people in my situation?

Lawmakers in Congress can help alleviate that pain. Lawmakers in Congress can prioritize enacting policies to raise wages and lower costs, and that is what congressional Democrats have done.

For so many people in my community of St. Louis and around the country, skyrocketing rents and high utility costs are consistent barriers to

keeping families safe and fed, and that is a moral and policy failure.

We have seen how people's lives improved when the Federal Government stepped up to enact a moratorium on evictions or sent urgently needed stimulus checks to families or expanded the child tax credit or capped insulin at $35 a month.

Those are the actions that saved lives. That is what we need, and we need more of that now. Yet, here we have a report.

However, what my House Republican colleagues have demonstrated this Congress and what they are demonstrating here today with this bill is that they are not serious about governing. They have circumvented regular order to bring this hollow bill to a vote on the House floor. Even as people continue to suffer the consequences of inflation and flawed responses that exacerbate unemployment, corporations, especially in the energy industry, have capitalized on this crisis to raise prices for everyday people and for families.

Last year, Exxon made $56 billion in profits, using inflation as a cover to fleece regular, everyday people just trying to get to medical appointments or to school.

I oppose this bill because I am aware of what it is. It is a distraction from our work for our constituents. It is a waste of government resources, and it is a squandering of time that we should be using to rein in corporate greed and support those of our neighbors who need our help the most. I oppose this bill because it isn't a meaningful way to legislate. It is a political stunt.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my REIN IN Act.

During the past 2 years of one party, far-left, radical, socialist Democrat rule in Washington led by President Joe Biden, inflation has skyrocketed to the highest level in my lifetime. You talk to any family, any small business, any farmer, any manufacturer, and they will say that the inflation that they are suffering from is crippling their businesses, crippling their family budgets.

It is a painful tax on every American and Bidenflation continues to be the number one concern I hear today across my district in upstate New York in the North Country.

In House Republicans' ''Commitment to America,'' our new House majority, the people's House majority, promised to deliver and support policies to ensure our economy is strong.

In fact, one of the main reasons we have this Republican House majority is because the American people are smart. They know that the historic inflation, the highest rate of inflation in my lifetime, is a direct result of Joe Biden's executive orders and the trillions and trillions of reckless and wasteful spending from single-party Democrat rule.

In fact, in Joe Biden's first year in office, he issued more executive orders than any President in my lifetime. This reckless, far-left agenda cost hardworking families more than $1 trillion in taxpayer dollars and even more in the added cost of inflation. Whether it was canceling the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office to pushing his out-of-touch and costly Green New Deal regulations, Joe Biden has fueled this inflation crisis and caused this inflation crisis working with the previous radical, socialist Democrat majority.

By passing the REIN IN Act, House Republicans will demand transparency for the American people by revealing just how much Biden's executive orders are costing hardworking families and the painful impact that has on inflation.

What are the Democrats so afraid of?

This is about transparency for the American people, and it is long past time for Joe Biden to take into account this harmful impact of his failed, far-left agenda.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. STEFANIK. Today, House Republicans are laser-focused on fulfilling our commitment to America by reining in historic inflation, historic Bidenflation, on behalf of hardworking American families and small businesses, not just in my district, but across this great Nation.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Chair, I thank the great Representative from St. Louis, Ms. BUSH, for yielding time.

Madam Chair, I rise today to speak against H.R. 347, the REIN IN Act, and I will start my remarks today by saying how ironic it is that Republicans spent the entire first week of this session entangled in a fight in order for them to get the votes to secure a Speaker of the House, and the whole crux of that entanglement was rules to maintain regular order in the House.

Just as we go back to Schoolhouse Rock, Republicans introduce a bill and it is supposed to go to committee, get a markup in that committee, a hearing in that committee, and a vote in that committee. If that bill can survive a committee vote, it comes right here to the floor of this House.

We spent a whole week tied up in the beginning of this term trying to reassert that order. And then, today, one of the first acts that we have from this Committee on Oversight and Reform is to subvert that because perhaps they knew that this would not survive their own committee. So it goes straight to the floor for a vote, subverting all of those arguments that Republicans were making about restoring order to this House.

But let's get into the substance of this bill. Ironically, if they had gone through regular order, they may have caught that this bill does nothing to rein in inflation, in part, because in their haste to put it together, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle committed an incredibly basic drafting error that makes this bill completely unenforceable.

Even if we agreed on their ends, the haste and the rush to put this together and skip committee has created a drafting error that doesn't even make this bill enforceable. But even putting that error aside, my colleagues and I seem to have wildly different definitions of what actually is considered inflationary.

While Republicans have labeled virtually any Federal spending during the pandemic as inflationary—while railing against the child tax credit that helped babies continue to be fed and diapers on their bottoms, that helped families stitch things together, while they railed against the eviction moratoriums and the Paycheck Protection Act—Moody's Analytics found that the American Rescue Plan prevented this country from slipping into a double-digit recession.

Because of the American Rescue Plan and the actual Inflation Reduction Act that Democrats passed last year, our country's inflation rate is now lower than in the U.K., Canada, and 20 other European Union member states.

Yet Republicans have introduced legislation to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act, which would immediately raise the price of insulin along with other critical prescription drugs.

Tell me how that is fighting inflation when they are proposing to raise the cost of prescriptions.

Not only did Republicans vote to raise prices on prescription drugs, but they also voted against measures to drive down the price of gasoline last year.

Last year, Democrats presented a bill to penalize companies who were price gouging during the middle of Putin's war on Ukraine. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted against that, too.

So which one is it?

Republicans have controlled this body for almost 2 months and have not passed a single bill that would actually address inflation or cut costs for working families.

But you know what Democrats did?

In January, we capped the price of insulin at $35 so that everyday working families can actually get a little bit more ahead. And we have a lot more to go.

But we don't even see a carefulness and a thoughtfulness from the other side of the aisle to even draft the language in this bill properly. It is not even ready for a vote, so why should we.

Madam Chair, for that reason, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this so-called REIN IN Act.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise in favor of H.R. 347, the REIN IN Act.

I do think that it is very rich that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are talking about regular order all of a sudden. My first 2 years in Congress there was no such thing as regular order. In fact, I served on the Budget Committee and they passed two budget reconciliations on the House floor without it going through committee: completely bypassed committee.

First one was $1.9 trillion. The next one, $700 billion. Really all it was, was the Green New Deal: just real quick, hurry up, get it to the floor. We have to spend trillions and trillions of dollars and hurt as many Americans as possible in the 2 years that we have left in power.

With this REIN IN Act, this bill will hold Joe Biden accountable for this reckless spending that he has approved by my Democrat colleagues, who hastefully sent all of these bills to him, rushing him to spend trillions and trillions of American taxpayer dollars.

His administration will now be required to publish the inflationary impact of executive orders before enacting them.

Madam Chair, my constituents are struggling to deal with the disastrous effects of Bidenflation. Under 2 years of a one-party rule, Joe Biden and NANCY PELOSI unleashed a record inflation crisis on the American people that has decimated their bank and retirement accounts, increased gas prices to record levels, raised utility bills, drove up grocery costs, and made it harder to live for the people in my district, Colorado's Third District, and all throughout this great country.

The primary root cause of this record-breaking inflation was trillions of dollars of wasteful Federal spending.

In Joe Biden's first year in office alone, he issued more executive orders than any other President in my lifetime, costing taxpayers more than $1 trillion.

The American people said loud and clear last November that enough is enough. They have empowered this new majority to demand transparency by revealing just how much Biden's executive orders are costing American families and small businesses.

Madam Chair, I thank my colleague and chairwoman of the Republican Conference, ELISE STEFANIK, for her work to hold Joe Biden and his administration accountable.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the underlying bill.

□ 1745

Ms. BUSH. Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), the ranking member of the Oversight Committee,

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee for her leadership on refuting this legislation.

After 2 years of rooting for economic failure and blaming President Biden for everything; for post-COVID global inflation, for the instability caused by supply chain breakdowns, and the phenomenal failure of Donald Trump's mismanagement of the coronavirus pandemic, after all that, after all the whining and crying about inflation, Republicans finally have the chance to take center stage, right now, with their proposed solution to the problem of inflation.

The world has been waiting with bated breath. Would it be what Richard Nixon did, wage and price controls? Would it be what Herbert Hoover, that Republican did, total laissez-faire, whatever happens, happens?

Well, the long wait is over. The GOP has now debuted their big plan for dealing with inflation in America with H.R. 347, something called the REIN IN Act, which stands for the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act.

It is a bill for a mandatory reporting requirement related to executive orders that might apply to two or three executive orders a year.

You got that right: A reporting requirement related to a handful of executive orders every year is the GOP's response to inflation after barnstorming the entire country, claiming that they had some kind of solution.

Now, you might think it is the most brilliant thing since the invention of Social Security, which they opposed, or Medicare, which they opposed, or you might think it is the dumbest thing since Donald Trump's last trillion-dollar corporate tax giveaway.

But either away, it will have zero effect on inflation or deflation in the United States of America. Nothing. It is not going to have any effect at all.

Now, our friends in the GOP are interested in this session of Congress in tortured, inscrutable, incomprehensible acronyms.

So they can have the REIN IN Act, which they seem very connected to, but I want to suggest a better title that will still conform to their acronym. Let's call it the running on empty initiative based on no ideas none act. How about that?

The legislation was hatched without any hearing, and it shows. It has no legislative meaning and no potential economic consequences.

Even as reporting bills go, it is pathetically weak, as it doesn't even require publication of the report. They came up with a reporting requirement that didn't even require the report to be published.

Look, executive orders are not the cause of inflation, and there is no economic research suggesting they are.

The most conservative economists in the world will tell you that inflation is a complex, global phenomenon connected to prices, supply chains, supply and demand curves, and unemployment rate.

Since 2020, inflation has risen worldwide, exacerbated by supply chain delays caused by the pandemic and then Vladimir Putin's filthy war of aggression in Ukraine, which some of our friends over there support.

President Biden has created something like an economic miracle out of the chaos handed to him by Donald Trump.

After signing his massive tax giveaway, Trump's failed State dysfunctional response to COVID plunged America into its most severe economic contraction since 1946. Someone dispute that.

The unemployment rate rose to 14.8 percent under Donald Trump, the highest on record since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began collecting data in 1948.

In 2021, Biden and the Democrats got to work. We passed the American Rescue Plan, which fueled a strong, equitable, economic recovery with historic reductions in unemployment, in poverty, in economic hardship.

Real GDP increased by 5.7 percent. The unemployment rate decreased to 4 percent, surpassing all forecasts. Wages increased by 5 percent with the highest increases going to lower economic income earners.

So Democratic policies have allowed the U.S. to absorb the shock of rising inflation engulfing the globe since 2020.

That is serious economic policy, what President Biden and the Democrats are engaged in, and they have a silly little symbolic messaging bill for a couple of notations they didn't even want to publish originally within the process of offering executive orders.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, we have created 12 million new jobs in America. How many million jobs do they want to erase over there in their desperate, sudden pursuit of inflation?

They raised the debt limit three times under Donald Trump. Now they talk about the debt limit all the time. They raised it three times, and they contributed under Donald Trump 25 percent of all the debt in the United States from George Washington to Joe Biden—25 percent of the debt under one President, Donald Trump.

They did that, and now they dare come talk to us about inflation, and the bill that they advance is one to have some people pass some more paperwork around.

Come on. Give me a break. Give us something better than the running on empty initiative with no new ideas at all.

We recommend a ''no'' vote. What real economic action requires is precisely what President Biden is already doing.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, over the past 2 years, through the Inflation Reduction Act, the American Rescue Plan, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and other successes, Democrats and President Biden have made historic investments in public transit, renewable energy, healthcare, and economic stability.

We have created jobs. We have advanced justice. We have advanced equity. We have reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and we have slowed down inflation.

We put hundreds of dollars in people's pockets. We capped the price of insulin. We invested in people.

As a result, when adjusted for inflation, wages have risen for so many families over the last 7 months, and unemployment remains at its lowest level since 1969.

However, we need to do so much more. Many of our neighbors, particularly those with the greatest need, are suffering from the consequences of high costs across the board.

I am glad House Democrats controlled the House during the pandemic. This bill makes a mockery of people living in poverty who need meaningful relief.

The Republicans' big idea, the big plan that we have been told about and waiting on is to write a flawed bill that mandates—guess what—more paperwork. Give me a break, as my ranking member just said.

I know what it is like to be at risk of eviction. I know what it is like to be hungry. I know what it is like to be cold, so cold that you don't know if you will survive the nights.

Never one time when I was living out of my car with my two babies did I ask for a report from Congress for help. I needed diapers. I needed food. You can't eat a report.

If this bill was to move forward, no one will be saying, I am so glad I used this report to pay the rent. Let me take shelter with this report because Congress did their job.

Let's take real care, real actual care of the people. I oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This legislation asks every Member to answer two simple questions.

First, do you want the President to know what the inflationary dangers are before he takes executive actions?

Second, when the President knows about the economic dangers of a policy and inflicts them on our constituents anyway, do you want to be better informed so that Congress can take the necessary action to rein in the executive branch?

The answers to both of those questions ought to be yes. This bill makes sure both the President and the Congress have the necessary information so we can discharge our duties more efficiently and responsibly.

Our constituents back home, who have been suffering from the inflationary effects of Washington's poorly thought-out policies, deserve nothing less.

I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The bill is considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 347

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 ''Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act''.

SEC. 2. EXECUTIVE ORDER MANDATED INFLATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM.

(a) MANDATORY INFLATION FORECASTING.—For any major Executive order, the President, acting through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, shall prepare and consider a statement estimating the inflationary effects of the Executive order, including whether the Executive order is determined to have no significant impact on inflation, is determined to have quantifiable inflationary impact on the consumer price index, or is determined likely to have a significant impact on inflation but the amount cannot be determined at the time the estimate is prepared.

(b) AGENCY ASSISTANCE.—The head of each agency shall provide to the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, such information and assistance as the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, may reasonably request to assist the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, in carrying out this section.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, shall submit to the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing each statement prepared and considered under subsection (a) during the year.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given such term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) MAJOR EXECUTIVE ORDER.—The term ''major Executive order'' means any Executive order that would be projected (in a conventional cost estimate) to cause an annual gross budgetary effect of at least $1,000,000,000, but does not include any such measure that—

(A) provides for emergency assistance or relief at the request of any State or local government or any official of a State or local government; or

(B) is necessary for the national security or the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

The CHAIR: No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House report 118–4. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 118–4.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 14, after the period insert the following: ''To the greatest extent practicable, any estimate of the inflationary impact of any major Executive order under this section shall take into account the spending patterns of military personnel and of residents of non-metropolitan areas, including rural areas and farm households.''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

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

Madam Chair, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Consumer Price Index is defined as ''the average change over time in the prices paid by urban customers.''

Now, let me say that again: Urban customers. What about the 46 million Americans who live in rural areas or the 2.6 million workers that are working on a farm or the 1.3 million in the military? They are crushed by inflation, as well.

Illinois' 12th District is one of the largest agricultural districts in the region. It is also home of Scott Air Force Base. But all too often, these hard-working, God-fearing patriots are ignored by the D.C. swamp.

The President can't ignore their needs simply because they don't live in liberal cities like New York, L.A., and Chicago, so my amendment is simple.

Since the spending patterns of military personnel, individuals in rural areas, and farm households are not included in the CPI, they must be taken into account separately in this report.

These are the individuals who produce the food on our kitchen tables, the ones who raise their right hand and swear to defend our Nation. They deserve to be represented, to be heard. My amendment ensures that they are.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, actually, I have a question because it strikes me

as a very sincerely and decently motivated amendment to a flawed bill.

But is there a reason to think that any of the current economic analyses of inflation and the current indicators that we use don't take into account the various factors that the gentleman specifies?

I yield to the gentleman for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, yes, because the definition itself describes that it is only urban and, therefore, not considering the issues, because I can guarantee you that the price and the situation that occurs in people's lives and the cost of living is completely different from one area to the other.

We are just saying that this should be taken into consideration, as well.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, reclaiming my time.

That makes great sense to me, and I am tempted to support the amendment. If the gentleman is correct, that points to a larger problem.

Is the gentleman telling us that the inflation rate today that is published by our government does not incorporate spending patterns in rural areas, for example?

□ 1800

Mr. BOST. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BOST. It is my understanding, by the definition, that would be the case, that everyone should be considered. By this definition, it is not everyone that is considered, only urban.

Mr. RASKIN. I am sorry. By which definition?

Mr. BOST. By the definition that the Consumer Price Index is defined as the average change, over time, in prices paid by urban customers, not by all customers, which would include the people I was talking about, urban only.

Mr. RASKIN. Reclaiming my time, I don't know what the reason for that is, and thank you for educating me. I wasn't aware of it.

I assume they are saying the inflation rate is higher in urban areas than it is in rural areas, which is, presumably, why they peg it to that. That might bring the inflation rate down.

Would the gentleman just give me a sense of how taking it into account might affect what is today the general inflation rate? Let's assume it is inflated because it is focused on the urban areas where the cost of living is higher. Would it reduce the overall inflation rate?

Mr. BOST. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BOST. Let me explain it this way. The answer is, I don't know, nor do you, nor does anyone because we only use the urban. Therefore, the best thing we could do is include all.

Mr. RASKIN. Reclaiming my time, this very constructive colloquy, I think, underscores the importance of actually having hearings in Congress. This is legislation that sprung out of someone's head somewhere and then appeared on the House floor without actually having a hearing where we could examine it.

The gentleman raises a profound point that might lead us to question inflation statistics generally. I just don't know. At this point, we are all guessing because we haven't had a hearing, and we don't know the facts of it.

Unfortunately, we are going to be sending people, including me, to the floor to vote on this amendment without really having any information about the background.

Obviously, we want to make sure that military personnel, farm households, and residents of rural areas are included, forcefully, if they are excluded now, even if that means bringing the inflation rate down, something I imagine President Biden would quite enjoy.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my colleague's amendment, which makes an important improvement to the bill.

The sky-high inflation America is experiencing under the Biden administration hits hard military families, rural areas, and farm households. Too often, these vital groups of our constituents get short shrift in Washington's policy considerations.

My friend's amendment makes sure that will not happen when it comes to the inflation impact assessments this bill requires.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I appreciate the input from everybody involved, and I ask for positive consideration.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

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

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. COMER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 118–4.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 25, after ''House of Representatives'', insert '', the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives''.

Page 3, line 10, after ''budgetary'', insert ''or economic''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment is a manager's amendment to enhance in two ways this already very good bill.

First, my amendment expands the bill's coverage. Instead of just covering executive orders with more than $1 billion in annual effect on the Federal budget, it would also cover executive orders with overall economic impact on our Nation's economy of $1 billion or more.

We should have inflation-impact assessments for executive orders with such significant economic effects. One such order, for example, would surely be Executive Order No. 13992, by which President Biden revoked President Trump's major regulatory reform orders.

As we all know, President Trump's orders contributed massively to the booming economy America had during the last administration. Beyond doubt, their revocation inflicted more than $1 billion of annual harm on the economy. Their repeal also makes it harder for American companies to produce a host of goods and services. That will raise inflation by making those goods and services scarcer and more costly.

Other good examples are Executive Orders Nos. 13990 and 14008. These are whole-of-government executive orders by President Biden on climate policy. These orders canceled the Keystone pipeline and launched a host of high-cost regulatory actions, particularly affecting energy.

Those executive orders surely contributed to the sky-high energy inflation Americans have experienced under President Biden.

The second way my amendment improves the bill is by requiring the White House's inflation-impact assessments to be reported not just to the House and Senate Budget Committees but also to the House Oversight and Accountability Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. These committees of cross-cutting jurisdiction should receive these annual reports.

Madam Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, the first thing I want to note about this amendment is that it now expands the definition of a major executive order to include those projected to cause an annual gross budgetary or economic effect of at least $1 billion, which includes those orders that would have a positive economic effect of $1 billion or more, thereby just adding a lot more paperwork, a lot more unnecessary bureaucratic entanglement.

The distinguished chair of the Oversight and Accountability Committee, I think, mentioned in passing the Biden administration's attempt to roll back some of the radical deregulatory program of the Trump administration, which undermined regulations favoring automobile safety, train safety, water safety, land safety.

Again, we have what appears to be another clever talking point by the GOP, and the whole country is now up in arms over what took place in East Palestine, Ohio. We see precisely what the human effects and consequences are of their radical, pro-corporate deregulatory agenda, dismantling the rules and regulations that protect public safety and public welfare.

That is really what is going on over there. It is not about having a couple of little analyses stuck onto an executive order every 4, 5, or 6 months. We know exactly what the real economic program is.

This bill is a camouflage, just like this amendment is, and I urge the body to oppose it.

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 118–4.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 24, after ''shall'', insert the following: ''publish on the public website of the Office of Management and Budget and''

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise in favor of Amendment No. 3, which will require inflation-impact assessments to be published on the Office of Management and Budget's website, not just reported to Congress.

This simple, straightforward amendment will ensure that the American people, who bear the brunt of inflation's impacts, will be better informed of the President's inflation-inducing actions.

Without my amendment, the real-life consequences of Joe Biden's spending spree in the White House will not be seen by those impacted most. This will provide transparency for the administration to answer to the American people.

Thanks to Joe Biden's reckless spending agenda, America will spend $10 trillion more over the next 10 years than we were estimated to spend. While the Federal Government continues to spend trillions of dollars it doesn't have, inflation has hit a 40-year high and our Nation is now mired in a recession.

Instead of addressing these major economic concerns head-on, the Democrat solution to inflation is to keep on spending.

The GOP majority has been empowered to hold the Biden administration accountable and demand transparency by revealing just how much Biden's executive orders are costing American families and small businesses.

This excessive spending has real consequences. American families will pay an $8,581 inflation tax over the next year.

Currently, 20 million Americans cannot pay their electric bill. We have seen a 4.3 percent decline in real wages since Biden took office. Americans have lost more than $2 trillion in retirement savings. Gas is nearly $4 a gallon again.

Americans are paying more for everything because of leftwing extremist policies.

House Republicans are working to reduce inflation by fundamentally changing the way we vote on appropriations bills and putting an end to reckless spending omnibus packages passed on Christmas Eve, without any time to actually read the bills, multi-thousand-page bills spending trillions of dollars, about 24 hours or less to read it.

We are working to cut wasteful spending, get to the bottom of fraudulent payments made by the Federal Government, support American energy production, and oppose tax increases proposed by the Democrats. Economic strength and job growth result from policies that unshackle job creators, allow American ingenuity, and provide certainty.

Madam Chair, I again thank my colleague, the chairwoman of the Republican Conference, ELISE STEFANIK, for her leadership on this issue.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and vote in favor of the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I want to just clear up a couple of things.

First, I heard the very distinguished gentlewoman from Colorado mention job creators. I assume she was responding to President Biden since 12 million new jobs have been created under President Biden, whereas millions of jobs were lost under the prior President, who may be a favorite of the gentlewoman's.

I also wanted to make just a brief semantic point because the gentlewoman was making a grammatical error that I heard some of her colleagues make before. I believe she referred to a ''Democrat solution.'' I heard another Member talk about a ''Democrat Member'' and a ''Democrat plan.''

I just wanted to educate our distinguished colleagues that ''Democrat'' is the noun. When you use it as an adjective, you say the ''Democratic Member,'' or the ''Democratic solution,'' or the ''Democratic plan.''

I assume it is a good faith grammatical error the first few times, but after people are corrected several times and they continue to say it, it seems like it is an act of incivility, as if every time we mentioned the other party it just came out with a kind of political speech impediment like, ''Oh, the banana Republican Party,'' as if we were to say that every time we mentioned the ''banana Republican Member,'' or the ''banana Republican plan,'' or the ''banana Republican Conference,'' but we wouldn't do that.

□ 1815

So out of pure political courtesy, when it is an adjective, refer to the ''Democratic Congresswoman'' or the ''Democratic Member.''

Having said that, I would like to say that I favor the Boebert amendment. I think it is really the Raskin amendment because none of them apparently caught the fact that their reporting requirement wasn't to be published until I told them. I actually read the bill, and I said there is no publication of it. So this amendment follows through on the fact that I pointed out to them that their bill didn't even call for publication of the inflation information which they thought was so essential.

Madam Chair, I am afraid I am going to have to support the Boebert amendment, because I think I am the genesis of it.

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I do want to take a few seconds to respond. That was great. We are addressed as MAGA extremists, extreme MAGA Republicans. I will just make a clarification point. It is ultra MAGA. That is what we prefer.

But I will say to the ranking member, I am very happy that they have moved on from pronouns to adjectives. When they start acting democratic, I will be sure to call them the Democratic Party.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment.

The REIN IN Act already ensures both the President and Congress receive the inflation impact assessment

the bill requires. My colleague's amendment guarantees another vital recipient gets these assessments, as well: that recipient is the American people, who are bearing the brunt of Bidenflation.

Once the White House assessments are posted on the Office of Management and Budget's website plain as day, as my friend's amendment requires, the American people will be able to know and judge better for themselves how the President is impacting their daily lives.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the amendment.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CLOUD

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 118–4.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 14, insert after the period the following: ''Any statement prepared under this subsection shall incorporate the inflationary impact of the debt servicing costs associated with the applicable major Executive order.''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The intent of the REIN IN Act is to ensure that the executive branch is taking into account inflation in our country before they issue new regulations.

Our country has seen rising inflation over the last 2 years, and inflation is affecting all of us. It is affecting our families, especially those with lower incomes who don't have as much of a cushion to deal with what we are seeing as they face increasing costs, especially in gas and in groceries.

But as we consider the cost of inflation, we should also include the cost of debt servicing in what we are doing. Too often, we, as a government, don't do the same thing that we expect our families to do. When someone goes to purchase a car, for example, or a house, they have to include the cost of interest that they are going to pay on those kinds of things. We regularly ignore that as if it wasn't an important part of what we spend when, in fact, it is about $600 billion of spending annually.

This is why I offered my amendment to the REIN IN Act. My amendment would amend the bill to direct the Office of Management and Budget and the Council of Economic Advisers to incorporate the inflationary impact of debt servicing costs into the reports that they create.

Rising interest rates have the same effect on costs of spending on the national result, as well. We see rising interest rates have the same meaning for our country as the families that we encounter. But in order to accurately account for what we are spending, we cannot ignore the cost of debt servicing or the real cost that will be accrued with new spending.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget released a report today that estimated net interest will total $10.5 trillion over the next decade. As lawmakers, we have a duty to be honest about the effects of our actions, and this amendment will keep us honest about the true effects of our spending.

Madam Chair, I encourage support of my amendment and the underlying legislation as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I would ask if the gentleman would be willing to yield for a couple of questions?

Again, there was no hearing in committee, so I don't understand this. This might be a great idea, but I would like to figure it out.

It requires that any inflationary estimates prepared incorporate the inflationary impact of debt servicing costs, which seems perfectly logical to me.

But is there a reason to think that the current inflation rate, as defined by the U.S. Government, does not incorporate the inflationary impact of debt servicing costs?

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Chair, yes, it has been regular practice with CBO. I have been working to get this done for the CBO as well since I got here in Congress.

It is the common practice among all of the entities that we look to for wisdom and advice and guidance on budgeting and spending, that the cost of debt servicing is not counted into their projections.

Mr. RASKIN. So that is true across the board in terms of all of the economic indicators that we read about, whether it is the OMB or the——

Mr. CLOUD. The information that we get to take into account, like when we are evaluating a bill and what we think the 10-year projected cost is, yes, typically it does not include the debt servicing cost.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I reclaim my time and thank the gentleman for his kind answers.

This really is why we have hearings in Congress, because it feels like we are just posting a lot of graffiti on a wall here.

I don't know how the inflation rate is calculated. I don't know whether the import of this amendment would be to double count debt servicing costs because I don't know which government agencies actually incorporate debt servicing costs and which don't.

One thing I do know is that if the gentleman has the greatest amendment of the year, it is still basically irrelevant because it does nothing. In other words, it is not going to do anything to bring down anybody's debt servicing costs, which I agree are huge, unlike, for example, what the Biden administration has done in terms of student debt by acting dramatically to bring it down—even though there are people from across the aisle who are in court today, I believe, trying to get that thrown out and trying to bring everybody's student loan debt back up—that is real economic action.

In any event, what this is about is pure symbolism. In other words, they are asking for a reporting bill that will only apply if there is a $1 billion plus impact, and the good gentleman comes forward to say: Make sure, Mr. President, when you are doing your calculations, that you include debt servicing costs.

I don't know. You could take it or leave it. It doesn't do anything for people who are staggering under debt. The way that the Biden administration is trying to act, for example, is to deal with the problem of student debt or the way that we have acted to try to help people who are suffering under mortgage debt, that is real economic action.

I am just going to have to consider it carefully, given the information we have. But I will end with a plea for the good chairman of the Oversight Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky: We have to have hearings on these bills, so we know what we are talking about, because I feel like we are dancing in the dark here.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I once again point out that we spend approximately $600 billion a year in interest payments, yet we do not count the cost of what the debt servicing will cost in anything we do.

Now, that is, in short order, expected to eclipse our military spending, which is our number one constitutional priority for our Federal spending. Whatever we want to do up here, if we do not begin to count the real cost of what we are doing, we will be off. Right now, we are having to deal with a debt ceiling issue, because the previous Congress decided to spend without considering the cost of what it was going to take and to push us toward the limit.

We are cognizant of the fact that we are spending. We are going to monitor our spending in a way that we leave a

better country for our kids and our grandkids, and this is part of making sure that we are actually counting the real cost of what we are doing as we take each step.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), the distinguished chair of the Oversight Committee.

Mr. COMER. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment.

Often when inflation is considered, people fail to consider one of its important effects. That effect is on how much more it costs taxpayers to pay interest on our Federal debt. Those interest payments are high, and they spike higher when interest rates rise.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the Federal Government would pay $400 billion in interest on the Federal debt during fiscal year 2022. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget projected at the time that for every 1 percent increase in interest rates, those annual payments would rise by $38 billion. Remember, that was for fiscal year 2022, when the Federal debt and interest rates were lower than they are now.

My colleague's amendment makes sure the impact on the Federal debt service costs will not be overlooked in the inflation impact assessments the bill requires.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I just repeat my puzzlement from before.

Perhaps if Mr. CLOUD would yield for another question.

What is the inflationary impact of debt servicing costs? Have there been any economic studies on that?

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman for a colloquy.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Chair, what we are trying to do is make sure that the debt servicing cost is included into these studies we are getting.

I have a bill, for example, to eventually do it with the Congressional Budget Office. We would like to see that, as well. This would make sure that we are getting this done in the REIN IN Act with the OMB and the Council of Economic Advisers.

It is common sense to me. This should be bipartisan. We should really be counting the costs of what we are actually spending. This isn't really meant to be a controversial bill, except for those who don't really want to know what we are actually spending.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I reclaim my time.

I think the gentleman raises a very interesting point. I would love to know the answer as to whether or not it is actually incorporated today in what the inflationary or deflationary effects are of debt servicing costs. Obviously, this bill and this amendment would not have any impact on what those debt servicing costs are, but I don't see much of a problem of adding this language to the hortatory nature of the legislation.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just add, it may not change what we are doing, but it would change the knowledge of what we are doing here in Congress. The fact that we continue to spend money without even knowing how much money we are spending, I think, is a problem and certainly not the due diligence that we should have as Members of Congress, being diligent with the public trust that we have been given.

So having the real cost estimates before us is going to be very valuable as we go forward to understand exactly what we are doing as we begin to evaluate legislation and for the administration when they are dealing with regulations they are proposing.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I will just end on this one with this thought.

The majority comes forward with a plan to say we want to know an estimated inflationary impact of an executive order, and then we have a series of Christmas tree amendments saying, make sure you include the cost to rural areas; make sure you include the cost of debt servicing. I would like to know the overall costs.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1830

The CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 5 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 118–4.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 10, strike ''inflation,'' and insert ''inflation or''.

Page 2, beginning on line 11, strike the comma and all that follows through ''prepared'' on line 14.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, for those of us who have had the privilege of serving in the United States Congress for a period of time, going through any number of Speakers and majorities, what we are doing this evening in the midst of the needs of the American people is deja vu.

Let me say that the Congressional Review Act process, which we debated just a few hours ago, would have added a 60-day review period on crucial, lifesaving executive orders that would have been necessary or have been necessary to save lives and to improve the quality of life of the American people—in this instance, rulemaking.

It is obstructionist. It was passed, the Congressional Review Act—obstruction—some 60-day review period, adding a Senate vote, a House vote, a veto, and coming back again when American lives are in jeopardy for healthcare, for the environment, for labor laws, any number of things, for criminal justice reform, any number of rules that would create a better pathway for Americans.

Now, we come with the REIN IN Act. I am positive that we did the REIN IN Act some years ago. It sounds very familiar. This one deals with allegedly providing some pathway for dealing effectively with inflation.

I would hope my colleagues would be as interested in raising the debt ceiling, which will stop the bleeding of the American people and busting their wallets open because we have refused to pay our bills.

This seems to ignore the work that President Biden has done to cut everyday costs for working families, bring global supply chains back in, alleviating debt for students and veterans, and fighting climate change.

This part of their larger plan to cut Medicare, Social Security, and other crucial programs are in this bill.

Eliminating the language that we did with my amendment further helps to ensure that improper and ambiguous congressional interference in executive orders as sought through this legislation is appropriately curtailed.

The executive orders that are well vetted by the President of the United States that have helped populations that have been in trouble, that have brought about a reckoning of police reform, these executive orders would not be interfered with under the pretense of trying to suggest an inflationary impact.

Why not applaud the work that President Biden has done, as I said, with alleviating the debt of students and veterans, of which there are those now fighting this in the Supreme Court, the work he has done on climate change, and the work we have all done—Democrats and the President—to preserve Medicare, Social Security, and other critical programs?

I ask my colleagues to support Jackson Lee amendment No. 6 to stop the interference that has no benefit and impact on any inflationary uptick. What we need to do is work together to provide a budget, to be able to overview the budget, and to be able to come together to raise the debt ceiling to pay America's bills.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support amendment No. 6, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, the amendment strikes the bill's requirement for an inflation impact assessment when an executive order will have a significant impact on inflation, but the impact cannot yet be precisely quantified.

That is exactly the wrong approach to take. If the White House can determine an executive order will indeed have a significant impact on inflation, that is what is important. The President should know about that before he acts.

It would be unwise and dangerous to happily let the President proceed in the dark about an order's inflationary impacts just because they cannot be calculated with perfect precision.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, this is deja vu. I know the intent of this legislation, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act.

What I would say is my amendment clearly wants to take away destructive interference in the work that the executive has to do through vetting their executive orders by not insisting on extra baggage that would not in any way provide any relief to inflation.

What will provide relief to inflation would be to ensure that the debt of students is reduced, that veterans are protected, that Medicare and Social Security are protected, and that the debt ceiling is raised.

My amendment, by eliminating the language, further helps to ensure that improper and ambiguous congressional interference with executive orders, as sought through this legislation, is appropriately curtailed because the more you delay constructive executive orders to help the American people, the more you undermine the relief of the American people and help to bring down inflation.

Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 347, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation or REIN In Act, an unnecessary, ambiguous and improper reporting bill that undermines the important steps President Biden has taken to cut everyday costs for working families.

H.R. 347 would require the Administration to publish the inflationary impact of executive orders that are projected to have an annual budgetary effect of at least $1 billion.

While I stand in strong opposition to this measure, I have offered five amendments, four of which were made in order, to H.R. 347 in order to help address the some of ambiguity and unnecessary oversight of presidential executive orders this bill unfortunately puts forth.

Jackson Lee Amendment #5 restricts the bill to only cover Executive Orders as listed in Sec. 2 (d)(2)(A) (emergency assistance) and (B) (national security or treaties).

The Jackson Lee Amendment #5 would change the legislation to make only those executive orders that qualify as emergency assistance and national security or treaties to go through mandatory inflation forecasting, instead of requiring that all executive orders outside of the scope of emergency assistance or national security or treaties go through mandatory inflation forecasts.

Jackson Lee Amendment #6 inserts into Sec. 2 (a) line 10 ''or'' after ''inflations'' and Strikes Sec. (a) lines 11–14, to clarify and make consistent with economic policy on inflationary impacts and effects.

Jackson Lee Amendment #6 would eliminate some of the ambiguous and extraneous language in this bill.

Jackson Lee Amendment #7 adds at the end of section 2(d) the definition to ''significant impact'' in Sec. 2 (a), which states as follows: ''The term ''significant impact on inflation'' means an Executive order was estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1% percentage point over the course of a year.''

Jackson Lee Amendment #7 would define significant impact in regard to the increase or decrease of the Consumer Price Index.

It is important that Significant Impact to the Consumer Price Index of inflation is specified to eliminate ambiguity in the application of the term ''significant''.

In keeping in line with nationally recognized standards for what is deemed to be ''significant'' in the context of inflation, many economists agree that an increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1% percentage point over the course of a year is considered to be a significant impact on the Consumer Price Index over a year.

Jackson Lee Amendment #8 adds at the end of section 2(d), (4) ''The term ''quantifiable inflationary impact'' means an Executive order was estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1% percentage point over the course of a year.''

The Jackson Lee Amendment #8 would specify the meaning and application of what quantifiable inflationary impact is to eliminate ambiguity and uncertainty in its contextual use for the purpose of this legislation.

And so again, keeping in line with nationally recognized standards, many economists agree that a ''quantifiable inflationary impact'' is deemed to occur when there is an increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1% percentage point over the course of a year.

While H.R. 347 is a clear overreach and would impose improper and onerous restrictions upon the Executive Branch, the Jackson Lee Amendments will be offered to this body as mere attempted to help ensure that the inappropriate limitations as proscribed by this legislation are curtailed in its effort to limit the authority of the Executive orders.

The ability of the Executive Branch to carry out its Executive Orders without improper or overbearing congressional restrictions on such actions is of utmost importance to our Democracy and the continued growth and betterment of our country.

And while executive orders are not expressly addressed in the U.S. Constitution and no statute grants the President the general power to issue them, executive orders have always been accepted as an inherent and necessary aspect of presidential power and function of our government since its inception.

The legislation, however, oversteps the boundaries of our nation's governmental functions by attempting to override critically important and vital actions our democracy needs and has historically accepted as an inherent facet of separate functioning branches of our government.

Imposing such broad and ambiguous oversight of executive orders as proposed by H.R. 347 would only serve as an unnecessary and improper restriction on the powers of the Presidential executive orders, while also perpetuating a waste of government resources and further hindering American economic growth.

As such, I urge all my colleagues to oppose this onerous and unnecessary bill.

Madam Chair, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I request a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 118–4.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of section 2(d), add the following:

(4) SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.—The term ''significant impact'' means, with respect to a major Executive order, that such order is estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1 percentage point over the course of a year.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, we cannot run the government by ambiguity, confusion, lack of clarity, and just throwing language down on the floor and expecting all the pieces of government to work together.

I question whether this legislation and the legislation dealing with the Congressional Review Act is ever going to be passed in the United States Senate. I question that. It would have been nice to have hearings and work together.

This amendment tries to bring clarity. My amendment tries to define the term ''significant impact.'' The term ''significant impact on inflation'' means an executive order was estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least

1 percentage point over the course of a year. This amendment does clarify that the meaning of ''significant impact on inflation'' is quantifiable in any effort to make such a determination.

The lack of specificity of applicability for when this unnecessary legislative restriction would take place, and mandate, will be imposed on all executive orders, as provided for in the bill, is unnecessary, time-consuming, and a waste of resources. In fact, I don't even know how any President would get through it.

I am not saying that executive orders should not have their necessary oversight. They can. The Oversight and Accountability Committee and other jurisdictional committees can have oversight.

If this is to reduce inflation, all this bill will do is raise the costs of any act or action that is asked for in the executive order.

Jackson Lee amendment No. 7 would help to ensure that any attempt to restrict the powers and authority of executive orders is curtailed in a manner that would limit such mandate to apply only in such scenario whereby economically accepted standards are considered and applied.

For example, ''significant impact on inflation'' is limited to instances where there has been an increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index, the CPI, inflation by at least 1 percent over the course of a year. With that in mind, we would have clarity; we would have an understanding; and we would be able to know whether this is irrelevant, burdensome, and overly excessive in doing the work on behalf of the American people.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support Jackson Lee amendment No. 7, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, this amendment defines a ''significant impact on inflation'' as only an impact that would increase or decrease the Consumer Price Index by at least 1 percentage point.

With all due respect, that is magical thinking. If a single executive order were to produce a full 1 percentage point increase in inflation, that would not be just a significant effect; it would be a massive effect.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' inflation data from January 23, 2023, showed that the Consumer Price Index rose 6.4 percent over the prior year. A 1 percent point rise would constitute 16 percent of that yearly rise. That is a huge portion of yearly inflation.

Few individual executive orders, even ones that stoke inflation significantly, would on their own raise inflation by 1 full percentage point or more.

What the amendment really is trying to do is gut the bill.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. LEE of Florida). The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), the ranking member of the Oversight and Accountability Committee.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I want to speak in strong support of the gentlewoman's amendment. I thank Ms. JACKSON LEE for her leadership in terms of real economic policy, which is about making the government an instrument of well-being and public good.

We know we have serious philosophical differences with our friends across the aisle. Many of them wanted to dismantle Social Security and Medicare. When President Biden arrived the other day, a lot of them retreated very quickly from it.

I would be delighted if someone wants to challenge me on that because we have all the quotations from all the Republican Senators and Representatives that said it was time to get rid of Social Security and phase it out, adopt means testing, increase the age, so on and so forth.

That is a real policy difference. What they have done here really falls under the category of symbolic politics. The good gentlewoman from Texas has done her best to make this meaningful, and I thank her for giving me the opportunity to say that.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for further clarifying our intent.

Usually, inflation, by the economists, is around 2 percent. To have this amendment that indicates 1 percent, it gives some clarity of a significant impact.

I would say this: I believe in oversight, but I don't believe in obstruction, intrusion, and stopping work that impacts the American people.

My amendment provides clarity so that the work for the American people can go forward. It is evident that President Biden has had a significant impact on bringing down inflation and building a better quality of life.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support Jackson Lee amendment No. 7, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

□ 1845

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 118–4.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of section 2(d), add the following:

(4) QUANTIFIABLE INFLATIONARY IMPACT.—The term ''quantifiable inflationary impact'' means, with respect to a major Executive order, that such order is estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1 percentage point over the course of a year.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, all of us have seen the great work of the Oversight and Reform Committee in the two initiatives that we have had today.

Clearly, we are all sort of stretching to try to understand the impact of the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act, and we are trying to find the substance.

So my previous amendment was dealing with significant impact, and now we are dealing with quantifiable inflationary impact. I wanted to add as to what this actually means.

So my amendment says quantifiable inflationary impact means an executive order was estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1 percentage point over the course of a year knowing that inflation is usually 2 percent a year.

I am just trying to find light in darkness and to try to understand what this bill is doing and to give those who are in government to do good, those who are trying to solve problems with a legitimate executive order to have some guidance that relates to inflation and not be of no substance with a bottomless pit, to be very honest with you, Madam Chair.

I am hoping my colleagues will join me in trying to give some guidance and some quantifiable definition to quantifiable inflationary input by tracking it to what has traditionally been by economists inflation 2 percent. We just went to 1 percent to give some definition to this to give some ability for anyone to understand how to analyze or utilize this legislation if it ever gets to the President's desk.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, this amendment is similar to my colleague's last amendment. It defines a ''quantifiable inflationary impact'' as only an impact that would increase or decrease the Consumer Price Index by at least 1 percentage point.

If a given executive order did not have that level of impact, the bill, if amended this way, would require no inflation impact assessment.

But as my colleague's prior amendment, this amendment would not improve the bill, but instead gut the bill.

Letting off the hook all executive orders with less than 1 percentage point impact on the Consumer Price Index would mean that all or virtually all orders would be off the hook. That includes those with obviously significant inflationary effects.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Chair, let me quickly say that, again, the Jackson Lee amendment before us is keeping in line with nationally recognized standards.

Many economists agree that a quantifiable inflationary impact is deemed to occur when there is an increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1 percent and over the course of a year. It will not gut the bill. It will let us try to understand the bill.

While H.R. 347 is a clear overreach and would impose improper and onerous restrictions upon the executive branch, the Jackson Lee amendment tries to find some common ground that will be offered to this body as a mere attempt to help ensure that the inappropriate limitations as prescribed by this legislation are curtailed in its effort to limit the authority of the executive orders.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to consider and vote for the Jackson Lee amendment No. 8, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MRS. LEE OF NEVADA.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 118–4.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, after line 2, add the following:

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to suggest that the task of combating inflation and bringing down the cost of living is the sole responsibility of the Executive Office of the President, and not also a key pursuit of the United States House of Representatives during the 118th Congress through thoughtful, productive legislative action.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of my amendment to H.R. 347, the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act.

My amendment underscores the fact that it is not the sole responsibility of the executive office of the President to reduce inflation, but that productive, bipartisan legislative action is the best way that we can collectively combat inflation and bring down the cost of living.

I represent southern Nevada, a part of the country that has been especially hit hard by the price hikes driven up by the pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Nevadan families have been hurting. They have been forced to make difficult decisions about how to make ends meet and how to provide for their loved ones for far too long, and they are tired of finger-pointing. They are done with partisan potshots and bickering that achieve nothing to help them make ends meet.

Although the pace of inflation has slowed since hitting a peak last summer, the cost of living continues to remain far too high, and that is why they and the rest of America are calling on Congress for us to do our job, to take real action, and to provide relief. That is what we owe them.

We made progress in this direction during the last Congress with the CHIPS and Science Act, the bipartisan infrastructure package, and other landmark bills that continue to help strengthen our supply chains and relieve price pressures.

This Congress we need to continue that legacy and set aside political posturing and instead advance more thoughtful legislation that will actually bring down costs and meet the needs of our constituents.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: Congress is at our best when we put policy first and politics last.

I implore all of my colleagues to support this amendment because finding bipartisan compromise and real progress on our Nation's most pressing issue is not only right, it is what we were sent here to do.

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I rise in favor of Mrs. LEE's excellent amendment here which makes both powerful economic points and powerful constitutional points.

The economic point is that Congress must act in order to bring down inflation, Congress must act in order to promote employment, and we have acted in partnership with President Biden to do just that in the Inflation Reduction Act, in the infrastructure act, and in a whole series of bills that we have used to bring inflation down and to dramatically lower unemployment in the country.

But she is making also, I believe, a very powerful constitutional point because part of what gets lost in the symbolism of this legislation—a mere messaging bill about having executive orders over $1 billion, which describes a handful in a year attached in an inflation description—what gets lost is that the Constitution in Article I sets it up so that Congress is the major definer of economic policy in the country.

It is Congress that is supposed to be laying and collecting taxes and impost and dealing with the debt of the country. It is Congress that regulates commerce among the States and with foreign countries.

So the failure to come forward with real productive legislation on inflation is also a surrender to the executive branch, and we don't need to do that.

So we should be working with the executive branch as we have done in the Inflation Reduction Act, with the infrastructure bill, in lowering prescription drug costs, and in lowering the costs for diabetics to get their insulin shots to $35 a month. That is the real pathway, not just a bunch of reporting bills.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, my colleague's amendment states an obvious fact: It is the responsibility of both the President and the House of Representatives to combat inflation. I have no quarrel with that.

In fact, in advancing this bill, the House is taking one step toward fulfilling its responsibility to combat inflation.

It is doing so by using this legislative authority to help ensure that the President focuses on combating inflation, not issuing executive orders that make inflation worse.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. LANGWORTHY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 118–4.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, as the designee of Mr. ANDY OGLES, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 11, after ''consumer'' insert ''or producer''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 166, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleague's amendment makes sure that inflation assessments prepared under the bill will address a critical inflationary measure—the Producer Price Index.

Now, when people think of inflation, they usually think of the Consumer Price Index. But the Producer Price Index is critical as well. It measures changes in the selling prices domestic producers receive for their output. These prices are from the very first commercial transactions for many products and services. Thus, changes in the Producer Price Index can signal that changes in prices are about to ripple through the economy.

These should be accounted for in each inflation impact assessment that the bill requires.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RASKIN. As far as I understand, the amendment just adds one more unnecessary detail to the report, creating greater administrative burden and taxpayer costs that are still undefined. It is unclear why it is necessary. If it is necessary, it should be adopted across the board. But, of course, we had no hearing so we can't really understand what the merits of the proposal are, but right now, it just seems like a lot more bureaucratic paperwork.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1900

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEAN of Florida) having assumed the chair, Ms. LEE of Florida, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ENHANCED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINS CARRYING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the fact that when Norfolk Southern's train derailed next to my district—leaking chemicals, evacuating constituents, and distressing thousands—the people of western Pennsylvania were mad, and so was I.

That is why my first bill in Congress is to take on the railroads. Today, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) and I introduced the DERAIL Act, which ensures trains carrying hazardous materials are properly classified and have increased safety requirements. It is long overdue, but rail industry lobbyists have fought against it.

This derailment included hazardous materials, but since the train wasn't classified properly, it didn't have stricter safety rules. That is why we need the DERAIL Act.

This bill is for everyone in Beaver County, East Palestine. It is for everyone who has heard about this derailment and thought: ''Could this happen here?'' The terrible reality is yes, it could, but if colleagues from both parties join together, it doesn't have to.

Let's tell the railroads we won't let them recklessly pursue profit and endanger our communities and workers.

I will keep fighting to hold Norfolk Southern accountable for every penny of pain they have caused.

BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMY FOR ALL

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the last day of Black History Month to celebrate the remarkable contributions of Black businessowners.

Business ownership leads to higher incomes and more wealth, but decades of systemic bias, redlining, lending discrimination, and inequity in wages have created an ever-widening wealth gap for minority communities.

According to the Alliance for Entrepreneurial Equity, Black-owned businesses are three to five times more likely to be labeled as a high credit risk, which sets up barriers to affordable financing and slows growth. During the height of the pandemic, minority-owned firms were more likely to be completely shut out of credit and capital resources, receiving none of the financing they sought out.

This Black History Month, I met with entrepreneurs in my district who drive our economy forward, people like Malik Muhammad, owner of an independent bookstore in Baldwin Hills. Malik is passionate about investing in the community and does so by hosting bookfairs at local schools because he knows that in order for his neighborhood to thrive, more people of color need to start businesses in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to recognize the great strength that is Black entrepreneurship and work with me to build a more equitable economy for all.

CONGRATULATING JOANNA McCLINTON

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you proud—proud of Pennsylvania; proud of my Democratic colleagues in the Pennsylvania House; proud of the thousands of volunteers who helped deliver a statehouse majority last November in Pennsylvania, a house majority that on this last day of Black History Month is celebrating history—or should I say her-story—Pennsylvania made today.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and celebrate Representative Joanna McClinton, my colleague, my friend, and, as of today, speaker of the Pennsylvania House, the first woman, the first African-American woman, to be called Madam Speaker.

Speaker McClinton follows in the footsteps of men like Leroy Irvis, the first African-American speaker of the Pennsylvania House, and African-American trailblazers like Barbara Jordan and Karen Bass.

What a crucial time in our State's history, our Nation's history, to have Speaker McClinton lead us, a time when we can fairly fund our education, rebuild roads, and combat gun violence and the opioid epidemic while protecting the planet for our children and children to come.

Joanna, a mother, a minister, a former public defender, now our speaker, what a way to end Black History Month. Congratulations to the Pennsylvania House. Congratulations, and Godspeed, Speaker McClinton.

SALT DEDUCTION MUST BE INCREASED

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

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce my bill, the SALT Relief Act.

My bill will increase the State and local taxes cap deduction from $10,000 to $50,000. Increasing the SALT deduction is a step in the right direction to lessen the burden of combined Federal, State, and local taxes during these times of economic hardship.

New York has one of the highest tax rates in the country, ranking above—including Federal, State, and local taxes.

In 2018, for Nassau County, the average SALT amount—property tax, income, or sales tax liability—reported among itemizing filers was $30,227.21, but due to the $10,000 cap, the average SALT deduction actually claimed was $9,023.79.

Let it be known that the SALT tax is not a tax break for the wealthy but a tax relief for working-class families. This is about the 118th Congress working to ease the affordability burden in high-tax States like New York.

The cost of living continues to plague New Yorkers. Raising the cap on SALT will provide real tax relief, not just to New York's Third Congressional District but to all in America.

MATH ALWAYS WINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we are going to try to do sort of the continuation on the theme, but we are going to actually end it up with a dozen or so solutions.

I know the Parliamentarian said I can't hold my 8-month-old, but I wanted to prove the 8-month-old was real.

Look, there are some realities I keep coming behind these microphones to try to explain, and I continue to be just enraged, particularly to my brothers and sisters on the left, by the avoidance of the math.

My little boy, who is 8 months old, in 25 years, according to CBO, his taxes will have to be doubled. Corporate taxes will have to be doubled. Tariffs will have to be doubled. Everything has to double just to maintain baseline services. That is the math.

How many discussions have you heard here even today, over the last month, the reality of the math? The math will always win.

Once again, I am going to walk through some of what is really going on. For everyone here who says, ''We are going to balance in 10 years,'' okay, I can do it, but you have to understand the amount of bloodletting that is required to actually make that math work.

The actual structural problem is actually not on the left, not on the right; it is demographics, something we are terrified of.

What the President did in his State of the Union speech was just unconscionable when he basically used Social Security and Medicare as props for his reelection instead of telling the truth. In a decade, the Medicare trust fund is gone. In a decade, the Social Security trust fund is gone.

Does the left plan to help us fix it? If they don't, they get to be responsible for doubling senior poverty in this country. It is the math.

I have started with this board now for multiple years. The new numbers are coming out, and they are actually worse. The United States functionally has $114 trillion of borrowing, and it is all, every dime of it, Social Security and Medicare. The rest of the budget actually has a positive balance.

We got old. Look, I am a gray hair with a child. Maybe I am pathologically optimistic, but it is hard to fix a problem when you work in a place where your brothers and sisters will not look you in the eye and say: I understand the driver of our debt is our demographics.

For those of you with this up on YouTube, read the comments. About half the folks get it. About half the folks, the absurdities are just heartbreaking. ''Tax rich people. That takes care of it.'' ''Get rid of congressional salaries.'' We actually did the math. The funny thing is, if you get rid of all the Senate salaries and House salaries, it is 28 minutes of borrowing. That was last year's number. In 10 years, it is like 12 minutes of borrowing.

People have no concept. You can get every dime of foreign aid, and it is about 12 days of the borrowing.

Let's actually start to walk through to understand structurally how much trouble we are actually in.

Reducing the discretionary spending to zero—remember, the point I am trying to make here is you just got rid of all the military; you just got rid of the White House; you just got rid of Congress; you just got rid of the Supreme Court; you got rid of the EPA; you got rid of the IRS; you got rid of everything, all discretionary money. The only thing you are paying is Medicare, Social Security, the earned benefits, some of the Medicaid, veterans benefits, what we call mandatory around here.

When you get to about 10 years—remember, you have just wiped out the government; all you are doing is paying the benefits. When you actually remove all the mandatory, you are still having to borrow a couple hundred billion dollars.

When the clown show comes and says, ''If we just got rid of this or that, we would be fine,'' it is not true. Your government functionally is an insurance company with an army, an insurance company that technically is broke.

Let's walk through some of the math. I am going to do this over and over, and maybe one of these slides will actually help it sink in.

I have to throw something out that is just annoying. The room is empty. That is okay. People are in their offices working. We are on thousands of televisions around this place. I have given up on so many of my fellow Members, but maybe the staff, maybe the staff that is sitting there trying to figure out the math and the policy and what is going to go on, maybe they are listening.

This is where we are at. Remember, this was just done last week. The Congressional Budget Office updated a bunch of the math.

Our shortfall over the next 30 years is $21 trillion on Social Security. Remember, Social Security still has a trust fund, but in 10 years, the trust fund is gone.

I don't think I brought the charts, but I have done it over and over. The average American who works their 40 quarters and those things, you get every dime you put in plus a SPIF.

□ 1915

You would have made a lot more money if you put it in the market or other places, but remember, there were discussions to try to do that 25 years ago. The left went nuts, so it didn't happen. It is mathematically impossible to do today.

But Medicare functionally has $48 trillion of shortfall because the trust fund on Medicare, which is only the part A, the hospital, part of the doctor portion, is empty in 10 years.

So when you are seeing us talk about a 10-year budget, one of the great little lies around here is we are not telling you that on the 11th year it gets a hell of a lot worse.

Because are you going to backfill Medicare? Backfill Social Security?

Transportation Trust Fund, Highway Trust Fund is also gone at that time, too.

Then you put in these over the 30 years and then add in another $47 trillion of interest. You start to understand when you are seeing the new scoring, looks more like a—if you do a 30-year math on it, on this latest CBO update, you have to do a little bit of imputing of the math, you're probably approaching about $128 trillion, not that $114 trillion on the first slide.

It is actually over the next 9 budget years—I know one says 10—just Medicare goes up another trillion dollars in spend. And then it really starts to take off because the trust fund is gone.

So when the President basically said we are not going to touch Social Security and Medicare, I agree. They are earned. They are earned. But where was the next sentence saying: And I plan to work with Republicans to keep them, to keep them solvent, to keep them here, instead of the clown show

that is going on right now and saying, well, we are not allowed to talk about it.

I had protestors at my office a couple days ago saying don't touch Social Security.

Okay. We don't touch it in, what?

Now it is, what, 9½ years. Are you ready for your 23 percent cut?

Because that is what the actuaries say is coming. Then the next year it gets bigger, and the cut gets bigger, and the cut gets bigger, and the cut gets bigger. And our back-of-the-napkin math is at that time you functionally double senior poverty.

So the clown show around here goes: You can't talk about Social Security. It has become a political issue. The President actually used it in the State of the Union.

Okay. I am going to show you some of the Democrat solutions and the absurdity of the math.

I need my brothers and sisters all here if you give a damn. Put some batteries in the calculator, hire a couple competent actuaries. Actually, try something even crazier, and for anyone that is watching or listening, go grab—you have to two different documents out there. The one is really an easy read, high school math. You will be fine.

The Congressional Budget Office, about 6 weeks ago, did an update on Social Security. It is an easy read. A little harder read but actually much more impactful. Go actually get the copy of the Social Security Medicare actuary report—or is it Medicare Social Security actuary report? Either way. Dig through that, and you will understand the demographic curve.

I am going to show you some demographic slides. And I promise you, I am going to upset some people, and maybe it is a little too geeky.

My father used to have a saying: For every complex problem, there is a simple solution.

That is absolutely wrong.

We are talking trillions of dollars. We are talking about millions and millions and millions of our brothers and sisters.

Guess what? Solutions are complex.

Is this body capable? I don't know if it is anymore.

Part of the problem is we have politicized everything to the point that we are incapable of telling the truth, because often telling the truth either gets you unelected or screws up the fundraising or other things.

I just continue to be enraged. Does my little boy—do you deserve a retirement? Does he deserve a future?

Because the wheels are coming off.

I just showed you a slide that said 10 years from now I can wipe out everything you think is government, and you still have to borrow money.

And no, China has actually been dialing down its bond holdings for a decade. Japan has been dialing down their bond holdings for decades.

We now finance most of our borrowing ourselves—actually almost all of our borrowing ourselves. Single fail bond auction. You want to talk about hell?

At a future time I will actually walk you through scenarios of what happens when we go to sell U.S. sovereign debt and it is undersubscribed and watch the interest rate go through the ceiling because you have to sell it.

So let's take a quick look, just to understand the baseline structure of what has happened to Social Security. And once again, no one stole your money.

That was a rhetorical thing that politicians did to sound like they cared because they didn't want to tell you the actual math, and the actual math was demographics.

Social Security by the numbers: In 1960, I had 5 workers for every retiree, for every beneficiary.

How far away is 2030? Come on. Seriously, can anyone help me do some math here?

How far away is 2030?

Think of that. At the end of the decade, if you are married, you and your partner, your spouse, you got your own retiree.

Does that help explain part of the math problem? Understand in the early days for a working male on the very first year of Social Security, I have seen it documented that the average life expectancy was 64 years old, and you didn't get the benefit until you were 65.

You see some of the design issues?

Yes, it was a major update in, what, 1983. Tip O'Neill sitting in that chair over there; Ronald Reagan in the White House. They did difficult things. They shored it up. But now we have hit the baby boom curve.

We have divided government again just like we did back in the 1980s. What a magical time for us both to hold hands and save it, because you have a math problem. You got two workers for every beneficiary.

How much did you see the President in the state of the Union show like he gave a damn for anyone that is on Social Security?

I am not going to touch it.

Then what was his next sentence that is going off the cliff?

There are some very creative structural ideas, almost setting up either a sovereign wealth fund, some incentives where you actually get benefited to stay in the labor market and other things. We can save it with no one taking a cut. It is just going to require math and a lot of explaining.

This is pretty much another way of seeing the same slide of how many workers per retiree.

This is for my Democrat brothers and sisters. And I know this is done as a percentage of the economy which, believe it or not, when you actually look at the actuary reports, that is how we actually structurally look at programs like this that require trillions of dollars to finance.

We actually sort of say, here is the percentage of the economy that actually goes to that benefit. Total tax revenues raised in combined Federal, State, and payroll taxes approach 100 percent for wealthy taxpayers as a percentage of GDP.

It is basically saying what would happen if we functionally took 100 percent of the income from the wealthy. Once again, let's try this again, because there are a couple trolls out there saying, well oh, BERNIE SANDERS had this idea.

Okay. He does. If you can read through it, the amount of all the wealth income is just to shore up Social Security, and then they forget three-quarters of the borrowing is Medicare. You get 4 percent of GDP if you take all the taxes we are already paying and then add in functionally 100 percent tax on the income for the wealthy.

The problem is, the spending on just Social Security and Medicare is 6 percent, so you still got 2 percent of the entire economy as a shortfall.

And how much do you think if we took every dime of the wealthiest income, what do you think the economy would look like?

What would the growth be?

What would the investment be?

You have to understand, I do these things, they are absurd. But the discussion around here is absurd.

''Well, if we just tax the wealthy more.'' Well, maybe we should, but don't think it actually fixes the problem.

And here is where it gets more uncomfortable, but let's do some demographics.

First point: I think our math says in like 19 years or 19½ years, the United States has more deaths than births. So in less than 20 years, the United States has more deaths than births.

I need you to think through that. Remember, a Social Security actuary is modeled for 75 years. In less than two decades, I have started having more deaths than births in this country.

And you start to understand what they call—it is actually a demographic term—a dependency ratio. And it turns out the three biggest economies in the world—the United States, China, Japan—and this is a little hard to read but it is worth the concept. I also am an outlier in my belief that much of what China does is because this curve collapsing down here is China. It is basically what they call dependency ratio, the number of folks they have that will be dependent on a worker.

Right now, today, they are healthier than the United States. They have more workers than dependents but their curve folds incredibly hard.

This one is the United States. We basically sort of fall and fall and fall and sort of flatline.

Japan is already in just a miserable state.

This is happening all around the industrialized world. We don't have enough kids. It is math. It is demographics.

So are we ready to embrace some pretty radical concepts?

There are some great authors out there that talk about how the 1970s and 1980s, and maybe even through part of the 1990s, the world had competition for what they called hydrocarbons: oil, natural gas.

In the previous decade and right up to today, it may be a world sort of competition for rare-earth elements because of electrification and batteries and those things. The next couple decades it may be an international battle for smart people.

Take a look at how many of the countries we compete with that have changed their immigration codes to actually recruit people who have skill sets. And it is not all just Ph.D.'s or electrical engineering. It is if you are a skilled carpenter, if you are a skilled programmer; if you are this or that. It is actually a really interesting and uncomfortable debate.

But as you are going to see, as we talk about these charts, I can make the numbers work. On one hand of the ledger, we need economic growth, and we need a lot of it.

Well, the way you get there is through fixing the regulatory system. The way you get there is from an economy that starts to become incredibly competitive again instead of the protection racket it has become today. We also have to fix the immigration system where you are not importing poverty, but you are importing talent, so you have economic growth.

Remember, the trick here is over the coming decades I need the debt to not grow faster than the size of the economy. You need that, too. We all need it, and so does my little 8-month-old.

We are going to compete against the world because the rest of the world is also—at least the industrialized world—is facing the same demographic collapse.

And now we get into the stuff that becomes really uncomfortable to talk about, and I have to find a way, but it is math and it is policy.

There is something really crappy going on in our society right now, and it is uncomfortable. I may be the only idiot who is dumb enough to walk up behind these microphones and talk about it, but we have a problem.

We have young males entering universities, almost similar to females, and then not graduate. I didn't bring all the charts, but the number of young males, particularly under 35, who just are functionally not showing up in the economy.

And why this is important?

I am not talking about a few. I am talking about millions and millions and millions. We are actually even looking at some of these charts. And where this gets to be a tricky conversation is when you start to see college enrollment by gender and then the males basically falling off the cliff here, particularly the last few years, where females graduated.

Great. This is wonderful over here. This is a real societal problem.

□ 1930

There is a cultural concept called marriageable populations, and I will see if I can weave this into this unified theory.

If I have a young woman that has worked her heart out, she has graduated, and the pool of available spouses are people that did not graduate, we are actually seeing what we call a marriageability gap. And we see that across the board, across ethnicities, and now it is really starting to show up in our economic data of slowing down our economic growth projections.

When you get someone who says, well, I can do this, I will do a tax cut here, I will do this here, and I get all this economic growth, I got a problem. I got a whole bunch of my society that is not entering either the workforce, they are not forming families, they are not having kids. The basic structure that builds both a society, a healthy community, but also actually builds that economic underpinning of that society. It is worth studying. It is worth digging in to.

We got to understand what is happening with young men, because it is such a large number now. We see it in our economic data as basically stultifying—if that is a word—the economic growth.

You have a world now where my brothers and sisters on the left, my Democrat colleagues run around saying, well, we have this low unemployment. And then you look at the available populations that should be in the labor force, but they don't show up in the data because they are not even looking.

Remember, we have fewer people today in the labor force than we did before the pandemic, by millions. Then I stand up here just pissed off trying to say, does anyone care about the math? Because at the end of the decade, the wheels are coming off and they don't need to.

This is just more of the same, just sort of showing that the participation of prime age males, basically, continues to decline, decline, decline. The other chart actually may have done a better job of showing the cliff.

What have I tried to argue here? I have debt that is exploding and it is substantially healthcare costs. It is substantially our demographics. We got old.

I have a seesaw here that if we could get both sides in balance, there is a way it works, but you have got to over here have growth. I got to have labor force participation. I have to have encouragement for people, whether you are older and we incentivize you, saying, hey, we are not going to take your side of the FICA tax if you stay in the labor force and you are 70 but you feel that you want to work. Great. We love you. Please. Thank you.

How do I get young males back into the labor force, to get them to actually graduate college? This is important. If you are a university, please pay attention to these numbers. There is something that is almost crisis level going on out there.

The adoption of technology in regulation. Do you need buildings full of file cabinets and paper to regulate the environment, or could you actually do it through technology? We are all walking around with a supercomputer in your pocket. Stick the little sensor on it and you could do air quality monitoring. I no longer need a building to file paperwork. I always know what is going on. You can crowdsource it.

There are ideas like this that both disrupt, shrink the size of government. Government is just far too massive, and you can replace much of it with technology. The battles I have in Ways and Means over the IRS. Do you hire an army of unionized workers or do you use technology? If you believe there is a bunch of tax cheats out there, use technology to find them, or do you think an army of unionized workers is a much better way to do it? That is absurd.

Growth ledger. What I am going to talk about now is some of the disruptive ideas. Maybe a number of these won't work. Maybe they are just techno utopianism, but it is the thought process. It is the mental discipline to start thinking through the basic idea of, if I had a vibrant, competitive, disruptive economy that is actually crashing the price of healthcare over here and growing over here, I can do the math on that. I can show you that we can flatten out this debt bomb that is about to wipe out your retirement and my kids' future.

I want to give just a simple thought experiment, except it is real. Do you remember a half an hour ago, the Democrats touting in the Inflation Reduction Act, we are going to spend billions and billions and billions and billions of dollars subsidizing insulin? We are going to give the very companies that they used to come to the floor here and scream about that they were pillaging people with the cost of insulin.

We are going to give that Big Pharma money. That is how the brain trust on my left here works. Right over here in Virginia, there is a co-op. Remember, most of the insulin formulas are off-patent.

This group over here—and it is insurance companies, it is hospitals. I think a couple State Medicaid systems got together and said, screw it. We don't like the price the market is giving us. We are going to build a co-op and do it ourselves. We are going to make eight types of generic insulin. Oh, by the way, they are doing it less than the government subsidized price the Democrats pushed through where they are handing out billions of dollars.

Why didn't they turn around and say, let's bring this to market much faster? No taxpayer money. Cheaper prices. Competition. Instead the Democrats'

version was, let's just subsidize Big Pharma. How dare they act like they did something? They basically almost screwed up competition because they started subsidizing the very organizations they used to complain about and then made it so competition actually had to now compete with subsidized companies.

Does anyone else see the absurdity around here? If you want competition in the pharmaceutical world, get more people making them. The majority of the pharmaceuticals we all consume are off-patent. There are some crazy articles out there that I saw this summer of super high-speed 3D printers that you no longer need a couple hundred million dollar clean facility to make your generic drug. There are alternative ways to produce it.

What could we do regulatorywise, tax incentivewise, other things here to actually say, we want everyone and their cousin making safe, affordable, competitive pharmaceuticals if that is part of the fight that we have here saying these drug prices are too high?

What are you going to do? The Democrats actually decided they are going to regulate price cap, subsidize. As a supply side conservative, I come back and say, screw that. Let's grab today's technology and get the competition flowing.

I do not know all the details on this. I only saw part of the article this weekend, but this is the thought experiment I need from you.

How many of you saw the article this weekend that Apple basically believes they have broken the code for a glucose monitor in the watch?

Think about that, if you are a thinking person. If I came to you tomorrow and said, you can put something on your wrist—maybe it is not, because they are expensive, but it is the concept of the technology.

I can have something on my wrist that knows my oxygen, knows my blood pressure, knows my heart rate, knows my temperature, and now knows my glucose.

If you had all those datapoints, what could you run as an algorithm and also your ability to take my data 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Could you keep me much healthier? Could you keep our brothers and sisters healthier? Remember; diabetes is 33 percent of all healthcare spending. It is 31 percent of all Medicare spending.

If it is true this technology may be coming, just a thought experiment. You are all smart people. Think about it.

What would happen if I could take my prediabetic population, even some of my diabetic population that may not now be on insulin and said, we are going to work with you so you understand what is going on?

I represent probably the second highest per capita population in the world with diabetes; one of my Tribal communities in Arizona.

Incredible people, and they are not poor. They are a gaming tribe alongside Scottsdale. They are very entrepreneurial. They have done great.

The data may be the disruption in the price of healthcare. Why am I the first idiot to walk up to the floor and say, I saw this. We should actually investigate it. We should understand what this could mean.

If we invited the scientists in to talk to us and say, what does the future look like? What would happen if it is true?

I am going to show another thing about a stem cell treatment that is going on from a San Diego company that believes they may have found a way—I think they have cured, like, six people of type 1 diabetes, but it is less than a year, so you don't know the efficacy.

The concept is there and the ability to stop someone from ever screwing up their islet cells.

The reason I show this stuff is instead of saying we are just going to walk in, and we are going to have to cut Medicare by trillions of dollars, how about the crazy thing of curing people and making the healthcare prices dramatically lower through technology, through disruption?

You have got a choice. This is not just a blunt, troglodyte approach. This is actually something where the society gets healthy and more prosperous.

I am just going to go through some of these because for some of these, I have done whole presentations on the floor.

When you start to actually read some of the literature, that we may be on the cusp of—I think, actually, there is a paper being presented in this coming week on the first data sets for a cancer vaccine, some of the drugs that are having just incredible success in curing people.

You have the ability to actually have that supercomputer you carry around in your pocket basically actually help you manage your personal health.

I have hypertension. I have to take a calcium inhibitor. I came here a couple weeks ago and showed, once again, another thought experiment.

Mr. Speaker, 16 percent of all healthcare spending is? Sixteen percent of all healthcare spending is? This is $550 billion a year, so over a half a trillion dollars a year. It is calculated to be people not taking their pharmaceuticals.

So you have hypertension like me. I take my calcium inhibitor. I take one pill every day, and I don't stroke out.

They say 16 percent of healthcare spending is people choosing not to; darn it, I forgot. I didn't take the pill.

Now, I know some people are going to say, well, you should eat healthy. You should exercise. Trust me; I do. I haven't touched ice cream in a couple years. I really miss it.

But walk through just the concept with me, instead of your preconceived conceptions or notions. So 16 percent of healthcare spending is people not taking their pharmaceuticals appropriately so they stay on their rhythm.

Grandma forgets to take her pill. You need a statin. You forget to take it. How about a $0.99 pill cap that beeps at you when you forgot to open it up that morning?

Is that $0.99 worth what it would mean to go at $550 billion? What if you could just shave off a couple points of it? $200 billion; is that worth it?

These are just trying to be creative instead of the folks who want to run around here with a chainsaw hacking apart things. Start saying maybe the idea is using technology so we are healthier.

There is another article I picked up a couple days ago just to show the revolution that is about to be here. This now has FDA approval.

Functionally, you can blow into it from your home medicine cabinet, and guess what? It is a flu test. It is a COVID test. There is another version coming that is actually going to be two or three other things.

You can have it in your home medicine cabinet, and you can blow in it. You don't have to go to the urgent care center. You don't have to go to the doctor's office. You don't have to go to the emergency room. You don't have to go to the hospital.

The technology is the disruption. The disruption actually crashes the price.

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These are uncomfortable. I had this really neat article. It is a bit geeky, but it basically talks about the ability to use an X-ray. Now, with some of the predictive AI looking at it, it can actually do amazing—amazingly accurate, cheaply—diagnostics on whether you are going to have a risk of heart disease or other things.

It is here, and it has gone through the efficacy trials. Do we set up the policy where we make these things reimbursable? Do we make these things so we take down the barriers because, remember, Washington often is more like a protection racket.

I have done whole presentations on this from a couple of years ago. Yes, it has actually moved forward to some of the immunotherapies for some of the types of cancers. These are coming about.

Now, the one that I talked about a couple of weeks ago was that possibility in regard to diabetes. We are actually bringing a couple of their researchers here, I think sometime next month, to talk about the mechanisms.

The reason I walked through all of these, the first part of this presentation, is to understand how devastating the debt is. It is not pretend. You can't just say, ''Well, we will just pretend. We will print a $1 trillion coin and walk away from it.'' You have to stop the clown show.

Yes, there is a whole bunch of government that we can do without, but you saw the very first couple of boards that basically said, 10 years from now, you can get rid of all of what you think is government, and you still have to

borrow money. You got rid of all of defense; you got rid of all the discretionary; and you still have to borrow money to be able to cover Medicare. The punch line there was it is the next year. That was all a 2033 number.

The next year, 2034, the Social Security trust fund is gone—23 percent cut. Is that going to be allowed to happen, or do we have to take it out of the general fund?

Next year, 2034, the Medicare trust fund is gone. The next year, the transportation highway trust fund is gone.

The second half of this was hope. I know some of this stuff is hard to process. It is hard sometimes to think, ''Oh, I am going to disrupt. I am going to functionally legalize disruption.''

I have used this before, but it is the easiest. How many of you went to Blockbuster Video last week? Come on, work with me here. How many of you went and got that little silver disk last weekend? Of course not. ''Schweikert, that is absurd.''

The fact of the matter is that technology came along. We started streaming. Now, you have how many choices? You sit there saying you have too many choices, that you can't make up my mind, instead of standing in line for the disk that wasn't there that you really wanted that you promised your family, so you come home with some crappy one, and they are all mad at you. That is not that long ago.

We have these types of disruptions in our society all the time. Stop being afraid of it.

Congress, damn it, stop acting like a protection racket where you protect incumbency—not incumbent elected, incumbent bureaucracies, incumbent business models.

Design the tax code. Design the regulatory code. If the Democrats continue insisting that they subsidize everything, fine. Design it so there is competition, not the chosen favorites that they want to hand a grant out to. That competition, I think, actually becomes the disruption that saves us.

If you have a better idea, one that makes Americans healthier, more prosperous, fixes your future retirement, fixes my little kid's future, I want to hear it. Right now, this is some of the best I have, and we have a whole portfolio of these things.

I beg of this place, please buy a calculator. Work through the math. Understand how devastating it is. Then, just try to think of a future. Try to think of a future that actually is incredibly hopeful, incredibly optimistic.

You can't have the sort of dystopian State of the Union speech we had, if you actually break it down, where they know these programs are going off the cliff, and the left cares so much more about winning the next election, they are not telling the truth to their own voters, let alone the people who are really dependent.

It is a level of cruelty. It is a cruelty that might work through the next election, but it is coming. The math always wins.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President and to direct their remarks to the Chair.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Committee on Ethics, February 28, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2 of House Rule XI, I submit to the House the Rules of the Committee on Ethics for the 118th Congress, adopted February 28, 2023, for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL GUEST,
Chairman.

FOREWORD

The Committee on Ethics is unique in the House of Representatives. Consistent with the duty to carry out its advisory and enforcement responsibilities in an impartial manner, the Committee is the only standing committee of the House of Representatives the membership of which is divided evenly by party. These rules are intended to provide a fair procedural framework for the conduct of the Committee's activities and to help ensure that the Committee serves well the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and the Members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives.

PART I—GENERAL COMMITTEE RULES

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) So far as applicable, these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be the rules of the Committee and any subcommittee. The Committee adopts these rules under the authority of clause 2(a)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, 118th Congress.

(b) The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a vote of a majority of the Committee.

(c) When the interests of justice so require, the Committee, by a majority vote of its members, may adopt any special procedures, not inconsistent with these rules, deemed necessary to resolve a particular matter before it. Copies of such special procedures shall be furnished to all parties in the matter.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall have access to such information that they request as necessary to conduct Committee business.

RULE 2. DEFINITIONS

(a) ''Committee'' means the Committee on Ethics.

(b) ''Complaint'' means a written allegation of improper conduct against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives filed with the Committee with the intent to initiate an inquiry.

(c) ''Inquiry'' means an investigation by an investigative subcommittee into allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives.

(d) ''Investigate,'' ''Investigating,'' and/or ''Investigation'' mean review of the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives that is conducted or authorized by the Committee, an investigative subcommittee, or the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(e) ''Board'' means the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

(f) ''Referral'' means a report sent to the Committee from the Board pursuant to House Rules and all applicable House Resolutions regarding the conduct of a House Member, officer, or employee, including any accompanying findings or other supporting documentation.

(g) ''Investigative Subcommittee'' means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 19(a) to conduct an inquiry to determine if a Statement of Alleged Violation should be issued.

(h) ''Statement of Alleged Violation'' means a formal charging document filed by an investigative subcommittee with the Committee containing specific allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives of a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities.

(i) ''Adjudicatory Subcommittee'' means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 23(a) that holds an adjudicatory hearing and determines whether the counts in a Statement of Alleged Violation are proved by clear and convincing evidence.

(j) ''Sanction Hearing'' means a Committee hearing to determine what sanction, if any, to adopt or to recommend to the House of Representatives.

(k) ''Respondent'' means a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives who is the subject of an investigation.

(l) ''Office of Advice and Education'' refers to the Office established by section 803(i) of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989. The Office handles inquiries; prepares written opinions in response to specific requests; develops general guidance; and organizes seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(m) ''Member'' means a Representative in, or a Delegate to, or the Resident Commissioner to, the U.S. House of Representatives.

RULE 3. ADVISORY OPINIONS AND WAIVERS

(a) The Office of Advice and Education shall handle inquiries; prepare written opinions providing specific advice, including reviews of requests for privately-sponsored travel pursuant to the Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations; develop general guidance; and organize seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(b) Any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives may request a written opinion with respect to the propriety of any current or proposed conduct of such Member, officer, or employee.

(c) The Office of Advice and Education may provide information and guidance regarding laws, rules, regulations, and other standards of conduct applicable to Members, officers, and employees in the performance of their duties or the discharge of their responsibilities.

(d) In general, the Committee shall provide a written opinion to an individual only in response to a written request, and the written opinion shall address the conduct only of the inquiring individual, or of persons for whom the inquiring individual is responsible as employing authority.

(e) A written request for an opinion shall be addressed to the Chair of the Committee and shall include a complete and accurate statement of the relevant facts. A request shall be signed by the requester or the requester's authorized representative or employing authority. A representative shall disclose to the Committee the identity of the principal on whose behalf advice is being sought.

(f) Requests for privately-sponsored travel shall be treated like any other request for a written opinion for purposes of paragraphs (g) through (l).

(1) The Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations shall govern the request submission and Committee approval process for privately-sponsored travel consistent with House Rules.

(2) A request for privately-sponsored travel of a Member, officer, or employee shall include a completed and signed Traveler Form that attaches the Private Sponsor Certification Form and includes all information required by the Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations. A private sponsor offering officially-connected travel to a Member, officer, or employee must complete and sign a Private Sponsor Certification Form, and provide a copy of that form to the invitee(s).

(3) Any individual who knowingly and willfully falsifies, or who knowingly and willfully fails to file, any form required by the Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations may be subject to civil penalties and criminal sanctions pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(g) The Office of Advice and Education shall prepare for the Committee a response to each written request for an opinion from a Member, officer, or employee. Each response shall discuss all applicable laws, rules, regulations, or other standards.

(h) Where a request is unclear or incomplete, the Office of Advice and Education may seek additional information from the requester.

(i) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to take action on behalf of the Committee on any proposed written opinion that they determine does not require consideration by the Committee. If the Chair or Ranking Minority Member requests a written opinion, or seeks a waiver, extension, or approval pursuant to Rules 3(m), 4(c), 4(e), or 4(h), the next ranking member of the requester's party is authorized to act in lieu of the requester.

(j) The Committee shall keep confidential any request for advice from a Member, officer, or employee, as well as any response thereto. Upon request of any Member, officer, or employee who has submitted a written request for an opinion or submitted a request for privately-sponsored travel, the Committee may release to the requesting individual a copy of their own written request for advice or submitted travel forms, any subsequent written communications between such individual and Committee staff regarding the request, and any Committee advisory opinion or travel letter issued to that individual in response. The Committee shall not release any internal Committee staff work product, communications, or notes in response to such a request, except as authorized by the Committee.

(k) The Committee may take no adverse action in regard to any conduct that has been undertaken in reliance on a written opinion if the conduct conforms to the specific facts addressed in the opinion.

(l) Information provided to the Committee by a Member, officer, or employee seeking advice regarding prospective conduct may not be used as the basis for initiating an investigation under clause 3(a)(2) or clause 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, if such Member, officer, or employee acts in good faith in accordance with the written advice of the Committee.

(m) A written request for a waiver of clause 5 of House Rule XXV (the House gift rule), or for any other waiver or approval, shall be treated in all respects like any other request for a written opinion.

(n) A written request for a waiver of clause 5 of House Rule XXV (the House gift rule) shall specify the nature of the waiver being sought and the specific circumstances justifying the waiver.

(o) An employee seeking a waiver of time limits applicable to travel paid for by a private source shall include with the request evidence that the employing authority is aware of the request. In any other instance where proposed employee conduct may reflect on the performance of official duties, the Committee may require that the requester submit evidence that the employing authority knows of the conduct.

RULE 4. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

(a) In matters relating to Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Committee shall coordinate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Legislative Resource Center, to assure that appropriate individuals are notified of their obligation to file reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act and that such individuals are provided in a timely fashion with filing instructions and forms developed by the Committee.

(b) The Committee shall coordinate with the Legislative Resource Center to assure that information that the Ethics in Government Act requires to be placed on the public record is made public.

(c) Any reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act filed by Members of the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics that are forwarded to the Committee by the Clerk shall not be subject to paragraphs (d) through (q) of this Rule. The Office of Congressional Ethics retains jurisdiction over review of the timeliness and completeness of filings by Members of the Board as the Board's supervising ethics office.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to grant on behalf of the Committee requests for reasonable extensions of time for the filing of Financial Disclosure Statements. Any such request must be received by the Committee no later than the date on which the Statement in question is due. A request received after such date may be granted by the Committee only in extraordinary circumstances. Such extensions for one individual in a calendar year shall not exceed a total of 90 days per Statement, including any amendment required by the Committee in accordance with clause (m). No extension shall be granted authorizing a nonincumbent candidate to file a statement later than 30 days prior to a primary or general election in which the candidate is participating.

(e) An individual who takes legally sufficient action to withdraw as a candidate before the date on which that individual's Financial Disclosure Statement is due under the Ethics in Government Act shall not be required to file a Statement. An individual shall not be excused from filing a Financial Disclosure Statement when withdrawal as a candidate occurs after the date on which such Statement was due.

(f) Any individual who files a report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act more than 30 days after the later of—

(1) the date such report is required to be filed, or

(2) if a filing extension is granted to such individual, the last day of the filing extension period, is required by such Act to pay a late filing fee of $200. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve requests that the fee be waived based on extraordinary circumstances.

(g) Any late report that is submitted without a required filing fee shall be deemed procedurally deficient and not properly filed.

(h) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve requests for waivers of the aggregation and reporting of gifts as provided by section 102(a)(2)(C) of the Ethics in Government Act. If such a request is approved, both the incoming request and the Committee response shall be forwarded to the Legislative Resource Center for placement on the public record.

(i) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve blind trusts as qualifying under section 102(f)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act. The correspondence relating to formal approval of a blind trust, the trust document, the list of assets transferred to the trust, and any other documents required by law to be made public, shall be forwarded to the Legislative Resource Center for such purpose.

(j) The Committee shall designate staff who shall review reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act and, based upon information contained therein, indicate in a form and manner prescribed by the Committee whether the Statement appears substantially accurate and complete and the filer appears to be in compliance with applicable laws and rules.

(k) Each report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act shall be reviewed within 60 days after the date of filing.

(l) If the reviewing staff believes that additional information is required because (1) the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act appears not substantially accurate or complete, or (2) the filer may not be in compliance with applicable laws or rules, then the reporting individual shall be notified in writing of the additional information believed to be required, or of the law or rule with which the reporting individual does not appear to be in compliance. Such notice shall also state the time within which a response is to be submitted. Any such notice shall remain confidential.

(m) Within the time specified, including any extension granted in accordance with clause (d), a reporting individual who concurs with the Committee's notification that the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act is not complete, or that other action is required, shall submit the necessary information or take appropriate action. Any amendment may be in the form of a revised report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act or an explanatory letter addressed to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(n) Any amendment shall be placed on the public record in the same manner as other reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act. The individual designated by the Committee to review the original report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act shall review any amendment thereto.

(o) Within the time specified, including any extension granted in accordance with clause (d), a reporting individual who does not agree with the Committee that the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act is deficient or that other action is required, shall be provided an opportunity to respond orally or in writing. If the explanation is accepted, a copy of the response, if written, or a note summarizing an oral response, shall be retained in Committee files with the original report.

(p) The Committee shall be the final arbiter of whether any report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act requires clarification or amendment.

(q) If the Committee determines, by vote of a majority of its members, that there is reason to believe that an individual has willfully failed to file a report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act or has willfully falsified or willfully failed to file information required to be

reported, then the Committee shall refer the name of the individual, together with the evidence supporting its finding, to the Attorney General pursuant to section 104(b) of the Ethics in Government Act. Such referral shall not preclude the Committee from initiating such other action as may be authorized by other provisions of law or the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 5. MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the second Tuesday of each month, except when the House of Representatives is not meeting on that day. When the Committee Chair determines that there is sufficient reason, meetings may be called on additional days. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held when the Chair determines there is no business to be considered.

(b) The Chair shall establish the agenda for meetings of the Committee, and the Ranking Minority Member may place additional items on the agenda.

(c) All meetings of the Committee or any subcommittee shall occur in executive session unless the Committee or subcommittee, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, opens the meeting to the public.

(d) Any hearing held by an adjudicatory subcommittee, or any sanction hearing held by the Committee, shall be open to the public unless the Committee or subcommittee, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, closes the hearing to the public.

(e) A subcommittee shall meet at the discretion of its Chair.

(f) Insofar as practicable, notice for any Committee or subcommittee meeting shall be provided at least seven days in advance of the meeting. The Chair of the Committee or subcommittee may waive such time period for good cause.

RULE 6. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) The staff is to be assembled and retained as a professional, nonpartisan staff.

(b) Each member of the staff shall be professional and demonstrably qualified for the position for which the individual is hired.

(c) The staff as a whole and each individual member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner.

(d) No member of the staff shall engage in any partisan political activity directly affecting any congressional or presidential election.

(e) No member of the staff or outside counsel may accept public speaking engagements or write for publication on any subject that is in any way related to the employment or duties with the Committee of such individual without specific prior approval from the Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(f) All staff members shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee. Such vote shall occur at the first meeting of the membership of the Committee during each Congress and as necessary during the Congress.

(g) Subject to the approval of the Committee on House Administration, the Committee may retain counsel not employed by the House of Representatives whenever the Committee determines, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, that the retention of outside counsel is necessary and appropriate.

(h) If the Committee determines that it is necessary to retain staff members for the purpose of a particular investigation or other proceeding, then such staff shall be retained only for the duration of that particular investigation or proceeding.

(i) Outside counsel may be dismissed prior to the end of a contract between the Committee and such counsel only by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

(j) In addition to any other staff provided for by law, rule, or other authority, with respect to the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member each may appoint one individual as a shared staff member from the respective personal staff of the Chair or Ranking Minority Member to perform service for the Committee. Such shared staff may assist the Chair or Ranking Minority Member on any subcommittee on which the Chair or Ranking Minority Member serves. Only paragraphs (c) and (e) of this Rule and Rule 7(b) shall apply to shared staff.

RULE 7. CONFIDENTIALITY

(a) Before any Member or employee of the Committee, including members of an investigative subcommittee selected under clause 5(a)(4) of Rule X of the House of Representatives and shared staff designated pursuant to Committee Rule 6(j), may have access to information that is confidential under the rules of the Committee, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed in writing:

''I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose, to any person or entity outside the Committee on Ethics, any information received in the course of my service with the Committee, except as authorized by the Committee or in accordance with its rules.''

Copies of the executed oath shall be provided to the Clerk of the House as part of the records of the House. Breaches of confidentiality shall be investigated by the Committee and appropriate action shall be taken.

(b) No member of the staff or outside counsel may make public, unless approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, any information, document, or other material that is confidential, derived from executive session, or classified and that is obtained during the course of employment with the Committee.

(c) Committee members and staff shall not disclose any evidence or information relating to any investigation or proceeding of the Committee or a subcommittee to any person or organization outside the Committee, unless authorized by the Committee.

(d) This rule shall not prohibit the Chair or Ranking Minority Member from disclosing to the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics the existence of a Committee investigation, the name of the Member, officer, or employee of the House who is the subject of that investigation, and a brief statement of the scope of that investigation in a written request for referral pursuant to Rule 17A(k). Such disclosures will only be made subject to written confirmation from the Board that the information provided by the Chair or Ranking Minority Member will be kept confidential by the Board.

(e) A Statement of Alleged Violation and any written response thereto shall be made public at the first meeting or hearing on the matter that is open to the public after the respondent has been given full opportunity to respond pursuant to Rule 22. Any other materials in the possession of the Committee regarding such statement may be made public as authorized by the Committee to the extent consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives. If no public hearing is held on the matter, the Statement of Alleged Violation and any written response thereto shall be included in the Committee's final report on the matter to the House of Representatives.

(f) Unless otherwise determined by a vote of the Committee, only the Chair or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, after consultation with each other, may make public statements regarding matters before the Committee or any subcommittee.

(g) The Committee may establish procedures necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any testimony or other information received by the Committee or its staff.

RULE 8. SUBCOMMITTEES—GENERAL POLICY AND STRUCTURE

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may consult with an investigative subcommittee either on their own initiative or on the initiative of the subcommittee, shall have access to evidence and information before a subcommittee with whom they so consult, and shall not thereby be precluded from serving as full, voting members of any adjudicatory subcommittee. Except for the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee pursuant to this paragraph, evidence in the possession of an investigative subcommittee shall not be disclosed to other Committee members except by a vote of the subcommittee.

(b) The Committee may establish other noninvestigative and nonadjudicatory subcommittees and may assign to them such functions as it may deem appropriate. The membership of each subcommittee shall provide equal representation for the majority and minority parties.

(c) The Chair may refer any bill, resolution, or other matter before the Committee to an appropriate subcommittee for consideration. Any such bill, resolution, or other matter may be discharged from the subcommittee to which it was referred by a majority vote of the Committee.

(d) Any member of the Committee may sit with any noninvestigative or nonadjudicatory subcommittee, but only regular members of such subcommittee may vote on any matter before that subcommittee.

RULE 9. QUORUMS AND MEMBER DISQUALIFICATION

(a) The quorum for the Committee or an investigative subcommittee to take testimony and to receive evidence shall be two members, unless otherwise authorized by the House of Representatives.

(b) The quorum for an adjudicatory subcommittee to take testimony, receive evidence, or conduct business shall consist of a majority plus one of the members of the adjudicatory subcommittee.

(c) Except as stated in clauses (a) and (b) of this rule, a quorum for the purpose of conducting business consists of a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee.

(d) A member of the Committee shall be ineligible to participate in any Committee or subcommittee proceeding in which such Member is a respondent.

(e) A member of the Committee may seek disqualification from participating m any investigation of the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives upon the submission in writing and under oath of an affidavit of disqualification stating that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. If the Committee approves and accepts such affidavit of disqualification, the Chair shall so notify the Speaker and ask the Speaker to designate a Member of the House of Representatives from the same political party as the disqualified member of the Committee to act as a member of the Committee in any Committee proceeding relating to such investigation.

RULE 10. VOTE REQUIREMENTS

(a) The following actions shall be taken only upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate:

(1) Issuing a subpoena.

(2) Adopting a full Committee motion to create an investigative subcommittee.

(3) Adopting or amending of a Statement of Alleged Violation.

(4) Finding that a count in a Statement of Alleged Violation has been proved by clear and convincing evidence.

(5) Sending a letter of reproval.

(6) Adopting a recommendation to the House of Representatives that a sanction be imposed.

(7) Adopting a report relating to the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee.

(8) Issuing an advisory opinion of general applicability establishing new policy. (b) Except as stated in clause (a), action may be taken by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof by a simple majority, a quorum being present.

(c) No motion made to take any of the actions enumerated in clause (a) of this Rule may be entertained by the Chair unless a quorum of the Committee is present when such motion is made.

RULE 11. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) All communications and all pleadings pursuant to these rules shall be filed with the Committee at the Committee's office or such other place as designated by the Committee.

(b) All records of the Committee which have been delivered to the Archivist of the United States shall be made available to the public in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 12. BROADCASTS OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Television or radio coverage of a Committee or subcommittee hearing or meeting shall be without commercial sponsorship.

(b) Not more than four television cameras, operating from fixed positions, shall be permitted in a hearing or meeting room. The Committee may allocate the positions of permitted television cameras among the television media in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(c) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between any witness giving evidence or testimony and any member of the Committee, or the visibility of that witness and that member to each other.

(d) Television cameras shall not be placed in positions that unnecessarily obstruct the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media.

PART II—INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY

RULE 13. HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whenever the House of Representatives, by resolution, authorizes or directs the Committee to undertake an inquiry or investigation, the provisions of the resolution, in conjunction with these Rules, shall govern. To the extent the provisions of the resolution differ from these Rules, the resolution shall control.

RULE 14. COMMITTEE AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE—GENERAL POLICY

(a) Pursuant to clause 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee may exercise its investigative authority when:

(1) information offered as a complaint, in writing and under oath, by a Member of the House of Representatives is transmitted directly to the Committee;

(2) information offered as a complaint, in writing and under oath, by an individual not a Member of the House is transmitted to the Committee, provided that a Member of the House certifies in writing that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the Committee;

(3) the Committee, on its own initiative, undertakes an investigation;

(4) a Member, officer, or employee is indicted or otherwise formally charged with criminal conduct or is convicted of a felony in a Federal, State, or local court;

(5) the House of Representatives, by resolution, authorizes or directs the Committee to undertake an inquiry or investigation; or

(6) a referral from the Board is transmitted to the Committee.

(b) The Committee also has investigatory authority over:

(1) certain unauthorized disclosures of intelligence-related information, pursuant to House Rule X, clauses 11(g)(4) and (g)(5);

(2) reports received from the Office of the Inspector General pursuant to House Rule II, clause 6(c)(5);

(3) determinations regarding appeals from fines imposed by the Sergeant-at-Arms for the use of electronic devices in contravention of applicable House rules or policies, pursuant to House Rule II, clause 3(g); and

(4) information received from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, pursuant to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

RULE 15. COMPLAINTS

(a) A complaint submitted to the Committee shall be in writing, dated, and properly verified (a document will be considered properly verified where a notary executes it with the language, ''Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on (date) by (the name of the person)'') setting forth in simple, concise, and direct statements—

(1) the name and legal address of the party filing the complaint (hereinafter referred to as the ''complainant'');

(2) the name and position or title of the respondent(s);

(3) the nature of the alleged violation of the Code of Official Conduct or of other law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of duties or discharge of responsibilities; and

(4) the facts alleged to give rise to the violation. The complaint shall not contain innuendo, speculative assertions, or conclusory statements.

(b) Any documents in the possession of the complainant that relate to the allegations may be submitted with the complaint.

(c) Information offered as a complaint by a Member of the House of Representatives may be transmitted directly to the Committee.

(d) Information offered as a complaint by an individual not a Member of the House may be transmitted to the Committee, provided that a Member of the House certifies in writing that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the Committee.

(e) A complaint must be accompanied by a certification, which may be unsworn, that the complainant has provided an exact copy of the filed complaint and all attachments to the respondent(s).

(f) The Committee may defer action on a complaint against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives when the complaint alleges conduct that the Committee has reason to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authorities, or when the Committee determines that it is appropriate for the conduct alleged in the complaint to be reviewed initially by law enforcement or regulatory authorities.

(g) A complaint may not be amended without leave of the Committee. Otherwise, any new allegations of improper conduct must be submitted in a new complaint that independently meets the procedural requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Committee's Rules.

(h) The Committee shall not accept, and shall return to the complainant, any complaint submitted within the 60 days before a Federal, State, or local election in which the subject of the complaint is a candidate.

(i) The Committee shall not consider a complaint, nor shall any investigation be undertaken by the Committee, of any alleged violation which occurred before the third previous Congress unless the Committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation which occurred in a more recent Congress.

RULE 16. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

(a) Whenever information offered as a complaint is submitted to the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall have 14 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever occurs first, to determine whether the information meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint.

(b) Whenever the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint, they shall have 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever is later, after the date that the Chair and Ranking Minority Member determine that information filed meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint, unless the Committee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members votes otherwise, to—

(1) recommend to the Committee that it dispose of the complaint, or any portion thereof, in any manner that does not require action by the House, which may include dismissal of the complaint or resolution of the complaint by a letter to the Member, officer, or employee of the House against whom the complaint is made;

(2) establish an investigative subcommittee; or

(3) request that the Committee extend the applicable 45–calendar day period when they determine more time is necessary in order to make a recommendation under paragraph (1) or (2) of Rule 16(b).

(c) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may jointly gather additional information concerning alleged conduct which is the basis of a complaint or of information offered as a complaint until they have established an investigative subcommittee or the Chair or Ranking Minority Member has placed on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee.

(d) If the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee meets the requirements of the Committee rules for what constitutes a complaint, and the complaint is not disposed of within 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever is later, and no additional 45–day extension is made, then they shall establish an investigative subcommittee and forward the complaint, or any portion thereof, to that subcommittee for its consideration. If at any time during the time period either the Chair or Ranking Minority Member places on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee, then an investigative subcommittee may be established only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee.

(e) Whenever the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee does not meet the requirements for what constitutes a complaint set forth in the Committee rules, they may (1) return the information to the complainant with a statement that it fails to meet the requirements for what constitutes a complaint set forth in the Committee's rules; or (2) recommend to the Committee that it authorize the establishment of an investigative subcommittee.

RULE 17. PROCESSING OF COMPLAINTS

(a) If a complaint is in compliance with House and Committee Rules, a copy of the

complaint and the Committee Rules shall be forwarded to the respondent(s) within 5 days with notice that the complaint conforms to the applicable rules.

(b) A respondent may, within 30 days of the Committee's notification in clause (a), provide to the Committee any information relevant to a complaint filed with the Committee. The respondent may submit a written statement in response to the complaint. Such a statement shall be signed by the respondent. If the statement is prepared by counsel for the respondent, the respondent shall sign a representation that the respondent has reviewed the response and agrees with the factual assertions contained therein.

(c) The Committee staff may request information from a respondent or obtain additional information relevant to the case from other sources prior to the establishment of an investigative subcommittee only when so directed by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(d) The respondent(s) shall be notified in writing regarding the Chair and Ranking Minority Member's determination under Rule 16(e) or the Committee's decision either to dismiss the complaint or to create an investigative subcommittee.

RULE 17 A. REFERRALS FROM THE BOARD OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

(a) The Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of the Code of Official Conduct pursuant to clause 1(g) of House Rule X. Receipt of referrals from the Board under this rule does not limit the Committee's discretion to address referrals in any way through the appropriate procedures authorized by Committee Rules. The Committee shall review the report and findings transmitted by the Board without prejudice or presumptions as to the merit of the allegations.

(b)(1) Whenever the Committee receives either (A) a referral containing a written report and any findings and supporting documentation from the Board; or (B) a referral from the Board pursuant to a request under Rule 17A(k), the Chair shall have 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days after the date the referral is received, whichever is later, to make public the report and findings of the Board unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly decide, or the Committee votes, to withhold such information for not more than one additional 45-day period.

(2) At least one calendar day before the Committee makes public any report and findings of the Board, the Chair shall notify in writing the Board and the Member, officer, or employee who is the subject of the referral of the impending public release of these documents. At the same time, the Chair shall transmit a copy of any public statement on the Committee's disposition of the matter and any accompanying Committee report to the individual who is the subject of the referral.

(3) All public statements and reports and findings of the Board that are required to be made public under this Rule shall be posted on the Committee's website.

(c) If the OCE report and findings are withheld for an additional 45-day period pursuant to paragraph (b)(1), the Chair shall—

(1) make a public statement on the day of such decision or vote that the matter referred from the Board has been extended: and

(2) make public the written report and findings pursuant to paragraph (b) upon the termination of such additional period.

(d) if the Board transmits a report with a recommendation to dismiss or noting a matter as unresolved due to a tie vote, and the matter is extended for an additional period as provided in paragraph (b), the Committee is not required to make a public statement that the matter has been extended pursuant to paragraph (b)(1).

(e) if the Committee votes to dismiss a matter referred from the Board, the Committee is not required to make public the written report and findings of the Board pursuant to paragraph (c) unless the Committee's vote is inconsistent with the recommendation of the Board. A vote by the Committee to dismiss a matter is not considered inconsistent with a report from the Board that the matter is unresolved by the Board due to a tie vote.

(f) Except as provided by paragraph (g):

(1) If the Committee establishes an investigative subcommittee respecting any matter referred by the Board, then the report and findings of the Board shall not be made public until the conclusion of the investigative subcommittee process. The Committee shall issue a public statement noting the establishment of an investigative subcommittee, which shall include the name of the Member, officer, or employee who is the subject of the inquiry, and shall set forth the alleged violation.

(2) if any such investigative subcommittee does not conclude its review within one year after the Board's referral, then the Committee shall make public the report of the Board no later than one year after the referral. If the investigative subcommittee does not conclude its review before the end of the Congress in which the report of the Board is made public, the Committee shall make public any findings of the Board on the last day of that Congress.

(g) If the vote of the Committee is a tie or the Committee fails to act by the close of any applicable period(s) under this rule, the report and the findings of the Board shall be made public by the Committee, along with a public statement by the Chair explaining the status of the matter.

(h)(1) If the Committee agrees to a request from an appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authority to defer taking action on a matter referred by the Board under paragraph (b)—

(A) The Committee is not required to make public the written report and findings of the Board pursuant to paragraph (c), except that if the recommendation of the Board is that the matter requires further review, the Committee shall make public the written report of the Board but not the findings; and

(B) The Committee shall make a public statement that it is deferring taking action on the matter at the request of such law enforcement or regulatory authority within one day (excluding weekends and public holidays) of the day that the Committee agrees to the request.

(2) If the Committee has not acted on the matter within one year of the date the public statement described in paragraph (h)(1)(B) is released, the Committee shall make a public statement that it continues to defer taking action on the matter. The Committee shall make a new statement upon the expiration of each succeeding one-year period during which the Committee has not acted on the matter.

(i) The Committee shall not accept, and shall return to the Board, any referral from the Board within 60 days before a Federal, State, or local election in which the subject of the referral is a candidate.

(j) The Committee may postpone any reporting requirement under this rule that falls within that 60-day period until after the date of the election in which the subject of the referral is a candidate. For purposes of calculating any applicable period under this Rule, any days within the 60-day period before such an election and the date of the election shall not be counted.

(k)(1) At any time after the Committee receives written notification from the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics that the Board is undertaking a review of alleged conduct of any Member, officer, or employee of the House at a time when the Committee is investigating, or has completed an investigation of the same matter, the Committee may so notify the Board in writing and request that the Board cease its review and refer the matter to the Committee for its consideration immediately. The Committee shall also notify the Board in writing if the Committee has not reached a final resolution of the matter or has not referred the matter to the appropriate Federal or State authorities by the end of any applicable time period specified in Rule 17A (including any permissible extension).

(2) The Committee may not request a second referral of the matter from the Board if the Committee has notified the Board that it is unable to resolve the matter previously requested pursuant to this section. The Board may subsequently send a referral regarding a matter previously requested and returned by the Committee after the conclusion of the Board's review process.

RULE 18. COMMITTEE-INITIATED INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATION

(a) Notwithstanding the absence of a filed complaint, the Committee may consider any information in its possession indicating that a Member, officer, or employee may have committed a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, officer, or employee in the performance of the duties or the discharge of the responsibilities of such individual. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may jointly gather additional information concerning such an alleged violation by a Member, officer, or employee unless and until an investigative subcommittee has been established. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may also jointly take appropriate action consistent with Committee Rules to resolve the matter.

(b) If the Committee votes to establish an investigative subcommittee, the Committee shall proceed in accordance with Rule 19.

(c) Any written request by a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives that the Committee conduct an investigation into such person's own conduct shall be considered in accordance with subsection (a) of this Rule.

(d) An investigation shall not be undertaken regarding any alleged violation that occurred before the third previous Congress unless a majority of the Committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation that occurred in a more recent Congress.

(e)(1) An inquiry shall be undertaken by an investigative subcommittee with regard to any felony conviction of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives in a Federal, State, or local court who has been sentenced. Notwithstanding this provision, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member have the discretion to gather information pursuant to subsection (a) of this Rule, and the Committee has the discretion to initiate an inquiry upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, at any time prior to conviction or sentencing.

(2) Not later than 30 days after a Member of the House is indicted or otherwise formally charged with criminal conduct in any Federal, State, or local court, the Committee shall either initiate an inquiry upon a majority vote of the members of the Committee or submit a report to the House describing its reasons for not initiating an inquiry and describing the actions, if any, that

the Committee has taken in response to the allegations.

(3) in addition to any other evidence which the Committee or investigative subcommittee may consider, the Committee or investigative subcommittee may take into evidence any information related to the subject of an investigation contained in trial transcripts and all exhibits admitted into evidence at trial.

RULE 19. INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

(a)(1) Upon the establishment of an investigative subcommittee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall designate four members (with equal representation from the majority and minority parties) to serve as an investigative subcommittee to undertake an inquiry. Members of the Committee and Members of the House selected pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of Rule X of the House of Representatives are eligible for appointment to an investigative subcommittee, as determined by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. At the time of appointment, the Chair shall designate one member of the subcommittee to serve as the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member shall designate one member of the subcommittee to serve as the ranking minority member of the investigative subcommittee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as members of an investigative subcommittee, but may not serve as non-voting, ex-officio members.

(2) A respondent shall be notified of the membership of the investigative subcommittee and shall have 10 days after such notice is transmitted to object to the participation of any subcommittee member. Such objection shall be in writing and must be on the grounds that the subcommittee member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. The members of the Committee shall engage in a collegial discussion regarding such objection. The subcommittee member against whom the objection is made shall be the sole judge of any disqualification and may choose to seek disqualification from participating in the inquiry pursuant to Rule 9(e).

(b) In an inquiry undertaken by an investigative subcommittee—

(1) All proceedings, including the taking of testimony, shall be conducted in executive session and all evidence or testimony produced pursuant to subpoena or otherwise shall be deemed to have been taken or produced in executive session.

(2) The investigative subcommittee, through any of its members or the staff, shall ask the respondent(s) and all witnesses whether they intend to be represented by counsel. If so, the respondent or witnesses or their legal representatives shall provide written designation of counsel. A respondent or witness who is represented by counsel shall not be questioned in the absence of counsel unless an explicit waiver is obtained.

(3) The subcommittee shall provide the respondent(s) an opportunity to present, orally or in writing, a statement, which must be under oath or affirmation, regarding the allegations and any other relevant questions arising out of the inquiry.

(4) The staff may interview witnesses, examine documents and other evidence, and request that submitted statements be under oath or affirmation and that documents be certified as to their authenticity and accuracy.

(5) The subcommittee, by a majority vote of its members, may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other items as it deems necessary to the conduct of the inquiry. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, the subpoena power shall rest in the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and a subpoena shall be issued upon the request of the investigative subcommittee.

(6) Required testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. The form of the oath or affirmation shall be: ''Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this subcommittee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (so help you God)?'' The oath or affirmation shall be administered by the Chair or any individual designated by the Chair to administer oaths.

(c) During the inquiry, the procedure respecting the admissibility of evidence and rulings shall be as follows:

(1) Any relevant evidence shall be admissible unless the evidence is privileged under the precedents of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Chair of the subcommittee or other presiding member at any investigative subcommittee proceeding shall rule upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, and may direct any witness to answer any question under penalty of contempt. A witness, witness counsel, or a member of the subcommittee may appeal any rulings to the members present at that proceeding. A majority vote of the members present at such proceeding on such appeal shall govern the question of admissibility, and no appeal shall lie to the Committee.

(3) Whenever a person is determined by a majority vote to be in contempt of the subcommittee, the matter may be referred to the Committee to determine whether to refer the matter to the House of Representatives for consideration.

(4) Committee counsel may, subject to subcommittee approval, enter into stipulations with a respondent and/or the respondent's counsel as to facts that are not in dispute.

(d) Upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the subcommittee members, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the full Committee, an investigative subcommittee may expand the scope of its inquiry.

(e) Upon completion of the inquiry, the staff shall draft for the investigative subcommittee a report that shall contain a comprehensive summary of the information received regarding the alleged violations.

(f) Upon completion of the inquiry, an investigative subcommittee, by a majority vote of its members, may adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation if it determines that there is substantial reason to believe that a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities by a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives has occurred. If more than one violation is alleged, such Statement shall be divided into separate counts. Each count shall relate to a separate violation, shall contain a plain and concise statement of the alleged facts of such violation, and shall include a reference to the provision of the Code of Official Conduct or law, rule, regulation, or other applicable standard of conduct governing the performance of duties or discharge of responsibilities alleged to have been violated. A copy of such Statement shall be transmitted to the respondent and the respondent's counsel.

(g) If the investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation, it shall transmit to the Committee a report containing a summary of the information received in the inquiry, its conclusions and reasons therefore, and any appropriate recommendation.

(h) An investigative subcommittee may transmit a single report regarding multiple respondents, but shall adopt a separate Statement of Alleged Violation for each respondent where applicable.

RULE 20. AMENDMENTS TO STATEMENTS OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

(a) An investigative subcommittee may, upon an affirmative vote of a majority members, amend its Statement of Alleged Violation any time before the Statement of Alleged Violation is transmitted to the Committee; and

(b) If an investigative subcommittee amends its Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent shall be notified in writing and shall have 30 calendar days from the date of that notification to file an answer to the amended Statement of Alleged Violation.

RULE 21. COMMITTEE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Whenever an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation and transmits a report to that effect to the Committee, the Committee may by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members transmit such report to the House of Representatives;

(b) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation but recommends that no further action be taken, it shall transmit a report to the Committee regarding the Statement of Alleged Violation; and

(c) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent admits to the violations set forth in such Statement, the respondent waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, and the respondent's waiver is approved by the Committee—

(1) the subcommittee shall prepare a report for transmittal to the Committee, a final draft of which shall be provided to the respondent not less than 15 calendar days before the subcommittee votes on whether to adopt the report;

(2) the respondent may submit views in writing regarding the final draft to the subcommittee within 7 calendar days of receipt of that draft;

(3) the subcommittee shall transmit a report to the Committee regarding the Statement of Alleged Violation together with any views submitted by the respondent pursuant to subparagraph (2), and the Committee shall make the report, together with the respondent's views, available to the public before the commencement of any sanction hearing; and

(4) the Committee shall by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members issue a report and transmit such report to the House of Representatives, together with the respondent's views previously submitted pursuant to subparagraph (2) and any additional views respondent may submit for attachment to the final report; and

(d) Members of the Committee shall have not less than 72 hours to review any report transmitted to the Committee by an investigative subcommittee before both the commencement of a sanction hearing and the Committee vote on whether to adopt the report.

RULE 22. RESPONDENT'S ANSWER

(a)(1) Within 30 days from the date of transmittal of a Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent shall file with the investigative subcommittee an answer, in writing and under oath, signed by respondent and respondent's counsel. Failure to file an answer within the time prescribed shall be considered by the Committee as a denial of each count.

(2) The answer shall contain an admission to or denial of each count set forth in the Statement of Alleged Violation and may include negative, affirmative, or alternative defenses and any supporting evidence or other relevant information.

(b) The respondent may file a Motion for a Bill of Particulars within 10 days of the date of transmittal of the Statement of Alleged Violation. If a Motion for a Bill of Particulars is filed, the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 20 days after the subcommittee has replied to such motion.

(c)(1) The respondent may file a Motion to Dismiss within 10 days of the date of transmittal of the Statement of Alleged Violation or, if a Motion for a Bill of Particulars has been filed, within 10 days of the date of the subcommittee's reply to the Motion for a Bill of Particulars. If a Motion to Dismiss is filed, the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 20 days after the subcommittee has replied to the Motion to Dismiss, unless the respondent previously filed a Motion for a Bill of Particulars, in which case the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 10 days after the subcommittee has replied to the Motion to Dismiss. The investigative subcommittee shall rule upon any motion to dismiss filed during the period between the establishment of the subcommittee and the subcommittee's transmittal of a report or Statement of Alleged Violation to the Committee or to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member at the conclusion of an inquiry, and no appeal of the subcommittee's ruling shall lie to the Committee.

(2) A Motion to Dismiss may be made on the grounds that the Statement of Alleged Violation fails to state facts that constitute a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or other applicable law, rule, regulation, or standard of conduct, or on the grounds that the Committee lacks jurisdiction to consider the allegations contained in the Statement.

(d) Any motion filed with the subcommittee pursuant to this rule shall be accompanied by a Memorandum of Points and Authorities.

(e)(1) The Chair of the investigative subcommittee, for good cause shown, may permit the respondent to file an answer or motion after the day prescribed above.

(2) If the ability of the respondent to present an adequate defense is not adversely affected and special circumstances so require, the Chair of the investigative subcommittee may direct the respondent to file an answer or motion prior to the day prescribed above.

(f) If the day on which any answer, motion, reply, or other pleading must be filed falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday, such filing shall be made on the first business day thereafter.

(g) As soon as practicable after an answer has been filed or the time for such filing has expired, the Statement of Alleged Violation and any answer, motion, reply, or other pleading connected therewith shall be transmitted by the Chair of the investigative subcommittee to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

RULE 23. ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

(a) If a Statement of Alleged Violation is transmitted to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member pursuant to Rule 22, and no waiver pursuant to Rule 26(b) has occurred, the Chair shall designate the members of the Committee who did not serve on the investigative subcommittee to serve on an adjudicatory subcommittee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the adjudicatory subcommittee unless they served on the investigative subcommittee. The respondent shall be notified of the designation of the adjudicatory subcommittee and shall have 10 days after such notice is transmitted to object to the participation of any subcommittee member. Such objection shall be in writing and shall be on the grounds that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. The members of the Committee shall engage in a collegial discussion regarding such objection. The member against whom the objection is made shall be the sole judge of any disqualification and may choose to seek disqualification from serving on the subcommittee pursuant to Rule 9(e).

(b) A majority of the adjudicatory subcommittee membership plus one must be present at all times for the conduct of any business pursuant to this rule.

(c) The adjudicatory subcommittee shall hold a hearing to determine whether any counts in the Statement of Alleged Violation have been proved by clear and convincing evidence and shall make findings of fact, except where such violations have been admitted by respondent.

(d) The subcommittee may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other items as it deems necessary. A subpoena for documents may specify terms of return other than at a meeting or hearing of the subcommittee. Depositions, interrogatories, and sworn statements taken under any investigative subcommittee direction may be accepted into the hearing record.

(e) The procedures set forth in clause 2(g)(1)–(4), (6)–(7) and (k) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to adjudicatory hearings. All such hearings shall be open to the public unless the adjudicatory subcommittee, pursuant to such clause, determines that the hearings or any part thereof should be closed.

(f)(1) The adjudicatory subcommittee shall, in writing, notify the respondent that the respondent and respondent's counsel have the right to inspect, review, copy, or photograph books, papers, documents, photographs, or other tangible objects that committee counsel intends to use as evidence against the respondent in an adjudicatory hearing. The respondent shall be given access to such evidence, and shall be provided the names of witnesses committee counsel intends to call, and a summary of their expected testimony, no less than 15 calendar days prior to any such hearing. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no evidence may be introduced or witness called in an adjudicatory hearing unless the respondent has been afforded a prior opportunity to review such evidence or has been provided the name of the witness.

(2) After a witness has testified on direct examination at an adjudicatory hearing, the Committee, at the request of the respondent, shall make available to the respondent any statement of the witness in the possession of the Committee which relates to the subject matter as to which the witness has testified.

(3) Any other testimony, statement, or documentary evidence in the possession of the Committee which is material to the respondent's defense shall, upon request, be made available to the respondent.

(g) No less than 5 days prior to the hearing, the respondent or counsel shall provide the adjudicatory subcommittee with the names of witnesses expected to be called, summaries of their expected testimony, and copies of any documents or other evidence proposed to be introduced.

(h) The respondent or counsel may apply to the subcommittee for the issuance of subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses or the production of evidence. The application shall be granted upon a showing by the respondent that the proposed testimony or evidence is relevant and not otherwise available to respondent. The application may be denied if not made at a reasonable time or if the testimony or evidence would be merely cumulative.

(i) No later than two weeks or 5 legislative days after the Chair of the Committee designates members to serve on an adjudicatory subcommittee, whichever is later, the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee shall establish a schedule and procedure for the hearing and for prehearing matters. The procedures may be changed either by the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee or a by a majority vote of the members of the subcommittee. If the Chair makes prehearing rulings upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, the Chair shall make available those rulings to all subcommittee members at the time of the ruling.

(j) The procedures regarding the admissibility of evidence and rulings shall be as follows:

(1) Any relevant evidence shall be admissible unless the evidence is privileged under the precedents of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Chair of the subcommittee or other presiding member at an adjudicatory subcommittee hearing shall rule upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, and may direct any witness to answer any question under penalty of contempt. A witness, witness counsel, or a member of the subcommittee may appeal any ruling to the members present at that proceeding. A majority vote of the members present at such proceeding on such an appeal shall govern the question of admissibility and no appeal shall lie to the Committee.

(3) Whenever a witness is deemed by a Chair or other presiding member to be in contempt of the subcommittee, the matter may be referred to the Committee to determine whether to refer the matter to the House of Representatives for consideration.

(4) Committee counsel may, subject to subcommittee approval, enter into stipulations with the respondent and/or the respondent's counsel as to facts that are not in dispute.

(k) Unless otherwise provided, the order of an adjudicatory hearing shall be as follows:

(1) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee shall open the hearing with equal time and during which time, the Chair shall state the adjudicatory subcommittee's authority to conduct the hearing and the purpose of the hearing.

(2) The Chair shall then recognize Committee counsel and the respondent's counsel, in turn, for the purpose of giving opening statements.

(3) Testimony from witnesses and other relevant evidence shall be received in the following order whenever possible:

(i) witnesses (deposition transcripts and affidavits obtained during the inquiry may be used in lieu of live witnesses) and other evidence offered by Committee counsel,

(ii) witnesses and other evidence offered by the respondent,

(iii) rebuttal witnesses, as permitted by the Chair.

(4) Witnesses at a hearing shall be examined first by counsel calling such witness. The opposing counsel may then cross-examine the witness. Redirect examination and recross examination by counsel may be permitted at the Chair's discretion. Subcommittee members may then question witnesses. Unless otherwise directed by the Chair, questions by Subcommittee members shall be conducted under the five-minute rule.

(5) The Chair shall then recognize Committee counsel and respondent's counsel, in turn, for the purpose of giving closing arguments. Committee counsel may reserve time for rebuttal argument, as permitted by the Chair.

(l) A subpoena to a witness to appear at a hearing shall be served sufficiently in advance of that witness' scheduled appearance to allow the witness a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee, to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel.

(m) Each witness appearing before the subcommittee shall be furnished a printed or electronic copy of the Committee rules, the relevant provisions of the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the rights of witnesses, and a copy of the Statement of Alleged Violation.

(n) Testimony of all witnesses shall be taken under oath or affirmation. The form of the oath or affirmation shall be: ''Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this subcommittee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (so help you God)?'' The oath or affirmation shall be administered by the Chair or Committee member designated by the Chair to administer oaths.

(o) At an adjudicatory hearing, the burden of proof rests on Committee counsel to establish the facts alleged in the Statement of Alleged Violation by clear and convincing evidence. However, Committee counsel need not present any evidence regarding any count that is admitted by the respondent or any fact stipulated. Committee counsel or respondent's counsel may move the adjudicatory subcommittee to make a finding that there is no material fact at issue. If the adjudicatory subcommittee finds that there is no material fact at issue, the burden of proof will be deemed satisfied.

(p) As soon as practicable after all testimony and evidence have been presented, the subcommittee shall consider each count contained in the Statement of Alleged Violation and shall determine by a majority vote of its members whether each count has been proved. If a majority of the subcommittee does not vote that a count has been proved, a motion to reconsider that vote may be made only by a member who voted that the count was not proved. A count that is not proved shall be considered as dismissed by the subcommittee.

(q) The findings of the adjudicatory subcommittee shall be reported to the Committee.

RULE 24. SANCTION HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF SANCTIONS OR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) If no count in a Statement of Alleged Violation is proved, the Committee shall prepare a report to the House of Representatives, based upon the report of the adjudicatory subcommittee.

(b) If an adjudicatory subcommittee completes an adjudicator hearing pursuant to Rule 23 and reports that any count of the Statement of Alleged Violation has been proved, a hearing before the Committee shall be held to receive oral and/or written submissions by counsel for the Committee and counsel for the respondent as to the sanction the Committee should recommend to the House of Representatives with respect to such violations. Testimony by witnesses shall not be heard except by written request and vote of a majority of the Committee.

(c) Upon completion of any proceeding held pursuant to clause (b), the Committee shall consider and vote on a motion to recommend to the House of Representatives that the House take disciplinary action. If a majority of the Committee does not vote in favor of the recommendation that the House of Representatives take action, a motion to reconsider that vote may be made only by a member who voted against the recommendation. The Committee may also, by majority vote, adopt a motion to issue a Letter of Reproval or take other appropriate Committee action.

(d) If the Committee determines a Letter of Reproval constitutes sufficient action, the Committee shall include any such letter as a part of its report to the House of Representatives.

(e) With respect to any proved counts against a Member of the House of Representatives, the Committee may recommend to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Expulsion from the House of Representatives.

(2) Censure.

(3) Reprimand.

(4) Fine.

(5) Denial or limitation of any right, power, privilege, or immunity of the Member if under the Constitution the House of Representatives may impose such denial or limitation.

(6) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(f) With respect to any proved counts against an officer or employee of the House of Representatives, the Committee may recommend to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Dismissal from employment.

(2) Reprimand.

(3) Fine.

(4) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(g) With respect to the sanctions that the Committee may recommend, reprimand is appropriate for serious violations, censure is appropriate for more serious violations, and expulsion of a Member or dismissal of an officer or employee is appropriate for the most serious violations. A recommendation of a fine is appropriate in a case in which it is likely that the violation was committed to secure a personal financial benefit; and a recommendation of a denial or limitation of a right, power, privilege, or immunity of a Member is appropriate when the violation bears upon the exercise or holding of such right, power, privilege, or immunity. This clause sets forth general guidelines and does not limit the authority of the Committee to recommend other sanctions.

(h) The Committee report shall contain an appropriate statement of the evidence supporting the Committee's findings and a statement of the Committee's reasons for the recommended sanction.

RULE 25. DISCLOSURE OF EXCULPATORY INFORMATION TO RESPONDENT

If the Committee, or any investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee at any time receives any exculpatory information respecting a Complaint or Statement of Alleged Violation concerning a respondent, it shall make such information known and available to the respondent as soon as practicable, but in no event later than the transmittal of evidence supporting a proposed Statement of Alleged Violation pursuant to Rule 26(c). If an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation, it shall identify any exculpatory information in its possession at the conclusion of its inquiry and shall include such information, if any, in the subcommittee's final report to the Committee regarding its inquiry. For purposes of this rule, exculpatory evidence shall be any evidence or information that is substantially favorable to the respondent with respect to the allegations or charges before an investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee.

RULE 26. RIGHTS OF RESPONDENTS AND WITNESSES

(a) A respondent shall be informed of the right to be represented by counsel, to be provided at the respondent's own expense.

(b) A respondent may seek to waive any procedural rights or steps in the disciplinary process. A request for waiver must be in writing, signed by the respondent, and must detail what procedural steps the respondent seeks to waive. Any such request shall be subject to the acceptance of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate.

(c) Not less than 10 calendar days before a scheduled vote by an investigative subcommittee on a Statement of Alleged Violation, the subcommittee shall provide the respondent with a copy of the Statement of Alleged Violation it intends to adopt together with all evidence it intends to use to prove those charges which it intends to adopt, including documentary evidence, witness testimony, memoranda of witness interviews, and physical evidence, unless the subcommittee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members decides to withhold certain evidence in order to protect a witness, but if such evidence is withheld, the subcommittee shall inform the respondent that evidence is being withheld and of the count to which such evidence relates.

(d) Neither the respondent nor respondent's counsel shall, directly or indirectly, contact the subcommittee or any member thereof during the period of time set forth in paragraph (c) except for the sole purpose of settlement discussions where counsels for the respondent and the subcommittee are present.

(e) If, at any time after the issuance of a Statement of Alleged Violation, the Committee or any subcommittee thereof determines that it intends to use evidence not provided to a respondent under paragraph (c) to prove the charges contained in the Statement of Alleged Violation (or any amendment thereof), such evidence shall be made immediately available to the respondent, and it may be used in any further proceeding under the Committee's rules.

(f) Evidence provided pursuant to paragraph (c) or (e) shall be made available to the respondent and respondent's counsel only after each agrees, in writing, that no document, information, or other materials obtained pursuant to that paragraph shall be made public until—

(1) such time as a Statement of Alleged Violation is made public by the Committee if the respondent has waived the adjudicatory hearing; or

(2) the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing if the respondent has not waived an adjudicatory hearing; but the failure of respondent and respondent's counsel to so agree in writing, and therefore not receive the evidence, shall not preclude the issuance of a Statement of Alleged Violation at the end of the period referenced to in (c).

(g) If the Committee issues a report with respect to a claim referred to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights pursuant to Section 416(e) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, the Committee shall ensure that the report does not directly disclose the identity or position of the individual who filed the claim.

(h) A respondent shall receive written notice whenever—

(1) the Chair and Ranking Minority Member determine that information the Committee has received constitutes a complaint;

(2) a complaint or allegation is transmitted to an investigative subcommittee;

(3) that subcommittee votes to authorize its first subpoena or to take testimony under oath, whichever occurs first;

(4) the Committee votes to expand the scope of the inquiry of an investigative subcommittee; and

(5) the Committee or an investigative subcommittee determines to take into evidence the trial transcript or exhibits admitted into evidence at a criminal trial pursuant to Rule 18(e)(3).

(i) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation and a respondent enters into an agreement with that subcommittee to settle an investigation, in whole or in part, on which the Statement is based, that agreement, unless the respondent requests otherwise, shall be in writing and signed by the respondent and the respondent's counsel, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee, and outside counsel, if any.

(j) Statements or information derived solely from a respondent or respondent's counsel during any settlement discussions between the Committee or a subcommittee thereof and the respondent shall not be included in any report of the subcommittee or the Committee or otherwise publicly disclosed without the consent of the respondent.

(k) Whenever a motion to establish an investigative subcommittee does not prevail, the Committee shall promptly send a letter to the respondent(s) informing the respondent(s) of such vote.

(l) Witnesses shall be afforded a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Committee or subcommittee, to prepare for an appearance before an investigative subcommittee or for an adjudicatory hearing and to obtain counsel.

(m) Prior to their testimony, witnesses shall be furnished a printed or electronic copy of the Committee's Rules and the provisions of the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the rights of witnesses.

(n) Witnesses may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The Chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional responsibility on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House of Representatives for contempt.

(o) Each witness subpoenaed to provide testimony or other evidence shall be provided the same per diem rate as established, authorized, and regulated by the Committee on House Administration for Members, officers, and employees of the House, and, as the Chair considers appropriate, actual expenses of travel to or from the place of examination. No compensation shall be authorized for attorney's fees or for a witness' lost earnings. Such per diem may not be paid if a witness had been summoned at the place of examination.

(p) With the approval of the Committee, a witness, upon request, may be provided with a transcript of the witness' own deposition or other testimony taken in executive session, or, with the approval of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, may be permitted to examine such transcript in the office of the Committee. Any such request shall be in writing and shall include a statement that the witness, and counsel, agree to maintain the confidentiality of all executive session proceedings covered by such transcript.

RULE 27. FRIVOLOUS FILINGS

If a complaint or information offered as a complaint is deemed frivolous by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee may take such action as it, by an affirmative vote of a majority deems appropriate in the circumstances.

RULE 28. REFERRALS TO FEDERAL OR STATE AUTHORITIES

Referrals made under clause 3(a)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives may be made by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–487. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31470; Amdt. No.: 4046] received February 21, 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–488. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31471; Amdt. No.: 570] received February 21, 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–489. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Normal and Transport Category Rotorcraft Certification [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0990; Amdt. Nos.: 27-51, 29-59] (RIN: 2120-AK80) received February 21, 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–490. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1151; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01603-T; Amendment 39-22303; AD 2023-01-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–491. 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-2022-1414; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01303-E; Amendment 39-22304; AD 2023-01-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–492. 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-2022-0874; Project Identifier AD-2022-00337-T; Amendment 39-22307; AD 2023-01-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–493. 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-2022-1302; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00062-E; Amendment 39-22301; AD 2023-01-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–494. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0513; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01162-T; Amendment 39-22241; AD 2022-24-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–495. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Continental Aerospace Technologies GmbH Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1413; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00077-E; Amendment 39-22302; AD 2023-01-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–496. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Continental Aerospace Technologies, Inc. Reciprocating Engines With a Certain Superior Air Parts, Inc. Intake Valve Installed [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0027; Project Identifier AD-2022-01586-E; Amendment 39-22319; AD 2023-02-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–497. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Learjet, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0991; Project Identifier AD-2022-00155-T; Amendment 39-22299; AD 2023-01-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–498. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0987; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01416-R; Amendment 39-22298; AD 2023-01-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–499. 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-2022-1295; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01181-T; Amendment 39-22295; AD 2023-01-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–500. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Mooney International Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0024; Project Identifier AD-2022-01492-A; Amendment 39-22311; AD 2023-02-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–501. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Union Springs, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1262; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ASO-21] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 21, 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–502. 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-2022-1166; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00407-T; Amendment 39-22297; AD 2023-01-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–503. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Textron Aviation Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Cessna Aircraft Company) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1078; Project Identifier AD-2020-00716-A; Amendment 39-22324; AD 2023-02-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–504. 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-2022-1050; Project Identifier AD-2021-01257-T; Amendment 39-22316; AD 2023-02-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–505. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1313; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01418-T; Amendment 39-22317; AD 2023-02-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–506. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0684; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01204-T; Amendment 39-22287; AD 2022-27-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–507. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1411; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00912-T; Amendment 39-22320; AD 2023-02-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–508. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Schempp-Hirth Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0162; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01559-G; Amendment 39-22335; AD 2023-03-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–509. 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-2022-0812; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00445-T; Amendment 39-22208; AD 2022-21-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–510. 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-2022-1412; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00805-T; Amendment 39-22314; AD 2023-02-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–511. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0396; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01050-T; Amendment 39-22315; AD 2023-02-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–512. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1298; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00437-T; Amendment 39-22313; AD 2023-02-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–513. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1251; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00588-T; Amendment 39-22308; AD 2023-02-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–514. 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-2019-0766; Project Identifier 2019-NE-23-AD; Amendment 39-22312; AD 2023-02-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–515. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0159; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00046-R; Amendment 39-22326; AD 2023-03-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 21, 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–516. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31469; Amdt. No.: 4045] received February 21, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Ommitted from the Record of February 27, 2023]

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 166. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights'' (Rept. 118–4). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms.

CLARKE of New York, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NICKEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CASAR, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. STANTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. CHU, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MANNING, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BALINT, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. TRONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. RYAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CROW, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. NEAL, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CARAVEO, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CASE, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 20. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 1226. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 1227. A bill to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BOST, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. CLINE, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ROY, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CARL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 1228. A bill to prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BOST, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. CLINE, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ROY, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CARL, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 1229. A bill to codify Executive Order 13950 (relating to combating race and sex stereotyping), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SOTO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 1230. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to States to support the establishment and operation of grocery stores in underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 1231. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to reaffirm civil rights, victims' rights, and consumer protections; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1232. A bill to conduct a special resource study of Fort Pillow Historic State Park in Henning, Tennessee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1233. A bill to provide for cash refunds for canceled airline flights and tickets; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BOST, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. CLOUD):

H.R. 1234. A bill to prohibit Members of Congress from receiving a financial benefit from certain student loan cancellation programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1235. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for pay equality and the more accurate computation of retirement benefits for certain firefighters employed by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 1236. A bill to establish an Outdoor Restoration Fund for restoration and resilience projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 1237. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Sarah Keys Evans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. RYAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1238. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue certain regulations to define high-hazard flammable train, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS):

H.R. 1239. A bill to designate the area between the intersections of 16th Street Northwest and Fuller Street Northwest and 16th Street Northwest and Euclid Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as ''Oswaldo Payá Way''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 1240. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from

the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 1241. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a competitive grant program to assist local governments in providing efficient review and approval of zoning and permitting applications that facilitate the deployment of broadband infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 1242. A bill to make improvements to the role of the Department of Defense in responding to domestic emergencies, including wildfires; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Transportation and Infrastructure, and Natural Resources, 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. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 1243. A bill to prohibit no-knock raids from being conducted by Federal law enforcement officers, and other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROSS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. IVEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CASAR, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. FROST, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BROWN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. LIEU, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 1244. A bill to posthumously award a historic Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Africans and their descendants enslaved within our country from August 20, 1619, to December 6, 1865; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and 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 Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. ROSENDALE):

H.R. 1245. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 1246. A bill to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. MACE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TRONE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. KEATING, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WILD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. MENG, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. BUSH, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 1247. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Freedom Riders, collectively, in recognition of their unique contribution to Civil Rights, which inspired a revolutionary movement for equality in interstate travel; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HOYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 1248. A bill to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 1249. A bill to prohibit certain practices relating to certain commodity promotion programs, to require greater transparency by those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. GUEST, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BACON, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. FINSTAD):

H.R. 1250. A bill to restore the exemption of family farms and small businesses from the definition of assets under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 1251. A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Doris Miller posthumously for acts of valor while a member of the Navy during World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 1252. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Doris Miller, in recognition of his acts of valor while a member of the United States Navy during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 1253. A bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Oversight and Accountability, Ways and Means, and 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. MORELLE (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H.R. 1254. A bill to direct the President to seek to obtain an agreement between the United States and other countries that have frozen the assets of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation under which parties to the agreement will use such assets to provide for the reconstruction of Ukraine upon cessation of hostilities in Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 1255. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to Black veterans of World War II, and surviving spouses and certain direct descendants of such veterans, eligibility for certain housing loans and educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 1256. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the appointment of the Under Secretary of Health and Assistant Under Secretaries of Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1257. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, to amend certain regulations to require all helicopters and rotorcraft to fly at the maximum altitude permitted by the Federal Aviation Administration in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 1258. A bill to provide adequate protections for gun owners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Appropriations, Veterans' Affairs, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 1259. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs otherwise chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 1260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1261. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a corporate responsibility investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 1262. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the applicable dollar amount for qualified carbon oxide which is captured and utilized for purposes of the carbon oxide sequestration credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 1263. A bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in transforming their business and program models to models that support individuals with disabilities through competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 1264. A bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 1265. A bill to provide further means of accountability with respect to the United States debt and promote fiscal responsibility; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIMMONS (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 1266. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on using alternative credit scoring information for veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1267. A bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 1268. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish the position of Special Envoy for the Abraham Accords, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H. Res. 178. A resolution affirming the House of Representatives' commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H. Res. 179. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H. Res. 180. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Thomas Garrett was and should be recognized as a national abolitionist leader and activist in the struggle against slavery in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. MATSUI):

H. Res. 181. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 28, 2023, as ''Rare Disease Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H. Res. 182. A resolution expressing support for America's Black workers and affirming the need to pass legislation to reduce inequalities and discrimination in the workforce; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. UNDERWOOD):

H. Res. 183. A resolution expressing support for designation of the third Friday of every March, as ''National FIRST Robotics Day''; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H. Res. 184. A resolution recognizing and celebrating the significance of Black History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H. Res. 185. A resolution declaring racism a public health crisis; 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. MAST:

H. Res. 186. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the People's Republic of China should be held accountable for its handling of COVID-19; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself and Mr. CASE):

H. Res. 187. A resolution supporting the designation of February 2023 as ''Hawaiian Language Month'' or ''Olelo Hawai'i Month''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. ZINKE,

Mr. STEUBE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. POSEY, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. SANTOS):

H. Res. 188. A resolution condemning Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 20.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor Law

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 1226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Modernizing the C-File to make it more accessible to access for veterans.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 1227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 1228.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Critical Race Theory

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 1229.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Critical Race Theory

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 1230.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to States to support the establishment and operation of grocery stores in underserved communities, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Technology

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

National PArks

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Consumer Protection

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 1234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is to prevent Members of Congress from benefitting inappropriately from student loan cancellation programs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal Firefighters pay and benefits

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 1236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Outdoor Restoration Fund for restoration and resilience projects, and for other purposes.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 1237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Civil rights

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 1238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Rail Safety

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H.R. 1239.

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:

This bill designates the area between the intersections of 16th Street, NW and Fuller Street, NW and 16th Street, NW and Euclid Street, NW in the District of Columbia as Oswaldo Paya Way.

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 1240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 4 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 1241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Broadband funds deployment

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Armed Forces and National Security

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 1243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Restricting the ability of the federal government to partner with the local agencies to perform no-knock raids on law-abiding gun owners.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 1244.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill will award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Africans and their descendants enslaved within the United States from August 20, 1619, to December 6, 1865

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 1245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Natural Resources; removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear population from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 1246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955, to authorize any federally recognized Indian tribe to lease their land held in trust for a term of up to 99 years.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 1247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Commemorative

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 1248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Care & maintenance of US Capitol premises

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 1249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

OVERSIGHT OF CHECK OFF PROGRAMS

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 1250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amending the Higher Education Act to exempt family farm and small business assets from FAFSA eligibility.

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 1251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

Waiving the Time Limitation for Doris Miller to Receive the Medal of Honor

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 1252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 6

The single subject of this legislation is:

Congressional Recognition for Mess Attendant Doris Miller

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 1253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Energy Security

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 1254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is international affairs.

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 1255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution. To raise and support Armies . . . To provide and maintain a Navy; To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; 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:

To extend to Black veterans of World War II, and surviving spouses and certain direct descendants of such veterans, eligibility for certain housing loans and educational assistance administered by the Seceretary of Veterans Affairs, and to establish reporting and advisory panel requirements relating to the distribution of such benefits.

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 1256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws ''which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution'' any of Congress's enumerated powers.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would extend the term to five years for the Under Secretary of Health.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require all helicopters and rotorcraft to fly at the maximum altitude permitted by the Federal Aviation Administration in the District of Columbia.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 1258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 and Amendment 2

The single subject of this legislation is:

Ensuring gun owners are afforded due process for the preservation of their Second Amendment rights as it relates to determinations at certain federal agencies.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 1259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow independent music creators to deduct 100 percent of recording production expenses in the year they are incurred, rather than in later years.

By Mr. SANTOS:

H.R. 1260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Section 164(b)(6)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$10,000 ($5,000'' and inserting ''$50,000 ($25.000'. (Tax Relief)

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 1261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Thrift Savings Plan

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 1262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have the Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

create parity between the credit value for utilization and sequestration in the 45Q carbon capture tax credit.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fair Labor Standards Act

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 1264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

To streamline employer reporting and strengthen the eligibility verification processes for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 1265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation makes requirements of the Secretary of the Treasury regarding increases in the debt limit.

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H.R. 1266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Armed Forces and National Security

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 1267.

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:

Transportation

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 1268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign Affairs

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 38: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 82: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BACON, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. SANTOS, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 130: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 146: Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 163: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 211: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 292: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 319: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 335: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 343: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 347: Mrs. SPARTZ and Mr. SANTOS.

H.R. 353: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 354: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 355: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 396: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 413: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 427: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 501: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 513: Mr. BACON, Mr. ESTES, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 558: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 589: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 594: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 603: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LALOTA, and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 615: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 619: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 625: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 645: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 662: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 666: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 667: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 713: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 726: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 735: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 743: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 767: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 790: Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 797: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 803: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 819: Mr. LALOTA.

H.R. 839: Mr. NICKEL and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 856: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MENG, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 862: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 906: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 930: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 949: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1010: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mrs. BICE, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 1014: Ms. PORTER and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 1047: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BEYER, Ms. MENG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PANETTA, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1048: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1049: Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1056: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 1058: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 1073: Mr. TONKO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 1076: Mr. LAWLER and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 1083: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1085: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1093: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1107: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. HILL, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1140: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 1150: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1151: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1152: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 1154: Ms. MANNING and Mr. HILL.
H.R. 1159: Mr. HILL and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1171: Mr. SANTOS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 1172: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1181: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 1182: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 1189: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1224: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. PORTER.
H.J. Res. 18: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.J. Res. 27: Mr. COLE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.J. Res. 30: Mr. FRY and Mr. CLINE.
H. Con. Res. 14: Mr. LATTA.
H. Res. 39: Mr. SANTOS.
H. Res. 90: Mr. HILL and Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 100: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H. Res. 108: Mr. BEYER.
H. Res. 114: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H. Res. 120: Ms. TOKUDA.
H. Res. 154: Mr. MFUME and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Res. 158: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. STEUBE.
H. Res. 165: Mr. ROY, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H. Res. 177: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARRIF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MS. FOXX

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in H.J. Res. 30 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023 No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. Mark Antal, the National Chaplain of the American Legion.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, King of Kings and Lord of all nations, we come before You today seeking Your divine wisdom, mercy, and love.

From the theme verse of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps, Proverbs 9:10, ''The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.''

We come to You not in a state of slavish fear but in an attitude of love and reverence. From houses of worship and places of prayer, people all across our Nation pray daily for these men and women assembled here in this Chamber.

Guard, keep, and protect these Senators as they travel from their homes here in Washington and then to their respective home States. Help them to know that they are respected and honored by a grateful nation.

Their task may appear huge at times. Help them to remember the words of the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta: We cannot do great things in this world. We can only do small things with great love.

From the words of the great hymn writer Pollard-Stebbins, we humbly pray:

> Have thine own way, Lord. Have thine own way. Thou art the potter. I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

To You, O God, belong the glory. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 532

Mr. SCHUMER. First, some business, and then I will give my remarks.

First, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

> A bill (S. 532) to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection have been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on the recap of our codel: While meeting last week with leaders in Europe, India, Pakistan, and Israel—the nine of us on our codel—two takeaways became clear. First, the United States should deepen our relationship with India if we want to outcompete the Chinese Communist Party in this century. Second, democracies must unite in increasing aid to Ukraine.

I was glad Prime Minister Modi got the message during our meeting with him in India. My colleagues and I made clear the two largest democracies in the world—the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest—could be a powerful check against the CCP.

That doesn't mean just cooperating with India on defense and security, though that is essential. It means we must take an all-out, all-of-the-above approach, because that is precisely what the CCP is doing.

The CCP wants to outcompete America not just on defense but also economically, geopolitically, technologically, in terms of our fundamental values and more. Just as our transatlantic partnership matters immensely, so too will our partnership with India.

The United States and India must, therefore, keep working together to strengthen our economic ties, expand our trade, and make it easier to recruit talented workers from abroad to work in our country.

While meeting with foreign leaders, we also made clear the importance of standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine. We made it clear to the leaders of Europe, India, Pakistan, and Israel that they must increase their aid to Ukraine. Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion is now a year old; and as difficult as the road has been, we made it clear that the worst thing we can do is waver in our support. The Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian Armed Forces are fighting valiantly, but they need more materiel. And it is our job to give it to them. A Russian victory will not quench Putin's hunger for expansion. On the contrary, it would escalate his desire for more territory.

So the right answer is for the transatlantic partnership—and all the free nations of the world—to continue supporting the Ukrainian people.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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STUDENT DEBT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the SCOTUS oral arguments on student debt. Today, the Supreme Court begins hearing oral arguments on President Biden's student debt relief plan, a plan that could give tens of millions of Americans a new lease on life.

Republicans talk a big game about helping working people, but today's case before the Supreme Court—pushed by Republican officeholders who oppose the President's plan—is a slap in the face of working Americans across the country, young and old alike. Let me be clear: 90 percent—90 percent—of the relief going to out-of-school borrowers will go to those earning less than $75,000 a year. This isn't a handout to the wealthy. Far from it. This is critical relief to working- and middle-class families. For generations, higher education was the ladder up into the middle class, especially for millions of Black, Latino, and Asian Americans.

But over the years, the student debt that comes with a college degree has become not a ladder up but an anchor weighing Americans down—making it harder for them to put a down payment on a house, buy a car, start a family, and save for retirement. In other words, the burden of student debt makes it harder—harder—to achieve the American Dream.

That is what is at stake before the Supreme Court, not just the chance to relieve the crushing weight of student debt for millions upon millions of people but also to make the American dream a little more accessible for millions more—their families, as well as themselves. That is all we are trying to do, and I am confident we will get there because I believe the law is on our side.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on CHIPS and Science. Just 6 months after President Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act into law, we are already seeing it pay major—major—dividends for our economy, to the tune of $200 billion in private investments across 16 States. And starting today, applications are officially open for more investments in American industry and American workers.

Today, Secretary Raimondo, who has done terrific work getting CHIPS up and running, is rolling out the Department of Commerce's applications with CHIPS funding.

Today's rollout is a major step towards making America the world leader in chip production once again, with tremendous benefits for our national security, for outcompeting the Chinese Communist Party, and creating tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs right here at home.

So I want to commend Secretary Raimondo, who was not only a crucial partner with me in getting the bill across the finish line but who has also done a fantastic job rolling out the funding so quickly, so effectively, so efficiently. And I want to commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for recognizing the need to get this done and pushing to make it happen.

EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on to East Palestine. Yesterday, I called on Norfolk Southern's CEO Alan Shaw to come before the Senate and answer questions under oath about the derailment in East Palestine.

The accident has been deemed 100 percent preventable. So Mr. Shaw should be transparent, forthright, and he should not duck but, instead, testify before America, before the Senate, as soon as possible.

Norfolk Southern owes the American people some answers to some very important questions.

Why, for example, did Norfolk Southern spend years pushing the Federal Government, and particularly the Trump administration, to repeal—repeal—safety regulations intended to prevent accidents similar to the one in East Palestine?

Why has Norfolk Southern laid off thousands of workers while reporting over $3 billion in profits in 2022?

And why did Norfolk Southern launch a $10 billion stock buyback program last year, when they could have used that money to upgrade safety equipment, hire more workers, or pay their employees better wages?

Disasters like the one in East Palestine are precisely what can happen when safety takes a backseat to maximizing profits. It is a pattern that has played out to devastating effect over the years: Corporate interests lobby the government to loosen safety rules, then they cut costs, cut workers, reward shareholders; and sooner or later, disaster strikes.

And it is so typical—so typical—for people like Donald Trump to do the bidding of special interests, cause harm to the American people—that is what he did when he loosened railroad regulations—and then point the finger at someone else when something terrible happens. That is just what he did here. It just doesn't wash. The American people see right through it.

So, once again, I hope the CEO of Norfolk Southern testifies as soon as possible. Norfolk Southern has broken their trust to the American public and must—must—be held accountable.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICE. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Washington Democrats' reckless spending has embedded painful inflation deep in our economy. Runaway prices are making families' monthly budgets harder to balance. And as interest rates rise, the financial markets where millions of Americans invest their life savings are becoming literally more volatile.

Short-term bond yields are trading at their highest levels since the precipice of the Great Recession in 2007. Indications of expected stock market volatility appear to be actually on the upswing.

But with Americans' retirement accounts already in jeopardy, Democrats have gone looking for still more ways to put workers' savings at even greater risk. The Biden administration is trying to enact a radical new regulation that would help liberals use Americans' very own retirement savings as financial muscle for political causes they may not even support.

The Labor Department's proposed new rule would water down financial managers' fiduciary obligation to get the best return for their clients. This administration wants to let the fund managers prioritize extraneous factors—from companies' carbon footprints to various HR policies—when deciding where to invest hard-working Americans' savings.

The Biden administration wants to let Wall Street use its workers' hard-earned savings to pursue leftwing political initiatives instead of trying to maximize the returns for their clients' retirements. Democrats want to let money managers making these unrelated ideological goals a higher priority than getting their clients, ordinary American workers, the best returns for their own retirements.

Not surprisingly, studies suggest that investment funds where the managers put a political thumb on the scale in this particular fashion tend, not surprisingly, to underperform normal investments. When you put ideology ahead of seeking the highest returns, well, the returns, of course, suffer. And if the Democrats have their way, the losers will be ordinary American workers who have spent their whole careers putting money away for their retirement. In effect, we are talking about letting financial companies garnish the retirement savings of workers, without their permission, in order to pursue unrelated liberal political goals.

The Biden administration wants to put American workers in a position where portions of their potential returns on their retirement savings could be effectively donated away to leftwing political causes without their consent.

What a disastrous way to pile onto the pain they have already caused millions of American families.

I am grateful to my colleague from Indiana, Senator BRAUN, and to my friend and fellow Kentuckian Congressman ANDY BARR for leading a bipartisan resolution in both Houses to make sure that Americans' retirement accounts are about one thing: maximizing returns on investments. I will be proud to support this commonsense measure later this week.

CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, crime in our Nation's Capital is literally out of control. Washington, DC, has already seen about three dozen homicides in just the first 2 months of the year. This is a 35-percent increase over last year's pace. There have been more than 1,300 thefts from autos—a 25-percent increase over last year's pace—and more than 1,100 thefts of motor vehicles, including carjackings, more than doubling last year's pace for a shattering 109-percent increase.

At best, the liberal city politicians who have presided over this ongoing collapse in law and order are doing basically nothing. The Mayor recently announced that the city will hand out free steering wheel locks to residents who own certain kinds of vehicles.

But some local officials are not content with doing nothing and have set their minds to making the situation actually worse. The city council just passed a new criminal code designed to go even softer still on crime, reducing penalties for a number of violent offenses and property crimes.

To a unique degree, unlike any other city in America, Washington, DC, issues are national issues. The District of Columbia doesn't belong to a handful of local politicians; it belongs to more than 330 million American citizens. The people need their government to function in safety. Families and school groups need to be able to come tour the Capital, which their own tax dollars help finance, in peace of body and peace of mind.

This is why the Constitution entrusts our seat of government to a Federal district. It is why Federal law gives Congress the ability to step in and help govern our Nation's Capital City if local politicians fail to take care of basic business.

Now, amazingly, the same Washington Democrats who have spent the last several years trying to steamroll localism and federalism in every way possible are now, all of a sudden, indignant at the notion that Congress might toughen up penalties for violent crime here in the District.

Just last year alone, Democrats, right here in this Chamber, tried to break the Senate rules so they could micromanage every county in America's election laws. They tried to ram through a bill that would have swept away State and local laws and forced every community in America to adopt radical abortion laws on par with China and North Korea. Over the last 2 years, Democrats have passed bill after bill that spent trillions of dollars to interfere in American families' lives and put more of our society under the thumb of Federal bureaucrats.

So when it comes to radical far-left priorities, Washington Democrats have no qualms whatsoever about this city steamrolling 50 States and local communities. They vote for that outcome 8 days a week. But now, when public safety is in free fall in our Federal city itself, now Washington Democrats pretend they have become small government federalists and they want Congress out of the picture. This is a desperate attempt to change the subject, and it could not be less persuasive.

Democrats want Washington, DC, to take over every State law, even small business decisions and every family's financial choices. But we are supposed to believe that cleaning up violent crime in Washington, DC, itself, would be a bridge too far. Really?

They are just trying to duck the real debate. Democrats want to debate anything and everything beside violent crime itself because the modern Democratic Party and its coalitions have decided it is more important to have compassion for serial violent felons than for innocent citizens who just want to live their lives.

That is the issue here—a binary choice. Should we be softer on crime like Democrats want at the State, local, and Federal levels, or should we be tougher on crime like Republicans and the American people want? That is the debate.

I want to thank Senator HAGERTY for spearheading the commonsense resolution that would nullify the DC Council's insane pro-criminal legislation and bring at least an ounce of common sense back to the American people's Federal city.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, across the street, this morning, oral arguments are occurring at the Supreme Court in two challenges to the President's reckless student loan giveaway.

There are two main parts to the President's scheme. There is the outright forgiveness of $10,000 in Federal student debt and $20,000 for Pell grant recipients, which is set to cost American taxpayers somewhere in the neighborhood of half a trillion dollars. Then there is the President's radical revamp of the income-driven repayment system, which would bring the total cost of the President's plan to somewhere close to a trillion dollars.

The President's new income-driven repayment plan has probably garnered less attention than his plans for student loan forgiveness, but his new income-driven repayment program is just as problematic because it sets up a system in which the majority of Federal borrowers will never—never—fully repay their loans.

One scholar at the Brookings Institution, a left-of-center think tank, estimates that ''the vast majority'' of college students will be eligible for the program and that current and future borrowers enrolled in the program ''[o]n average . . . might only expect to repay approximately $0.50 for each dollar they borrow''—''repay approximately $0.50 for each dollar they borrow.''

The Urban Institute, another left-of-center think tank, estimates that just 22 percent of those with bachelor's degrees enrolled in the President's new income-driven repayment program would repay their loans in full. By contrast, the institute notes that under today's IDR program, we would expect 59 percent of individuals with bachelor's degrees to repay their loans in full.

The nonpartisan Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates the cost of the President's new income-driven repayment program at $333 billion to $361 billion—the range—over 10 years. However, Penn Wharton notes, ''These estimates do not yet include the effects of students increasing their borrowing.''

''These estimates do not yet include the effects of students increasing their borrowing.''

Needless to say, students are likely to increase their borrowing. It is common sense. In fact, the Brookings Institution notes that borrowing is likely to become the preferred means of paying

for college under the President's plan. And, of course, as student borrowing increases, so does the cost to taxpayers because it is taxpayers who will be footing the bill for all that student loan money that is never paid back.

Now, both President Biden's outright student loan forgiveness and his student loan forgiveness masquerading as income-driven repayment are going to cost the taxpayers a lot of money. There are the direct costs of the plan that will be paid for by the Federal Government—in other words, by taxpayers, including those who never went to college and those who have already paid off their student loans.

There are the indirect costs, like the fact that the President's student loan giveaway is likely to prolong our current inflation crisis. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, where President Biden's own Treasury Secretary once served on the board, has estimated that the President's plan would ''meaningfully boost inflation''—''meaningfully boost inflation.'' Now, you would think that the President might have learned his lesson after helping to set off the worst inflation crisis in 40 years with his massive American Rescue Plan spending spree but apparently not.

It is important to remember that taxpayers are going to be footing the bill for student loan cancellation for Americans who, if they graduated from college, enjoy greater long-term earning potential than many of the Americans who will be helping to shoulder the burden for their debts. This isn't a government handout for the needy; this is a government handout that will disproportionally benefit Americans who are better off.

Of course, the President's student loan giveaway will do nothing—nothing—to address the root of the problem, and that is soaring college costs. In fact, it is likely to make things worse. Faced with the knowledge that many of their students will never have to fully pay off their loans, colleges will have zero incentive to cut costs, and students are likely to feel less pressure to choose a more affordable college option since there is a good chance they will only have to pay back part of their student loan debt and might even have it forgiven entirely.

It is not hard to imagine a future Democrat President deciding that it is politically expedient to imitate President Biden and just cancel a huge portion of student loan debt outright, especially since college costs and college debt will continue to soar under the President's plan.

Whether President Biden has the legal authority to implement the debt cancellation he proposed is really questionable. He used a law called the HEROES Act, drafted to give the President authority to provide student loan relief in times of war or national emergency and specifically to provide relief to the large number of soldiers deployed to the Middle East in the wake of September 11. It was not intended to provide for widespread student loan forgiveness in a time of peace and low unemployment.

The President himself raised questions about his authority to forgive student loans in a 2021 townhall meeting. The former Democrat Speaker of the House stated plainly—plainly—that the President didn't have this authority. Between bullying from the far left and the prospect of gaining votes in the 2022 election, the President went ahead anyway. And now—now—taxpayers will be saddled with close to an additional trillion dollars in debt on top of the other reckless spending by the Biden administration and the Democrat Congress.

It is not just Republicans who have raised serious concerns about the President's student loan plans. So has the Washington Post and at least one scholar at the left-of-center Brookings Institution and the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, where, as I said earlier, the President's own Treasury Secretary once served. And the list goes on.

The President's student loan giveaway is yet another disastrous economic plan coming from the Biden administration, and if it goes into effect, it will be the American taxpayers who once again will be paying the price.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JAMAR K. WALKER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jamar Walker to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Mr. Walker's commitment to public service and deep ties to the Virginia legal community will serve the district court well.

Born in Nassawadox, VA, Mr. Walker received his B.A. from the University of Virginia in 2008 and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2011. He then clerked for Judge Raymond A. Jackson, whom he has now been nominated to succeed, on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Mr. Walker began his career in private practice in Washington, DC, where he specialized in commercial insurance litigation and products liability. He then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia as an Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to the Financial Crimes and Public Corruption Unit. In this role, Mr. Walker has prosecuted a wide range of cases, including bribery, money laundering, wire fraud, bank fraud, foreign corrupt practices, and securities fraud. Following 7 years of dedicated service, Mr. Walker was named the unit's acting chief in 2022.

Mr. Walker has spent nearly his entire legal career litigating in Federal court, and he has gained significant experience in both civil and criminal matters. In recognition of his expertise, the American Bar Association rated him ''well qualified'' to serve on the district court. He also has the strong support of Senators WARNER and KAINE. And if confirmed, Mr. Walker would make history as the first openly LGBTQ article III Judge to serve in the State of Virginia.

I will vote in favor of his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. THUNE. 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. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote for 11:30 a.m. take place now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON WALKER NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Walker nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted ''yea.''

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 26 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Luján	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Boozman	Britt
Blackburn	Braun	Capito

Cassidy	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Lankford	Rubio
Cotton	Lee	Schmitt
Cramer	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Daines	McConnell	Sullivan
Ernst	Moran	Thune
Fischer	Mullin	Tuberville
Hagerty	Paul	Vance
Hawley	Ricketts	Wicker
Hoeven	Risch	Young
Hyde-Smith	Romney	

NOT VOTING—7

Budd	Fetterman	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	
Feinstein	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 17, Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 27 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Britt	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Grassley	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—6

Budd	Feinstein	Merkley
Crapo	Fetterman	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:05 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDER—Continued

VOTE ON WHITEHEAD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Whitehead nomination?

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted ''nay.''

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 28 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Britt	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Grassley	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—6

Budd	Feinstein	Merkley
Crapo	Fetterman	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 14, Araceli Martínez-Olguín, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, John

W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Alex Padilla.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 29 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—5

Crapo	Fetterman	Tillis
Feinstein	Merkley	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, in keeping with their promise to fundamentally transform the country, Joe Biden and the Democrats have done everything in their power to fundamentally transform the Federal judiciary. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I have been able to interact with many of these nominees, and I have to say that I fully believe the American people deserve better.

There was Charnelle Bjelkengren, Joe Biden's nominee to the Eastern District of Washington. Now, she couldn't tell the committee what article II of the Constitution says, but I expect my Democratic colleagues will send her nomination to the floor this Thursday.

Dale Ho, who received the unanimous support of committee Democrats to serve in the Southern District of New York, referred to himself as a ''wild-eyed sort of leftist'' and disparaged members of the committee on Twitter.

Before she was nominated to serve on the Fourth Circuit, DeAndrea Benjamin released multiple people on bond who went on to commit more violent crimes. She, too, received the unanimous support of committee Democrats.

Todd Edelman, who is well on his way to becoming a district judge here in the District of Columbia, also displayed soft-on-crime tendencies. He released a known criminal who then went on to participate in the murder of a child. He received yet another vote of unanimous support from committee Democrats.

Marian Gaston, nominee to the Southern District of California, wrote a policy paper arguing that we should do away with residence restrictions for convicted child sex offenders.

Orelia Merchant, nominee to the Eastern District of New York, couldn't define ''originalism.''

This is an embarrassment, and it gets even worse, and it gets even worse when you look at the lack of qualification of the nominees the Democrats are sending for lifetime appointments to the Federal bench.

Few nominations have been as disturbing as President Biden's elevation of Michael Delaney to the First Circuit. To date, Mr. Delaney's most noteworthy contribution to his profession is the vicious intimidation of an underage sexual assault survivor who dared to speak out against one of his clients.

My colleagues on the Judiciary Committee already know the story of what Mr. Delaney did to Chessy Prout and her family, but I am going to repeat it here for my colleagues who are unfamiliar with this nominee's background. You should vote against this nominee, and here is why.

When she was a freshman at the elite St. Paul's Boarding School, Chessy Prout was sexually assaulted by an older student participating in ''senior salute.'' This was a campus-wide competition that encouraged senior men to commit statutory rape.

The perpetrator was ultimately found guilty of misdemeanor statutory rape, but the Prouts wanted their day in court with a civil suit. They had evidence that the powers that be at St. Paul's knew about this sick tradition.

Mr. Delaney represented the school, and he decided he was going to play hardball. He moved to have Chessy, who was a minor child, named publicly in a lawsuit that had garnered national attention. That is right—let's publicly name this child in a lawsuit that had garnered national attention.

I would ask my colleagues, does that sound like an action that someone who is going to sit on the Federal bench should be taking?

Mr. Delaney knew that if he exposed Chessy as Jane Doe, he would put her at risk of bullying, social isolation, and physical harm. He knew that, but it was worth it to him because it meant he could silence Chessy Prout, and he could go on and protect an elite private school that had a sick tradition. Their leadership knew about that sick tradition.

Most of my Republican colleagues came to Mr. Delaney's confirmation hearing, and they questioned him about this action. Only two of my Democratic colleagues chose to attend the hearing and to question him. Why? Because even my friends on the other side of the aisle who have rubberstamped each of President Biden's unqualified nominees, no matter how controversial they were, they knew this guy, Mr. Delaney, is unfit to sit on the bench.

I would say two things to Chairman DURBIN and the rest of my Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. First, even a cursory glance at this nominee's record should have landed his file in the trash can. You don't do this. You do not do this to minor children. But now that his nomination is facing a vote, you need look no further into Mr. Delaney's record than what has already been laid out before us. He harassed and threatened a 15-year-old little girl who survived a sexual assault and who was just trying to protect other young women at that school from that same fate. That should be enough for every single member on the Judiciary Committee to oppose this nomination. It should be enough for every Member of this Chamber to oppose his nomination and confirmation.

Confirming Mr. Delaney would send a chilling message—a chilling message—to victims of sexual assault. No victim would ever be able to walk into his courtroom and feel that they would be treated fairly under the law after seeing the way he treated Chessy Prout.

I wanted to let Chessy speak for herself in a letter she submitted to the Judiciary Committee. My concern is that many of my colleagues in this Chamber have not seen this letter. Indeed, I am concerned that Members of the Democratic caucus who did not attend the

hearing are unaware of this letter. So I will allow her to speak.

I quote:

If Michael Delaney is confirmed—if an attorney who brazenly intimidated a minor victim of sexual assault is given the distinct privilege to serve as a judge for the United States Court of Appeals—YOU—

Meaning every single one of you who would vote for him—

—are telling victims and survivors that you not only approve of victim intimidation tactics, you reward their enactors with one of the highest legal appointments in the state of Massachusetts.

I expressed my concerns to . . . the Department of Justice when Michael Delaney was first nominated in April of 2022, and today I am urging you to vote ''NO'' to Michael Delaney's nomination.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chessy's full letter be printed in the RECORD alongside my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Chessy Prout

DEAR SENATORS: My name is Chessy Prout, and I'm writing about President Biden's nomination of Michael A. Delaney to the US Court of Appeals in Boston. I am asking that you vote ''NO'' to his nomination. Michael Delaney is not ethically qualified to sit on the bench.

I believe the justice system needs to serve all involved in court proceedings—the victim/complainant and the defendant/institution. A lawyer who practices victim intimidation is doing nothing for the greater good of the community; he stands in the way of justice and furthermore keeps his community in a toxic cycle of harm and silence.

I was the State of New Hampshire's primary witness in their case against Owen Labrie in 2015. When I was fifteen years old in 2014, I was sexually assaulted by Owen Labrie during a spring rite of passage at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire called the ''senior salute'', a ritual involving upperclassmen soliciting sexual favors from underclassmen before graduation. The terminology ''Senior Salute'' was published in the school newspaper (a documented exhibit in the trial), the Rector Michael Hirschfeld's wife received a ''senior salute'' by email from a student, and the Rector Michael Hirschfeld was the faculty advisor for a handbook outlining colloquial terms among the student body, including a definition of the ''senior salute.''

During the trial of the State's case in 2015, multiple St. Paul's School students were called to testify to Labrie's premeditation. The day of the students' scheduled testimony, I walked into the Merrimack Courthouse through the back doors with a bailiff to avoid the news cameras at the front of the courthouse (I was a minor and Jane Doe in the case.) In a conference room on the first floor by the back door entrance I saw my former classmates, those who were scheduled to testify and some who were mere spectators, speaking with Michael Delaney. My father, Alexander Prout, and the director of public affairs for the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Amanda Grady Sexton, also witnessed the group assembled in the conference room. We notified state prosecutor Catherine Ruffle of what we saw.

When the students took to the stand, the pre-trial get-together Michael Delaney was involved in and seemingly coordinated on behalf of St. Paul's School began to make sense. The students had a new, carefully worded response when defining the ''senior salute'' to the jury, and all denied the school had any knowledge of the insidious nature of the ritual. From the scene that I witnessed in the courthouse conference room with the students and Michael Delaney to the new, stilted, coordinated definitions of the students testifying, I believe Michael Delaney tampered with the witnesses on behalf of his client, St. Paul's School.

When I learned the extent to which St. Paul's School knew of my perpetrator's prior abuse, my family and I sued the school in 2016. Michael Delaney, in response to our suit and as St. Paul's School's counsel, submitted a motion to strip my anonymity. I refused to allow this textbook tactic of victim intimidation to silence me, so I came forward publicly with my name and my story in an attempt to use my voice to shed light on the experience of a teenaged survivor of sexual assault.

I remember so clearly reading Michael Delaney's motion front to back when I came home from my new high school one day, processing what it meant, and then defiantly stating to my parents that after everything I'd been dragged through (from anonymous death and rape threats on the internet to the betrayal of and backlash from my closest friends at St. Paul's School), I wasn't going to let Michael Delaney's dirty tactics bully me, then 16, into shame and silence.

When survivors of sexual harassment, assault, and abuse come forward to seek some semblance of justice, there is an army of attorneys with a tried and true playbook of tactics to discredit, pressure, and manipulate survivors and victims into silence. What these attorneys don't seem to realize is that most survivors are simply seeking an acknowledgement of harm and an actionable plan to make their community a safer place.

Every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted; every nine minutes, that victim is a child. According to the USDOJ, 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police. Of the 37% who do report, only 2.5% get some form of justice. This staggering statistic should give everyone, especially those in the legal field, pause.

If Michael Delaney is confirmed—if an attorney who brazenly intimidated a minor victim of sexual assault is given the distinct privilege to serve as a judge for the United States Court of Appeals—YOU are telling victims and survivors that you not only approve of victim intimidation tactics, you reward their enactors with one of the highest legal appointments in the state of Massachusetts.

I expressed my concerns to Attorney from the Department of Justice when Michael Delaney was first nominated in April 2022, and today I am urging you to vote ''NO'' to Michael Delaney's nomination.

Sincerely,

CHESSY PROUT.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. The White House knew that Mr. Delaney was unfit to serve, but they nominated him anyway.

For the sake of young men and women around this country who are survivors of sexual assault, I urge President Biden to withdraw Michael Delaney's nomination, and I call on my Democratic colleagues to urge the White House to withdraw this nomination. If they do not withdraw this nomination of a man who intimidated a minor child, exposing a minor child, who is unfit to serve—I urge you to vote no if the White House does not pull this nomination.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, Joe Biden's reckless border policies have allowed human trafficking and smuggling to grow into a $13 billion industry, with criminal cartels earning up to $14 million every day for trafficking families, women, and children into the country.

I want to be crystal clear about what is happening here. This is not some sort of humanitarian mission. The cartels are not doing this out of the goodness of their hearts. These are violent criminals who have figured out how to make millions of dollars every single day. They are kidnapping young girls and exploiting them for sex and labor over and over again.

The left wants you to believe this is a myth or that reports of trafficking and exploitation are exaggerated, but while I was down at the border, I heard from two women who can provide a mountain of evidence to the contrary.

Former Mexican Congresswoman Rosa Maria de la Garza joined us to talk about her advocacy on behalf of the survivors of this horrific abuse. She has been dedicated to this all her life. She puts her time into preventing and targeting human trafficking in her own country, and she has seen firsthand the ease with which the cartels use our open border to make a buck and how they expand the slave trade into our country, profiting from it.

We also had the chance to speak with Karla Romero, who is a survivor of cross-border sex trafficking. Karla fell into the hands of her captors when she was 12 years old and was enslaved as a sex-trafficked individual for 4 years. During that time, she estimates that she was raped over 40,000 times—a child in the hands of a cartel. That is what they did to her.

This is a humanitarian catastrophe that is enabled not only by the Biden administration's refusal to secure the border but by incentives buried in the law that encourage criminal behavior.

At the end of last year, the Justice Department committed over $90 million in funding to combat human trafficking. It is an incredible investment of taxpayer resources. But, unbelievably enough, the American people are subsidizing the lifestyles of these criminals even as they invest millions to bring down these trafficking rings.

As it stands right now, the law allows accused traffickers to live in government housing and receive government benefits even after they are apprehended by law enforcement and charged with a crime. If we are going to get serious about combating trafficking at the border, we need to eliminate this incentive for illegal conduct. I know it seems unbelievable that you have these cartels members who are getting U.S. Government benefits, living in government housing, and getting unemployment checks, but it is happening.

The ''Remain in Mexico'' policy is a prime example of how successful tactics can work. By requiring asylum

seekers to stay in Mexico while awaiting a court date, we ensured that migrants weren't rewarded for illegally crossing the border. These programs work, and that is why I, along with Senator HYDE-SMITH and Senator BRITT, introduced the Stop Taxpayer Funding of Traffickers Act. It makes clear that anyone charged with drug or human trafficking at our border cannot receive Federal Government benefits until their case is resolved. It would block them from receiving any retirement, welfare, Social Security, health, or disability benefits. It also means that traffickers would not be able to receive a grant, contract, loan, or professional or commercial license from the U.S. Government.

This is something that needs to happen. Prohibiting traffickers from receiving taxpayer funds is just plain common sense, and there is no reason why this legislation shouldn't pass the Senate immediately. I can't imagine that anyone would be for allowing these drug traffickers and sex traffickers to continue to live in government housing and receive these benefits.

In the same way that drug traffickers are directly profiting from the opioid epidemic that has killed millions of Americans, human traffickers are reaping the rewards of this administration's complacency. It is time to start paying attention to some of the details of what is happening at our southern border. The American people are paying attention, and they are waiting on this President and on this body to join them in doing something about it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF JAMAL N. WHITEHEAD

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to support the nomination of Jamal Whitehead to serve as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. Mr. Whitehead is extremely well qualified and has demonstrated an allegiance to the rule of law throughout his very impressive law career.

My Senate colleagues on the Judiciary Committee saw what an exceptional judicial candidate Mr. Whitehead is, and they recognized how valuable his perspective would be on the Federal bench. I was pleased to see that he was voted out of committee with a bipartisan vote of 11 to 9.

Mr. Whitehead has spent his entire career in the Western District, making him uniquely knowledgeable of the district in which he will be serving. Throughout his career, he has defended workers from discrimination and enforced Federal employment discrimination laws. He has been dedicated to ensuring equal justice under the law and has demonstrated a profound commitment to public service.

Mr. Whitehead has also sought to promote diversity in the legal field through outreach and education and is deeply involved in the community. He serves on the Executive Committee for the ACLU of Washington as well as on the board of Amara, a child welfare organization in the Seattle and Tacoma area dedicated to meeting the needs of children and families who have been impacted by foster care.

In addition to his outstanding qualifications, Mr. Whitehead's confirmation continues the President's commitment to ensuring that the Federal bench better reflect the American public. Mr. Whitehead is the first judicial nominee by President Biden to have a physical disability. Now confirmed, he will be one of only a handful of Federal judges with a disclosed disability.

Jamal Whitehead is well prepared to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. This is a historic confirmation. I am pleased to see that my colleagues supported Mr. Whitehead's confirmation to our Federal court.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask that the scheduled vote be allowed to occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MARTINEZ-OLGUIN NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Martinez-Olguin nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

(Mr. MARKEY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO).

The VICE PRESIDENT. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 30 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Crapo	Fetterman
Feinstein	Merkley

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 48.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the nomination is confirmed.

The nomination was confirmed.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 13, Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Alex Padilla.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 31 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Crapo	Fetterman
Feinstein	Merkley

(Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 48.

The Senate being evenly divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Arizona.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that tomorrow, Wednesday, March 1, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Guzman nomination followed by the motion to invoke cloture on the Lawless nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Grey nomination; further, that following the cloture vote on the Grey nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 30; that at 4 p.m., the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution and upon disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate resume executive session and, notwithstanding rule XXII, vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Simmons nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KELLY. For the information of the Senate, there will be two rollcall votes at 11:30 a.m., one rollcall vote at 2:15 p.m., and two rollcall votes at 4 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the enclosed rules of procedure for the Committee on the Judiciary for the 118th Congress printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

I. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair as he or she may deem necessary on at least three calendar days' notice of the date, time, place and subject matter of the meeting, or in the alternative with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member, or pursuant to the provision of the Standing Rules of the Senate, as amended.

2. Unless a different date and time are set by the Chair pursuant to (1) of this section, Committee meetings shall be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays the Senate is in session, which shall be the regular meeting day for the transaction of business.

3. At the request of any member, or by action of the Chair, a bill, matter, or nomination on the agenda of the Committee may be held over until the next meeting of the Committee or for one week, whichever occurs later.

II. HEARINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The Committee shall provide a public announcement of the date, time, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee at least seven calendar days prior to the commencement of that hearing, unless the Chair with the consent of the Ranking Minority Member determines that good cause exists to begin such hearing at an earlier date. Witnesses shall provide a written statement of their testimony and curriculum vitae to the Committee at least 24 hours preceding the hearings in as many copies as the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee prescribes.

2. In the event 14 calendar days' notice of a hearing has been made, witnesses appearing before the Committee, including any witness representing a Government agency, must file with the Committee at least 48 hours preceding appearance written statements of their testimony and curriculum vitae in as many copies as the Chair of the Committee or Subcommittee prescribes.

3. In the event a witness fails timely to file the written statement in accordance with this rule, the Chair may permit the witness to testify, or deny the witness the privilege of testifying before the Committee, or permit the witness to testify in response to questions from Senators without the benefit of giving an opening statement.

III. QUORUMS

1. Seven Members of the Committee, actually present, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of discussing business. Nine Members of the Committee, including at least two Members of the minority, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. No bill, matter, or nomination shall be ordered reported from the Committee, however, unless a majority of the Committee is actually present at the time such action is taken and a majority of those present support the action taken.

2. For the purpose of taking down sworn testimony, a quorum of the Committee and each Subcommittee thereof, now or hereafter appointed, shall consist of one Senator.

IV. BRINGING A MATTER TO A VOTE

The Chair shall entertain a non-debatable motion to bring a matter before the Committee to a vote. If there is objection to bring the matter to a vote without further debate, a roll call vote of the Committee shall be taken, and debate shall be terminated if the motion to bring the matter to a vote without further debate passes with eleven votes in the affirmative, one of which must be cast by the minority.

V. AMENDMENTS

1. Provided at least seven calendars days' notice of the agenda is given, and the text of the proposed bill or resolution has been made available at least seven calendar days in advance, it shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless such amendment has been delivered to the office of the Committee and circulated via e-mail to each of the offices by at least 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

2. It shall be in order, without prior notice, for a Member to offer a motion to strike a single section of any bill, resolution, or amendment under consideration.

3. The time limit imposed on the filing of amendments shall apply to no more than three bills identified by the Chair and included on the Committee's legislative agenda.

4. This section of the rule may be waived by agreement of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

VI. PROXY VOTING

When a recorded vote is taken in the Committee on any bill, resolution, amendment, or any other question, a quorum being present, Members who are unable to attend the meeting may submit votes by proxy, in writing or by telephone, or through personal instructions. A proxy must be specific with respect to the matters it addresses.

VII. SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Any Member of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during its hearings

or any other meeting, but shall not have the authority to vote on any matter before the Subcommittee unless a Member of such Subcommittee.

2. Subcommittees shall be considered de novo whenever there is a change in the Subcommittee chair and seniority on the particular Subcommittee shall not necessarily apply.

3. Except for matters retained at the full Committee, matters shall be referred to the appropriate Subcommittee or Subcommittees by the Chair, except as agreed by a majority vote of the Committee or by the agreement of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

4. Provided all members of the Subcommittee consent, a bill or other matter may be polled out of the Subcommittee. In order to be polled out of a Subcommittee, a majority of the members of the Subcommittee who vote must vote in favor of reporting the bill or matter to the Committee.

VIII. ATTENDANCE RULES

1. Official attendance at all Committee business meetings of the Committee shall be kept by the Committee Clerk. Official attendance at all Subcommittee business meetings shall be kept by the Subcommittee Clerk.

2. Official attendance at all hearings shall be kept, provided that Senators are notified by the Committee Chair and Ranking Minority Member, in the case of Committee hearings, and by the Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Minority Member, in the case of Subcommittee Hearings, 48 hours in advance of the hearing that attendance will be taken; otherwise, no attendance will be taken. Attendance at all hearings is encouraged.

IX. SUBPOENAS

The Chair of the Committee, with the agreement of the Ranking Member or by a vote of the Committee, may subpoena the attendance of a witness at a Committee or Subcommittee hearing or Committee deposition, or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials. Any such subpoena shall be issued upon the signature of the Chair or any other Member of the Committee designated by the Chair.

X. DEPOSITIONS

1. Any subpoena issued for a deposition that is to be conducted by staff shall be accompanied by a notice of deposition identifying the Majority staff officers designated by the Chair and the Minority staff officers designated by the Ranking Member to take the deposition. The Majority and Minority shall be afforded the opportunity to participate on equal terms for any deposition.

2. Unless waived by agreement of the Chair and Ranking Member, any deposition shall have at least one Member present for the duration of the deposition. All Members shall be notified of the date, time, and location of any deposition.

3. Any Member of the Committee may attend and participate in the taking of any deposition.

4. A witness at a deposition shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by law to administer oaths, or administered by any Member of the Committee if one is present.

5. Unless otherwise specified, the deposition shall be in private.

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rules of procedure of the Select Committee on Intelligence be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

RULE 1. CONVENING OF MEETINGS

1.1. The regular meeting day of the Select Committee on Intelligence for the transaction of Committee business shall be every Tuesday of each month that the Senate is in session, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

1.2. The Chairman shall have authority, upon notice, to call such additional meetings of the Committee as the Chairman may deem necessary and may delegate such authority to any other member of the Committee.

1.3. A special meeting of the Committee may be called at any time upon the written request of five or more members of the Committee filed with the Clerk of the Committee.

1.4. In the case of any meeting of the Committee, other than a regularly scheduled meeting, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify every member of the Committee of the time and place of the meeting and shall give reasonable notice which, except in extraordinary circumstances, shall be at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting held in Washington, D.C. and at least 48 hours in the case of any meeting held outside Washington, D.C.

1.5. If five members of the Committee have made a request in writing to the Chairman to call a meeting of the Committee, and the Chairman fails to call such a meeting within seven calendar days thereafter, including the day on which the written notice is submitted, these members may call a meeting by filing a written notice with the Clerk of the Committee who shall promptly notify each member of the Committee in writing of the date and time of the meeting.

RULE 2. MEETING PROCEDURES

2.1. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except as provided in paragraph 5(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2.2. It shall be the duty of the Staff Director to keep or cause to be kept a record of all Committee proceedings.

2.3. The Chairman of the Committee, or if the Chairman is not present the Vice Chairman, shall preside over all meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman at any meeting, the ranking majority member, or if no majority member is present, the ranking minority member present, shall preside.

2.4. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, decisions of the Committee shall be by a majority vote of the members present and voting. A quorum for the transaction of Committee business, including the conduct of executive sessions, shall consist of no less than one third of the Committee members, except that for the purpose of hearing witnesses, taking sworn testimony, and receiving evidence under oath, a quorum may consist of one Senator.

2.5. A vote by any member of the Committee with respect to any measure or matter being considered by the Committee may be cast by proxy if the proxy authorization (1) is in writing; (2) designates the member of the Committee who is to exercise the proxy; (3) is limited to a specific measure or matter and any amendments pertaining thereto; and (4) is signed by the member wishing to cast a vote by proxy, either by handwritten signature or autopen. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

2.6. Whenever the Committee by roll call vote reports any measure or matter, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to such measure or matter by each member of the Committee.

RULE 3. SUBCOMMITTEES

Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee. Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the Committee may direct. The subcommittees shall be governed by the Rules of the Committee and by such other rules they may adopt which are consistent with the Rules of the Committee. Each subcommittee created shall have a chairman and a vice chairman who are selected by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

RULE 4. REPORTING OF MEASURES OR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. No measures or recommendations shall be reported, favorably or unfavorably, from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present and a majority concur.

4.2. In any case in which the Committee is unable to reach a unanimous decision, separate views or reports may be presented by any member or members of the Committee.

4.3. A member of the Committee who gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final Committee approval of a measure or matter, shall be entitled to not less than three weekdays in which to file such views, in writing with the Clerk of the Committee. Such views shall then be included in the Committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report.

4.4. Routine, non-legislative actions required of the Committee may be taken in accordance with procedures that have been approved by the Committee pursuant to these Committee Rules.

RULE 5. NOMINATIONS

5.1. Unless otherwise ordered by a joint determination made by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, nominations referred to the Committee shall be held for at least 14 calendar days before being voted on by the Committee.

5.2. Each member of the Committee shall be promptly furnished a copy of all nominations referred to the Committee.

5.3. Nominees who are invited to appear before the Committee shall be heard in public session, except as provided in Rule 2.1.

5.4. No confirmation hearing shall be held sooner than seven calendar days after receipt of the background questionnaire, financial disclosure statement, and responses to additional pre-hearing questions, if transmitted, unless the time limit is waived by a majority vote of the Committee.

5.5. The Committee vote to report a nomination shall not be sooner than 48 hours after the Committee has received transcripts of the confirmation hearing and responses to post-hearing questions for the record, if transmitted, unless the time limit is waived by unanimous consent of the Committee.

5.6. No nomination shall be reported to the Senate unless the nominee has filed a response to the Committee's background questionnaire and financial disclosure statement with the Committee.

RULE 6. INVESTIGATIONS

No investigation shall be initiated by the Committee unless at least five members of the Committee have specifically requested the Chairman or the Vice Chairman to authorize such an investigation. Authorized investigations may be conducted by members of the Committee and/or designated Committee staff members.

RULE 7. SUBPOENAS

Subpoenas authorized by the Committee for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other material may be issued by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or member issuing the subpoenas. Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and a copy of these rules.

RULE 8. PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE TAKING OF TESTIMONY

8.1. Notice.—Witnesses required to appear before the Committee shall be given reasonable notice and all witnesses shall be furnished a copy of these Rules.

8.2. Oath or Affirmation.—At the direction of the Chairman or Vice Chairman, testimony of witnesses may be given under oath or affirmation which may be administered by any member of the Committee.

8.3. Questioning.—Committee questioning of witnesses shall be conducted by members of the Committee and such Committee staff as are authorized by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or the presiding member.

8.4. Counsel for the Witness.—(a) Generally. Any witness may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirement of paragraph (b).

(b) Counsel Clearances Required. In the event that a meeting of the Committee has been closed because the subject matter was classified in nature, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such clearance to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which the counsel intends to be present. A witness who is unable to obtain counsel may inform the Committee of such fact. If the witness informs the Committee of this fact at least 24 hours prior to his or her appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain such counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(c) Conduct of Counsel for the Witness. Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner at all times in their dealings with the Committee. Failure to do so shall, upon a finding to that effect by a majority of the members present, subject such counsel to disciplinary action which may include warning, censure, removal, or a recommendation of contempt proceedings.

(d) Role of Counsel for Witness. There shall be no direct or cross-examination by counsel for the witness. However, counsel for the witness may submit any question in writing to the Committee and request the Committee to propound such question to the counsel's client or to any other witness. The counsel for the witness also may suggest the presentation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses. The Committee may use or dispose of such questions or suggestions as it deems appropriate.

8.5. Statements by Witnesses.—Witnesses may make brief and relevant statements at the beginning and conclusion of their testimony. Such statements shall not exceed a reasonable period of time as determined by the Chairman, or other presiding members. Any witness required or desiring to make a prepared or written statement for the record of the proceedings shall file a paper and electronic copy with the Clerk of the Committee, and insofar as practicable and consistent with the notice given, shall do so at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance before the Committee, unless the Chairman and Vice Chairman determine there is good cause for noncompliance with the 48 hours requirement.

8.6. Objections and Rulings.—Any objection raised by a witness or counsel shall be ruled upon by the Chairman or other presiding member, and such ruling shall be the ruling of the Committee unless a majority of the Committee present overrules the ruling of the chair.

8.7. Inspection and Correction.—All witnesses testifying before the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect, in the office of the Committee, the transcript of their testimony to determine whether such testimony was correctly transcribed. The witness may be accompanied by counsel. Any corrections the witness desires to make in the transcript shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within five days from the date when the transcript was made available to the witness. Corrections shall be limited to grammar and minor editing, and may not be made to change the substance of the testimony. Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chairman. Upon request, the Committee may provide to a witness those parts of testimony given by that witness in executive session which are subsequently quoted or made part of a public record, at the expense of the witness.

8.8. Requests To Testify.—The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee. A person who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or any comment made by a Committee member or a member of the Committee staff, may tend to affect adversely that person's reputation, may request in writing to appear personally before the Committee to testify or may file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or comment, or may submit to the Chairman proposed questions in writing for the questioning of other witnesses. The Committee shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

8.9. Contempt Procedures.—No recommendation that a person be cited for contempt of Congress or that a subpoena be otherwise enforced shall be forwarded to the Senate unless and until the Committee has, upon notice to all its members, met and considered the recommendation, afforded the person an opportunity to address such contempt recommendation or subpoena enforcement proceeding either in writing or in person, and agreed by majority vote of the Committee to forward such recommendation to the Senate.

8.10. Release of Name of Witness.—Unless authorized by the Chairman, the name of any witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee shall not be released prior to, or after, appearing before the Committee. Upon authorization by the Chairman to release the name of a witness under this paragraph, the Vice Chairman shall be notified of such authorization as soon as practicable thereafter. No name of any witness shall be released if such release would disclose classified information, unless authorized under Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress or Rule 9.7.

RULE 9. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED OR COMMITTEE SENSITIVE MATERIAL

9.1. Committee staff offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Committee Security Director under the direct supervision of the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director. At least one United States Capitol Police Officer shall be on duty at all times at the entrance of the Committee to control entry. Before entering the Committee office space all persons shall identify themselves and provide identification as requested.

9.2. Classified documents and material shall be stored in authorized security containers located within the Committee's Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Copying, duplicating, or removing from the Committee offices of such documents and other materials is strictly prohibited except as is necessary for the conduct of Committee business, and as provided by these Rules. All classified documents or materials removed from the Committee offices for such authorized purposes must be returned to the Committee's SCIF for overnight storage.

9.3. ''Committee sensitive'' means information or material that pertains to the confidential business or proceedings of the Select Committee on Intelligence, within the meaning of paragraph 5 of Rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and is: (1) in the possession or under the control of the Committee; (2) discussed or presented in an executive session of the Committee; (3) the work product of a Committee member or staff member; (4) properly identified or marked by a Committee member or staff member who authored the document; or (5) designated as such by the Chairman and Vice Chairman (or by the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf). Committee sensitive documents and materials that are classified shall be handled in the same manner as classified documents and material in Rule 9.2. Unclassified committee sensitive documents and materials shall be stored in a manner to protect against unauthorized disclosure.

9.4. Each member of the Committee shall at all times have access to all papers and other material received from any source. The Staff Director shall be responsible for the maintenance, under appropriate security procedures, of a document control and accountability registry which will number and identify all classified papers and other classified materials in the possession of the Committee, and such registry shall be available to any member of the Committee.

9.5. Whenever the Select Committee on Intelligence makes classified material available to any other committee of the Senate or to any member of the Senate not a member of the Committee, such material shall be accompanied by a verbal or written notice to the recipients advising of their responsibility to protect such materials pursuant to section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. The Security Director of the Committee shall ensure that such notice is provided and shall maintain a written record identifying the particular information transmitted and the committee or members of the Senate receiving such information.

9.6. Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to those Committee staff members with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know, as determined by the Committee, and, under the Committee's direction, the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director.

9.7. No member of the Committee or of the Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, the contents of any classified or committee sensitive papers, materials, briefings, testimony, or other information received by, or in the possession of, the Committee to any other person, except as specified in this rule. Committee members and staff do not need prior approval to disclose classified or committee sensitive information to persons in the Executive branch, the members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the members and staff of the Senate, provided that the following conditions are met: (1) for classified information,

the recipients of the information must possess appropriate security clearances (or have access to the information by virtue of their office); (2) for all information, the recipients of the information must have a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose; and (3) for all information, the Committee members and staff who provide the information must be engaged in the routine performance of Committee legislative or oversight duties. Otherwise, classified and committee sensitive information may only be disclosed to persons outside the Committee (to include any congressional committee, Member of Congress, congressional staff, or specified non-governmental persons who support intelligence activities) with the prior approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, or the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf, consistent with the requirements that classified information may only be disclosed to persons with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose. Public disclosure of classified information in the possession of the Committee may only be authorized in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

9.8. Failure to abide by Rule 9.7 shall constitute grounds for referral to the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. Prior to a referral to the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400, the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall notify the Majority Leader and Minority Leader.

9.9. Before the Committee makes any decision regarding the disposition of any testimony, papers, or other materials presented to it, the Committee members shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all pertinent testimony, papers, and other materials that have been obtained by the members of the Committee or the Committee staff.

9.10. Attendance of persons outside the Committee at closed meetings of the Committee shall be kept at a minimum and shall be limited to persons with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know the information under consideration for the execution of their official duties. The Security Director of the Committee may require that notes taken at such meetings by any person in attendance shall be returned to the secure storage area in the Committee's offices at the conclusion of such meetings, and may be made available to the department, agency, office, committee, or entity concerned only in accordance with the security procedures of the Committee.

9.11. Attendance of agencies or entities that were not formally invited to a closed proceeding of the Committee shall not be admitted to the closed meeting except upon advance permission from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or by the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf.

RULE 10. STAFF

10.1. For purposes of these rules, Committee staff includes employees of the Committee, consultants to the Committee, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of the Committee. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall rely on its full-time employees to perform all staff functions. No individual may be retained as staff of the Committee or to perform services for the Committee unless that individual holds appropriate security clearances.

10.2. The appointment of Committee staff shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or, at the initiative of both or either be confirmed by a majority vote of the Committee. After approval or confirmation, the Chairman shall certify Committee staff appointments to the Financial Clerk of the Senate in writing. No Committee staff shall be given access to any classified information or regular access to the Committee offices until such Committee staff has received an appropriate security clearance as described in Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

10.3. The Committee staff works for the Committee as a whole, under the supervision of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee. The duties of the Committee staff shall be performed, and Committee staff personnel affairs and day-to-day operations, including security and control of classified documents and material, shall be administered under the direct supervision and control of the Staff Director. All Committee staff shall work exclusively on intelligence oversight issues for the Committee. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Counsel shall be kept fully informed regarding all matters and shall have access to all material in the files of the Committee.

10.4. The Committee staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority in the expression of minority views, including assistance in the preparation and filing of additional, separate, and minority views, to the end that all points of view may be fully considered by the Committee and the Senate.

10.5. The members of the Committee staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during their tenure as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules, or in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such a manner as may be determined by the Senate. The Chairman may authorize the Staff Director and the Staff Director's designee, and the Vice Chairman may authorize the Minority Staff Director and the Minority Staff Director's designee, to communicate with the media in a manner that does not divulge classified or committee sensitive information.

10.6. No member of the Committee staff shall be employed by the Committee unless and until such a member of the Committee staff agrees in writing, as a condition of employment, to abide by the conditions of the nondisclosure agreement promulgated by the Select Committee on Intelligence, pursuant to Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and to abide by the Committee's code of conduct.

10.7. As a precondition for employment on the Committee, each member of the Committee staff must agree in writing to notify the Committee of any request for testimony, either during service as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter with respect to information obtained by virtue of employment as a member of the Committee staff. Such information shall not be disclosed in response to such requests, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules or, in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such manner as may be determined by the Senate.

10.8. The Committee shall immediately consider action to be taken in the case of any member of the Committee staff who fails to conform to any of these Rules. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, revocation of the Committee sponsorship of the staff person's security clearance and immediate dismissal from the Committee staff.

10.9. Within the Committee staff shall be an element with the capability to perform audits of programs and activities undertaken by departments and agencies with intelligence functions. The audit element shall conduct audits and oversight projects that have been specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, acting jointly through the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director. Staff shall be assigned to such element jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and staff with the principal responsibility for the conduct of an audit shall be qualified by training or experience in accordance with accepted auditing standards.

10.10. The workplace of the Committee shall be free from illegal use, possession, sale, or distribution of controlled substances by its employees. Any violation of such policy by any member of the Committee staff shall be grounds for termination of employment. Further, any illegal use of controlled substances by a member of the Committee staff, within the workplace or otherwise, shall result in reconsideration of the security clearance of any such staff member and may constitute grounds for termination of employment with the Committee.

10.11. All personnel actions affecting the staff of the Committee shall be made free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or disability.

RULE 11. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

11.1. Under direction of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman designated Committee staff members shall brief members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to any Committee meeting to assist the Committee members in preparation for such meeting and to determine any matter which the Committee member might wish considered during the meeting. Such briefing shall, at the request of a member, include a list of all pertinent papers and other materials that have been obtained by the Committee that bear on matters to be considered at the meeting.

11.2. The Staff Director and/or Minority Staff Director may recommend to the Chairman and the Vice Chairman the testimony, papers, and other materials to be presented to the Committee at any meeting. The determination whether such testimony, papers, and other materials shall be presented in open or executive session shall be made pursuant to the Rules of the Senate and Rules of the Committee.

11.3. The Staff Director shall ensure that covert action programs of the U.S. Government receive appropriate consideration by the Committee no less frequently than once a quarter.

RULE 12. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

12.1. The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a calendar for the information of each Committee member showing the measures introduced and referred to the Committee and the status of such measures; nominations referred to the Committee and their status; and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The calendar shall be available to all members of the Committee.

12.2. Measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

RULE 13. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

No member of the Committee or Committee Staff shall travel on Committee business unless specifically authorized by the

Chairman and Vice Chairman. Requests for authorization of such travel shall state the purpose and extent of the trip. A full report shall be filed with the Committee when travel is completed.

RULE 14. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

(a) These Rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Committee, provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken.

(b) These Rules shall continue and remain in effect from one Congress to the next Congress unless they are changed as provided herein.

APPENDIX A

S. RES. 400, 94TH CONG., 2D SESS. (1976)

Resolved, That it is the purpose of this resolution to establish a new select committee of the Senate, to be known as the Select Committee on Intelligence, to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to submit to the Senate appropriate proposals for legislation and report to the Senate concerning such intelligence activities and programs. In carrying out this purpose, the Select Committee on Intelligence shall make every effort to assure that the appropriate departments and agencies of the United States provide informed and timely intelligence necessary for the executive and legislative branches to make sound decisions affecting the security and vital interests of the Nation. It is further the purpose of this resolution to provide vigilant legislative oversight over the intelligence activities of the United States to assure that such activities are in conformity with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

SEC. 2.(a)(1) There is hereby established a select committee to be known as the Select Committee on Intelligence (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the ''select committee''). The select committee shall be composed of not to exceed fifteen Members appointed as follows:

(A) two members from the Committee on Appropriations;

(B) two members from the Committee on Armed Services;

(C) two members from the Committee on Foreign Relations;

(D) two members from the Committee on the Judiciary; and

(E) not to exceed seven members to be appointed from the Senate at large.

(2) Members appointed from each committee named in clauses (A) through (D) of paragraph (1) shall be evenly divided between the two major political parties and shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate upon the recommendations of the majority and minority leaders of the Senate. Of any members appointed under paragraph (1)(E), the majority leader shall appoint the majority members and the minority leader shall appoint the minority members, with the majority having a one vote margin.

(3)(A) The majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall be ex officio members of the select committee but shall have no vote in the Committee and shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(B) The Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services (if not already a member of the select Committee) shall be ex officio members of the select Committee but shall have no vote in the Committee and shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(b) At the beginning of each Congress, the Majority Leader of the Senate shall select a chairman of the select Committee and the Minority Leader shall select a vice chairman for the select Committee. The vice chairman shall act in the place and stead of the chairman in the absence of the chairman. Neither the chairman nor the vice chairman of the select committee shall at the same time serve as chairman or ranking minority member of any other committee referred to in paragraph 4(e)(1) of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(c) The select Committee may be organized into subcommittees. Each subcommittee shall have a chairman and a vice chairman who are selected by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the select Committee, respectively.

SEC. 3.(a) There shall be referred to the select committee all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following:

(1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) Intelligence activities of all other departments and agencies of the Government, including, but not limited to, the intelligence activities of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and other agencies of the Department of Defense; the Department of State; the Department of Justice; and the Department of the Treasury.

(4) The organization or reorganization of any department or agency of the Government to the extent that the organization or reorganization relates to a function or activity involving intelligence activities.

(5) Authorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for the following:

(A) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence.

(B) The Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(C) The Defense Intelligence Agency.

(D) The National Security Agency.

(E) The intelligence activities of other agencies and subdivisions of the Department of Defense.

(F) The intelligence activities of the Department of State.

(G) The intelligence activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(H) Any department, agency, or subdivision which is the successor to any agency named in clause (A), (B), (C) or (D); and the activities of any department, agency, or subdivision which is the successor to any department, agency, bureau, or subdivision named in clause (E), (F), or (G) to the extent that the activities of such successor department, agency, or subdivision are activities described in clause (E), (F), or (G).

(b)(1) Any proposed legislation reported by the select Committee except any legislation involving matters specified in clause (1), (2), (5)(A), or (5)(B) of subsection (a), containing any matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of any standing committee shall, at the request of the chairman of such standing committee, be referred to such standing committee for its consideration of such matter and be reported to the Senate by such standing committee within 10 days after the day on which such proposed legislation, in its entirety and including annexes, is referred to such standing committee; and any proposed legislation reported by any committee, other than the select Committee, which contains any matter within the jurisdiction of the select Committee shall, at the request of the chairman of the select Committee, be referred to the select Committee for its consideration of such matter and be reported to the Senate by the select Committee within 10 days after the day on which such proposed legislation, in its entirety and including annexes, is referred to such committee.

(2) In any case in which a committee fails to report any proposed legislation referred to it within the time limit prescribed in this subsection, such Committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of such proposed legislation on the 10th day following the day on which such proposed legislation is referred to such committee unless the Senate provides otherwise, or the Majority Leader or Minority Leader request, prior to that date, an additional 5 days on behalf of the Committee to which the proposed legislation was sequentially referred. At the end of that additional 5 day period, if the Committee fails to report the proposed legislation within that 5 day period, the Committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of such proposed legislation unless the Senate provides otherwise.

(3) In computing any 10 or 5 day period under this subsection there shall be excluded from such computation any days on which the Senate is not in session.

(4) The reporting and referral processes outlined in this subsection shall be conducted in strict accordance with the Standing Rules of the Senate. In accordance with such rules, committees to which legislation is referred are not permitted to make changes or alterations to the text of the referred bill and its annexes, but may propose changes or alterations to the same in the form of amendments.

(c) Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as prohibiting or otherwise restricting the authority of any other committee to study and review any intelligence activity to the extent that such activity directly affects a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of such committee.

(d) Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as amending, limiting, or otherwise changing the authority of any standing committee of the Senate to obtain full and prompt access to the product of the intelligence activities of any department or agency of the Government relevant to a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of such committee.

SEC. 4.(a) The select committee, for the purposes of accountability to the Senate, shall make regular and periodic, but not less than quarterly, reports to the Senate on the nature and extent of the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or such other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(c)(2) to protect national security.

(b) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the agency or department concerned and the intelligence activities of foreign countries directed at the United States or its interest. An unclassified version of each report may be made available to the public at the discretion of the select committee. Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the public disclosure in such reports of the names of individuals engaged in intelligence activities for the United States or the divulging of intelligence methods employed or

the sources of information on which such reports are based or the amount of funds authorized to be appropriated for intelligence activities.

(c) On or before March 15 of each year, the select committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate the views and estimates described in section 301(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee.

SEC. 5.(a) For the purposes of this resolution, the select committee is authorized in its discretion (1) to make investigations into any matter within its jurisdiction, (2) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (3) to employ personnel, (4) to hold hearings, (5) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate, (6) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents, (7) to take depositions and other testimony, (8) to procure the service of individual consultants or organizations thereof, in accordance with the provisions of section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and (9) with the prior consent of the government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) The chairman of the select committee or any member thereof may administer oaths to witnesses.

(c) Subpoenas authorized by the select committee may be issued over the signature of the chairman, the vice chairman or any member of the select committee designated by the chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or any member signing the subpoenas.

SEC. 6. No employee of the select committee or any person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of such committee shall be given access to any classified information by such committee unless such employee or person has (1) agreed in writing and under oath to be bound by the rules of the Senate (including the jurisdiction of the Select Committee on Ethics) and of such committee as to the security of such information during and after the period of his employment or contractual agreement with such committee; and (2) received an appropriate security clearance as determined by such committee in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence. The type of security clearance to be required in the case of any such employee or person shall, within the determination of such committee in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, be commensurate with the sensitivity of the classified information to which such employee or person will be given access by such committee.

SEC. 7. The select committee shall formulate and carry out such rules and procedures as it deems necessary to prevent the disclosure, without the consent of the person or persons concerned, of information in the possession of such committee which unduly infringes upon the privacy or which violates the constitutional rights of such person or persons. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent such committee from publicly disclosing any such information in any case in which such committee determines the national interest in the disclosure of such information clearly outweighs any infringement on the privacy of any person or persons.

SEC. 8. (a) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by such committee that the public interest would be served by such disclosure. Whenever committee action is required to disclose any information under this section, the committee shall meet to vote on the matter within five days after any member of the committee requests such a vote. No member of the select committee shall disclose any information, the disclosure of which requires a committee vote, prior to a vote by the committee on the question of the disclosure of such information or after such vote except in accordance with this section.

(b)(1) In any case in which the select committee votes to disclose publicly any information which has been classified under established security procedures, which has been submitted to it by the Executive branch, and which the Executive branch requests be kept secret, such committee shall—

(A) first, notify the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate of such vote; and

(B) second, consult with the Majority Leader and Minority Leader before notifying the President of such vote.

(2) The select committee may disclose publicly such information after the expiration of a five-day period following the day on which notice of such vote is transmitted to the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader and the President, unless, prior to the expiration of such five-day period, the President, personally in writing, notifies the committee that he objects to the disclosure of such information, provides his reasons therefore, and certifies that the threat to the national interest of the United States posed by such disclosure is of such gravity that it outweighs any public interest in the disclosure.

(3) If the President, personally, in writing, notifies the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate and the select Committee of his objections to the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (2), the Majority Leader and Minority Leader jointly or the select Committee, by majority vote, may refer the question of the disclosure of such information to the Senate for consideration.

(4) Whenever the select committee votes to refer the question of disclosure of any information to the Senate under paragraph (3), the Chairman shall not later than the first day on which the Senate is in session following the day on which the vote occurs, report the matter to the Senate for its consideration.

(5) One hour after the Senate convenes on the fourth day on which the Senate is in session following the day on which any such matter is reported to the Senate, or at such earlier time as the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate jointly agree upon in accordance with paragraph 5 of rule XVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Senate shall go into closed session and the matter shall be the pending business. In considering the matter in closed session the Senate may—

(A) approve the public disclosure of all or any portion of the information in question, in which case the committee shall publicly disclose the information ordered to be disclosed,

(B) disapprove the public disclosure of all or any portion of the information in question, in which case the committee shall not publicly disclose the information ordered not to be disclosed, or

(C) refer all or any portion of the matter back to the committee, in which case the committee shall make the final determination with respect to the public disclosure of the information in question.

Upon conclusion of the consideration of such matter in closed session, which may not extend beyond the close of the ninth day on which the Senate is in session following the day on which such matter was reported to the Senate, or the close of the fifth day following the day agreed upon jointly by the majority and minority leaders in accordance with paragraph 5 of rule XVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate (whichever the case may be), the Senate shall immediately vote on the disposition of such matter in open session, without debate, and without divulging the information with respect to which the vote is being taken. The Senate shall vote to dispose of such matter by one or more of the means specified in clauses (A), (B), and (C) of the second sentence of this paragraph. Any vote of the Senate to disclose any information pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to the right of a Member of the Senate to move for reconsideration of the vote within the time and pursuant to the procedures specified in rule XIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and the disclosure of such information shall be made consistent with that right.

(c)(1) No information in the possession of the select committee relating to the lawful intelligence activities of any department or agency of the United States which has been classified under established security procedures and which the select committee, pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, has determined should not be disclosed shall be made available to any person by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate except in a closed session of the Senate or as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The select committee may, under such regulations as the committee shall prescribe to protect the confidentiality of such information, make any information described in paragraph (1) available to any other committee or any other Member of the Senate. Whenever the select committee makes such information available, the committee shall keep a written record showing, in the case of any particular information, which committee or which Members of the Senate received such information. No Member of the Senate who, and no committee which, receives any information under this subsection, shall disclose such information except in a closed session of the Senate.

(d) It shall be the duty of the Select Committee on Ethics to investigate any unauthorized disclosure of intelligence information by a Member, officer or employee of the Senate in violation of subsection (c) and to report to the Senate concerning any allegation which it finds to be substantiated.

(e) Upon the request of any person who is subject to any such investigation, the Select Committee on Ethics shall release to such individual at the conclusion of its investigation a summary of its investigation together with its findings. If, at the conclusion of its investigation, the Select Committee on Ethics determines that there has been a significant breach of confidentiality or unauthorized disclosure by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, it shall report its findings to the Senate and recommend appropriate action such as censure, removal from committee membership, or expulsion from the Senate, in the case of a Member, or removal from office or employment or punishment for contempt, in the case of an officer or employee.

SEC. 9. The select committee is authorized to permit any personal representative of the President, designated by the President to serve as a liaison to such committee, to attend any closed meeting of such committee.

SEC. 10. Upon expiration of the Select Committee on Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, established by Senate Resolution 21, Ninety-fourth Congress, all records, files, documents, and other materials in the possession,

custody, or control of such committee, under appropriate conditions established by it, shall be transferred to the select committee.

SEC. 11. (a) It is the sense of the Senate that the head of each department and agency of the United States should keep the select committee fully and currently informed with respect to intelligence activities, including any significant anticipated activities, which are the responsibility of or engaged in by such department or agency:μμProvided, That this does not constitute a condition precedent to the implementation of any such anticipated intelligence activity.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that the head of any department or agency of the United States involved in any intelligence activities should furnish any information or document in the possession, custody, or control of the department or agency, or person paid by such department or agency, whenever requested by the select committee with respect to any matter within such committee's jurisdiction.

(c) It is the sense of the Senate that each department and agency of the United States should report immediately upon discovery to the select committee any and all intelligence activities which constitute violations of the constitutional rights of any person, violations of law, or violations of Executive orders, Presidential directives, or departmental or agency rules or regulations; each department and agency should further report to such committee what actions have been taken or are expected to be taken by the departments or agencies with respect to such violations.

SEC. 12. Subject to the Standing Rules of the Senate, no funds shall be appropriated for any fiscal year beginning after September 30, 1976, with the exception of a continuing bill or resolution, or amendment thereto, or conference report thereon, to, or for use of, any department or agency of the United States to carry out any of the following activities, unless such funds shall have been previously authorized by a bill or joint resolution passed by the Senate during the same or preceding fiscal year to carry out such activity for such fiscal year:

(1) The activities of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) The activities of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

(4) The activities of the National Security Agency.

(5) The intelligence activities of other agencies and subdivisions of the Department of Defense.

(6) The intelligence activities of the Department of State.

(7) The intelligence activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SEC. 13. (a) The select committee shall make a study with respect to the following matters, taking into consideration with respect to each such matter, all relevant aspects of the effectiveness of planning, gathering, use, security, and dissemination of intelligence:

(1) the quality of the analytical capabilities of United States foreign intelligence agencies and means for integrating more closely analytical intelligence and policy formulation;

(2) the extent and nature of the authority of the departments and agencies of the Executive branch to engage in intelligence activities and the desirability of developing charters for each intelligence agency or department;

(3) the organization of intelligence activities in the Executive branch to maximize the effectiveness of the conduct, oversight, and accountability of intelligence activities; to reduce duplication or overlap; and to improve the morale of the personnel of the foreign intelligence agencies;

(4) the conduct of covert and clandestine activities and the procedures by which Congress is informed of such activities;

(5) the desirability of changing any law, Senate rule or procedure, or any Executive order, rule, or regulation to improve the protection of intelligence secrets and provide for disclosure of information for which there is no compelling reason for secrecy;

(6) the desirability of establishing a standing committee of the Senate on intelligence activities;

(7) the desirability of establishing a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives on intelligence activities in lieu of having separate committees in each House of Congress, or of establishing procedures under which separate committees on intelligence activities of the two Houses of Congress would receive joint briefings from the intelligence agencies and coordinate their policies with respect to the safeguarding of sensitive intelligence information;

(8) the authorization of funds for the intelligence activities of the Government and whether disclosure of any of the amounts of such funds is in the public interest; and

(9) the development of a uniform set of definitions for terms to be used in policies or guidelines which may be adopted by the executive or legislative branches to govern, clarify, and strengthen the operation of intelligence activities.

(b) The select committee may, in its discretion, omit from the special study required by this section any matter it determines has been adequately studied by the Select Committee To Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, established by Senate Resolution 21, Ninety-fourth Congress.

(c) The select committee shall report the results of the study provided for by this section to the Senate, together with any recommendations for legislative or other actions it deems appropriate, no later than July 1, 1977, and from time to time thereafter as it deems appropriate.

SEC. 14. (a) As used in this resolution, the term ''intelligence activities'' includes (1) the collection, analysis, production, dissemination, or use of information which relates to any foreign country, or any government, political group, party, military force, movement, or other association in such foreign country, and which relates to the defense, foreign policy, national security, or related policies of the United States, and other activity which is in support of such activities; (2) activities taken to counter similar activities directed against the United States; (3) covert or clandestine activities affecting the relations of the United States with any foreign government, political group, party, military force, movement or other association; (4) the collection, analysis, production, dissemination, or use of information about activities of persons within the United States, its territories and possessions, or nationals of the United States abroad whose political and related activities pose, or may be considered by any department, agency, bureau, office, division, instrumentality, or employee of the United States to pose, a threat to the internal security of the United States, and covert or clandestine activities directed against such persons. Such term does not include tactical foreign military intelligence serving no national policymaking function.

(b) As used in this resolution, the term ''department or agency'' includes any organization, committee, council, establishment, or office within the Federal Government.

(c) For purposes of this resolution, reference to any department, agency, bureau, or subdivision shall include a reference to any successor department, agency, bureau, or subdivision to the extent that such successor engages in intelligence activities now conducted by the department, agency, bureau, or subdivision referred to in this resolution.

SEC. 15.(a) In addition to other committee staff selected by the select Committee, the select Committee shall hire or appoint one employee for each member of the select Committee to serve as such Member's designated representative on the select Committee. The select Committee shall only hire or appoint an employee chosen by the respective Member of the select Committee for whom the employee will serve as the designated representative on the select Committee.

(b) The select Committee shall be afforded a supplement to its budget, to be determined by the Committee on Rules and Administration, to allow for the hire of each employee who fills the position of designated representative to the select Committee. The designated representative shall have office space and appropriate office equipment in the select Committee spaces. Designated personal representatives shall have the same access to Committee staff, information, records, and databases as select Committee staff, as determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(c) The designated employee shall meet all the requirements of relevant statutes, Senate rules, and committee security clearance requirements for employment by the select Committee.

(d) Of the funds made available to the select Committee for personnel—

(1) not more than 60 percent shall be under the control of the Chairman; and

(2) not less than 40 percent shall be under the control of the Vice Chairman.

SEC. 16. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as constituting acquiescence by the Senate in any practice, or in the conduct of any activity, not otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 17. (a)(1) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), the Select Committee shall have jurisdiction to review, hold hearings, and report the nominations of civilian individuals for positions in the intelligence community for which appointments are made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

''(2) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), other committees with jurisdiction over the department or agency of the Executive Branch which contain a position referred to in paragraph (1) may hold hearings and interviews with individuals nominated for such position, but only the Select Committee shall report such nomination.

''(3) In this subsection, the term 'intelligence community' means an element of the intelligence community specified in or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

''(b)(1) With respect to the confirmation of the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, or any successor position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position shall be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and, if and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 20 calendar days, except that in cases when the 20-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

''(2) If, upon the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1), the Select Committee has not reported the nomination,

such nomination shall be automatically discharged from the Select Committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.

''(c)(1) With respect to the confirmation of appointment to the position of Director of the National Security Agency, Inspector General of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, or any successor position to such a position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position, who at the time of the nomination is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services and, if and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30–day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

''(2) With respect to the confirmation of appointment to the position of Director of the National Security Agency, Inspector General of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General or the National Reconnaissance Office, or any successor position to such a position, the nomination of any individual by the President to serve in such position, who at the time of the nomination is not a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, shall be referred to the Select Committee and, if and when reported, to the Committee on Armed Services for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Committee on Armed Services shall have an additional 5 calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

''(3) If, upon the expiration of the period of sequential referral described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the committee to which the nomination was sequentially referred has not reported the nomination, the nomination shall be automatically discharged from that committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.''.

APPENDIX B

INTELLIGENCE PROVISIONS IN S. RES. 445, 108TH CONG., 2D SESS. (2004) WHICH WERE NOT INCORPORATED IN S. RES. 400, 94TH CONG., 2D SESS. (1976)

TITLE III—COMMITTEE STATUS

Sec. 301(b) Intelligence.—The Select Committee on Intelligence shall be treated as a committee listed under paragraph 2 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate for purposes of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

TITLE IV—INTELLIGENCE-RELATED SUBCOMMITTEES

Sec. 401. Subcommittee Related to Intelligence Oversight.

(a) Establishment.—There is established in the Select Committee on Intelligence a Subcommittee on Oversight which shall be in addition to any other subcommittee established by the select Committee.

(b) Responsibility.—The Subcommittee on Oversight shall be responsible for ongoing oversight of intelligence activities.

Sec. 402. Subcommittee Related to Intelligence Appropriations.

(a) Establishment.—There is established in the Committee on Appropriations a Subcommittee on Intelligence. The Committee on Appropriations shall reorganize into 13 subcommittees as soon as possible after the convening of the 109th Congress.

(b) Jurisdiction.—The Subcommittee on Intelligence of the Committee on Appropriations shall have jurisdiction over funding for intelligence matters, as determined by the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

APPENDIX C

RULE 26.5(B) OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

(REFERRED TO IN COMMITTEE RULE 2.1)

Each meeting of a committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI.2 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I submit for publication in the Congressional Record the subcommittee assignments for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, as unanimously adopted by the committee on February 27, 2023.

I ask unanimous consent that the subcommittee assignments be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Mr. Casey, Pennsylvania, *Chair*; Mr. Tuberville, Alabama, *Ranking Member*; Mrs. Murray, Washington; Mr. Murphy, Connecticut; Mr. Kaine, Virginia; Ms. Hassan, New Hampshire; Ms. Smith, Minnesota; Mr. Sanders, Vermont (Ex Officio); Mr. Paul, Kentucky; Ms. Murkowski, Alaska; Mr. Romney, Utah; Mr. Mullin, Oklahoma; Mr. Cassidy, Louisiana (Ex Officio).

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY

Mr. Hickenlooper, Colorado, *Chair*; Mr. Braun, Indiana, *Ranking Member*; Mr. Casey, Pennsylvania; Ms. Baldwin, Wisconsin; Mr. Kaine, Virginia; Mr. Luján, New Mexico; Mr. Markey, Massachusetts; Mr. Sanders, Vermont (Ex Officio); Mr. Marshall, Kansas; Mr. Romney, Utah; Mr. Tuberville, Alabama; Mr. Budd, North Carolina; Mr. Cassidy, Louisiana (Ex Officio).

PRIMARY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT SECURITY

Mr. Markey, Massachusetts, *Chair*; Mr. Marshall, Kansas, *Ranking Member*; Mrs. Murray, Washington; Ms. Baldwin, Wisconsin; Mr. Murphy, Connecticut; Ms. Hassan, New Hampshire; Ms. Smith, Minnesota; Mr. Luján, New Mexico; Mr. Hickenlooper, Colorado; Mr. Sanders, Vermont (Ex Officio); Mr. Paul, Kentucky; Ms. Collins, Maine; Ms. Murkowski, Alaska; Mr. Braun, Indiana; Mr. Mullin, Oklahoma; Mr. Budd, North Carolina; Mr. Cassidy, Louisiana (Ex Officio).

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today as Black History Month comes to a close to pay tribute to Black Americans who have played pivotal roles in shaping American foreign policy and advancing national security abroad. As leaders and change-makers who have served the American people around the world, translating their own experiences fighting for justice and freedom in the United States into their passion for advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law overseas.

From the first Black diplomat Ebenezer Bassett, who served as Ambassador to Haiti from 1869 to 1877, to Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who today serves as U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Black Americans have been at the forefront of advancing U.S. foreign policy.

Black Americans like Nobel Laureate Dr. Ralph Bunche, who mediated the 1949 Armistice Agreement and assisted in the creation of the United Nation's Universal Declaration for Human Rights; Ambassador Edward Perkins, who was instrumental in the 1992 creation of the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship; and Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams, who advanced the 2009 reopening of programs in Colombia, Sierra Leone, and Indonesia, have broken down barriers and made our world a better place.

And yet, while we have made great strides in increasing representation throughout our diplomatic and development corps' ranks, our work is clearly far from over. According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's first-ever government-wide diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility—DEIA—report, released earlier this month, Black Americans comprise just 12 percent of the Senior Executive Service—SES—workforce. And these

findings are not limited to our domestic agencies. As I said at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's first-ever DEIA hearing convened last year, between 2002 and 2021, the overall proportion of Black employees at the State Department decreased from 17 percent to 15 percent. At the time of our hearing, there were only four career Black Ambassadors serving abroad.

This failure to harness America's diverse talent pool is not only a grave error, but it also places us at a significant disadvantage when we seek to engage our allies and counter our adversaries on the world stage.

That is why, as the highest ranking Latino in the U.S. Congress and the first chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of Latino descent, one of my top priorities has been to promote and expand diversity in our domestic and international affairs agencies, including in our most senior levels.

That is why I introduced diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility—DEIA—provisions as part of last year's State Department authorization bill, which passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2023. And, why it is so important to support paid internship programs and fellowships in Congress, the State Department, USAID, Peace Corps, and all of our international affairs agencies. Because without these opportunities, many students of color would be unable to afford to come work in Washington, DC.

Our diversity continues to be our Nation's greatest source of strength, and we must act on this moral and strategic imperative to cultivate a representative workforce, because, in every single world crisis that the United States faces, a more diverse and more representative U.S. diplomatic corps would be a valuable asset.

A few years ago, when I was traveling in China, the diplomat in charge of democracy and human rights programs at our Embassy had participated in the civil rights struggle. His personal history, his personal eyewitness accounts of trying to change the course of events in our country as an African American man, were a powerful example to those fighting for democracy and human rights in China. I can recount easily dozens of moments in different parts of the world where Americans from diverse backgrounds have made a powerful case for our country. These life experiences cannot be replicated, they cannot be purchased, and they cannot be bought.

So, as Black History Month comes to a close, let us not only remember the critical contributions of African-Americans in the formulation and execution of U.S. foreign policy, let us also recommit to doing our part to prepare the leaders who will strengthen and secure our national security in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY HORTON

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Zachary Horton of Warner Robins, GA, for the inspiring success of his pecan business, the Blind Squirrel Nut Company.

Mr. Horton's story demonstrates that optimism and resilience can lead to amazing achievements. The Blind Squirrel Nut Company was born out of Zachary's entrepreneurial spirit after he was diagnosed with a medical condition that caused him to lose his vision. Mr. Horton's self-confidence and determination empowered him to launch a pecan business that has served customers across middle Georgia for over a year. The Blind Squirrel Nut Company also offers a variety of products to customers nationwide, giving Americans across the country a taste of Georgia's unique pecans.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I recognize and commend Mr. Zachary Horton as a champion who against all odds has been able to fulfill his greatest dream thanks to his perseverance, passion, and hope.•

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ANGEL MAESTRE

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Pastor Angel Maestre for his impact on Augusta's Hispanic community.

Pastor Angel Maestre is a beacon of Georgia, serving as the head pastor at Oasis Augusta Iglesia for the last 18 years. Over the course of his tenure, Pastor Maestre has worked to uplift the community through his countless years of mentorship, selfless acts, and service. Pastor Maestre has also founded the first Hispanic radio station in Augusta to better connect the community and inform residents of news impacting their neighborhood. During the COVID–19 pandemic, Pastor Maestre helped inform the Hispanic community about vaccinations through his show, ensuring the community was well informed and staying healthy.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend and recognize Pastor Angel Maestre for his dedication to Georgia and the Augusta community.•

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN McKINLEY

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Ms. Carolyn McKinley for her leadership as executive director of the Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce.

As chamber executive director, Ms. McKinley was instrumental in working with the Flint River Trail, Meriwether County, and representatives from 18 riverfront counties to create more outdoor recreation opportunities, which will lead to economic development opportunities in southwest Georgia. During last year's Georgia Governor's tourism conference in Athens, McKinley accepted the Georgia River Network's 2022 Water Trail Hero Award on behalf of the Flint River Water Trail group. This award honors the partnership between the Flint River Water Trail and Meriwether County leaders to boost tourism and economic development along Georgia's more than 2,500 river miles.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I recognize and commend Carolyn McKinley's leadership as executive director of the Meriwether County Chamber of Commerce and for her commitment to economic development in southwest Georgia.•

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 538. An act to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices.

H.R. 1059. An act to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1108. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to grant a license or construction permit through a system of competitive bidding.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 538. An act to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1059. An act to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 532. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

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–513. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mount Rainier National Park; Fishing'' (RIN1024–AE66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–514. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments'' (RIN1024–AE78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–515. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Dishwasher'' (RIN1904–AD96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–516. A communication from the Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Areas; Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska'' (RIN0596–AD51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–517. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reorganization of Title 30-Renewable Energy and Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf'' ((RIN1082–AA03) (Docket ID BOEM–2022–0042)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–518. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reorganization of Title 30-Renewable Energy and Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf'' ((RIN1082–AA03) (Docket ID BOEM–2022–0042)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–519. A communication from the Policy Advisor of Law Enforcement, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Penalties; 2023 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties'' (RIN1018–BG74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–520. A communication from the Administrative Assistant 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; Removing Five Species That Occur on San Clemente Island From the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants'' (RIN1018–BE73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–521. 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; Wisconsin; 2015 Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9950–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–522. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District; Correction'' (FRL No. 10031–03–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–523. 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; New Mexico; Excess Emissions'' (FRL No. 10186–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–524. 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; New Hampshire; Approval of Single Source Order'' (FRL No. 10415–02–R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–525. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Finding of Failure to Attain and Reclassification of the Detroit Area as Moderate for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 10611–01–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–526. 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 Quality: Revision to the Regulatory Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds - Exclusion of (2E)-1,1,1,4,4,4-hexafluorobut-2-ene (HFO–1336mzz(E))'' (FRL No. 8371–01–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–527. 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; Texas; Control of Air Pollution from Visible Emissions and Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9401–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–528. 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 Implementation Plans; New York; Gasoline Dispensing, Stage I, Stage II and Transport Vehicles'' (FRL No. 9610–02–R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–529. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Alabama; Rescission of the Finding of Failure to Submit a State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Qulaity Standards (NAAQS)'' (FRL No. 9895–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–530. 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 Quality Implementation Plan; California; Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits'' (FRL No. 9939–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–531. 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; Reasonably Available Control Technology - Combustion Sources'' (FRL No. 10025–03–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–532. 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 Disapprovals; Interstate Transport of Air Pollution for the 2015 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 10209–01–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–533. 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; Missouri; Marginal Nonattainment Plan for the St. Louis Area for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 10388–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–534. 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; Georgia; Atlanta Area Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS'' (FRL No. 10401–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–535. 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; Tennessee; Revisions to Control of Sulfur Dioxide Emissions'' (FRL No. 10437–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–536. 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; Tennessee; Packaging Corporation of America Nitrogen Oxides SIP Call Alternative Monitoring'' (FRL No. 10503–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–537. 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; Georgia; Murray County Area Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS'' (FRL No. 10511–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–538. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner, Administration for Children, Youth & Families, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–539. 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; Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), Medicaid Fee-For-Service, and Medicaid Managed Care Programs for Years 2020 and 2021'' (RIN0938–AT59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–540. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled ''To provide for certain costs associated with an electric passenger carrier for transportation, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–541. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''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 Relations.

EC–542. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–543. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report on other U.S. contributions to the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–544. A communication from the Director, Office of the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–545. A communication from the Director, White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–546. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Financial Assistance by PBGC–Withdrawal Liability Condition Exception'' (RIN1212–AB53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–547. 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 ''Listing of Color Additive Exempt From Certification; Calcium Carbonate; Confirmation of Effective Date'' (Docket No. FDA–2017–C–6238) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–548. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Fourteenth Review of the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements and Commitments''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–549. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–550. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule Eliminating Continuing Legal Education Certification and Recognition for Patent Practitioners'' (RIN0651–AD62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–551. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; First Quarter of fiscal year 2023''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–552. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2022''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–553. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Statutory Increase in Operations and Maintenance Grant Funding'' (RIN2900–AR71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–554. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments'' (RIN2900–AR79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–555. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''VA Acquisition Regulation: Acquisition of Information Technology; and Other Contracts for Goods and Services involving Information, VA Sensitive Information, and Information Security; and Liquidated Damages Requirements for Data Breach'' (RIN2900–AQ41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–556. A communication from the Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Promoting Telehealth in Rural America'' ((RIN3060–AF85) (FCC 23–6) (WC Docket No. 17–310)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–557. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalties—2023 Adjustment'' (Docket No. EP 716) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–558. A communication from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Order on Reconsideration and Declaratory Ruling'' ((FCC 22–100) (CG Docket No. 02–278)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–559. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Revised 2018 Commercial Fishing Restrictions for Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean; 2018 Catch Limit'' (RIN0648–BH30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–560. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Windowpane Flounder Emergency Rule Extension'' (RIN0648–BH11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–561. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Island Fisheries; Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measures; Main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 Bottomfish'' (RIN0648–BI54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–562. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule for the Commercial Scup Quota Period Modification Framework Adjustment 10'' (RIN0648–BH26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–563. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule to Implement Abbreviated Framework Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–BH46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–564. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule to Implement Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic'' (RIN0648–BI11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–565. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Rule to Implement 2019 Atlantic Bluefish Specifications'' (RIN0648–XG562) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–566. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Island Fisheries; Reclassifying Management Unit Species to Ecosystem Component Species'' (RIN0648–BH63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–567. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Amendment to authorize an Oregon recreational fishery for midwater groundfish species'' (RIN0648–BG40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–568. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Swordfish General Commercial Permit Retention Limit Inseason Adjustment for Northwest Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean regions'' (RIN0648–XT030) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–569. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; 2018 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season'' (RIN0648–XF486) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–570. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Framework Adjustment 58 to the Northwest Multispecies Fishery Management Plan'' (RIN0648–BI64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–571. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implement Nontrawl Lead Level 2 Observer Requirements'' (RIN0648–BG96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–572. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2018 Recreational Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BH55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–573. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fishing Limits in Purse Seine and Longline Fisheries, Restrictions on the Use of Fish Aggregating Devices in Purse Seine Fisheries, and Transshipment Prohibitions; effectiveness of collection-of-information requirements'' (RIN0648–BH77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–574. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mid-Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Fishery; 2019 and Projected 2020–2021 Specifications'' (RIN0648–BI57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–575. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Highly Migratory Fisheries; Amendment 4 to Fishery Management Plan for West Coast Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Revisions to the Biennial Management Cycle'' (RIN0648–BH36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–576. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Omnibus Acceptable Biological Catch Framework Adjustment'' (RIN0648–BE65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–577. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment 119 to the BSAI FMP and 107 to the GOA FMP'' (RIN0648–BJ03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–578. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Temporary rule; Inseason General category Quota Transfer (January 2020 Subquota Period)'' (RIN0648–XT031) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–579. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Revisions to Catch Sharing Plan and Domestic Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BH91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–580. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2019 Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BI05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–581. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XC499) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–582. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XC510) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–583. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''In-season Closure of the Lane Snapper Recreational and Commercial Fishing Season in Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico for the 2022 Fishing Year'' (RIN0648–XC537) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–584. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Inseason Adjustment to the 2022 Atlantic Herring Specifications'' (RIN0648–XC475) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–585. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries

Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Fishery; Final 2022 and 2023 and Projected 2024 Specifications'' (RIN0648–XC411) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–586. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General category December Quota Transfer'' (RIN0648–XC483) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–587. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the General Category October through November Fishery for 2022'' (RIN0648–XC431) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–588. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Inseason Adjustment to the 2022 Atlantic Herring Specifications'' (RIN0648–XC475) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–589. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders'' (RIN0648–XC446) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–590. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Correction to the Final Rule to Implement the 2019–20 Pacific Coast Groundfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BH93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–591. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Increase the Duration of Aircraft Registration; Confirmation of Effective Date and Correction'' ((RIN2120–AL45) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1514)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–592. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0932)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–593. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Revocation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Eastern United States'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1028)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–594. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V–156, and V–285 in the Vicinity of Kalamazoo, MI'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1107)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–595. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of V–6, V–10, V–30, V–100, and V–233 in the Vicinity of Litchfield, MI'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1113)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–596. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–214, V–285, and V–305, and Revocation of V–96 in the Vicinity of Kokomo, IN'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2021–0822)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–597. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Mount Sterling and Pittsfield, IL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1318)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–598. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Multiple North Dakota Towns'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1316)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–599. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Manchester and Nashua, NH'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1207)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–600. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Athens/Ben Epps Airport, Athens, GA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1333)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–601. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ness City, KS'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0249)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–602. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Class E Airspace; Marfa, TX'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1351)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–603. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class D Airspace and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Selma, AL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0922)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–604. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace; Manassas, VA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1827)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–605. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class C Airspace; Buffalo, NY'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1640)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–606. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Plymouth and Winamac, IN'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1225)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–607. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4035'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31458)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–608. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard

Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4037'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31460)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–609. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4043'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31467)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–610. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4041'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31465)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–611. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4044'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31468)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–612. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–22280'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1234)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–613. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22263'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0979)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–614. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22250'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1154)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–615. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22282'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1583)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–616. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39–22236'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0989)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–617. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; AIRBUS; Amendment 39–22273'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1235)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–618. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–22242'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0890)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–619. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39–22230'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0677)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–620. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.) Turboshaft Engines; Amendment 39–22306'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2023–0021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–621. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.) Turboshaft Engines; Amendment 39–22305'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2023–0020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–622. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. (Type Certificate Previously Held by WALTER Engines a.s., Walter a.s., and MOTORLET a.s.) Turboprop Engines; Amendment 39–22301'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1302)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–623. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–22294'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1664)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–624. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22283'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0141)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–625. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–22252'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0015)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–626. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Mar SAS Parachutes; Amendment 39–22244'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1476)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–627. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters; Amendment 39–22296'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–0818)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–628. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39–22086'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2020–1105)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–629. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A) Airplanes; Amendment 39–22291'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1246)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–630. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–22257'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1051)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–631. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Stemme AG Gliders; Amendment 39–22310'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1421)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–632. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes; Amendment 39–22309'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2022–1305)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 539. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 540. A bill to establish an Outdoor Restoration Fund for restoration and resilience projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 541. A bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 542. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the applicable dollar amount for qualified carbon oxide which is captured and utilized for purposes of the carbon oxide sequestration credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 543. A bill to increase research, education, and treatment for cerebral cavernous malformations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 544. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to provide a sunset for certain ways in which credit unions may be Agent members of the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 545. A bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 546. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 547. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 548. A bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 549. A bill to require enforcement against misbranded milk alternatives; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 550. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to prioritize programs that provide evidence of performance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 551. A bill to reduce the excessive appreciation of United States residential real estate due to foreign purchases; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 552. A bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 553. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to reform policies and issue guidance related to health and safety accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking , Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 554. A bill to reform the inspection process of housing assisted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 555. A bill to improve disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LEE, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 556. A bill to prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PAUL, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 557. A bill to prohibit certain practices relating to certain commodity promotion programs, to require greater transparency by those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 558. A bill to codify Executive Order 13950 (relating to combatting race and sex stereotyping), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 559. A bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 560. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to reaffirm civil rights, victims' rights, and consumer protections; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 561. A bill to provide for cash refunds for canceled airline flights and tickets; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 562. A bill to establish the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley and Roberts Temple National Historic Site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 563. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 564. A bill to permit parents to bring a civil action against social media companies that fail to provide parental access and data control rights with respect to the social media accounts of minor children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 565. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to pregnancy-help organizations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 566. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 567. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 568. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign $20 Federal reserve notes so as to include a likeness of Harriet Tubman, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 569. A bill to amend title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act with respect to flexibility and funding for the World Trade Center Health Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 570. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve coverage of dental and oral health services for adults under Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 571. A bill to require reports on the dangers posed by nuclear reactors in areas that might experience armed conflict; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 572. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide answers to questions submitted for the record to the Secretary by members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives within 45 business days, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 573. A bill to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 80. A resolution designating February 2023 as ''Hawaiian Language Month'' or '''Olelo Hawai'i Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 81. A resolution relating to the establishment of a means for the Senate to provide advice and consent regarding the form of an international agreement relating to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 82. A resolution congratulating the National Treasury Employees Union on its 85th anniversary and commending the dedication shown Federal employees and continued service provided by the National Treasury Employees Union and the members of the National Treasury Employees Union; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 83. A resolution designating the week of February 6 through 10, 2023, as ''National School Counseling Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 84. A resolution designating February 28, 2023, as ''Rare Disease Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 85. A resolution designating March 1, 2023, as ''National Assistive Technology Awareness Day''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) 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. 45

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify reporting requirements, promote tax compliance, and reduce tip reporting compliance burdens in the beauty service industry.

S. 124

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 124, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 8.7 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill 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.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) were added as cosponsors of S. 316, a bill to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq.

S. 319

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to prohibit the President from issuing moratoria on leasing and permitting energy and minerals on certain Federal land.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to ensure that the design of public buildings in the United States adheres to the guiding principles for Federal architecture, and for other purposes.

S. 378

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to appropriately limit attorney's fees.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death as felony murder.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and for other purposes.

S. 444

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 444, a bill to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to prohibit any direct or indirect United States funding for the territory of Gaza unless certain conditions are met.

S. 505

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 505, a bill to amend section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform immigration parole, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 514, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Constance Baker Motley, in recognition of her enduring contributions and service to the United States.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to ''Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 544. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to provide a sunset for certain ways in which credit unions may be Agent members of the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the bipartisan bill that I introduced today with Senator CRAMER to help ensure the financial stability of smaller credit unions.

Congress created the Central Liquidity Facility in 1978 to improve the general financial stability of credit unions by serving as a liquidity lender to credit unions experiencing unusual or unexpected liquidity shortfalls.

Unfortunately, under current law, smaller credit unions often do not have access to this critical tool that could help them address liquidity shortfalls, especially amid higher interest rates.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with Senator CRAMER to allow corporate credit unions to buy Central Liquidity Facility capital stock for a chosen subset of its members rather than all of its members for the next 3 years. This would provide greater flexibility for smaller credit unions to use the Central Liquidity Facility's services.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill to meet the needs of our Nation's 6,000 credit unions and the communities they serve.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 555. A bill to improve disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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. 555

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 ''Livestock Disaster Assistance Improvement Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after section 402B (16 U.S.C. 2202b) the following:

''SEC. 402C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

''(a) ELIGIBILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAND USERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An agricultural producer eligible to receive payments under sections 401 and 402 includes a person that—

''(A) holds a permit from the Federal Government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on Federal land; or

''(B) leases land from a State or unit of local government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on that land.

''(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection authorizes the Secretary to make a payment under section 401 or 402 to a State or unit of local government.

''(b) PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.—Emergency measures eligible for payments under sections 401 and 402 include—

''(1) new permanent measures, including permanent water wells and pipelines; and

''(2) replacement or restoration of existing emergency measures with permanent measures, including permanent water wells and pipelines.

''(c) STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESS.—

''(1) WAIVER OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—During a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, the 30-day public comment period required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be waived with respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under section 401 or 402 on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this subsection as the 'Secretary of the Interior').

''(2) ACCEPTANCE OF NRCS REVIEWS.—With respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under section 401 or 402 on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior may accept—

''(A) during a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, an archeological review conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of an archeological review required to be conducted;

''(B) an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such an environmental review required to be conducted; and

''(C) a review under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such a review required to be conducted.''.

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) with respect to nonindustrial private forest land, an owner of the nonindustrial private forest land;

''(B) with respect to Federal land, a person that holds a permit from the Federal Government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on the Federal land; and

''(C) with respect to land owned by a State or a unit of local government, a person that leases land from the State or unit of local government to conduct agricultural production or grazing on that land.

''(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term 'eligible land' means—

''(A) nonindustrial private forest land;

''(B) Federal land; and

''(C) land owned by a State or unit of local government.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''nonindustrial private forest land'' and inserting ''eligible land''; and

(II) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(iii) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking ''The term'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'emergency measures' includes—

''(i) new permanent measures described in subparagraph (A), including permanent water wells and pipelines; and

''(ii) replacement or restoration of existing emergency measures with permanent measures described in subparagraph (A), including permanent water wells and pipelines.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''an owner of nonindustrial private forest land who'' and inserting ''an eligible entity that''; and

(B) by striking ''restore the land'' and inserting ''restore eligible land'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''owner must'' and inserting ''eligible entity shall''; and

(B) by striking ''nonindustrial private forest land'' and inserting ''eligible land'';

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''an owner of nonindustrial private forest land'' and inserting ''an eligible entity'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (g); and

(6) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESS.—

''(1) WAIVER OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—During a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, the 30-day public comment period required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall be waived with respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under this section on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this subsection as the 'Secretary of the Interior').

''(2) ACCEPTANCE OF NRCS REVIEWS.—With respect to an application to carry out emergency measures under this section on land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior may accept—

''(A) during a drought emergency, as determined by the Secretary, an archeological review conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of an archeological review required to be conducted;

''(B) an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such an environmental review required to be conducted; and

''(C) a review under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) conducted by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, for purposes of such a review required to be conducted.

''(f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to make a payment under this section to a State or unit of local government.''.

SEC. 4. LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM.

Section 1501(c)(3)(D)(ii)(I) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)(3)(D)(ii)(I)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''at least 8 consecutive'' and inserting the following: ''not less than—

''(aa) 4 consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period for the county, as determined by the Secretary, shall be eligible to receive assistance under this paragraph in an amount equal to 1 monthly payment using the monthly payment rate determined under subparagraph (B); or

''(bb) 8 consecutive''; and

(2) in item (bb) (as so designated), by striking ''1 monthly payment'' and inserting ''2 monthly payments''.

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY BEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1501(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''drought,'' after ''adverse weather,'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''adverse weather or drought (such as added transportation costs, feed costs, and reduced honey crops for eligible producers of honey bees),'' after ''disease,'';

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''In the case'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The payment rate under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) in the case of eligible producers of honey bees, incorporate per-hive and per-colony rates of loss; and

''(ii) incorporate a standardized expected mortality rate of 15 percent.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DOCUMENTATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any requirements for the submission of documentation by an eligible producer to receive a payment under this subsection shall be consistent nationwide.

''(B) PRODUCERS OF HONEY BEES.—The Secretary, in consultation with eligible producers of honey bees, shall establish a standard, for purposes of this subsection, for—

''(i) collecting data; and

''(ii) setting an annual rate for replacing colonies and hives of honey bees.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO PRODUCERS OF HONEY BEES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall apply the amendments made by subsection (a) to producers of honey bees such that there is no limit on the size of a beekeeping operation with respect to those amendments.

SEC. 6. DROUGHT MONITOR INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the ''working group'') to improve the availability of consistent, accurate, and reliable data for use in producing the United States Drought Monitor in accordance with section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall consist of not fewer than—

(1) 3 representatives from the Department of Agriculture, including 1 representative from each of—

(A) the Office of the Chief Economist, who shall serve as the Chair of the working group;

(B) the Forest Service; and

(C) the Farm Service Agency;

(2) 4 representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including 1 representative from each of—

(A) the Climate Prediction Center;

(B) the National Centers for Environmental Information;

(C) the National Integrated Drought Information System; and

(D) the National Mesonet Program;

(3) 1 representative from the National Drought Mitigation Center;

(4) 1 representative from the Department of the Interior; and

(5) 3 representatives from mesonet programs in States—

(A) that have experienced severe drought, as determined by the United States Drought Monitor, in not less than 5 calendar years during the period of calendar years 2012 through 2021; and

(B) more than 50 percent of the land area of which is designated by the Economic Research Service as a Level 1 frontier and remote area.

(c) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

(1) develop a means for the inclusion of additional in-situ data into the process of developing the United States Drought Monitor, including—

(A) determining minimum requirements for data to be included in the United States Drought Monitor;

(B) identifying data available from other government agencies, including through portals managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(C) identifying gaps in coverage and determining solutions to address those gaps;

(2) identify and address potential barriers to the use of existing data, including—

(A) identifying Federal datasets that would be of immediate use in developing the United States Drought Monitor where access is restricted to some or all authors of the United States Drought Monitor; and

(B) developing proposed accommodations, modifications to contractual agreements, or updates to interagency memoranda of understanding to allow for incorporation of datasets identified under subparagraph (A);

(3) develop an open and transparent methodology for vetting data products developed using remote sensing or modeling;

(4) if determined appropriate by the working group, develop a methodology for inclusion of data that may otherwise be excluded from the United States Drought Monitor due to shorter periods of record; and

(5) identify and address any other issues relating to data availability and quality, as determined appropriate by the Chair of the working group.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, and the relevant committees of Congress a report containing recommendations for changes in policies, regulations, guidance documents, or existing law to meet the objectives described in subsection (c).

(2) DEFINITION OF RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''relevant committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(e) ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the report under subsection (d), the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, shall incorporate, to the extent practicable, the recommendations of the working group to improve the United States Drought Monitor in accordance with section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856).

(f) TERMINATION.—The working group shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (d).

SEC. 7. ALIGNMENT OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY AND FOREST SERVICE DROUGHT RESPONSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of submission of the report under section 6(d), the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency and the Chief of the Forest Service shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to better align drought response activities of the Farm Service Agency and the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the ''agencies'').

(b) CONTENTS.—The memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a commitment to better align practices of the agencies with respect to determining the severity of regional drought conditions;

(2) a strategy for amending those determinations to ensure consistent policy with respect to drought response in cases where the agencies are making inconsistent determinations within the same spatial scale;

(3) an agreement to utilize, to the extent practicable, the United States Drought Monitor in making those determinations; and

(4) an agreement to provide consistent information to grazing permittees, operators, and other stakeholders affected by determinations relating to drought.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 80—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2023 AS ''HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE MONTH'' OR '''ŌLELO HAWAI'I MONTH''

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 80

Whereas the Hawaiian language, or 'Ōlelo Hawai'i—

(1) is the Native language of Native Hawaiians, the aboriginal, Indigenous people who—

(A) settled the Hawaiian archipelago as early as 300 A.D., over which they exercised sovereignty; and

(B) over time, founded the Kingdom of Hawai'i; and

(2) was once widely spoken by Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiians throughout the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which held one of the highest literacy rates in the world prior to the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i in 1893 and the establishment of the Republic of Hawai'i;

Whereas the Republic of Hawai'i enacted a law in 1896 effectively banning school instruction in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, which led to the near extinction of the language by the 1980s when fewer than 50 fluent speakers under 18 years old remained;

Whereas, since the 1960s, Native Hawaiians have led a grassroots revitalization of their Native language, launching a number of historic initiatives, including—

(1) 'Aha Pūnana Leo's Hawaiian language immersion preschools;

(2) the Hawaiian language immersion program of the Hawai'i State Department of Education; and

(3) the Hawaiian language programs of the University of Hawai'i system; and

Whereas the Hawaiian language revitalization movement inspired systemic Native language policy reform, including—

(1) the State of Hawai'i recognizing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as an official language in the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i in 1978;

(2) the State of Hawai'i removing the 90-year ban on teaching 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in public and private schools in 1986;

(3) the enactment of the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) in 1990, which established the policy of the United States to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages; and

(4) the State of Hawai'i designating the month of February as '''Ōlelo Hawai'i Month'' to celebrate and encourage the use of the Hawaiian language: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2023 as ''Hawaiian Language Month'' or '''Ōlelo Hawai'i Month'';

(2) commits to preserving, protecting, and promoting the use, practice, and development of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in alignment with the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.); and

(3) urges the people of the United States and interested groups to celebrate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i with appropriate activities and programs to demonstrate support for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

SENATE RESOLUTION 81—RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEANS FOR THE SENATE TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT REGARDING THE FORM OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 81

Whereas clause 2 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution of the United States empowers the President ''by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur'';

Whereas without appropriate and meaningful consultation with the Senate—

(1) the requirement for Senate advice and consent to treaties remains unfulfilled; and

(2) in some cases, executive agreements, political agreements, and other arrangements have been improperly used by the Executive branch to circumvent the appropriate review of significant agreements by Congress;

Whereas as an appropriate exercise of the advice and consent power entrusted to the Senate, the Senate may refuse to consider legislative measures intended to authorize or appropriate funds to implement international agreements which, in the opinion of the Senate, constitute treaties under the Constitution of the United States to which the Senate has not given its advice and consent to ratification;

Whereas clause 2 of section 5 of article I of the Constitution of the United States, grants plenary power to the Senate to ''determine the Rules of its Proceedings'';

Whereas an international agreement should take the form of a treaty requiring Senate advice and consent and should be transmitted by the President to the Senate for the Senate's consideration and approval if—

(1) the agreement involves commitments or risks affecting the nation as a whole;

(2) the agreement is intended to affect State laws;

(3) the agreement will not take effect until after subsequent legislation is enacted by Congress;

(4) similar agreements were subjected to the advice and consent of the Senate;

(5) similar agreements are typically subject to the approval of national legislatures in other countries;

(6) Congress has expressed a preference regarding its involvement in such type of agreement;

(7) the agreement involves a high degree of formality;

(8) the agreement is not routine, is not expected to have a short duration, and does not need to be promptly concluded; or

(9) if the agreement is intended to implement an existing treaty or make technical amendments to an existing treaty, the relevant Senate committee has previously indicated that such implementation or amendments are significant enough to require submission to the Senate for its advice and consent:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Resolution may be cited as the ''World Health Organization Pandemic Treaty Implementation Resolution''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Resolution is for the Senate, as the Article I branch of the United States Government that is entrusted with the Advice and Consent power under clause 2 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution of the United States, to establish, through the use of the rulemaking authority of the Senate, a means for determining the form that an international agreement, protocol, legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force, signed by the President or by his designee, shall take and to which the President intends the United States to become a Party or to otherwise be bound under international law, in whole or in part.

SEC. 3. DECLARATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Exercising the rulemaking authority of the Senate, the Senate declares, under clause 2 of section 2 of article II of the Constitution of the United States, that any international convention, agreement, protocol, legal instrument, or agreed outcome with legal force relating to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response drafted by the intergovernmental negotiating body of the World Health Assembly that—

(1) is intended to be adopted pursuant to Article 19 or any other provision of the Constitution of the World Health Organization; and

(2) establishes significant international commitments by the United States under the authority of World Health Assembly Decision SSA2(5) or any related decision,

meets 1 or more of the factors set forth in the last clause of the preamble, indicating that such agreement should take the form of a treaty requiring Senate approval.

(b) LIMITATION OF AGREEMENT.—The Senate declares that any agreement described in subsection (a)—

(1) involves a significant political and economic commitment of the United States to foreign countries; and

(2) does not legally bind the United States until after—

(A) the President transmits such agreement to the Senate for its consideration as a treaty, subject to the applicable constitutional advice and consent procedures; and

(B) the Senate provides its consent to such treaty through a resolution of ratification.

SEC. 4. ADVICE.

(a) REFERRAL.—Any agreement described in section 3(a) that is transmitted to the Senate pursuant to section 3(b)(2)(A) shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate for its consideration.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE SENATE.—

(1) CONSULTATIONS DURING NEGOTIATIONS.—The Secretary of State, or the designee of the Secretary, shall—

(A) at the request of the Chair or the Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, meet with any or all Members of the Committee regarding—

(i) negotiating objectives;

(ii) the status of negotiations in progress; and

(iii) the nature of any potential changes to the laws of the United States or the administration of such laws that may be recommended to Congress to carry out—

(I) an agreement described in section 3(a); or

(II) any requirement of, amendment to, or recommendation under, such agreement; and

(B) consult closely and on a timely basis with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) CONSULTATIONS BEFORE SIGNING AGREEMENT.—Before signing an agreement described in section 3(a), the President shall—

(A) consult closely, and on a timely basis, with the members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) keep such members fully apprised of the measures other nations have taken to comply with the provisions of such agreement that are to take effect on the date on which such agreement enters into force.

(c) DESIGNATED SENATE ADVISORS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of State—

(A) shall designate not fewer than 2 members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, on a bipartisan basis, to serve as Senate advisors to the negotiations regarding an agreement described in section 3(a); and

(B) may designate additional members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate as Senate advisors, after consultation with the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee.

(2) CONSULTATIONS WITH DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORS.—During negotiations regarding an agreement described in section 3(a), the Secretary of State or an officer of the Department of State who has been confirmed to such position by the Senate and designated by the Secretary, shall consult closely and on a timely basis (including immediately before initialing any agreement) with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the Senate advisors designated pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) ACCREDITATION.—Each Senator designated as a Senate advisor pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be accredited by the Secretary of State on behalf of the President as an official advisor to the United States delegation to any relevant international conferences, meetings, and negotiating sessions relating to an agreement described in section 3(a).

SEC. 5. CONSENT.

(a) SUBMISSION OF TREATY TO THE SENATE.—An international convention, agreement, protocol, legal instrument, or agreed outcome with legal force relating to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response described in section 3(a) shall not become effective with respect to the United States until after the President, not later than 60 days after such agreement is signed, submits to the Senate—

(1) such agreement, including all related materials, annexes, and other relevant documents; and

(2) a certification that—

(A) the materials submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) constitute the totality of such agreement in question; and

(B) the adoption of the treaty is in the vital national security interest of the United States.

(b) DECLARATION.—Exercising the rulemaking authority granted to the Senate under clause 2 of section 5 of article I of the Constitution of the United States, the Senate declares that it shall not be in order for the Senate to consider any bill, any joint or concurrent resolution, any amendment to such bill or amendment, or any conference report authorizing or providing budget authority to implement, in whole or in part, any international pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response convention, agreement, protocol, legal instrument, or agreed outcome with legal force of the World Health Assembly, the purpose of which is to implement, in whole or in part, an agreement described in section 3(a).

(c) SUNSET.—This section shall remain in effect until the date on which the President submits the agreement and certification required under subsection (a) to the Senate as a treaty for its constitutional advice and consent.

SENATE RESOLUTION 82—CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY AND COMMENDING THE DEDICATION SHOWN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND CONTINUED SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION AND THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 82

Whereas, in 1938, a group of employees in Wisconsin banded together to eliminate political influence in the jobs of those employees as revenue collectors, marking the beginning of the National Treasury Employees Union (referred to in this preamble as ''NTEU'');

Whereas that group persisted for 14 years and finally won civil service protections, leading to the establishment of the professional workforce at the Internal Revenue Service that exists today;

Whereas, in 1972, NTEU signed the first negotiated bargaining agreement of NTEU, which developed a shared set of responsibilities for managers and bargaining unit employees that were designed to improve the workforce and achieve the mission of the Internal Revenue Service;

Whereas, since that initial agreement, NTEU has promoted new and innovative workplace policies that benefit Federal employees and agencies, such as alternative work schedules and telework policies;

Whereas NTEU—

(1) serves as a powerful voice for the members of NTEU and for Federal employees in general;

(2) has successfully sought to promote and defend Federal service as a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions; and

(3) has fought tirelessly to ensure that Federal employees are free from discrimination, politicization, and retaliation for disclosing Federal Government waste, fraud, and abuse;

Whereas the work of NTEU and the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals represented by NTEU who work for the Federal Government contribute significantly to the greatness and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas NTEU has grown to represent approximately 150,000 employees from 34 different Federal agencies, and the members of NTEU, among other things—

(1) collect the revenue that funds the Federal Government;

(2) help protect the borders of the United States;

(3) ensure that individuals in the United States have clean air and water;

(4) protect consumers, investors, bank depositors, and agriculture commodity traders;

(5) serve the beneficiaries of important health and social programs and ensure the safety of food and drugs in the United States; and

(6) protect and preserve the national parks and public lands of the United States;

Whereas the mission of NTEU, to help create workplaces in which every Federal employee is treated with dignity and respect, has been met by the efforts of NTEU to—

(1) advocate for fair pay and benefits;

(2) negotiate for work-life balance initiatives; and

(3) ensure a merit-based, nonpartisan civil service;

Whereas, whether advocating on Capitol Hill, at the bargaining table, or in workplaces across the United States, NTEU continues to make history through its accomplishments; and

Whereas, in 2023, NTEU is celebrating its 85th anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Treasury Employees Union on its 85th anniversary; and

(2) commends—

(A) the work of the National Treasury Employees Union; and

(B) the members of the National Treasury Employees Union for their outstanding contributions to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 83—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6 THROUGH 10, 2023, AS ''NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK''

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr.

PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 83

Whereas school counselors are more important now than ever, as the COVID–19 pandemic has magnified the mental health crisis among the youth of the United States;

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated February 6 through 10, 2023, as ''National School Counseling Week'';

Whereas school counselors have long advocated for all students;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding students through academic learning, social and emotional development, and career exploration;

Whereas personal and social growth can help lead to increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are ready for both college and careers;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

Whereas school counselors assist with and coordinate efforts to foster a positive school climate, resulting in a safer learning environment for all students;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in their communities and the United States;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas a school counselor is one of the few professionals in a school building who is trained in both education and social and emotional development;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

Whereas the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors is 408 to 1, almost twice the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week will increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 6 through 10, 2023, as ''National School Counseling Week''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National School Counseling Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 84—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AS ''RARE DISEASE DAY''

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 84

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is a disease or disorder that affects a small number of patients;

Whereas, in the United States, a rare disease or disorder affects fewer than 200,000 individuals;

Whereas, as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, more than 25,000,000 individuals in the United States are living with at least 1 of the more than 7,000 known rare diseases or disorders;

Whereas children with rare diseases or disorders account for a significant portion of the population affected by rare diseases or disorders in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases and disorders are serious and life-threatening;

Whereas this year marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97–414; 96 Stat. 2049), a landmark law enabling tremendous advances in the research and treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas, in 2022, the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, in the Food and Drug Administration (referred to in this preamble as ''FDA''), established the Accelerating Rare disease Cures program with a vision of speeding and increasing the development of effective and safe treatment options to address the unmet needs of patients with rare diseases;

Whereas the 117th Congress passed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 4459), provisions creating the rare disease endpoint advancement pilot program in the FDA to support the development of novel efficacy endpoints to help facilitate the development and timely approval of rare disease treatments;

Whereas, although the FDA has approved more than 1,100 drugs and biological products for an orphan indication for the treatment of a rare disease or disorder, approximately 90 percent of rare diseases do not have a treatment approved by the FDA for their condition;

Whereas limited treatment options and financing life-altering and lifesaving treatments can be challenging for individuals with rare diseases or disorders and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and disorders include sickle cell anemia, spinal muscular atrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, thyroid eye disease, myotonic dystrophy, t-cell prolymphocytic leukemia, Sanfilippo syndrome, microtia, cystinosis, meatal atresia, and conductive deafness;

Whereas individuals with rare diseases or disorders can experience difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses and finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their rare disease or disorder;

Whereas the 116th Congress passed the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–16; 133 Stat. 852), which included provisions for improving access to coordinated, patient-centered health care for children with complex and rare medical conditions in Medicaid, and became effective October 1, 2022;

Whereas the FDA and the National Institutes of Health support innovative research on the treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event that was first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and was observed in more than 100 countries in 2022; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease and disorder patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 28, 2023, as ''Rare Disease Day''; and

(2) recognizes the importance of, with respect to rare diseases and disorders—

(A) improving awareness;

(B) encouraging accurate and early diagnosis; and

(C) supporting national and global efforts to develop effective treatments, diagnostics, and cures.

SENATE RESOLUTION 85—DESIGNATING MARCH 1, 2023, AS ''NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 85

Whereas assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an individual with a disability or an older adult;

Whereas an assistive technology service is any service that directly assists an individual with a disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device;

Whereas, in 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 1 in 4 individuals in the United States, or almost 61,000,000 individuals, has a disability;

Whereas, in the 2020–2021 school year, the Department of Education reported that there were more than 7,200,000 children with disabilities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, among adults 65 years of age and older, 2 in 5 have a disability;

Whereas assistive technology enables individuals with disabilities and older adults to be included in their communities and in inclusive classrooms and workplaces;

Whereas assistive technology devices and services are necessities, not luxury items, for millions of individuals with disabilities and older adults, without which they would be unable to live in their communities, access education, or obtain, retain, and advance gainful, competitive, and integrated employment;

Whereas the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-sufficiency, enhances work participation, and is critical to the employment of individuals with disabilities and older adults; and

Whereas State assistive technology programs support a continuum of services that include—

(1) the exchange, repair, recycling, and other reutilization of assistive technology devices;

(2) device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, and others;

(3) the demonstration of devices to inform decision making; and

(4) State financing to help individuals purchase or obtain assistive technology through a variety of initiatives, such as financial loan programs, leasing programs, and other financing alternatives, that give individuals affordable, flexible options to purchase or obtain assistive technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 1, 2023, as ''National Assistive Technology Awareness Day''; and

(2) commends—

(A) assistive technology specialists and program coordinators for their hard work and dedication in serving individuals with disabilities who are in need of finding the proper assistive technology to meet their individual needs; and

(B) professional organizations and researchers dedicated to facilitating the access and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and older adults in need of assistive technology devices.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I have seven 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO OUR COURTS ACT

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 227 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 227) to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 227) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 227

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 ''Improving Access to Our Courts Act''.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL PLACES FOR HOLDING COURT.

(a) PECOS DIVISION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.—Section 124(d)(6) of title 28, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (7), by inserting ''and Alpine'' after ''Pecos''.

(b) WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.—Section 128(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''Mount Vernon,'' after ''Tacoma,''.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 83, S. Res. 84, and S. Res. 85.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 1; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Guzman nomination postcloture as provided under the previous order; further, that if any nominations are considered during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 28, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

ARACELI MARTINEZ–OLGUIN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

JAMAR K. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.

JAMAL N. WHITEHEAD, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF OLIVER LEAVITT

HON. MARY SATTLER PELTOLA

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I rise today to pay tribute to a great Alaskan and dedicated leader of the Artic Slope Regional Corporation, Dr. Oliver Leavitt. Sadly, Oliver passed away earlier this year on January 9, 2023, at the age of 79 in his lifetime hometown, Utqiagvik. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, as well as the entire Artic Slope community.

Dr. Leavitt was a long-time Iñupiat public servant who held innumerable leadership positions on the North Slope and across Alaska. In 1971 he played a key role in the Alaska Native lands claims fight and was a significant contributor to the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). His wisdom and guidance in establishing the Alaska Native corporation system was monumental and will be recognized for generations to come.

Dr. Oliver Leavitt was elected as the first president of the North Slope Borough Assembly in 1972, a position he held for four years, followed by more than 20 years of service in the Assembly. He also served on the boards of the Arctic Slope Native Association and the Alaska Federation of Natives. As Vice President of Lands and Vice President of Government Affairs for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, he effectively messaged Tribal, economic, and cultural priorities in Washington, D.C. and Juneau. His presence will be forever remembered by policymakers who interacted with him.

While working in Washington, D.C., he was pivotal in passing numerous amendments to ANCSA, improving the law for future generations of Alaska Natives. He also contributed to legislation that authorized development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and allowed for increased economic opportunity for Native corporations across Alaska.

Throughout Dr. Leavitt's lifetime, each success was achieved with the support and love of his family and his community. Oliver's legacy will live on through the community and the continued work they do to advance Alaskan priorities. He will forever be survived in the North Slope Borough and throughout all of Alaska.

Oliver dedicated his life to advancing Alaskan priorities and improving the quality of life for Alaska Native communities. I honor his legacy and mourn his loss alongside his family and community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished South Carolina organization for its unwavering commitment to our reserve service members. The Charleston County Sheriffs Office was recently awarded the highest honor given by the United States government to employers who show exemplary support for their National Guard and Reserve employees. Their contributions to these service members deserve our respect and recognition.

The Department of Defense established the Employer Support Freedom Award in 1996. The award honors private and public sector employers that demonstrate a strong commitment to military service through their continued support of enlisted employees. In August of 2022, the Department of Defense announced that the Charleston County Sheriffs Office was one of fifteen recipients of the 2022 Employer Support Freedom Award. Out of over 2,700 nominations, it was one of just four law enforcement agencies across the country to receive this prestigious national award.

The Charleston County Sheriffs office was selected because of its long-standing commitment to their Guard and Reserve members and families. The agency has implemented a Military Support Liaison program to effectively attend to members' needs; provide generous paid leave and retirements benefits; engender a community of support for the families of members on active duty; and privately and publicly recognize members' patriotic service to our state and Nation. The Charleston County Sheriffs Office is proud to employ more than a dozen members of the South Carolina National Guard and Reserve, and I am pleased they are receiving this well-deserved recognition.

South Carolina's Guardsmen and Reservists are unmatched in their service to our state and Nation. These honorable men and women sacrifice time away from their families and civilian careers to prepare for duty, and it is their courage and leadership during crises that ensures our communities remain prosperous and secure. The support provided by civilian employers to these service members is essential to the strength, readiness, and diversity of our Reserve forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the outstanding support of our National Guard and Reserve employees by the Charleston County Sheriffs Office. Their actions ought to serve as an example to other organizations dedicated to the wellbeing of service members, their families, and the preparedness of our military. Our great state and Nation are safer as a result of Charleston County Sheriff's Office's commitment to these service members.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STATE SENATOR STEVE CASSANO

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to one of Connecticut's First District's foremost public servants, State Senator Steve Cassano.

At the beginning of this year, Senator Cassano retired after a prolific four-decade career—serving as Mayor of Manchester for 14 years and in the Connecticut State Senate for more than a decade.

He was a fierce advocate for regional cooperation—helming the influential Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Capitol Region Council of Governments at various times.

Steve understood that our communities are stronger when we work together, and that our region needs a forward-looking plan for the future that serves all residents.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Senator Cassano in each of his roles over the years.

As Mayor, Steve led the Town of Manchester as it transitioned from a mill town to a local hub for business and a retail destination of the Capital Region.

In the State Senate, he led efforts for Connecticut to recover from Hurricane Sandy, the costliest hurricane to ever hit New England.

He capped off a storied career in government with what Steve called his proudest accomplishment—passing historic legislation to ensure adopted children could access their birth records.

I extend my congratulations to Steve Cassano on a career that served our state and region for the better and I commend and thank him for his service.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND HARRY HOOSIER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Black History Month with a tribute to an amazing Black man named Harry Hoosier.

If you're from Indiana, you've likely faced the age-old question:

''So, what exactly is a Hoosier?''

Of course, we've heard theories. Richmond resident John Finley's poem ''The Hoosier's Nest''—originally spelled ''Hoosher''—is often attributed as the first mention of this distinctly Indiana term. The word also appears in the ''Carrier's Address'' of the Indiana Democrat on January 3, 1832. Yet another theory is that pioneer settlers would respond, ''Who's yere?'' to a knock on the door.

But one of the most interesting theories is one you may not have heard: the story of Harry Hoosier.

Harry Hoosier, sometimes spelled Harry Hosier, was described by Booker T. Washington as ''the first Black American Methodist preacher in the United States.'' Born enslaved around 1750, Harry Hoosier was sold to a plantation near Baltimore, where he became a talented religious orator who traveled throughout the Appalachian frontier, according to Fisk University Professor William D. Piersen.

Harry Hoosier's story is one of resilience and success. Despite being illiterate, Mr. Hoosier's message was heard far and wide, and he became one of the best-known and greatest preachers of his time. According to a recent bill in the Indiana Statehouse, ''many of Harry Hoosier's followers brought their Methodist beliefs and Hoosier nickname to Indiana in the decades before and after Indiana was granted statehood in 1816.''

With his great influence, it is believed that Mr. Hoosier's followers became known as Hoosiers, followers who were also part of a growing number of Methodists beginning to question the practice of slavery. With a Black leader as an example, these 18th Century ''Hoosiers'' may have honed the principles we understand as ''Hoosier Hospitality'' today—the belief in kindness, equality, and respect.

Until recently, I had never heard the story of Harry Hoosier, despite attending school in Indiana and surrounded by strong, Black leaders and family members throughout my lifetime. But Harry Hoosier confirms what we already knew: Black history has always been American history, and Black history has always been Hoosier history. From oral traditions passed down from generation to generation, to the legacy of legends like Madam C.J. Walker, Mari Evans, Major Taylor, Wes Montgomery, the Jackson 5 and Babyface, Black Hoosiers have always been part of our state's story.

Bringing this story into the light gives us a better understanding of the vast, diverse history of our great state. And during Black History Month, there is no better time to learn our history and to celebrate it.

While there are many partisan arguments surrounding education—including recent political stunts falsely claiming that Black studies has no educational value—Harry Hoosier's story is slowly making its way into our modern consciousness in a bipartisan way. In 2016, the Indiana Bicentennial Commission endorsed the ''Harry Hoosier Project,'' an effort to share the story of the man who lives on in our conversations every day. This year, Indiana State Representative J.D. Prescott, a Republican, introduced House Bill 1143 recognizing Harry Hoosier as our state's namesake. Unfortunately, this bill did not make it to the floor for a vote—but I hope Harry Hoosier's story inspires others to begin to unwrap more forgotten or neglected stories.

History—the way we tell it, the way we analyze it, and the ways we pass it on to future generations—is always evolving. Our stories have always existed. But these stories need to be shared with everyone, and they need to be recognized as a vital part of American history too.

Harry Hoosier lived centuries ago. We can't speak to him or even know as many details about his life as we may want to. But his existence, the stories we have of him, are what define our past and shape our future.

Black history is about joy. It's about survival, resilience, and it's about success. Above all, it needs to be shared.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB VOSE

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert ''Bob'' W. Vose, of Springfield, Illinois, who passed away on Monday, January 20, 2023. He was 94 years old.

The son of John and Hedwig Vose, Bob was born on January 29, 1929. He was raised in Springfield alongside his five brothers and six sisters, where he attended Sacred Heart Grade School and Lanphier High School until he chose to serve our country in the United States Army.

Bob was a proud and active citizen, humbly serving his country and community. Bob would marry Virginia in 1953 and raise his six children in the city he loved. He would work for the Illinois Ice Company before becoming a City Water Light and Power meter reader and, eventually, a stationary engineer for the State of Illinois. He was a proud member of IBEW union, organizing with Local 193 for 65 years.

Bob would become the first city alderman elected to represent Ward 5 and continued to be an advocate for his ward and its' residents long after his term of service expired. He was a very generous man, donating his time and talents to a great many local causes throughout his entire life. He loved playing the role of Santa Claus at the city recreation department and was a referee and umpire of high school sports for several years. He sponsored the annual Goodwill client Halloween and Christmas parties for 34 years. He was a member of the Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation and was very active in fundraising for the cemetery and responsible for Monument Avenue Beautification improvements.

Bob's statewide claim to fame were his corndogs. Based on his grandmother's recipe that he safeguarded, ''The Korndog King'' would start selling his famous Vose Corn Dogs at the Illinois State Fair in 1967 with his brothers. Eventually, Bob and Virginia would continue Vose Fine Food on the fairgrounds for 50 years and become a fourth-generation family business. The Vose Family Corn Dog stand is a staple of the fair and continues to be an annual tradition.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; wife Virginia; four brothers; and six sisters. He is survived by his 6 children, Robert Vose, Jr., Virginia (Mike) Geiger, Ronald (Marybeth) Vose, Kenneth (Roxann) Vose, Debra Vose and Sandra (Robert) Orr; 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; last brother, Harold (Jean) Vose; and several nieces and nephews.

Robert was an icon of Springfield; one not built from a desire for fame, but one established from his years of service and dedication to the betterment of his community. His absence will leave a large hole within Springfield, and he will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on February 27, 2023 for Roll Call Vote 120 and Roll Call Vote 121. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 120, and Yea on Roll Call Vote 121.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PAUL WOODS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and service of Paul Woods as he celebrated his 100th birthday on February 20, 2023. Along with defying the average lifespan and despite segregation, Paul Woods fought for our democracy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. As we celebrate Black History Month, I think there's no better example of American courage than Buffalo's own Paul Woods.

Paul Woods was born in Alabama on February 20, 1923 in an era of racial oppression and segregation. When his father died, he and siblings were split at the gravesite among relatives. Paul Woods promised that he would raise his brother Sherman, and for the rest of his life ''Daddy'' has been taking care of people.

Paul Woods joined the segregated U.S. Army in 1941 when he was just 17 years old. He often says that ''A bullet knows no race, rank, or status. We were all brothers on the battlefield.'' The bravery of Black units overseas belied their second-class status at home and helped lead to the abolition of racial segregation in the military in 1948 as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 2012, Paul and 30 other World War II vets were flown to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. Five years later, Wish of a Lifetime sponsored a trip to Australia where he visited the exact location of his service during World War II and was thanked by the U.S. Consul General. Today he is the World War II Coordinator for the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post 430.

After helping to protect the Philippines, Paul Woods moved to the Buffalo region where he worked 16-hour days at Bethlehem Steel to feed his growing family. From Alabama to Australia, teenage recruit to war hero, and segregated soldier to seeing the first Black president, Paul Woods' life has spanned continents, a world war, and the fight for racial equality. The father of 15 will turn 100 on February 20, 2023, having seen multiple children and grandchildren serve in the same military his bravery helped to desegregate.

Mr. Speaker, I'm thankful for the chance to honor Paul Woods, a longtime Western New York resident who helped free the Philippines despite enduring injustice at home. A proud member of Prince of Peace Church of God in Christ in Buffalo and husband to the late Mary

T. Woods, Paul Woods' 6′4″ stature is dwarfed only by his impact on his family, community, and country.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AS ''RARE DISEASE DAY''

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution with my colleague, Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for their leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modern ''blood bank,'' which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

More than 100 countries observe Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING MAJ. GEN. THOMAS F. GRABOWSKI

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski, who is retiring after 38 years of honorable service to the State of Georgia and our Nation.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski retires as the Assistant Adjutant General—Air, Georgia National Guard, and Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard. In his duties and responsibilities, he led the Georgia State Air Guard headquarters team while overseeing a command of more than 2,900 Georgia Air National Guard members serving in two flying wings, seven geographically separated units, and an Air Dominance Center.

General Grabowski joined the Georgia Air National Guard in 1985 as an enlisted Telecommunications Specialist and quickly ascended through the ranks, becoming a commissioned officer in 1994. Over his career, he has commanded at the flight, squadron, and wing levels and closes out his distinguished career as the commanding general of all guard Airmen in the state.

General Grabowski's aviation career includes more than 2,700 flying hours: including more than 1,700 combat hours in the E–8C JSTARS supporting Operations IRAQ1 and ENDURING FREEDOM.

General Grabowski has spent the last 38 years embodying the Air Force's core values and the ideals of our Nation: Service before self, integrity first, and excellence in all we do. Although, his accomplishments have never overshadowed his humility. To this day, he wears hidden in his flight cap the insignia of the first rank he held in the military as a constant reminder of where he started.

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Grabowski is an exemplary leader, and I commend him for his service to the country and his commitment to the Georgia Air National Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call vote 65 on January 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 120 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

I regrettably also missed Roll Call vote 121 on February 27, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

FEBRUARY CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Dr. Wendy Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

Dr. Stewart serves as the inaugural interim Chief Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Officer at MiraCosta College where she has worked for more than a decade including her previous role at the college as Dean of Counseling and Student Development. She has spent over 25 years in education, helping to better the lives of students throughout the San Diego region.

Throughout her career, Dr. Stewart has been a fierce student advocate who has helped students access higher education and achieve their goals. Dr. Stewart is a shining example of what an educator should be—kind, dedicated, and passionate—and our region is better for it.

As we conclude Black History Month, I am especially proud to honor Dr. Stewart, an esteemed educator who uses her decades of experience and knowledge to contribute to our unique and beautiful district. Her story, passion to improve the lives of others, and academic achievements are honorable and that is why I am proud to honor Dr. Stewart as my February Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS BYRD FOR HIS SUCCESS IN PROFESSIONAL GOLF

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the closing days of Black History Month to recognize a professional golfer from the District of Columbia.

Marcus Byrd picked up his clubs at the First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. at the historic Langston Golf Course in Northeast, honing his skills there and at a number of golf courses in nearby Prince George's County. He finished in 2nd place at the Maryland State High School Golf Championship in his freshman year. Shortly after, his family moved to Atlanta, Georgia. In 2013, he won the Georgia State Junior Championship and colleges began to take notice. Mr. Byrd earned a college golf scholarship to Middle Tennessee State University and quickly became one of the best players on the team. After a standout college career, Mr. Byrd turned professional in 2020. He is currently competing on the Advocates Professional Golf Association Tour (APGA), which is aimed at increasing diversity in the sport. Mr. Byrd has two wins and five

second place finishes on the APGA since 2021. Tiger Woods awarded Mr. Byrd with the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption into the PGA Tour's Genesis Invitational in Los Angeles earlier this month. Mr. Byrd received an exemption into the PGA Tour's Honda Classic in Florida last week.

While he no longer lives permanently in the District of Columbia, Mr. Byrd returns to the area to make a positive impact on young people. He has given back to the First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. by participating in multiple Politics and Pros events and by conducting clinics for young participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Marcus Byrd for his success in professional golf.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JON ASHER

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jon Asher.

As the Executive Director of Colorado's Legal Services, Jon has dedicated his life to helping others and ensuring that Colorado's legal system is accessible to all those who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

I have known and admired Jon for over 40 years. The Colorado legal community will agree that he's not just one of Colorado's greatest legal minds, he's also one of the most selfless.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1971, Jon moved to Greeley, Colorado where he began his legal career as a staff attorney with Colorado Rural Legal Services. Little did Jon know that this was the start of a long career of service.

His talent and intellect were evident to all those who worked with him. and Jon quickly rose through the ranks to become head of the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver in 1980—a position he would hold for the next 18 years.

When Colorado's three legal aid societies decided to come together to form one statewide legal aid program in 1999, Jon was the easy choice to run it; and it was then that he became the first Executive Director of the newly formed Colorado Legal Services—a position he has held ever since.

Under Jon's leadership, Colorado Legal Services has become one of the Nation's premier legal aid organizations—with a staff of more than 80 attorneys and 55 paralegals in 13 regional offices across Colorado.

Jon's reputation as a tireless and effective advocate for low-income and disadvantaged individuals in our state is seen in the quality of the work that Colorado Legal Services has clone and continues to do to this clay.

Throughout his career, Jon has been recognized. both in Colorado and throughout the Nation, for his talent and dedication to providing those who otherwise couldn't afford it with the quality legal representation they deserve. While his professional achievements are far too many to count, those who know Jon will agree that it's not the awards or recognition that drove him throughout his career—it's the thousands of people he's been able to help along the way.

After more than 50 years of dedicating himself to providing top-notch legal assistance to seniors and low-income individuals across our state, Jon announced recently that he plans to retire as the head ofColorados Legal Services this summer. While there's no doubt that he will certainly be leaving behind some big shoes to fill. the organization he's helped to build from the ground up has never been stronger, and its ongoing success is all but guaranteed thanks to the tireless work that Jon and his colleagues have put into it over the years.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's First Congressional District, I want to express my profound thanks to Jon for all he's done for our state over the years—and his tireless efforts to help so many people along the way. And I want to wish him the very best during his much-deserved retirement.

COMMEMORATING CARES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a tremendous asset in the communities I serve. For more than 50 years, CARES has been working to create a caring community committed to strengthening lives and creating positive futures for seniors in Pasco and Hernando counties. CARES serves people from all walks of life through their personal journey of aging and offers a broad spectrum of services and programs to help seniors live as they wish—Independently in their own homes.

CARES In-Home Health delivers assistance to help low-income, frail elders with basic services to ensure they are able to maintain their independence in a safe manner. CARES Senior Centers help elderly individuals stay connected to their world and their community through social activities, computer learning, educational programs, wellness initiatives and recreational activities. Research has shown that remaining active and engaged is positively correlated with living a longer, healthier life and CARES helps to make that a reality for many.

CARES also provides critical respite services through its Adult Day Care programs. Through this initiative, caregivers have the peace of mind of knowing their loved ones are supervised while they take some personal time away from caregiving. And, CARES runs a senior health clinic to serve those who are 55 years and older, low-income, and uninsured. It was my privilege to advocate for this tremendous agency by sponsoring a community budget request to secure $2.5 million to for CARES to expand its footprint in the area. These funds will be used to purchase land and build an 8,000 square foot "One Stop Senior Center." CARES anticipates promoting quality of life and independence for frail and vulnerable seniors and their families at this center. A safe environment where the lives of senior citizens and their caregivers and families of West/Central Pasco will be enriched by the existence of a "One Stop Senior Center" geared to assist these individuals with in-home and community care to remain living independently in their communities and prevent institutional/nursing home placement. Other direct services will include Adult Day Care facility, Case Management to provide information and referrals; mental health counseling and a FREE Health Clinic for non-invasive medical care.

As we celebrate this important milestone in CARES history, we look forward to another 50 years of outstanding service to local seniors throughout our community.

HONORING SAN ANGELO COMMUNITY LEADER JAMES HUFFMAN

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the hard work of San Angelo's very own James Huffman, who is being rightly being recognized with the Texas Southwest Council, Boy Scouts of America's prestigious Distinguished Citizen Award—an annual recognition of those who give freely of their time and talents to improve the quality of life for our community, Nation, and world.

James is an Eagle Scout, a family man, distinguished businessman, and servant to our community. His impact to San Angelo and the greater area cannot be overstated.

He earned his degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas Tech University and embarked on a career that led him back to San Angelo in 1984. Later, he earned his CPA certification and opened his own accounting practice.

Through the years, Mr. Huffman has been awarded for his achievements including his 1995 Small Business Administration's San Antonio-District CPA of the Year Award and in 2004 Innovation in Texas Award for his Cross Cut Wood Company from the Texas Railroad Commission.

Mr. Huffman has been very involved in many civic duties in West Texas. He serves, or has served, on the Rawls of School of Business Dean's Advisory Council, as a Board member of the Concho Valley Center for Entrepreneurial Development, a member of the Sonora Downtown Lion's Club and San Angelo Jaycees, on the board of the San Angelo Areawide Foundation, and he helped establish the San Angelo Safari Club chapter in 2014 as a board member as well as serving as the Vice President from 2014 to 2021.

In 2011, James joined the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America's Texas Southwest Council, serving on the executive committee and as Chair of the Property Committee.

I am grateful for the impact James has made on our community.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR FIGHTING WILDFIRES ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Military Support for Fighting

Wildfires Act'' with Representatives PANETTA (D–CA), SCANLON (D–PA), SCHIFF (D–CA), JACOBS (D–CA), and CARBAJAL (D–CA) as original cosponsors.

As California and other western states face increasingly severe and frequent wildfires due to the climate crisis, we need all the help we can get from our federal government. My comprehensive ''Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act'' would improve the American military's support for civilian emergency response to wildfires and similar natural disasters. It would also provide permanent Congressional authorization for the California Air National Guard's ''FireGuard'' program, in partnership with the U.S. Air Force and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) included provisions from my bill (H.R. 5560) last Congress extending the National Guard's Fireguard program until 2029; requiring the U.S. Department of Defense to budget for extreme weather events linked to climate change; directing the National Guard to consult with the National Interagency Fire Center when training for domestic emergency response to wildfires; and requiring an updated interagency review of the U.S. Air Force and National Guard's existing legal authorities to respond to domestic wildfires. The White House Office of Management and Budget last completed such a review in 2004.

The FY2023 NOAA also enacted my bill section authorizing the Department of Defense to transfer excess aircraft to other federal departments for search and rescue or emergency operations related to wildfires. U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D–CA) introduced my bill section as the bipartisan ''Emergency Aircraft Act of 2022'' (S. 4672) last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you and other members of the California delegation to advance these remaining reforms included in my ''Military Support for Fighting Wildfires Act.'' As ranking member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I plan to make this a top priority for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT FREDERICK LEROY WARNER, JR.

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Frederick LeRoy Warner, Jr., fondly known as Teddy, who was called home to be with his savior in December.

Teddy grew up with his brother in a strong Christian household where he grew his faith with the guidance and nurturing of his parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

He was raised in Texas and upon graduation from High School enlisted in the United States Army where he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. He served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm and was honorably discharged.

After the Army, he earned his degree in Arts in History from the University of Houston but felt like his duty to his country was not finished.

Ted reenlisted in the Army and joined the 5th Special Forces Group where he fought in three combat deployments in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his valor in Iraq, he earned medals of commendation for his courage and heroism under enemy fire. He returned home safely and finished out his military service in the Texas National Guard where he earned a Master's Degree in Business in Security Management.

Ted was not only a decorated war veteran, but he was also a beloved missionary to everyone in his life. He understood the urgency of coming to know Jesus Christ and dedicated himself to uplifting others through his faith.

America is the land of the free and home of the brave because of Godly men with a heart for service, like Ted. He lived his life in service to others and will be missed dearly.

May his legacy and memory live on in the hearts of those who loved him and served with him, and may we always remember the sacrifices he made for this great Nation.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN MULRENNAN YOUNG

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Ms. Helen Mulrennan Young of Brandon, Florida, who turned 100 years old on February 27, 2023.

Ms. Young is the youngest sibling of the Mulrennan pioneering family, whose roots in Eastern Hillsborough County date back more than 140 years.

Carrying on her family's legacy of service, Ms. Young is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon, and of Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she serves her community through crochet.

For more than 23 years, Ms. Young has crocheted blankets and hats for those in need, including newborn babies, the homeless, and hospital patients. In 2022, she received the Spirit of Kiwanis Award for her incredible work.

Her life is a testament to the power of faith, family, and community, and she represents the best of Florida's 15th District. That is why it is a great privilege to wish Ms. Young a very happy 100th birthday and many more to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING HELICOPTER NOISE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing Helicopter Noise in the District of Columbia Act, which would require all helicopters and rotocraft in the District of Columbia to fly at the maximum altitude permitted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in D.C., with limited exceptions. The exceptions would include active law enforcement and rescue operations, transporting the president and vice president and safety.

I hear from D.C. residents almost daily about helicopter noise. Helicopter noise can harm health, quality of life and the structural integrity of homes. In 2019, I led members of the National Capital Region (NCR) in requesting that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study helicopter noise in the NCR. Last year, GAO issued its report. GAO found that there had been nearly 90,000 helicopter flights in the NCR from 2017 to 2019. GAO recommended that the FAA develop a mechanism to exchange helicopter noise information with operators in the NCR. The FAA has indicated that it is working on such a mechanism.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD DESERTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act of 2023 to help fight hunger and food insecurity in communities across the country.

As we end Black History Month, I'd like to focus on the problem of food insecurity and how it disproportionately hurts Black and Brown families.

I want to share just one example. In June of 2017, Marsh Supermarkets grocery stores announced the closure of many stores throughout the Midwest. Many of these stores were in my district. Many families lacked a car or reliable public transportation to the nearest grocery alternative, often over a mile away. Today, thousands of my constituents are still struggling to find the food they need, with many forced to rely on fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

These options are neither healthy nor affordable.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Over 29 million people, almost 10 percent of the U.S. population, live without ready access to affordable, nutritious food, and over 2 million people have no transportation to get to their nearest store. Many have seen their local stores close during the pandemic. Others lost access years ago and now face the severe long-term impacts of obesity, diabetes, malnutrition, and other diet-related ailments.

Unfortunately, residents in these low-income areas tend to spend less on groceries, leaving little financial incentive for traditional grocery chains to make costly investments for new locations.

In the world's wealthiest country, nutritious food should be an expectation, not a luxury. That is why I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act, which creates new avenues to fund stores in underserved communities. This bill will create USDA-funded, state-operated revolving funds that will issue low-interest loans for the operation of grocery stores in food deserts. The bill ensures that recipients of these loans, including for-profit, non-profit, and municipal entities, can provide affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce and staples like milk, bread, and meat. It will also ensure that USDA professionals are available to

provide technical assistance to recipients who need it.

Access to healthy food is something that most of us take for granted. But despite our own experiences, we must remember that millions of our constituents struggle daily to feed their families. With this market-driven approach, I aim to complement existing federal programs and efforts nationwide by ensuring a stable lending stream for struggling grocery stores and sustainable access to food for communities in need.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to support this vital bill.

RECOGNIZING MS. SUZETTE COWELL'S COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History month this February, I rise today to recognize the lifetime of work of a precious local champion for the African American community in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio, Ms. Suzette Cowell.

Suzette Cowell is the founding member and CEO of Toledo's Urban Federal Community Development Credit Union. This specialized credit union was created with a vision to help generate economic development and new opportunity. Suzette introduced fair credit to neighborhoods which had never experienced either before. In this locale, predatory lenders and financial loan sharks suck the lifeblood out of people and neighborhoods.

With decades of experience in the financial arena, Ms. Cowell is a pioneering leader in Toledo—and has led this credit union into the multi-million-dollar community development institution it is today. This credit institution is a model for financial development and community development across our Nation.

Her insight into the unmet needs and systemic issues that precipitated the founding of this successful credit union are essential to understanding America's history, and our Nation must build up to ensure all our residents are uplifted. No place in America should be absent the credit and credit counseling the Federal Urban Credit Union provides.

I thank Suzette fo her astounding faith-filled leadership and opportunity she and her board and colleagues brought to our Toledo community.

SUPPORTING CONGRESSWOMAN JUDY CHU

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in fervent defense of a great friend and loyal colleague, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, in light of recent attacks against her character. I consider Congresswoman CHU to be a fearless advocate for her community, a loyal Member of the United States House of Representatives, and a close personal friend.

The disgraceful remarks made by a fellow Member of Congress towards Congresswoman CHU challenging her ''loyalty and competence'' exemplify the extremes Republicans will go to discredit the credibility of those they disagree with. To insinuate Congresswoman CHU is disloyal to her country is baseless and a blatantly racist attempt to vilify a faithful public servant. Congresswoman CHU's heritage as a proud Chinese American woman is a strength for this legislative body, rather than a danger. It is a somber reminder of the relentless scrutiny individuals of Chinese descent face on a daily basis. The unfortunate reality is these types of attacks on Chinese Americans are not atypical, as grotesque stereotypes perpetuate that Asian Americans are always foreign.

The Republican Conference must hold all of their members accountable and must condemn all xenophobic attacks of all forms. Words matter—and can bring about significant harm to communities of all types. Our country has lived through the impacts of targeting Americans based solely on their country of origin. We must avoid the mistakes of our past and denounce bigotry and racism as it occurs, not channel it into hatred and baseless attacks against our fellow Americans.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S509–S538

Measures Introduced: Thirty-five bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 539–573, and S. Res. 80–85. **Pages S531–32**

Measures Passed:

Improving Access to Our Courts Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 227, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and the bill was then passed. **Page S538**

National School Counseling Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 83, designating the week of February 6 through 10, 2023, as ''National School Counseling Week''. **Page S538**

Rare Disease Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 84, designating February 28, 2023, as ''Rare Disease Day''. **Page S538**

National Assistive Technology Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 85, designating March 1, 2023, as ''National Assistive Technology Awareness Day''. **Page S538**

Guzman Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Pages S516–17**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 48 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. EX. 31), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S517**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, post-cloture, followed by the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 2:15 p.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan; that following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jonathan James Canada Grey, Senate begin consideration of H.J. Res. 30, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights''; and that at 4 p.m., Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, and upon disposition of the joint resolution, notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Edward Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Page S517**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. **Page S538**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 26), Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. **Pages S511–12**

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 28), Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington. **Page S513**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 27), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S513**

By 49 yeas to 48 nays, Vice President voting yea (Vote No. EX. 30), Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 48 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 29), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S513–16**

Messages from the House: **Page S525**

Measures Referred: **Page S525**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S525–26**

Executive Communications: **Pages S526–31**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S532–33**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S533–38**

Additional Statements: **Page S525**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S538**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—31) **Pages S512–14, S516–17**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S538.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the conflict in Ukraine, after receiving testimony from Angela Stent, Georgetown University Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies, Dara Massicot, RAND Corporation, and Lieutenant General Keith Kellogg, USA (Ret.), Center for American Security America First Policy Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

ADVANCING NATIONAL SECURITY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine advancing national security and foreign policy through sanctions, export controls, and other economic tools, including S. 168, to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and require review of certain agricultural transactions, after receiving testimony from Daleep Singh, former Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, Clay Lowery, Institute of International Finance, former Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and former Director of International Finance, Department of the Treasury and National Security Council, and Kevin Wolf, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP, former Assistant Secretary of Export Administration, Department of Commerce, all of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States, after the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Equal Rights Amendment, focusing on how Congress can recognize ratification and enshrine equality in our Constitution, after receiving testimony from Senators Cardin, Murkowski, and Hyde-Smith; Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton, Springfield; Kathleen M. Sullivan, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan, LLP, Los Angeles, California; Thursday Williams, ERA Coalition Board Member, Hartford, Connecticut; Jennifer C. Braceras, Independent Women's Law Center, Concord, Massachusetts; and Elizabeth Price Foley, Florida International University College of Law, Miami.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 118th Congress.

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: 44 public bills, H.R. 20, 1226–1268; and 11 resolutions, H. Res. 178–188, were introduced. **Pages H967–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H972–73**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Luna to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H919**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:39 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H923**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:38 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H930**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:51 p.m. and reconvened at 4:45 p.m. **Pages H940–41**

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights": The House passed H.J. Res. 30, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights", by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 124. **Pages H932–41**

H. Res. 166, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 123, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 201 nays, Roll No. 122. **Pages H931–32**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 179, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H942**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, March 1st. **Page H966**

Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act: The House considered H.R. 347, to require the Executive Office of the President to provide an inflation estimate with respect to Executive orders with a significant effect on the annual gross budget. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 1st. **Page H942**

Agreed to:

Comer amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that adds the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs as report recipients; and adds "economic" effect to the definition of "major executive order"; **Pages H946–47**

Cloud amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that amends the bill to direct OMB and CEA to incorporate the inflationary impact of the debt servicing costs; and **Pages H948–49**

Langworthy amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that requires the Executive Office of the President (EOP) to estimate whether a major Executive order has a quantifiable inflationary impact on the Producer Price Index (as well as the Consumer Price Index). **Page H953**

Rejected:

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that sought to add at the end of section 2(d), (4) "The term "quantifiable inflationary impact" means an Executive order was estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1% percentage point over the course of a year.". **Pages H951–52**

Proceedings Postponed:

Bost amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that seeks to require that the inflationary report take into account the spending patterns of military personnel, rural areas, and farm households; **Pages H945–46**

Boebert amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that seeks to require the inflation estimate to be made publicly available by publishing on the OMB website; **Pages H947–48**

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that seeks to insert into Sec. 2(a) line 10 "or" after "inflations and Strikes Sec. (a) lines 11–14; to clarify and make consistent with economic policy on inflationary impacts and effects; **Pages H949–50**

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that seeks to add at the end of section 2(d) the definition to "significant impact" in Sec. 2(a). "The term "significant impact on inflation" means an Executive order was estimated to increase or decrease Consumer Price Index inflation by at least 1% percentage point over the course of a year."; and **Pages H950–51**

Lee (NV) amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 118–4) that seeks to clarify that nothing in this bill suggests that combatting inflation and bringing down the cost of living is the executive branch's responsibility alone, and not also a key pursuit of the House of Representatives through thoughtful, productive legislative action. **Page H952**

H. Res. 166, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 347) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 30) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 123, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 201 nays, Roll No. 122. **Pages H931–32**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H931, H931–32, and H941.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Committee Meetings

UNCERTAINTY, INFLATION, REGULATIONS: CHALLENGES FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Uncertainty, Inflation, Regulations: Challenges for American Agriculture''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE MILITARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing entitled ''Quality of Life in the Military''. Testimony was heard from Chief Master Sergeant JoAnne S. Bass, U.S. Air Force; Sergeant Major Troy E. Black, U.S. Marine Corps; Sergeant Major Michael A. Grinston, U.S. Army; Master Chief Petty Officer James A. Honea, U.S. Navy; and Chief Master Sergeant Roger A. Towberman, U.S. Space Force.

UKRAINE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held an oversight hearing on Ukraine. Testimony was heard from Celeste Wallander, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General Douglas Sims, Director of Operations (J–3), Joint Staff.

OVERSIGHT OF U.S. MILITARY SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of U.S. Military Support to Ukraine''. Testimony was heard from Colin H. Kahl, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense; Robert P. Storch, Inspector General, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General Douglas A. Sims II, Director for Operations, J–3, Joint Staff.

COVID–19'S IMPACT ON DOD AND ITS SERVICEMEMBERS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled ''COVID–19's Impact on DoD and its Servicemembers''. Testimony was heard from Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr., Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; Gabe Camarillo, Under Secretary of the Army, Department of the U.S. Army; Erik Raven, Under Secretary of the Navy, Department of the U.S. Navy; and Gina Ortiz Jones, Under Secretary of the Air Force, Department of the U.S. Air Force.

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled ''Energy, Installations, and Environment Program Update''. Testimony was heard from Brenden Owens, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of Defense; Meredith Berger, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of the U.S. Navy; Rachel Jacobson, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of the U.S. Army; and Edwin Oshiba, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Energy, Installations and Environment, Department of the U.S. Air Force.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a markup on H.R. 1068, the ''Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act''; H.R. 1121, the ''Protecting American Energy Production Act''; H.R. 1085, the ''Researching Efficient Federal Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining Act''; H.R. 1058, the ''Promoting Cross-border Energy Infrastructure Act''; H. Con. Res. 14, a resolution expressing disapproval of the revocation by President Biden of the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline; H. Con. Res. 17, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should not impose any restrictions on the export of crude oil or other petroleum products; H.R. 1130, the ''Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act''; H.R. 1115, the ''Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act''; and H.R. 1160, the ''Critical Electric Infrastructure Cybersecurity Incident Reporting Act''. H.R. 1058, H.R. 1130, and H.R. 1115 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 1068, H.R. 1121, H.R. 1085, H. Con Res. 14, H. Con Res. 17, and H.R. 1160 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a markup on H.R. 1070, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) to treat the owner or operator of a critical energy resource facility as having been issued an interim permit for the treatment, storage, and disposal, of hazardous waste, and for other purposes; H.R. 1131, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize the use of flexible air permitting with respect to certain critical energy resource facilities, and for other purposes; H.R. 1140, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to waive application of certain requirements with respect to processing and refining of a critical energy resource at a critical energy resource facility, and for other purposes; H.R. 1158, the ''Elimination of Future Technology Delays Act''; H.R. 1141, the ''Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act''; H.R. 1023, a bill to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund; and H.R. 1155, the ''Keeping America's Refineries Act''. H.R. 1070 was forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 1131, H.R. 1140, H.R. 1158, H.R. 1141, H.R. 1023, and H.R. 1155 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 554, the ''Taiwan Conflict Deterrence Act of 2023''; H.R. 555, the ''Securing America's Vaccines for Emergencies (SAVE) Act of 2023''; H.R. 1166, the ''Public Health Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement Act of 2023''; H.R. 1076, the ''Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act''; H.R. 510, the ''Chinese Currency Accountability Act of 2023''; H.R. 839, the ''China Exchange Rate Transparency Act of 2023''; H.R. 1156, the ''China Financial Threat Mitigation Act of 2023''; H.R. 803, the ''PROTECT Taiwan Act''; H.R. 540, the ''Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act of 2023''; H.R. 1109, the ''Bank Service Company Examination Coordination Act of 2023''; H.R. 1165, the ''Data Privacy Act of 2023''; and H.R. 1161, the ''Aligning SEC Regulations for the World Bank's International Development Association Act''. H.R. 554, H.R. 1076, H.R. 1156, H.R. 1109, H.R. 540, H.R. 510, H.R. 839, H.R. 803, H.R. 555, H.R. 1166, H.R. 1161, and H.R. 1165 were ordered reported, as amended.

COMBATTING THE GENERATIONAL CHALLENGE OF CCP AGGRESSION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Combatting the Generational Challenge of CCP Aggression''. Testimony was heard from Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; Michael Schiffer, Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia, U.S. Agency for International Development; Scott Nathan, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation; and Alan Estevez, Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 1093, to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on implementation of the advanced capabilities pillar of the trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; legislation to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines; legislation to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes; legislation to provide for the authorization of appropriations for the Countering the People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund, and for other purposes; H.R. 1107, to direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions with respect to the labeling of the People's Republic of China as a developing country; legislation to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes; H. Res. 90, demanding that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan; H.R. 1151, to hold the People's Republic of China accountable for the violation of United States airspace and sovereignty with its high-altitude surveillance balloon; H.R. 406, to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 1149, to establish certain reporting and other requirements relating to telecommunications equipment and services produced or provided by certain entities, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1153, to provide a clarification of non-applicability for regulation and prohibition relating to sensitive personal data under International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes.

EVERY STATE IS A BORDER STATE: EXAMINING SECRETARY MAYORKAS' BORDER CRISIS

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Every State is a Border State: Examining Secretary Mayorkas' Border Crisis''. Testimony was heard from Mark Lamb, Sheriff, Pinal County, Arizona; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan was agreed to, as amended.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, and a Staff Consultant Contract were adopted.

PART 1: COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Part 1: Committee Funding for the 118th Congress''. Testimony was heard from Chairman Arrington, Chairman Bost, Chairman Cole, Chairman Comer, Chairman Foxx, Chairman Graves of Missouri, Chairman Jordan, Chairman Turner, Chairman Westerman, and Representatives Boyle of Pennsylvania, Grijalva, Himes, Larsen of Washington, Lucas, McGovern, Nadler, Raskin, Scott of Virginia, and Takano.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan was adopted.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on legislation on the Transparency and Production of American Energy Act of 2023; and H.R. 209, the ''Permitting for Mining Needs Act of 2023''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing on legislation on Building United States Infrastructure through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews Act of 2023. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a markup on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress; H.R. 140, the ''Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act''; and H.R. 1162, the ''Accountability for Government Censorship Act''. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan passed. H.R. 140 and H.R. 1162 were ordered reported, as amended.

THE UNITED STATES, CHINA AND THE FIGHT FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: BUILDING A U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The United States, China and the Fight for Global Leadership: Building a U.S. National Science and Technology Strategy''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FROM NOTHING TO SOMETHING: THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''From Nothing to Something: The Story of the American Dream''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates. The Committee's Budget Views and Estimates passed.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress; the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates; H. Res. 152, supporting the goals and ideals of ''move over'' laws; H. Con. Res. 15, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; H.R. 783, to designate the Department of Energy Integrated Engineering Research Center Federal Building located at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, as the ''Helen Edwards Engineering Research Center''; H.J. Res. 27, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States' ''; H.R. 1152, the ''Water Quality Certification and Energy Projects Improvement Act of 2023''; and ten General Services Administration

Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, and Budget Views and Estimates were adopted. H. Res. 152, H. Con. Res. 15, H.R. 783, H.J. Res. 27, and H.R. 1152 were ordered reported, without amendment. General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions were agreed to.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a business meeting on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan passed.

BUILDING AN ACCOUNTABLE VA: APPLYING LESSONS LEARNED TO DRIVE FUTURE SUCCESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Building an Accountable VA: Applying Lessons Learned to Drive Future Success''. Testimony was heard from Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Michael Missal, Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress; the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates; and H.R. 1163, to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes. The Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, and Budget Views and Estimates passed, as amended. H.R. 1163 was ordered reported, as amended.

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 118th Congress.

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Chinese Communist Party's Threat to America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, after receiving testimony from Joseph Parsetich, Great Falls, Montana, J. Marc Burgess, Barry Jesinoski, Edward R. Reese, Jr., Jim Marszalek, Joy Ilem, John Kleindienst, Ryan Burgos, and Darlene Spence, all of Disabled American Veterans.

OSCE LEADERSHIP

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine North Macedonia's leadership of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in a time of war, after receiving testimony from Bujar Osmani, North Macedonia Foreign Minister, and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Chairperson-in-Office, Skopje.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: business meeting to consider the nomination of Margo Schlanger, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on conservation and forestry programs, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine climate change and the economic risks to coastal communities, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Phillip A. Washington, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Representative on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Eric W. Kneedler, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, Pamela M. Tremont, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Richard Mills, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, oversight hearing on the United Nations, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled ''Promoting U.S. Innovation and Individual Liberty through a National Standard for Data Privacy'', 8:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 1093, to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on implementation of the advanced capabilities pillar of the trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; legislation to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines; legislation to require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes; legislation to provide for the authorization of appropriations for the Countering the People's Republic of China Malign Influence Fund, and for other purposes; H.R. 1107, to direct the Secretary of State to take certain actions with respect to the labeling of the People's Republic of China as a developing country; legislation to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes; H. Res. 90, demanding that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan; H.R. 1151, to hold the People's Republic of China accountable for the violation of United States airspace and sovereignty with its high-altitude surveillance balloon; H.R. 406, to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 1149, to establish certain reporting and other requirements relating to telecommunications equipment and services produced or provided by certain entities, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1153, to provide a clarification of nonapplicability for regulation and prohibition relating to sensitive personal data under International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes, 9 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Part 2: Committee Funding for the 118th Congress'', 9 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled ''The Fentanyl Crisis in America: Inaction is No Longer an Option'', 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled ''Unlocking Indian Country's Economic Potential'', 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, post cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Margaret R. Guzman, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Colleen R. Lawless, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jonathan James Canada Grey, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

At 4 p.m., Senate will vote on passage of H.J. Res. 30, Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Edward Simmons, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Wednesday, March 1

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Complete consideration of H.R. 347–Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act.

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