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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Lord, give strength to Your people. Bless them with Your peace. Even as we pray these words of the psalmist, we do so keenly aware of the poignance of these desires for the Republic of Korea and her people.

Grant them, they who are constantly on guard, always prepared to defend against the political instability in the region and ever at the ready to fight and protect their national integrity, both the physical and moral strength needed to uphold the democracy and stability they hold dear.

Bless them and the entire peninsula with a strong peace and common prosperity. Enable the Korean people, including families and loved ones torn apart by different government systems and political ideologies, to make room for the possibility of reconciliation and move closer toward the de-escalation of historic discord.

O Lord, strengthen the United States in our commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with our allies, with His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, with the country's political and military leaders, and with its citizens. May we as Americans serve to be partners in building bridges of understanding, advancing dialogue, and securing for all the blessing of peace for the Korean Peninsula.

God, You are our hope for Korea, for East Asia, for our world. Bless us with Your peace. In the strength of Your holy name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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 of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, April 17, 2023, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly, (at 9 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1044

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY YOON SUK YEOL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL);

The gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM);

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN);

The gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

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The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG);

The gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM); and

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES); and

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Ashok Mirpuri, the Ambassador of Singapore.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

At 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m., the Acting Sergeant at Arms, William P. McFarland, announced His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea.

The President of the Republic of Korea, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

President YOON. Mr. Speaker, Madam Vice President, honorable Members of the United States Congress, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear citizens of America, ''A new Nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.''

I stand before that Nation with the conviction of freedom, belief in the alliance, and the resolve to open a new future.

For 234 years, Congress has been the symbol of freedom and democracy. This Chamber embodies the spirit of the Constitution. I am honored to address the Members of Congress and the people of the United States.

Thank you, both Democrats and Republicans, for passing the resolution marking the 70th Anniversary of the alliance. Your support has dignified my visit. I know that no matter where you sit, you stand with Korea.

Over the past century, we have faced many threats, but the U.S. has always led the world in defense of freedom.

Imperial nations fought for colonies. And humanity greatly suffered from the two world wars. America righteously stepped in to defend freedom, but it was not without cost.

We remember the leadership of General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz, but more than 100,000 American men and women perished in the Pacific War. Their sacrifice was not in vain.

U.S. leadership established the New World order based on free trade. It brought peace and prosperity throughout the world, but prosperity was limited to free market economies where communist totalitarian nations did not participate. The world was divided into democratic and communist blocs.

In 1950, the Korean Peninsula was on the front line. The Soviet Union helped to rearm North Korea. North Korea's surprise attack threatened the peace on the Korean Peninsula and Asia. Korea's freedom and democracy were on the brink.

At that decisive moment, the U.S. did not look the other way. Korean and American soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder and fought bravely. Tales of our heroes were written.

General MacArthur caught the enemy off guard with the landing of Incheon and turned the tide of the war. Operation Chromite was one of the greatest decisions ever made in the history of war.

The U.S. 1st Marine Division miraculously broke through a wave of 120,000 Chinese troops at the Battle of Lake Changjin.

Sons and daughters of America sacrificed their lives to ''defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.''

In the Battle of Lake Changjin alone, 4,500 American servicemembers lost their lives. Over the course of the war, almost 37,000 U.S. soldiers fell.

The late Colonel William Weber fought in the Battle for Hill 324 in Wonju. He lost his right arm and leg. Yet, this American hero dedicated his life to honoring the noble sacrifice made by the Korean war veterans.

Today, we are honored to have his granddaughter, Ms. Dayne Weber, with us. Ms. Weber, would you stand up, please?

On behalf of the Korean people, I would like to thank you deeply. We salute his noble service and sacrifice.

Thank you.

Some of the Korean war heroes are your family and friends. The late John Conyers, Jr., Sam Johnson, and Howard Coble were veteran Congressmen who promoted freedom and democracy. The former Representative Charles Rangel has been a strong supporter of the alliance.

Korea will never forget the great American heroes who fought with us to defend freedom.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the Korean war veterans and their families. You did not hesitate to send your sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters. You answered the call to defend the freedom of a country across the Pacific.

I thank the U.S. and its people for honoring the Korean war as a proud legacy. Thank you also for treating the veterans with honor and respect.

The war ended after 3 years of intense battle. Our two nations signed the Mutual Defense Treaty and opened a new era of the alliance. Ever since, the Korean people rose from the ruins of war to build a thriving nation. At every step, America has stood together with Korea.

We have many reasons to celebrate our platinum anniversary. We had no guarantees of success when we started, but today our alliance is stronger than ever, more prosperous together, and more connected like no other. Indeed, it has been the lynchpin safeguarding our freedom, peace, and prosperity.

Once a recipient of aid, Korea is the only nation in modern history to become a donor. This itself demonstrates the success of our alliance.

Let me talk about the history of our alliance. The ties of our cooperation and exchange span over 140 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1882.

In the late 19th century, American missionaries helped to widely introduce the values of freedom and solidarity to Korea. These values are the foundations of Korea's Constitution. They have made a huge impact on our independence movement and the founding of Korea.

Horace Underwood, Henry Appenzeller, Mary Scranton, and Rosetta Hall are some of the missionaries who set foot in Korea at the end of the 19th century. They built schools and hospitals. They promoted education of women. Their efforts laid the foundations for many Korean women to advance into society as educators, journalists, and doctors.

In the early 1960s, the Kennedy administration recommended Professor Rostow's model for economic growth. President Park Chung-hee wisely embraced the idea and pushed economic development forward. It laid the foundation for Korea to become an industrialized country.

Known as the ''Miracle on the Han River,'' Korea's economic growth rate was unrivaled. Korea was one of the

least developed countries after the war. Its annual income was just U.S. $67 per capita. Now its economy ranks 10th in the world.

Seoul was once reduced to ashes. Now it is one of the world's most vibrant digital cities.

Busan was once flooded with war refugees. Now it is the world's second largest port city in terms of transshipment volume. It is also bidding to host the World Expo 2030.

Korea is winning the hearts of global citizens. It is dynamic. Freedom is thriving and democracy is robust.

Korea and the U.S. have joined forces to safeguard freedom and democracy throughout the world. Since World War II, Korea dispatched its warriors of freedom. We fought side-by-side with the U.S. in Afghanistan, Iraq, and others.

For over 70 years in the history of the alliance, we worked together in military and security sectors. We also expanded our cooperation in the economic field. Our relationship has evolved from one of unilateral assistance to a partnership that is mutually beneficial.

The KORUS FTA was approved with the full support of the U.S. Congress in 2011. Since then, our bilateral trade has increased by 68 percent. Korean companies' investment in America has tripled. U.S. companies' investment in Korea has nearly doubled.

Korean companies are contributing to vitalize the U.S. economy. They are producing EV batteries, semiconductors, cars, and other products here in America. And more importantly, they are creating decent, well-paying jobs.

Take Austin, Texas: Samsung's semiconductor plant has created nearly 10,000 jobs as of 2020.

Take Bryan County, Georgia: Hyundai's EV and battery plant is expected to be operational by late 2024. It will produce 300,000 electric vehicles every year, and it will employ thousands of Americans.

Take Bay City, Michigan: It is home to SK Siltron CSS, where President Biden visited. It is an example of Korean and American companies merging to achieve even greater growth.

I hope to see more economic cooperation in the other parts of America. In this regard, I count on your keen interest and support.

My friends, years of active cultural and people-to-people exchanges have deepened our friendship. This year also marks the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration to the U.S.

Early Korean immigrants arrived as workers on sugar cane plantations in Hawaii. Since then, Korean Americans have made their way into many parts of the American society. They have played an important role fostering closer friendship and writing the history of our alliance.

Representatives YOUNG KIM, ANDY KIM, MICHELLE STEEL, and MARILYN STRICKLAND are here with us. They are a testament to the alliance spanning generations; that is two for each party. It is a relief that you are evenly praised across the aisle.

Even more, culture is helping to further deepen our understanding and friendship. Nationality and language differences are no longer barriers.

Korean movies ''Parasite'' and ''Minari'' have won Oscars. Hollywood films ''Top Gun'' and ''The Avengers'' are loved by Koreans. I also loved ''Top Gun: Maverick'' and ''Mission Impossible.''

Even if you didn't know my name, you may know BTS and BLACKPINK. BTS beat me to the White House, but I beat them to Capitol Hill. Korean and American singers reaching high places in each other's music charts is no longer a surprise.

The U.S. created global platforms like Netflix. Korea has produced popular series such as ''Squid Game.'' We are creating a new pattern of synergy.

These cultural exchanges have brought our peoples closer. According to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Americans' positive views of Korea reached the highest level since 1978. According to a Pew survey last year, Koreans' positive views of the U.S. reached 89 percent. It marks the largest increase among all the countries surveyed.

Korea and the U.S. agreed to set up an assistance program for our students. It will help them to study and find jobs actively in each other's country.

Honorable Members of Congress, I have had two careers in my life. My first job was as a public prosecutor. My second job is serving as the President of my beloved country.

As prosecutor, my role model was the late Robert Morgenthau. He was the real-life character of District Attorney Adam Schiff in ''Law & Order.'' When I was the prosecutor general, I printed a book titled ''Robert Morgenthau: America's Eternal Attorney.'' I shared it with my junior prosecutors.

In the preface, I included the phrase: ''an attorney who is silent in the face of great evil will not even stop pickpockets in the neighborhood.''

Today, our democracy is at risk.

Democracy is a community's political decisionmaking system to protect freedom and human rights. Such decisionmaking must be based on truths and freely formed public opinion.

But today in many parts of the world, false propaganda and disinformation are distorting the truth and public opinion. They are threatening democracy.

The rule of law allows the freedoms of everyone to coexist. It is upheld by parliamentary democracy.

False propaganda and disinformation corrupt intellectualism. They threaten democracy and the rule of law.

Such totalitarian forces may conceal and disguise themselves as defenders of democracy or human rights. But in reality, they deny freedom and democracy.

We must not be fooled by such deception and disguise.

We have for so long protected democracy and the rule of law with our blood and sweat. We must work together and fight the forces of falsehood and deception that seek to destroy democracy and the rule of law.

Those who cherish freedom also protect the freedom of others. Thus, freedom brings peace. Peace, in turn, safeguards freedom. Freedom and peace are sources of creativity and innovation. They bring prosperity and abundance.

Our alliance was forged 70 years ago to defend Korea's freedom. The alliance has now become a global alliance that safeguards freedom and peace around the world. Korea will fulfill its responsibilities. It will play its part that matches its economic capacity.

In his 1961 inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy said: ''My fellow citizens of the world: Ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.''

Korea will stand in solidarity with the international community. We will do what we can for the freedom of humanity.

Korea, with the U.S., will march toward the future.

As I took office last year, I pledged to rebuild Korea: a nation belonging to the people rooted in freedom, democracy, and market economy; a nation that the people can be truly proud of as it fulfills its role as a responsible member of the international community.

Together with the U.S., Korea will play the role as a ''compass for freedom.'' It will safeguard and broaden the freedom of citizens of the world.

But even as we walked in unison for freedom for 70 years, there is one regime determined to pursue a wrong path. That is North Korea.

The difference is stark between Seoul that chose freedom and democracy and Pyongyang that chose dictatorship and communism. North Korea has abandoned freedom and prosperity and dismissed peace.

North Korea's nuclear program and missile provocations pose a serious threat to the peace on the Korean Peninsula and beyond.

To deter its reckless behavior, the alliance must stand united with determination. As President Reagan once said: ''There is a price we will not pay. There is a point beyond which they must not advance.'' We must make his words clear to North Korea.

Yesterday, President Biden and I agreed to strengthen the U.S. extended deterrence. Along with close Korea-U.S. coordination, we need to speed up Korea-U.S.-Japan trilateral security cooperation to counter increasing North Korean nuclear threats.

My government will respond firmly to provocations. But at the same time, we will keep the door open for dialogue on North Korea's denuclearization.

Last year, I proposed the Audacious Initiative. It will significantly improve North Korea's economy and livelihood. All Pyongyang has to do is to stop its

nuclear program and begin a substantive denuclearization process.

I once again urge North Korea to cease its provocations and take the right path. Korea, with the U.S., will continue to work for North Korea's denuclearization.

North Korea's obsession with nuclear weapons and missiles is throwing its population into a severe economic crisis and human rights abuses.

We must raise global awareness of the dire human rights situation in North Korea. We must not shy away from our duty to promote freedom for North Koreans.

Last month, my government published a report on North Korean human rights. We released it to the public for the first time.

The report documents a wide range of abuses in North Korea. It is based on the testimonies of 508 North Korean defectors collected over the past 5 years. It records many cases of serious violations of international norms such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights agreements.

Unspeakable and horrendous incidents took place: men and women being shot and killed for violating COVID–19 prevention measures; some being publicly executed for watching and sharing South Korean shows; and people being shot in public for possessing the Bible and having faith.

We need to raise awareness. We must inform the world of the gravity of North Korea's human rights violations. I ask for your help in improving North Korea's grim conditions.

My friends, freedom and democracy are once again under threat. The war against Ukraine is a violation of international law. It is an attempt to unilaterally change the status quo with force. Korea strongly condemns the unprovoked armed attack against Ukraine.

When North Korea invaded us in 1950, democracies came running to help us. We fought together and kept our freedom. The rest is history.

Korea's experience shows us just how important it is for democracies to uphold solidarity. Korea will stand in solidarity with the free world. We will actively work to safeguard the freedom of the people of Ukraine and support their efforts in reconstruction.

Honorable Members of Congress, so far six Korean Presidents spoke at this important Chamber. The first Korean President, Dr. Rhee Syngman, delivered his speech in 1954. After 35 years, in 1989, President Roh Tae-woo standing at this podium said the following:

''The nations of the Pacific have made open society and market economy the engines that drive the fastest growing region in the world. The Pacific will become even more important to the U.S., and Korea will begin to contribute more to the prosperity and peace of the region. . . . I look forward to the day when some future Korean Presidents may be invited to address this distinguished assembly and describe the vision I spoke of today as an achievement fulfilled, not as tomorrow's hope.''

President Roh's vision has become a reality.

We are currently living in the Indo-Pacific era. This region is home to 65 percent of the global population and 62 percent of the world GDP. It accounts for half of global maritime transportation.

Last year, Korea announced its first comprehensive Indo-Pacific Strategy. Korea is committed to fostering a ''free, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific'' based on inclusiveness, trust, and reciprocity.

We will strengthen the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. We will take a comprehensive and multilayered approach in expanding cooperation with key partners.

This also means that the stage for the alliance is expanding.

Korea used to receive assistance from USAID. It is now sharing its experience with developing countries in partnership with the U.S. Korea has greatly increased its ODA budget. It is providing tailored programs in tune with the needs of its partners.

Yesterday, President Biden and I adopted a joint statement. It presents a vision of the ''alliance in action towards the future.''

Together, our two countries will broaden our alliance.

Together, we will lead in innovation beyond security and foreign policy. We will work closely on artificial intelligence, quantum technology, bioscience, and Open RAN.

Our partnership in the cutting-edge semiconductor industry will contribute to establishing stable and resilient supply chains. It will also address economic uncertainties.

Together, we will open another new successful chapter. We will explore new frontiers in outer space and cyberspace.

Korea and the U.S. are the world's top technological powers leading innovation and creativity. Together, we will create a great synergy.

Mr. Speaker, Madam Vice President, and Honorable Members of Congress, our alliance is an alliance of universal values. Freedom, human rights, and democracy are the very foundations of our bonds.

Our alliance is for justice.

Our alliance is for peace.

Our alliance is for prosperity.

Together, our alliance will continue to move towards the future.

We will build the world of tomorrow that opens endless opportunities for our future generations.

I look forward to everyone being on board for our new journey together.

God bless you, God bless the United States of America, and may God bless our great alliance.

Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m., His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Acting Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1230

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON) at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(C) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE ALL UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, OTHER THAN UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY, FROM SOMALIA

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of April 26, 2023, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 30) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove all United States Armed Forces, other than United States Armed Forces assigned to protect the United States Embassy, from Somalia, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, April 26, 2023, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 30

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, pursuant to section

5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)), Congress directs the President to remove all United States Armed Forces, other than United States Armed Forces assigned to protect the United States Embassy, from Somalia by not later than the date that is 365 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 80 minutes, with 20 minutes controlled by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), 20 minutes controlled by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), and 40 minutes controlled by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ), or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) will control 20 minutes, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) will control 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) will control 40 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will start by commending both gentlemen from Florida for their concern about our Nation's ongoing military engagements. It is one I share as a veteran of the global war on terrorism.

Unfortunately, there are no silver bullets in policymaking, and when we try to make one, we usually end up shooting ourselves in the foot. It is for this reason and this reason alone that I stand in opposition.

I served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as an attack helicopter pilot. As a combat veteran, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that no one hates war more than those who have come face-to-face with it. I do not look back on the days of American military overreach and intervention in the Middle East with nostalgia.

That said, as a West Point graduate, I understand history and the lessons it teaches. The siren song of isolationism is tempting, but allowing vacuums of American influence around the world to be filled by terrorists and exploited by communists is a direct threat to Americans at home.

While each Presidential administration has made errors in the conduct of its foreign policy since the tragedies of 9/11 22 years ago, the most egregious of these errors is continuing to concede America's diplomatic leverage and allowing our agricultural, manufacturing, and energy independence to erode.

It is Congress, this body, that has lazily conceded its constitutional duty to guard its war powers jealously from the executive branch. Congress' failure to hold each administration this century accountable for their vague, broad, and failing foreign policies may force Congress to exercise our war powers again in my lifetime.

That is why I agree with Mr. GAETZ, in large part, that war should never be on autopilot nor open-ended. Americans have the right and Congress has the responsibility to understand and approve of the sacrifice that we will be asking our country to make.

Our servicemembers are real people with families. They are sons and daughters. Many weren't even born when 9/11 occurred.

Congress needs to do its job, but it needs to do its job the right way. That is why, rather than continuing an open-ended, 22-year-old law, I believe we must work together to first replace it with an Authorization for Use of Military Force that focuses on today's critical terrorist threats and requires Congress to stay engaged.

We must prioritize first building an America that is strong at home, or we will never have hope of being strong abroad.

Regrettably, my friends, today's resolution does little toward those ends. It will merely direct the removal of U.S. forces from Somalia. That will not work.

Less than 2 years ago, we saw what happens when we pull troops with no plan. Joe Biden's botched Afghanistan withdrawal forced our troops to abandon billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded military equipment. It resulted in 13 young American servicemembers dead. It left hundreds of thousands of American veterans who served in Afghanistan wondering if their efforts were in vain. It embarrassed America on the world stage and left a gaping hole that China and the Taliban rushed to fill in.

What have we learned? The Biden administration responded with the Commander in Chief checking his watch during a dignified transfer of servicemembers killed, and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin claiming he had no regrets about the withdrawal.

What have we learned?

Lest my argument be debased or derided as petty partisanship, let me flip the script.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, what happened the last time Republicans tried to repeal something without a plan to replace it?

I tell you the truth: What happened then will pale in comparison to the consequences of ceding the global strategic high ground of the future to those who mean to harm us.

I will be the first to argue that we have become overdependent on the military rather than investing in ourselves, in our industrial base at home, wielding diplomacy, and harnessing economic statecraft as our tools of first resort.

There is no global stability when America is economically weak and militarily impulsive and has a reputation of retreat. The most devastating effect of abandoning our allies—even now, thousands of our fellow Americans are on the battlefield—is that our friends don't trust us and our enemies no longer fear us. If we want nations around the world to choose America instead of dictators and despots, we must give them a reason to do so.

This premature withdrawal from Somalia will be a great victory for a dangerous al-Qaida affiliate that seeks the death of America.

There is another group of adversaries to keep in mind, as well. Russia and the Communist Party of China would like nothing more than to see the U.S. take a foreign policy of isolationism. There is already a Chinese military base on the east coast of Djibouti. There are reports of more coming to the west coast of Africa, which will pose a direct threat to America.

If we cavalierly withdraw from Africa, the CCP will rush to fill in the void like they did in Afghanistan. By emboldening terrorists, Russia, and Communist China, this resolution would harm the national security of the United States.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from Florida's initiative for forcing this long-overdue debate. I also applaud leadership for allowing it to come to the floor.

I invite the gentleman to work with me to end this executive overreach of over two decades, to pull back our war powers and Article I authority under the Constitution in a way that truly puts America first. As it stands today, regretfully, this resolution will not strengthen America at home or keep her safe abroad.

It is for that reason, and again, that reason alone, that I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Con. Res. 30.

This resolution was drafted in such a way that it is simultaneously overbroad and underinclusive. The resolution fails to end our involvement in hostilities in the region while preventing crucial security cooperation with local partners in Somalia.

The resolution states that the United States forces must withdraw from Somalia, unless they are there for the purposes of protecting the Embassy.

Historically, war powers resolutions such as this are thought of as attempting to force the President to withdraw American troops from a foreign country that are actively engaged in combat, but our forces on the ground in Somalia are there to provide security training and intelligence support.

Our footprint in Somalia is not large. We have several hundred troops stationed in the country primarily to train host-nation troops in countering terrorism.

The sponsor of this legislation sometimes references the lost blood and

treasure from our overseas engagements. These are obviously essential considerations. It is why I supported President Biden's decision to end the war in Afghanistan. But no American has been killed in Somalia in over 4 years, and our security cooperation and assistance to the country amounts to a rounding error in the Federal budget.

It is a fact that Al-Shabaab and other terrorist organizations like ISIS control large swaths of territory in Somalia, but local forces from the Somali Government and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia have made steady gains the past several years. United States forces have been instrumental in some of these changes because of the very training and intelligence support we provide to local forces on the ground.

By mandating that our forces cease security cooperation in Somalia, this resolution would roll back some of the gains that have been made to take back territory from terrorist organizations in the past several years.

This measure doesn't end American hostilities in the region. It includes nothing about removing American forces from other nations in the region where groups like Al-Shabaab operate, and it does nothing to address over-the-horizon strikes.

While I disagree with this measure, let me say that what I do agree with is that we are having this debate. It is one that is long overdue. American forces have been in Somalia and other parts of the world without proper engagement from the United States Congress.

While I understand the logic that both Republican and Democratic administrations have used to include groups like Al-Shabaab under the 2001 AUMF, I can tell you that Members of Congress did not believe that they were authorizing force against Al-Shabaab when we passed the legislation decades ago. I can tell you this not just because I was here when Congress voted on that AUMF but because Al-Shabaab didn't even exist in September 2001.

I believe, though, that the proper way to address the issues of matters of war and peace in Somalia is not through a legally dubious resolution such as this. I agree with Representative JAMES in this, and we should work together, all three of us, I believe, because the right way to address this issue is through a repeal of the 2001 AUMF and its replacement with a narrow force authorization that provides the President authority to combat selected terrorists in selected countries where the United States' national security is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced just such a resolution, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on that. H.J. Res. 52, which narrows the list of terrorist organizations the executive branch can strike, limits the number of countries in which we could engage in hostilities, places curbs on executive branch additions of associated forces and successor groups, and includes a sunset requiring Congress to reauthorize the legislation.

□ 1245

Reasserting Congress' proper role over matters of war and peace while ensuring that the President has the necessary authorities to strike those who mean to do us harm can be and is a tough balance to strike. I believe wholeheartedly it is our responsibility to make some of those hard decisions. We cannot punt it or give it off just to the executive. I am willing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strike a balance.

Let's take a look at H.J. Res. 52. From the debate we are having today, I think that we have some of the basics of what we agree with, that it is this body that the Constitution empowered to make sure there are checks and balances on the executive.

Unfortunately, I cannot say that about H. Con. Res. 30 before us today. Therefore, I must oppose this legislation, urge my colleagues to do the same. Let's come together as Members of the United States House of Representatives and take our responsibility. Let's repeal and replace the 2001 AUMF and move forward.

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

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

It is a great honor to participate in this debate with my esteemed colleague, Mr. MEEKS, of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and with a great patriot such as Mr. JAMES of Michigan.

I welcome the American people to the second part in a legislative series we are conducting about all of the places on the planet Earth where Congress still believes that 9/11 justifies current U.S. troop presence in 2023.

The first in that series was Syria. I came to this floor, only got about 103 votes, but I made the argument that our troops were essentially sitting ducks, guarding oil extraction operations where their presence was known and where their location was easily identifiable. I called for a withdrawal. That withdrawal was defeated. Then what happened is precisely what I predicted, more U.S. casualties from Iranian drones, exactly what I said would occur. It is with no joy I say that.

I know all of us would take any policy decision we could to reduce U.S. casualties, and I think this debate will present an excellent opportunity to reflect on Somalia in that light.

There are currently 900 U.S. troops in Somalia, give or take, and this resolution would bring them home.

Somalia is a country of 17 million who have been tortured at times by Al-Shabaab, a group of roughly 7,000 hardened fighters and even more sympathizers. But to logically believe any of the arguments that my colleagues are making, you have to believe that 900 U.S. troops is what is going to save a country of 17 million from a hardened group of 7,000. I think that strains not only logic but understanding of the history of Somalia, a country that has oscillated between failed state and just absolute coup revolution over and over again, civil war, and sectarian violence.

The future of Somalia must be determined by Somalia. To the extent that foreign influences could be helpful, I would argue that the African Union is far better positioned to build a stronger sense of national identity and national unity among clans that have been warring in Somalia for generations than U.S. troops. I have yet to see the evidence that U.S. troops are the essential element to fusing relationships among warring African warlords, clans, and tribes.

Now, the British controlled Somalia, and in nearly half a century since, we have seen a constant state of despair.

So what is the end state for our military presence in Somalia?

Are we going to be the block captain of Mogadishu, presumably forever, until we beat the last sympathy for Al-Shabaab out of the last heart of the last Somali?

That was the argument with Syria and ISIS; we have to stay in Syria because there are still people who believe the ISIS ideology.

Mr. Speaker, I would argue that the U.S. military is not an effective capability to deploy to defeat an ideology. We are not able to permanently stabilize countries by having a presence that can at times be the very basis for the terrorism recruitment that we seem to work against.

There is also an opportunity cost to being in Somalia that I would like to share with the body. I represent constituents who are part of these missions, these train, equip, and advise missions throughout Africa. Increasingly, they are having to enter the INDOPACOM to get analysis and research on the best communication skills, tactical skills and strategic skills that would be necessary if conflict were to erupt in the INDOPACOM theater.

What I have observed firsthand is that at times, some of our best and brightest are having to go split squad, where some are wandering about Africa on train-and-equip missions. Then there is less of a focused capability in places where I think America must hold the high ground to ensure the enduring success of our Nation.

My colleague from the other side of the aisle made mention of the training that America does in Africa and how critical it is. The problem is, far too often, we are training the next generation of coup leaders. We haven't figured that out yet. I got to ask the question of the leader of AFRICOM: Why so many people who are leading coups in Africa were trained by Americans? He was unable to identity even current leaders of African countries, that they were trained by Americans or that they participated in coups.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a piece from The Intercept: ''AFRICOM Chief to Congress: We share 'core values' with coup leaders.''

[From The Intercept, April 10, 2023]

AFRICOM CHIEF TO CONGRESS: WE SHARE ''CORE VALUES'' WITH COUP LEADERS

(By Nick Turse)

In Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire last month, 1,300 U.S., NATO, and African troops met for tactical and mock raids as part of Flintlock 2023, an annual exercise sponsored by U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, or SOCAFRICA. Among the countries participating was Burkina Faso, which has been restricted from receiving substantial U.S. security aid since an officer trained by Americans at previous Flintlock exercises overthrew his democratically elected government in a coup last year.

U.S. military officials have spent the last month trying to explain this curious state of affairs to Congress and the press. Flintlock provides a ''critical training opportunity'' for special operations forces from the U.S. and Africa and a chance to ''exchange best practices,'' Rear Adm. Milton ''Jamie'' Sands, the chief of SOCAFRICA, told The Intercept and other reporters on a conference call last month. He didn't mention that, by the Pentagon's own assessments, militant Islamist attacks in the Sahel have spiked and security has plummeted across West Africa since SOCAFRICA began Flintlock trainings in 2005. ''The Sahel now accounts for 40 percent of all violent activity by militant Islamist groups in Africa, more than any other region in Africa,'' reads a recent report: by the Defense Department's Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

The four-star general in charge of U.S. Africa Command, or AFRICOM, meanwhile, told the House Armed Services Committee that only a small percentage of U.S.-trained officers overthrow their governments—while admitting he didn't know the exact number. This prompted farright Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., to ask, ''Why should U.S. taxpayers be paying to train people who then lead coups in Africa?''

Flintlock attendees have conducted at least five coups in the last eight years. Since 2008, in fact, U.S.-trained officers have attempted at least nine coups (and succeeded in at least eight) across five West African countries, including Burkina Faso (three times), Guinea, Mali (three times), Mauritania, and the Gambia.

Before he toppled Burkina Faso's democratically elected president in 2022, for example, Lt. Col. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba attended Flintlock exercises in 2010 and 2020, according to AFRICOM. A fellow Flintlock 2010 attendee, Gen. Gilbert Diendéré, overthrew the government of Burkina Faso in 2015.

Just a year after he attended Flintlock 2019, Col. Assimi Goïta headed the junta that overthrew Mali's government. After staging that coup, Goïta stepped down and took the job of vice president in a transitional government tasked with returning Mali to civilian rule. But nine months later, he seized power for a second time.

Another alum of Flintlock 2019, Col. Mamady Doumbouya, served as a Guinean unit commander during the exercise, according to AFRICOM. In 2021, members of Doumbouya's unit took time out from being trained in small unit tactics and the law of armed conflict by Green Berets to storm the presidential palace and depose their country's 83-year-old president, Alpha Condé. Doumbouya soon declared himself Guinea's new leader. The U.S. ended the training and distanced itself from the coup.

''Core values is what we start off with,'' Gen. Michael Langley, the AFRICOM chief, told the House Armed Services Committee last month.

''Do we share those values with Col. Doumbouya?'' asked Gaetz.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, in this piece, it highlights five countries—Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Gambia—where the very people who led the coups were the very people who received this training from the United States.

I would note that any comparison here to Afghanistan is sorely misplaced. This legislation provides one year to remove 900 people. That is far different than unwinding the double helix that was our multidecade engagement with Afghanistan.

I agree with the sentiment that my colleague Mr. JAMES stated, that our friends must trust us and our enemies must fear us. But what I have observed, after 20 years of American war in the Middle East and in North Africa, is that our enemies often mock us when we try to be the world's policeman and the world's piggy bank. That should not be the goal of our country. We should not be engaged in nation-building in Somalia, the Middle East, or elsewhere.

These 900 U.S. troops have no end state. They are engaging in largely police force operations. I suggest they should come home, and a vote for this resolution would do that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague, Mr. GAETZ. He makes a series of great points. The greatest, I believe, is our military cannot be used to fight an ideology. Unlimited war without checking by Congress is unconstitutional, and we must come up with a better solution, which is why the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and me, as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, recognizes that the DOD doesn't exist in a vacuum. We recognize that the State Department and USAID are present in building civilian leaders and institutions. We understand these institutions must work together with different mandates, and we are not shooting our way out of Somalia. We must provide additional ways to fix the problem.

I agree we cannot fight ideology with military. I look forward to working with all sides to figure out exactly how we can strengthen our ties to make sure that we have partners and move from aid to trade with a long-term partner.

We had a rousing speech from the President of South Korea just an hour ago where he mentioned the great aid that the United States taxpayers and the great investment that we have made over decades and years in South Korea. Now as a shining example, they are the 10th most wealthy country in the world because of America, our great generosity, and because we are exceptional.

I think we have a remarkable opportunity to do that and show that America truly should be the first choice and first option for folks around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition, but I agree with my distinguished colleague from Florida that Congress has an obligation to review it. Congress should not abdicate our responsibility. We should ask the tough questions. Ultimately, we should provide the funding necessary and the resources to win. That is our job, and I agree with you 100 percent.

But as a commander, they are doing more than just guarding an embassy. A force structure of 900 may seem like a large footprint, but those of us who remember Black Hawk Down would suggest otherwise.

A force requires medevac. Those medevacs require people that service those aircraft. In case we get in trouble, we need a quick reaction force, a force large enough to defend our troops. I, like my colleagues, know that if you were to put any American servicemen in harm's way, you want to ensure we have the adequate force to make sure they are recovered safely. They also have to be fed and have communications. In order to have an effective force, you need a footprint that can do its mission.

I also agree that we should have a plan. Before we unplug our obligations, we should know what unplugging it does and when, and also we should have a plan on what our obligations are.

So much of this discussion is a discussion among similar views. We do have an obligation for freedom. We have a commitment to democracy that when we provide a force to defend that democracy, and it is American force and our allies, that we provide them with a force package that can win.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to oppose this well-intended resolution. I do ask that we work as a body to uphold our duty as Congress to make sure that the authorizations we give the executive are both appropriate, timely, and do so to win.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me just say, this debate is long overdue. We happen to be talking about the AUMF. I would hope that we end up having more debates on this floor talking about the continent of Africa, who has long been left off the debate in the United States Congress, which is a continent that we have got to focus on. I look forward to working with Mr. JAMES as the chair of that subcommittee.

We need to focus on the stability of Africa, the stability of its governments and its institutions, because if we don't, it is at our own danger. We should be doing it because it is the right thing. We should be listening to those allies that we have on the continent and to those Presidents, because

they are the ones who are at threat and in danger of being destroyed by terrorist groups who have now moved over the continent.

We have got to have this debate more and more and make sure that Africa is on our front burner, not our back burner. Because if Africa continues to be on our back burner, we will see Russia and China, as Mr. JAMES has indicated, and others jumping in. We will see Wagner coming in to secure these countries. Let's have this debate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), who came to the United States from the continent of Africa.

□ 1300

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 30, the Somalia war powers resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the chairman, a real debate about U.S. policy in Somalia and in Africa is long overdue. It is debate that should include a serious discussion of our long-term strategy for supporting stability and self-governance. It should include clear-eyed analysis of U.S. counterterrorism policies, including air strikes and drones, and the consistent problem of civilian casualties of U.S. operations.

Congress is also overdue for a debate about the expansive use of the 2001 AUMF, which the executive branch claims includes operations in Somalia.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House today does not address these significant issues. It is a narrow question of the withdrawal of a few hundred troops.

Given President Hassan's renewed efforts to eradicate Al-Shabaab, the resolution does include a long enough timeline to ensure that operations that we are partnering with can be ended responsibly.

While we should not mistake this poorly crafted resolution for an honest assessment of U.S. policy in Somalia, it is important that we support the question before us.

Mr. Speaker, I and many Somali Americans support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the gentleman from New York that we will have a more fulsome discussion regarding the continent of Africa because the next in our legislative series may very well be Niger. We will have that opportunity, as well.

To my colleague from Minnesota, I think she really hits the nail on the head that the partnerships between the existing government in Somalia and the clans that exist throughout the country is the essential glue to resist the violence and destabilization that we see from Al-Shabaab.

It is my belief that the government's entrees to those groups to get them to not side with Al-Shabaab are not facilitated by extensive U.S. presence. I just don't believe that to get one group of Somalis to stop killing another group of Somalis that the essential ingredient is us.

It may be other African influencers to a positive extent, but there is great wisdom in what the gentlewoman shared regarding the utility of those partnerships and relationships.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) for yielding. I also thank my colleagues, Mr. JAMES and Mr. ZINKE for their service. They, like myself, are combat veterans who understand the total cost of warfare.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into my statement, I will address a couple of things that were mentioned by my colleagues here today. We talked about the idea that we are here to preserve freedoms and we are here to preserve democracy. Let's talk about our role in democracy.

We went into Iraq in 2003 under the auspice that we were there for weapons of mass destruction and to liberate the people of Iraq. Only 2 years later did we supplement this with the 2005 Iraq Constitution, whereby article 76, in its own design, created sectarian democracy that gave rise to the Iranian control which ultimately gave rise to China's domination.

We are not a nation-building element. We are warfighters. We are there to conduct counterterrorism operations when needed, but only at the expense that it is to the benefit of the American national security and U.S. interests.

He talked about timely. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, we started our operations in Mogadishu in the early 1990s. We started the operations in Afghanistan in 2001, and we started the operations in Iraq in 2003. So by what definition do we determine is timely?

The idea that my colleague—and rightfully so, and I agree with him—Mr. JAMES said about the repeal and replace piece of the AUMF, which I do view as an abdication of our roles and responsibilities as legislators under the Constitution in Article I, Clause 8, it does have a replacement, and I just stated it. It is called the United States Constitution war authorities.

At no point in time can you find in the Constitution whereby it says we can repeal our rights as legislators under the Constitution to put in something which abdicates our roles and responsibilities for 20-plus years on an AUMF that was designed, and now being abused, by Presidents on the left and the right, who have been using it for its unintended purposes.

While I agree with my colleague, Mr. GAETZ, that Afghanistan is completely not relevant to the discussion that was made, we are talking about an area whereby President Biden utilized political optics over military strategy, endangering the lives of our military, when we know that it was a conditions-based withdrawal.

One thing was actually stated that is correct, which is the threat in which China possesses when it comes to the African Continent and that a vacuum could be created. Let's go ahead and focus on what China's ultimate goal is because it is not kinetics. It is not about the bomb-to-bomb, gun-to-gun, or bullet-to-bullet mechanism.

It is about the economic and resource warfare impact. It is about the Belt and Road Initiative, which expands out the Eurasian border, takes over Africa, Oceania, cuts off the Western Hemisphere's supply chain in an effort to utilize the WHO, WEF, and OPEC to eliminate the U.S. dollar from the global currency.

Let us address that issue. It is not one that is done by kinetics and warfighters, but by a whole-of-nation approach that deals with Treasury, that deals with the economic build-out, that deals with strengthening the industrial base at home, which stops the reliance on the very adversaries that we pay to slap us around every day.

The idea that we are going to play this terrorist whack-a-mole where every time one pops, we send a new force, it does nothing to actually try and help with stabilization. Let's talk about our interactions.

We had a terrorist organization known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which was based in a small portion in the Gulf of Aden out in Yemen. It wasn't until our drone strikes that caused numerous civilian casualties did we not play right into the ideology that Americans are here to destroy us and kill us due to our religious beliefs.

We were actually the reason that al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula continued to grow. My colleague on the left—who I have a great deal of respect for and we sit on the Foreign Affairs Committee—Mr. MEEKS, he talks about the fact that we have had no Americans killed in Somalia. That is absolutely false.

In fact, we just had another soldier killed in 2018 as a result of an explosion that resulted in three more. Also in 2017, we had three more killed that were there. As someone who has had to go visit Arlington Cemetery on many occasions to see my brothers that are no longer here with me today, I don't think that we need to spare one more life of American bloodshed in an effort that we don't have a clear, strategic military objective to begin with.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we look at not being isolationists, as we are always called and considered, but also not interventionists. Our goal is to be protectionists; protection of our constitutional rights, our sovereignty, and the American people. That is our role.

We keep talking about this 2001 AUMF that we are to repeal. Let's go through this. In 2019, the amendment to the 2020 NDAA to repeal the 2002 AUMF was stripped out in its final version. On November 14, 2018, the resolution introduced to assert Congress' war power authorities in Yemen, the Rules Committee stripped the resolution and its procedural privilege.

Soon after, the Rules Committee stripped privilege from all war power resolutions for the remainder of the 115th Congress.

We keep talking about what we are going to do, but I have seen very little action. This is one of the reasons I ran for Congress because there are too many politicians who like to talk and not enough statesmen who are willing to act.

I know a little thing about action, considering that between my military and government experience I spent over 7 years of my life in Iraq, almost 3 years of my life in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Pakistan, and guess what, northern Somalia and the Puntland areas of Hargeisa and Berbera.

I can tell you very clearly that what we are doing right now in our procedures is not making us safer. We must start to look at a real change in order to protect America, stop abdicating our roles and responsibilities, and start leading from the front.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I think this is what we call a violent agreement. We need to fix the ills of the past with a solution for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, this is one of my favorite debates. In my short time in Congress, and even in observing Congress, here you have people from both sides of the aisle actually taking opposition to each other so we can have a real conversation. There are people that I respect on my side of the aisle and people that I respect and disagree with on the other side of the aisle having a real debate that has little to do with partisanship but really about principle. It is refreshing.

Much like H.R. 21, which was probably the most fascinating vote we have taken to date since I have been in Congress, we actually had a Republican, somebody whose credentials as a conservative are not questioned at all, who had more people from the Democratic Party vote for his bill than from the Republican Party. He had the squad vote for him and his bill. That is bipartisanship in a certain way.

Yet, we have this debate right now in a similar fashion on Somalia. This is not a place that is unknown to me. I was there during part of the U.N. withdrawal in 1994 off the coast on the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. I spent time in Entebbe, Uganda, as part of Operation Restore Hope when we had our problem with Rwanda. Africa is a place of many troubled nations. There is no doubt about it.

The question we have today is: What is good for America?

This isn't about nation-building. This is about protecting our Nation. This is a debate over whether we are going to save lives or lose lives that are American by what our actions are in the near future; and into the future of how we plan our force structure and what we deploy with around the world.

I am very much concerned that if we are not in these regions, especially in Somalia, which is one of the most war-torn areas we know of, that we will have an increase in terrorist activities. When you see a country like Afghanistan and the way it is deteriorating right now—you have 27 terrorist cells training there—because of the lack of presence of good guys trying to make sure that bad guys don't propagate and proliferate and making sure they are not recruiting people and sending people over here to do harm to us, it is a minor miracle that we haven't had another 9/11 in so long.

If you think about it, the incredible work that we have had done by our intel community and our Special Forces and other Americans around the world to circumvent that from happening is nothing short of Herculean.

I would make the case that because we have forces all around the world, we have been a safer place. We have saved American lives. This isn't about building a nation of 17 million people. This is about protecting the Nation of 330 million people.

I want to make sure that we are clear in this argument that this is not about seeking war. No one who spent time in the military wants war. I spent over 20 years in the military myself. I spent years away from my family, as well. I served with three different forces: Marine Corps, Army, and Navy. Nobody wants war less than I do.

Nobody wants to see Americans killed more than any military commander. As a matter of fact, when we send these people, it is not because a politician wants to go over there. Usually it is because a general or an area commander has requested these troops in collaboration with each other. We are talking about decades of experience in the region, and they understand what is at stake. They don't want war. They don't want American troops to lose their lives.

As a matter of fact, they are judged historically on how many American lives they save, on how many American troops that they don't put in harm's way. This isn't about seeking war. This is about avoiding war. This isn't about protecting their nation. It is protecting our Nation.

We have an obligation to watch over this great Nation of ours. I think it is not by pulling back, but engaging in other countries in a way we can work together to protect American lives, both civilian and military.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify for Mr. MILLS that when I mentioned we had not had any deaths in Somalia, I said in the last 4 years. I was acknowledging what happened before. In the last 4 years we have not lost any American troops in Somalia.

Let me also say, as I said earlier, I am happy that we are having this debate and talking about the continent of Africa. If we do that, we have to listen to the African—I can just recall, and sometimes many of my colleagues, especially on the other side of the aisle, argue that we don't get the votes we need at times in the U.N. from African countries.

I recall when we were trying to get votes in regard to Russia's illegal invasion into Ukraine, and I had to call on African ambassadors. They said: Now you are calling? We haven't heard from the United States for a while. Now you want something from me?

□ 1315

We have been asking for assistance in regard to security, and then I watched to see what was taking place when we looked at our diplomacy. It took over two decades before, in the 117th Congress, we passed a State Department authorization bill, and we had to do that through the NDAA as opposed to saying we were going to stand strongly on diplomacy.

Guess what China did during that period of time? They doubled their diplomacy budget.

Guess what else is happening? For the first time, China has more consulates than the United States of America.

General Kelly said that either we do and get engaged in more diplomacy, or we are going to have to spend more money on bullets.

We have an opportunity to engage and listen to allies and work with our allies. Many allies have more, and should have more, responsibility on the continent because they colonized it and are working with us collectively to try to make sure that the Chinas and the Russias of the world are not invested and that we are invested, and we are not.

It is our challenge, and I hope that when we get past this debate, we will be able to have another one. I look forward to doing it, particularly in our committee, so that we can figure out collectively, as Ms. ILHAN OMAR said, how we can work together and listen to make sure that we have an overall strategy.

I say this in regard to both parties. I say this to the administration that should be doing more on the continent of Africa.

So, yes, this is not a partisan debate. This is an American debate. This is an opportunity to be attentive to a continent that is the fastest growing and the youngest on this planet but that we have ignored for far too long.

We have to wake up and do more for the continent of Africa and figure out diplomacy, figure out how we can help protect them from being victimized by terrorism, and figure out how we can strengthen institutions.

We have a lot of work to do. We have to figure out how we reauthorize AGOA, figure out how we work with the African Union, and figure out how we work with the African organizations. That is our challenge because, if not, we imperil ourselves.

I could agree that this is not just an investment in the continent; it is an

investment for America and America's leadership.

Let's lead.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his distinguished leadership as the manager on this floor and, certainly, the proponent of this resolution. I know it came with good intentions.

Let me indicate the wisdom of a young college student some many years ago when I offered to my college for my winning traveling fellowship that I would go to the continent of Africa. Everyone else would go to places well defined and well recognized. I told them that I wanted to take the fellowship that I had received to travel to West Africa, and I did, from then-Togo-and-Dahomey—obviously, changed names to Cote d'Ivoire—to Ghana and Nigeria, and I studied, seeing the potential even then.

I am gratified to be in this Congress to be able to have the leadership of our chairman and our ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee to recognize the cruciality of our purpose on the continent.

It was members of the Congressional Black Caucus who organized to say how important it was under the George W. Bush administration that the Africa Command be set up. It was crucial in the bloody fight in Liberia for that command to be set up, and only without shooting one gun were they able to begin to bring peace.

So, I rise with great concern and opposition to H. Con. Res. 30 because I have realized the importance of the Africa Command because it has elements of diplomacy.

I am glad that President Biden reversed Trump's get-out-of-town and get-out-of-Dodge-quick resolution to, in fact, leave a footprint of 500, who are helping us bring down Al-Shabaab, bring down al-Qaida, and boost up the Somalian partners of which our soldiers are working through and working to degrade Al-Shabaab's ability to plot external operations while building the capacities of our partner.

The rest of Africa is watching. If they try to be peaceful and to stand up a democratic entity, do they have a powerful force like the United States?

I, too, want a full debate on the Authorization for Use of Military Force. I have been here for 9/11 and afterward, and I, too, believe that it is our duty.

What I will say at this time is that we should not remove those troops from Somalia.

I ask my colleague to join with his committee and engage in debate on the AUMF, but I want to protect the Somalian people, Africa, and I want to protect the interests of democracy and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.Con. Res. 30—Directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove all United States Armed Forces, other than United States Armed Forces assigned to protect the United States Embassy, from Somalia.

This concurrent resolution directs the President to remove all U.S. Armed Forces from Somalia, other than those assigned to protect the U.S. embassy in Somalia, within 365 days of the adoption of this concurrent resolution.

Premature withdrawal would risk reversal of critical counterterrorism and governance gain.

Al-Shabaab is al-Qaida's largest and best—financed affiliate in the world and has repeatedly demonstrated its intent and capability to launch lethal and complex attacks against U.S. citizens in east Africa and beyond.

Al-Shabaab has killed more than a dozen U.S. citizens since 2014—more than all of al-Qaida's other affiliates combined during the same period.

U.S. forces, 500–900 working through Somali partners, seek to degrade Al-Shabaab's ability to plot external operations while building the capacities of our partners.

The small but effective U.S. military presence supports a critical counterterrorism mission by working with partners forces.

There is no legal basis for this legislation.

The resolution is based on section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution. But section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution applies only when our forces are engaged in hostilities without statutory basis.

In this case, there a statutory basis for U.S. actions in Somalia, as U.S. forces are supporting hostilities against Al-Shabaab and al-Qaida in Somalia—both of which are covered by the 2001 Authorization to Use Military Force.

Since July 2022, the Federal Government of Somalia has retaken more territory than the previous five years combined.

U.S. military presence is a vital component of efforts to improve local partners capacity and local conditions to the point that our presence is no longer needed.

The persistent presence of a modest number of U.S. forces increases the effectiveness of the DoD's training efforts and bolsters its credibility as a consistent and durable partner for Somali forces.

The DoD's presence in Somalia forms the backbone of a whole—of—government approach that layer's diplomacy, security assistance, stabilization programing, and intelligence operations to counter Al-Shabaab and address the conditions that have allowed it to thrive.

I urge all my colleagues to oppose H.Con. Res. 30.

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

Mr. Speaker, if what it takes to protect the 17 million people in Somalia is 900 U.S. troops forever, then I don't have high hopes for them. I have far more confidence in the strategy that Congresswoman OMAR laid out, which was the Somali Government working to create some sense of national identity among Somali clans, and no one has made a compelling argument that we are essential to that process.

I take some exception to my colleague from Texas calling this a get-out-quick resolution. It gives us a year. Can't we move 900 people in a year?

My colleague from Georgia argued that Somali troop presence was essential to keep America safe. Let me be clear: I fear China and some crazy Russian general with nuclear codes far more than I fear Somali warlords fighting over who controls aid streams.

It is not just my opinion. It is the opinion of our military leaders at AFRICOM. It was Brigadier General Bailey who said recently:

> What we have seen is not necessarily holding land or territory. It is more extortion, closer to an organized crime organization.

That was on February 27, 2023, on ''Nightly News with Lester Holt.''

Even General Bailey doesn't view this as a way to get land, seize land, and keep it away from Al-Shabaab. He is saying that they are not really holding land. They are just engaged in low-level thuggery, and it seems unworthy of a sustained U.S. troop presence.

Let's make clear that while the debate was elegant and compelling about the need to engage Africa, the vote on this resolution is whether 900 U.S. troops should stay in Somalia or come home.

Those who vote against my resolution are functionally taking the position that the 2001 AUMF, which was voted on when 89 percent of us who are currently in the House were not even here to vote on it and which was voted on before Al-Shabaab even existed, has become a global permission slip for U.S. interventionism everywhere.

Al-Shabaab had nothing to do with 9/11. The fact that they have co-branded with al-Qaida is not indicative of any interoperability.

Mr. Speaker, as we are evaluating whether or not we have to keep 900 troops in Somalia for the safety and security of Americans, the principal goal of Al-Shabaab is to rule greater Somalia under sharia law and overthrow the government.

That is not my opinion. That is a February 2023 Congressional Research Service conclusion. That very same CRS report indicates that Al-Shabaab does not have the capability to attack the United States.

I guess it is easy to stand up and say that we should be the police force everywhere because anywhere some bad person could harbor the desire to kill us, but the best research we have says that that is not in line with their existing capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the February 2023 Congressional Research Service report.

[From Congressional Research Service, updated Feb. 14, 2023]

AL SHABAAB

Al Shabaab (Harakat Al Shabaab Al Mujahidin, Mujahidin Youth Movement) is a Somalia-based insurgent and terrorist group that U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) in 2022 labeled ''the largest, wealthiest, and most lethal Al Qaeda affiliate in the world today.'' AFRICOM reports that the group poses the greatest danger to U.S. citizens and interests in East Africa, and is a threat to the United States.

BACKGROUND

Al Shabaab emerged in the mid–2000s amidst a vacuum of state authority in Somalia. It evolved out of a militant wing of the

federation of Islamic Courts that took control of Mogadishu and much of southern Somalia in 2006. When Ethiopia, which backed Somalia's nascent transitional government, intervened militarily—with U.S. support—to oust the Courts, Al Shabaab used historical anti-Ethiopian sentiment among Somalis to draw recruits and support, including among the diaspora in the United States.

Al Shabaab held much of south-central Somalia, including the capital, from the late 2000s until African Union (AU) forces gained momentum against the insurgency in 2011–2012 and reclaimed some territory from the group. Shabaab has nevertheless retained control over parts of the country, despite international recognition of Somalia's federal government in 2012 and a range of multilateral efforts to degrade its capacity. The group also maintains influence and the ability to conduct attacks in government-held areas.

RELATIONSHIP WITH AL QAEDA

Some of Al Shabaab's founding members trained with Al Qaeda (AQ) in Afghanistan, and senior AQ operatives in East Africa, including Fazul Mohammed—the late mastermind of the U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania—have been associated with the group. After expressions of allegiance to Al Qaeda in Al Shabaab's early years, the groups announced a formal affiliation in 2012.

While Al Shabaab's leaders appear to broadly share Al Qaeda's transnational agenda, the group operates independently. Among other AQ affiliates, the group maintains ties with Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), with which it runs a smuggling network.

In 2015, some Al Shabaab members pressed for a shift in allegiance to the Islamic State (IS). Al Shabaab leadership rejected the proposal and launched a deadly crackdown against IS supporters. A small IS faction in northern Somalia survived the purge. Al Shabaab remains the dominant group and appears to view the IS cell as a rival.

THE THREAT

Al Shabaab has waged an asymmetric campaign against the Somali government, AU forces, and foreign targets in Somalia. Per UN data, 2022 was its deadliest year since 2017, when a truck bomb in Mogadishu killed over 500 people (Al Shabaab's deadliest single attack to date).

While the group has focused primarily on Somalia, it is also threatens the countries participating in the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS, previously known as AMISOM) and has conducted attacks in neighboring countries and Uganda. Al Shabaab has been most active in Kenya, which launched a military operation in Somalia against the group in 2011 (Kenya joined AMISOM in 2012). The group has killed hundreds of Kenyans, many through hit-and-run attacks near the Somali border. Its 2015 assault on a university in northeast Kenya, which killed at least 147 people, was the deadliest terrorist attack in Kenya since Al Qaeda's 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy.

Al Shabaab's July 2022 incursion into Ethiopia is its largest operation outside Somalia to date, reportedly involving some 2,000 Al Shabaab fighters. UN experts estimate that as many as 1,000 fighters remain in Ethiopia, giving it a foothold, despite Ethiopian claims of routing the group.

Al Shabaab has threatened U.S. and Western targets in the region and called for attacks against the United States. Attacks on international targets in Kenya's capital—the 2013 Westgate Mall siege and the 2019 DusitD2 hotel assault—raised the group's international profile. Over 50 U.S. citizens were reportedly in the Westgate mall when the attack started—all escaped but six were injured. In 2020, Al Shabaab killed a U.S. soldier and two U.S. contractors during a raid on Manda Bay Airfield, a Kenyan military facility used by the U.S. military near the Somali border.

The group has not claimed any attacks in the United States. It has, however, encouraged lone-wolf attacks in its propaganda, and in 2015, it produced a video identifying shopping malls in Europe and the United States as potential targets. In 2019, a Kenyan national was arrested in the Philippines and later extradited to the United States on charges of conspiring to hijack an aircraft on behalf of Al Shabaab to conduct a 9/11–style attack in the United States.

OBJECTIVES

Al Shabaab rejects democracy, broadly ascribing to a vision of uniting ethnic Somali-inhabited areas of Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia in an Islamic state under its version of Sharia law. It characterizes the Somali government as an illegitimate apostate authority that is beholden to foreign powers. Al Shabaab leaders have repeatedly expressed their commitment to global jihad. They justify attacks outside Somalia as retaliation against countries conducting military operations in Somalia and as retribution for alleged abuses against Muslims. Al Shabaab described the Manda Bay and DusitD2 attacks in Kenya as consistent with Al Qaeda directives to target U.S. and Israeli interests, and referred to the airfield as one of the ''launch pads for the American crusade against Islam in the region.'' Al Shabaab activities in Kenya more broadly appear focused on sowing internal dissent and fomenting an insurgency. Its fighters have specifically targeted non-Muslims in some attacks there.

LEADERSHIP

Ahmed Diriye (aka Abu Ubaidah), a Somali national, has led Al Shabaab since 2014. He succeeded Ahmed Abdi Godane, who was killed in a U.S. airstrike that the Obama Administration described as responding to an ''imminent threat,'' citing Godane's oversight of ''plots targeting Westerners, including U.S. persons in East Africa.'' Godane's predecessor was killed in a U.S. strike in 2008.

Al Shabaab faced infighting under Godane, who consolidated power by assassinating rivals, reportedly including American jihadist Omar Hammami in 2013. Some prominent commanders left the group or surrendered to Somali authorities in exchange for amnesty during that time. Former deputy leader Mukhtar Robow defected, and later ran for state office, drawing on support from his clan. He was detained during his 2018 campaign and held without charge until 2022. He was released by Somalia's new president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and appointed Minister of Religious Affairs. In his new role, Robow is tasked with countering Al Shabaab's extremist ideology.

AREA OF OPERATIONS AND CAPABILITIES

AMISOM and neighboring militaries pushed Al Shabaab from Mogadishu and other urban centers and ports between 2011 and 2014. Al Shabaab 's control oflarge areas of south and central Somalia, however, remained largely unchanged from 2015, when AMISOM's major offensive operations ceased, until 2022, when the Somali government launched a new offensive in coordination with local militias and a grassroots uprising. Al Shabaab has since lost significant territory in central Somalia, but it continues to conduct reprisal attacks there.

While Al Shabaab's loss of Mogadishu and other port cities initially restricted its revenue, the group has developed an extensive taxation system covering all aspects of the Somali economy, per UN and other reporting. Al Shabaab extorts businesses even in government areas. It generates between $50 and $100 million annually, according to UN monitors, and uses at least 25 percent on military purchases; Al Shabaab also supports Al Qaeda directly with its tax proceeds.

UN monitors report that Al Shabaab is estimated to have 7,000–12,000 fighters. The group capitalizes on grievances and distrust of the government in parts of Somalia and fills local governance roles, providing basic services and resolving disputes. It also forcibly recruits fighters, including children. Al Shabaab uses various propaganda tools to spread its message in multiple languages. In Kenya, reportedly its largest source of foreign fighters, Al Shabaab plays on narratives of collective punishment by the Kenyan government against Muslims, among other themes. Kenyan nationals of non-Somali descent led the DusitD2 attack.

Despite territorial losses, Al Shabaab maintains the ability to conduct frequent attacks in Mogadishu and other areas beyond its control, including through complex vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs). In 2016, an Al Shabaab suicide bomber on a Somali airliner detonated a bomb concealed in a laptop computer. (It did not destroy the plane.) Advances in Al Shabaab's explosives-making capacity led the UN Security Council to ban the transfer of explosive precursors to Somalia in 2019.

U.S. RESPONSES

The United States named Al Shabaab a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in 2008 and has designated over two dozen related persons for sanctions, either under Executive Order (E.O.) 13536 (on Somalia) or as under E.O. 13224 (on terrorism). Among those designated are several Kenyan clerics implicated in fundraising and recruiting for the group and members of its smuggling and weapons trafficking network in Yemen. The United States has prosecuted several U.S. citizens for fundraising on Al Shabaab's behalf.

The United States provides security assistance to AU and Somali forces, and has supported counter-radicalization programs in the region. In addition to airstrikes, U.S. forces have engaged in ''advise, assist, and accompany'' missions with Somali and AU forces since 2016.

In late 2016, the Obama Administration publicly named Al Shabaab an ''associated force'' of Al Qaeda in the context of the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF, P.L. 107–40). U.S. airstrikes in Somalia were limited until 2015, when President Obama broadened the justification for U.S. military action in the country—previously ''to counter Al Qaeda and associated elements of Al Shabaab''—to cover support for AU, Somali, and U.S. forces operating there. The tempo of airstrikes rose. President Trump changed the rules of engagement for U.S. operations in Somalia in 2017, authorizing offensive airstrikes and designating parts of the country as an ''area of active hostilities.'' Airstrikes have continued, after a brief pause, under President Biden: AFRICOM conducted over a dozen airstrikes in Somalia in 2022, citing most as ''collective self-defense,'' in support of the Somali army.

In late 2019, three months before the Manda Bay attack, Al Shabaab launched an unsuccessful assault on an airfield used by the U.S. military in central Somalia—it was the largest attack on U.S. forces in the country in nearly thirty years. No U.S. or Somali forces were killed. Trump ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces—then estimated at 700—from Somalia at the end of his term; Biden authorized the redeployment of U.S. troops to Somalia in May 2022.

OUTLOOK

After over 15 years of counterinsurgency operations against it, Al Shabaab still poses a serious threat in Somalia and East Africa, despite the ongoing deployment of 18,000 AU troops. Airstrikes have eliminated some ''high-value'' targets and supported partner operations, but Al Shabaab maintains the capacity to conduct complex, asymmetric attacks in Somalia and assaults in neighboring countries.

Over the past decade, political infighting and corruption have hampered the Somali government's ability to extend state authority. Donor fatigue and frustration has reduced support for the AU mission, which is due to withdraw by the end of 2024. The ''total war'' Somalia's new government launched against Al Shabaab in 2022 could be a turning point, but Somalia has struggled to ''clear and hold'' when AU forces have managed to gain ground in the past. For more, see CRS In Focus IF10155, Somalia.

Mr. GAETZ. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing the government in Somalia achieve gains in large part because of local discontent with Al-Shabaab.

Because of climate change, we are not seeing the same amount of agricultural and livestock opportunities for people in Somalia, so many of the groups that were paying extortion money to Al-Shabaab are not able to pay it anymore because a lot of the land is dried up. That resulted in Al-Shabaab being incredibly brutal to those local clans and tribes. They poisoned the water, killed family members, and publicly executed people. Then what happened was a lot of those local tribes pushed back and said they would rather align with the government.

That is not a victory delivered at the end of a U.S. missile or weapon. That is a victory that is occurring as a consequence of the conditions in Somalia and the choices that Somalis are making.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the ACLED piece that details how the government is making gains in ground and Al-Shabaab is losing them. It is titled: ''Somalia: Counterinsurgency Operation Gains Regional Support in Phase Two as Al-Shabaab Attacks and Political Differences Persist.''

[From ACLED, Apr. 21, 2023]

SOMALIA: COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATION GAINS REGIONAL SUPPORT IN PHASE TWO AS AL-SHABAAB ATTACKS AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES PERSIST

SOMALIA AT A GLANCE: 18 MARCH–14 APRIL 2023

Vital Trends

ACLED records more than 180 political violence events and over 420 reported fatalities from 18 March to 14 April 2023. Most political violence centered in Banadir region, where al-Shabaab launched attacks targeting Somali security forces and civilians.

Middle Shabelle region had the highest number of reported fatalities, with over 120 recorded during the reporting period. Sool region followed, with more than 80 reported fatalities. Violence involving al-Shabaab was linked to over 74 percent of total fatalities. Clashes between Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn (SSC) militia and Somaliland security forces around Laascaanood town resulted in most of the remaining fatalities.

The most common event type was battles, with over 100 events, followed by explosions/remote violence, with nearly 60 events. Over 46 percent of explosion/remote violence events occurred in Banadir region, a nearly 70 percent increase compared to the previous four weeks.

COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATION GAINS REGIONAL SUPPORT IN PHASE TWO AS AL-SHABAAB ATTACKS AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES PERSIST

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud announced the second phase of the military offensive against al-Shabaab at the end of March. The new phase reportedly aims to flush out al-Shabaab from the remaining parts of the country under its control, following the first phase that began in August 2022. While the operation initially focused on central Somalia, starting in Hirshabelle and then expanding to Galmudug state, the second phase aims to expand to southern regions—Southwest and Jubaland states.

In the first phase, the government sought support from clan militias from the Hawiye clan, and regained substantial territory from al-Shabaab. Subsequently, clan militias have played a vital role in the government-led operation. Since August 2022, these groups have been involved in more than 155 political violence events against al-Shabaab. Additionally, they have supported security forces in nearly 60 percent of events where government forces have regained territory from al-Shabaab. During the first phase of the offensive against al-Shabaab, Somali security forces regained control of over 215 locations previously under al-Shabaab's control, mostly in Hirshabelle and Galmudug states. However, Somali security forces, who failed to fully drive out al-Shabaab militants from both states, still lack the military capacity to hold newly liberated areas. Al-Shabaab, in turn, took advantage of this weakness to maintain bases and launch complex attacks against government troops. In particular, they regained lost territories in Hirshabelle as the government expanded the offensive to Galmudug state.

As the federal government anticipates a lack of support from clans in the south for the second phase of operations, it is seeking more support from neighboring states who are already present in Somalia under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)—possibly indicating a plan to scale down the role of clan militias in the operation. Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya have reportedly promised over 30,000 soldiers to support the offensive in the coming months. This situation update analyzes the activities of al-Shabaab and the security forces during the second phase of the offensive and assesses the risk that political differences between the federal government and some of member states, like Jubaland and Puntland, may undermine the operations.

Al-Shabaab Aims for Hirshabelle While Continuing Attacks in Banadir

After the counter-insurgency operation against al-Shabaab expanded to Galmudug state in early 2023, Hirshabelle state became a vulnerable target for al-Shabaab attacks. These vulnerabilities have forced Somali security forces to stay focused on Middle Shabelle and Hiiraan regions in the second phase of the offensive rather than expanding to Jubaland and Southwest states. From 18 March to 14 April, ACLED records 19 political violence events involving al-Shabaab in Hirshabelle state, resulting in at least 145 reported fatalities (see map below). Over 68 percent of these incidents were remote violence events, which record an increase of 30 percent compared to the previous four weeks.

In Middle Shabelle region, al-Shabaab launched several attacks in Adan Yabaal district—in most instances using explosives. On 25 March, al-Shabaab detonated three under-vehicle IEDs (UVIED), targeting security forces and Abgal clan militias at a base in Run-nirgod village. The explosion and heavy gunfire exchange that followed resulted in over 50 reported fatalities. A few days earlier, on 20 March, another al-Shabaab attack at a base in Daarul-

Naciim village reportedly killed at least 55 people from both sides. The attacks came before the visit of the Somali President on 26 March to Adan Yabaal town, where he announced the launch of the second phase of the offensive against al-Shabaab. The same day, a high-level Ethiopian delegation that included the head of the Ethiopian National Defense Force and senior government officials arrived in the capital of Hiiraan region, Belet Weyne town, to help Somali forces plan the next phase. Ethiopian troops have been fighting Islamist militants in Somalia since 2006 independently, and as part of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) since January 2014. AMISOM was eventually replaced by ATMIS in 2022.

Meanwhile, security forces continued offensive operations in Hiiraan to avert al-Shabaab attacks. The government deployed troops from Mogadishu to the region, traveling along the main supply route that connects Mogadishu to Hiiraan. On 25 March, security forces captured Jibiley village in Jalalaqsi district and Quracley village in Bulo Burto district from al-Shabaab. While militants peacefully vacated those villages, they continued to launch attacks on security forces and clan militias' new bases near Belet Weyne town. On 29 March, an al-Shabaab suicide vehicle-borne IED attack targeted security forces and Hawadle clan militias at a base-in Baardheere village, followed by clashes.

Further, al-Shabaab continued measures to end the alliance between government forces and the Hawadle sub-clan in the second phase of the offensive. The Hawadle sub-clan of the Hawiye clan is the largest and most prominent sub-clan in Hiiraan. There are four main clans in Somalia: Hawiye, Darod, Dir, and Rahanweyn, with each having several sub-clans and those sub-divisions, some supporting al-Shabaab, and others supporting the government operation against al-Shabaab. Since al-Shabaab controls several remote villages in Hiiraan and other regions, sub-clans consider it necessary to reach an agreement with al-Shabaab for their safety, and in return for their support or neutrality, al-Sahabab offers them peace deals. On 5 April, al-Shabaab claimed to have signed an agreement with Hawadle Galible Hassan Agoon sub-clan in Buqda Caqable village, Bula Burto district. The agreement stipulates that the sub-clan would not be part of the ongoing offensive in Hiiraan region. Similar agreements were reportedly signed between al-Shabaab and at least seven other sub-divisions of the Hawadle sub-clan in Buqda Caqable village this year. Al-Shabaab also reached an agreement with clan elders from Habar Gedir Salebaan sub-clan in Xarardheere town, Mudug region, in December 2022.

Meanwhile, al-Shabaab continues its efforts to destabilize the government operation by launching attacks in urban towns. The capital Mogadishu records the highest number of al-Shabaab attacks compared to other urban areas in Somalia, with 49 political violence events and at least 21 reported fatalities. Al-Shabaab's use of explosions and remote violence increased in the capital by over 87 percent during the reporting period compared to the same time period prior; the group's use of grenades, in particular, increased more than four-fold.

On 5 April, al-Shabaab carried out coordinated hand grenade attacks in all 17 districts

of Mogadishu. The grenade attacks targeted security force checkpoints, the house of the mayor of Mogadishu and governor of Banadir, the house of former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire, and the house of a federal senator. Further, the militants launched mortar shells targeting the presidential palace, with some striking the house of the petroleum minister, reportedly killing a security officer.

Political Differences Undermine the Offensive

As part of the second phase of the offensive, the federal government plans to expand the offensive to Jubaland and Southwest states in southern Somalia. Political differences due to power-sharing disputes in Jubaland and Puntland, however, undermine the operation.

Amid an ongoing dispute with the Jubaland administration based in Kismayo, Gedo region politicians and government officials unilaterally announced the recruitment and mobilization of local clan militias to participate in the military operation against al-Shabaab in the region. On the other hand, Jubaland State Minister of Security Yusuf Hussein Dhuumal reportedly rejected such plans to involve local clan militias. The most prominent sub-clan in Gedo region is the Marehan sub-clan of the Darod clan, which opposes Jubaland President Ahmed Mohamed Islam—also known as 'Madobe'—from the Ogaden sub-clan of the Darod clan. Marehan and Ogaden sub-clans have been fighting over the control of Kismayo since the 1990s. The current dispute between Gedo politicians, who are mostly from the Marehan sub-clan, and the Madobe administration escalated in 2020 when a leadership dispute led to the federal government's decision to deploy troops in the region. Jubaland administration fears that arming Marehan clan militias in Gedo would trip the balance of power in favor of the Marehan sub-clan. Nevertheless, Jubaland security forces continued conducting military operations against al-Shabaab despite the lack of support from local communities. Further, on 3 April, Ethiopian security forces deployed troops in Doolow town, Gedo region, as part of Ethiopia's commitment to increase its military presence in Somalia during the second phase of the counter-insurgency operation.

Political differences between the Puntland administration and the federal government have also complicated plans for the counter-insurgency operation. In mid-March, the federal government and member states held a national consultative council meeting in Baidoa town to discuss the fight against al-Shabaab and to foster cooperation between the federal and member state governments. Puntland state president did not attend the meeting citing political differences with the federal government, including the appointment of the new special envoy for Somaliland affairs. On 9 January, Puntland state suspended cooperation with the federal government after skipping the signing of two outcomes of a national consultative council meeting held in Mogadishu in late December. Although al-Shabaab activity decreased in Puntland during the reporting period compared to the previous four weeks, fighting between al-Shabaab and IS militants led to the reported deaths of at least 40 al-Shabaab militants, including senior members. The fighting erupted after several al-Shabaab militants moved to the mountainous Bari region, likely fleeing from the government's offensive.

Different administrations in Somalia have adopted distinct approaches to the fight against al-Shabaab, often deeply tied to the clan affiliations of Somali leaders. The previous government—in power from 2017 to 2022—focused on foreign policy, rebuilding security forces, and leading reconciliation between clans. Meanwhile, the current administration has enlisted support, first from clan militias and now from neighboring countries, in an intensive offensive to flush out al-Shabaab militants. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is from the Hawiye clan that has sub-clans supporting the government operation against al-Shabaab, including Hawadle and Abgal in Hirshabelle and Habar Gedir in Galmudug. Former President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, also known as 'Farmajo,' who is from the Marehan sub-clan of the Darod clan, failed to get support from the Majerteen sub-clan in Puntland, and Ogaden sub-clan in Jubaland, with the latter intensifying the dispute between Gedo and Kismayo administration.

The progress made through the government operation has put Somalia in a more positive position compared to the last six years. These efforts could help the country recover the decades-long political and security instability, but only if effectively managed through power sharing, reconciliation, and integration of clan militias into security forces. Nonetheless, the greater role of forces from neighboring countries in the offensive might lead to a divide between clan militias and government forces, and claims of a 'foreign invasion' may be used by al-Shabaab in its propaganda in order to recruit fighters. Consequently, military support from Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya might not be a solution but rather a setback in the fight against al-Shabaab. The regional countries are already present in Somalia under ATMIS, although they have not participated in the ongoing offensive due to funding issues and have only offered logistical support and medical evacuation. The Abgal, Habar Gedir, and Hawadle clan militias have played an important role in the security forces' success since August 2022, and scaling down their involvement will likely undermine the government's efforts to defeat al-Shabaab. For the government to claim ownership of the offensive, integrating clan militias into security forces should be considered a priority.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding those 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to approach a couple of things here. We keep talking about the idea that our presence and these 900 people in Somalia are somehow leading to a stabilization effort. However, the reality is this: When was our actual presence required for stabilization as opposed to counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operational tactics?

We talk about the threats, but the real threat is China, which is existential to all of us. We allow them to go into Ghana, into the Ashanti belt, and completely pillage resources with no U.S. response.

Where were our 900 troops that were there to help with this stabilization when our greatest adversary was there robbing and pillaging?

By the way, where are we with regard to: If we are there to fight and combat Al-Shabaab, then why are we not taking a greater presence when it comes to the oil resource protection in Lake Turkana out in Kenya? It is a place I know very well because I spent time in Nairobi and also in Karen.

We continue to try to act as if we are stabilizers, but do we not remember what took place in Libya, where we actually helped with supporting the destabilization that now has led to the Misrata militia, the Sirte militia, and further economic turmoil?

Mr. Speaker, you can't point to a single agenda, whether it was Afghanistan, Iraq, or Somalia, or whether it was Libyan support—you can't point to a single one where our presence has actually led to greater stability.

What it has led to is more U.S. lives being lost, more economic deficiency for America, and more of us trying to be the world's police and creating more adversaries and enemies throughout the world stage.

Again, I continue to ask the same question to every one of my colleagues on the left and the right: How does our presence actually strengthen us from stabilization, provide us stronger allies, and give us the actual economic strength that we need to outpace China, which is our greatest existential threat? How does this 2001 AUMF that is being misused and abused for an open, carte blanche of warfare support America's goals?

Mr. JAMES. Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe we are in violent agreement.

The gentleman from Georgia mentioned, I believe, and it is extremely appropriate, that this isn't about protecting another nation. It is about protecting ours.

Today, I think that we are just standing here, and I think if we were to take the vote on the floor, I am pretty sure that most of our colleagues would agree that the executive branch is abusing its power and that we as Congress have ceded our constitutional authority to hold them to account.

We should absolutely hold the executive branch to account for their two decades of missteps, but a number of my colleagues and I in the freshman class have been here but a mere 110 days. I am sure I can speak for most of us that we refuse to be held bound to the mistakes of the past.

□ 1330

We are inspired and excited to make sure that we correct those mistakes of the past with strong policy to benefit the American people and our allies in the future.

That requires not repealing something without a replacement.

That requires the executive branch to come to us for permission, as they are constitutionally obligated to do.

It is our duty to retain these authorities, but not proceeding without an event-based strategy rather than a time-based strategy.

Regrettably, I restate that this resolution does nothing toward those ends. It merely directs the removal of U.S. forces from Somalia within a time frame without regard for what may be going on on the ground.

Again, I applaud and appreciate forcing this debate. It is long overdue. I respect and thank the gentlemen, Representative MILLS for his service and Representative GAETZ for forcing this very important debate.

I am looking forward to taking this up with the help of the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), my friend, in the House Foreign Affairs Committee to make sure that we can satisfy our obligations, first to the American people and also to our allies who count on us to take up the mantle and use global leadership not to be isolationist and also not to be imperialist but to make sure that we are staying strong at home first.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I have the right to close, and I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to my remaining time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 19½ minutes remaining.

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

In response to the argument of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), who says that our withdrawals must be event based rather than time based, I would ask: What events are we waiting for in Somalia exactly?

Are we waiting for a Jeffersonian democracy to emerge there?

Are we waiting for the sectarian violence that has dominated to automatically just dissolve into the sands?

Are we waiting for some other foreign power?

I would suggest that in many of these places what we are actually waiting for is for these countries to take care of themselves and to demonstrate their own capabilities because the only way you form a nation is if your own fellow countrymen fight for and win that peace. That is how you develop national heroes, like those we see throughout this great Capitol. That is what a nation makes.

A nation is not a bunch of Europeans drawing lines in Africa and then saying this is what is what. We did that after World War II, and it is why Africa has been in some degree of turmoil since. I continue to present to the body that the government in Somalia is actually on the upswing. They are gaining territory. They are unifying people, and it is not as a consequence of U.S. presence.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a piece from the International Crisis Group, ''Sustaining Gains in Somalia's Offensive against Al-Shabaab,'' and it is from 21 March 2023.

[From International Crisis Group, Mar. 21, 2023]

GAINS IN SOMALIA'S OFFENSIVE AGAINST AL-SHABAAB

What's new? The Somali government has gained ground in its war with the Islamist insurgency Al-Shabaab, mainly in central Somalia. Most of the progress is due to Mogadishu's leveraging of local discontent with Al-Shabaab to form alliances with clan militias.

Why does it matter? The joint campaign has dislodged militants from a swathe of territory in the centre of the country, reestablishing the government's presence in regions that Al-Shabaab had controlled for a decade or more. Troops are now planning to move into the insurgency's southern bastions.

What should be done? Mogadishu must consolidate its gains in central Somalia as it goes on the offensive elsewhere. It should establish holding forces, work for communal reconciliation and, to the greatest degree possible, meet local expectations around service delivery.

OVERVIEW

Starting in August 2022, the Somali government launched a fresh offensive against Al-Shabaab, capitalising on mounting discontent with the Islamist insurgency, particularly among the politically dominant Hawiye clan. The operation has yielded the most comprehensive territorial gains since the mid-2010s, as soldiers fighting alongside clan militias dislodge Al-Shabaab militants from significant parts of central Somalia. Emboldened by clan backing and foreign support, Mogadishu now aims to send soldiers into Al-Shabaab's southern strongholds. As it proceeds, it should bear in mind the need to consolidate its hold on places it has recaptured from the insurgency. The government should assign holding forces to provide security in recovered areas, support local reconciliation efforts and step up service delivery, while carefully managing residents' expectations. If it does not take these measures, it may give Al-Shabaab, which has proven resilient, a chance to rebound.

The government's push marks a breakthrough in a war that has raged for more than fifteen years. Historically, overstretched Somali and partner forces have hunkered down in urban locales, while Al-Shabaab secured a firm foothold in rural areas. International forces, in particular the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)—which was rebranded as the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in 2022—, have led the fight with Al-Shabaab. In contrast, the new offensive is spearheaded by the Somali military, in conjunction with local clans.

A unique set of circumstances aided the government advance. Al-Shabaab overplayed its hand, antagonising clans in central Somalia. Demands that young male children join their ranks spurred local clans to take up arms alongside the Somali military. The insurgents' taxation of communities under their control hardly helped, as the country suffers impoverishment and food insecurity amid a record drought. Furthermore, terrorist attacks in the capital and along Somalia's borders appear to have prodded Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud to take a tougher line against the group.

The government now plans to continue the offensive in southern Somalia, even though it has not fully consolidated its hold in the centre. Southern Somalia presents a different set of challenges—for one thing, clans in the south have not shown the same discontent with the Islamist movement that prevails in the centre. But even as its plans advance to meet a new set of challenges, the government should not lose sight of needs in the centre, as otherwise these areas could slip back into Al-Shabaab's hands. Before it launches major new attacks, it should make sure it has adequate holding forces in recovered areas. It should also conduct reconciliation efforts and improve basic services of which residents have long been deprived. For cash-strapped Mogadishu, that could prove difficult, and international donors will need to step in to provide support.

Even if the government is successful in holding down central Somalia and reclaiming territory in the south, Al-Shabaab will probably survive. The group is playing the long game, exploiting government weaknesses wherever it can. The government should thus keep open the possibility of negotiations as a means of winding down the war for good, as Crisis Group has argued in the past. The government's recent wins on the battlefield will, if sustained, strengthen its position if it indeed decides to engage in talks.

FROM LOCAL ANGER TO ''ALL-OUT WAR''

The Birth of an Offensive

The Somali government's move to wrest back control from Al-Shabaab in parts of central Somalia is unusual in that the military has joined forces with clan militias. The offensive derives its strength from mounting local frustration with Al-Shabaab's persistent, onerous demands for money and recruits, as well as the group's violent measures of collective punishment for non-compliance. Several sub-clans in central Somalia have resisted the militants previously, but later cut deals with them to forge a form of coexistence, finding the cost of fighting Al-Shabaab too high. Still, overall, the government has made headway.

The insurgents themselves contributed to these dynamics. In recent years, Al-Shabaab has extended its influence by taking advantage of political infighting in Mogadishu, which diverted the attention of Somali elites from the task of counter-insurgency. As politicians in the capital squabbled, sub-clans in central Somalia grew increasingly weary of Al-Shabaab's tactics. The Haber Gedir/Salebaan sub-clan is a case in point. People from this sub-clan, part of the wider Hawiye clan family, of which Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is a member, live in and around the town of Baxdo, situated in the central region of Galgaduud (Galmudug state). They tolerated Al-Shabaab's presence in their area, for the most part, until 2019, when its commanders ordered families to provide young men to be enrolled as fighters. An influential community member told Crisis Group that this directive proved too much to stomach. Baxdo is a town with strong Sufi roots; the community perceived Al-Shabaab's demand as a ploy to inculcate the Salafi-jihadist doctrine in the younger generation.

The Salebaan's refusal to comply with this de facto draft triggered a spiral of retaliation, starting with insurgents confiscating livestock and abducting elders. It culminated in Al-Shabaab assaulting Baxdo on 17 June 2022, which proved to be a tactical misstep: a militia from the sub-clan inflicted heavy casualties among the invading militants, killing an estimated 70 of them. Still, even after its defeat, Al-Shabaab carried out raids on smaller and less protected villages nearby in revenge.

Around the same time, in the eastern part of Hiraan region (Hirshabelle state) west of Galgaduud, the Hawiye/Hawadle sub-clan's historically uneasy relationship with Al-Shabaab became outright hostile. The roots of the Hawadle's aggravation can be traced to 2021, when the militants took control of the road connecting Hiraan's capital Beledweyne to the Galgaduud region. Al-Shabaab had already blocked a southern route linking Beledweyne to Mogadishu, impeding the flow of vital supplies to a part of Somalia that has suffered severe drought for years. Now its checkpoint on the road headed east choked off the area, in effect. Local

anger rose, becoming even more pronounced in May 2022, when the militants killed a Hawadle elder in Beledweyne, reportedly for having participated in government elections.

The community in Hiraan mobilised to push back against the group, emboldened at a crucial moment by Ethiopian military support. Al-Shabaab has long viewed Ethiopia, which invaded Somalia in 2006 to overthrow its precursor group, the Islamic Courts Union, as a major adversary; the insurgents have attempted to infiltrate the country in the past, mostly to no avail. In July 2022, however, the group launched an unprecedented incursion into Ethiopia's Somali region. Alarmed, Addis Ababa beefed up the deployment in the buffer zone it maintains between its border with Somalia and areas where Al-Shabaab is active. Ethiopia struck Al-Shabaab positions in Somalia from the air in late July and early August, while the head of the Ethiopian Army's Somali Command Post, General Tesfaye Ayalew, visited Beledweyne. Interlocutors on both sides of the Ethiopia-Somalia border confirmed to Crisis Group that Addis Ababa gave military supplies to local Hawadle at this time, coordinating with regional officials.

Al-Shabaab responded to the mobilisation by unleashing a wave of repression upon the sub-clan, which generated still more resentment. In early August, Al-Shabaab torched Hawadle villages in Hiraan's Mahas district, destroying wells. Weeks later, on 2 September, militants ambushed a convoy bringing food to the area, killing numerous civilians, including women and children. More clan members joined the militias as a result.

Another Al-Shabaab attack, this time in Mogadishu, provoked a strong reaction from the national government. On 20 August 2022, Al-Shabaab stormed the well-known Hayat Hotel in the Somali capital—a common meeting place for government officials—putting the premises under siege for 30 hours before security forces could dislodge them. The operation—which led to the death of more than twenty people—may have been an attempt to intimidate President Mohamud, who had been elected to a second nonconsecutive term that May, out of taking an aggressive posture toward the group.

If so, Al-Shabaab's leadership miscalculated. While Mohamud had struck a somewhat conciliatory tone when he first returned to office—repeatedly talking about the need for ''different security strategies and tough negotiations'' with Al-Shabaab—his stance changed dramatically after critics accused him of mounting a confused, ineffective response to the siege. He proceeded to declare an ''all-out war'' on Al-Shabaab that combines military pressure with efforts to rein in the group's extortion rackets in and around Mogadishu. He also committed to undercutting the group's Salafi-jihadist ideology. Previous attempts to combat Al-Shabaab had failed, he claimed, because they tried to contain rather than eradicate the group.

The government deployed armed forces to Hiraan that worked in concert with Hawadle forces to flush militants out of villages and towns in August. The initial focus was on securing the main road from Mogadishu to Beledweyne and a triangular patch of territory between Beledweyne, Mahas and Bulo Burte. By October, the army and militias had freed much of Hiraan east of the Shabelle River from Al-Shabaab's physical control.

Expansion in Central Somalia

The government was eager to replicate the success in eastern Hiraan, based on the template the Somali army and clan militias had used there. It encouraged other clans in central Somalia to mobilise volunteer fighters, or macawisley (''those who wear the macawis'', a Somali sarong), relying on prominent personalities to rally their clansmen. Somali soldiers, particularly special forces units, still lead the fight with Al-Shabaab, but Mogadishu has provided the clan militias with logistical support such as ammunition, food and medical evacuations. The macawisley participate in joint operations, giving government forces backup from fighters who know the terrain better. They also provide a crucial link to the local population, sparing the government from going it alone or trying to mobilise community support after the fact. The clan participation also reinforces the narrative that sections of Somali society are turning against Al-Shabaab,

Foreign partners have also bolstered the campaign against Al-Shabaab. U.S. airstrikes are helping the Danab, a special unit of the Somali National Army trained by the U.S. as a quick strike force, recapture territory from the insurgents in the regions of Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud and Mudug. The U.S. has also donated military assistance, with its ambassador for Somalia praising the war effort as ''historic''. Türkiye has carried out drone strikes in Lower and Middle Shabelle, further boosting the government's firepower. Meanwhile, ATMIS has stayed out of direct combat thus far,

The combined efforts of the Somali army, clan militias and international partners have led Al-Shabaab's footprint in central Somalia to contract. The government seized the insurgency's regional centre of operations at Adan Yabaal in Middle Shabelle in December 2022. The next month, it captured the strategic towns of Ceel Dheere and Xarardheere in Galgaduud—although militants remain on the outskirts. The military is likely planning to uproot Al-Shabaab from its remaining strongholds in the southern Galgaduud districts of Ceel Buur and Galhareeri. If successful, its campaign would essentially dislodge the militants from a swathe of territory east of the Shabelle River.

The playbook from eastern Hiraan has not worked smoothly everywhere, however. While clans in that region rose up spontaneously against Al-Shabaab, in other areas the government had to coax clans to join forces. Military efforts in Middle Shabelle struggled to get off the ground and were side-tracked by clashes between two sub-clans in the Adale district in November. In western Galgaduud, overly enthusiastic pro-government forces marched on the town of Wabxo in early November, only to pull out days later in the face of stiff resistance from Al-Shabaab. They could not hold the area without support from Somali special forces.

Other advances have also stalled. The army had to stop south of Qaayib, in Galgaduud, amid Al-Shabaab outreach to sub-clans to counter government mobilisation. Government efforts to rally clans in Xarardheere, in the Mudug region, floundered because of sub-clan frictions and perceptions that the government had previously failed to support them in fighting the insurgents. The military ultimately moved to capture Xarardheere with limited clan militia participation.

Moreover, a string of recent incidents shows that Al-Shabaab can still inflict severe damage in areas it has lost, even if it is not reoccupying them. In January alone, the insurgents deployed at least twelve suicide car bombs in central Somalia towns, in some cases causing heavy casualties. A 20 January attack in Galcad (Galmudug state) was particularly damaging, with Danab forces taking significant losses, including of a deputy commander. That incident spurred an internal reconsideration of strategy, with the offensive in central Somalia slowing in the ensuing weeks. Additionally, Al-Shabaab militants continue to cross from west of the Shabelle River to attack macawisley positions in smaller settlements in Hiraan. The infiltration raises concerns about the government's ability to hold the territory it recaptures, especially as it takes over more areas. It also demonstrates the peril of measuring success in fighting Al-Shabaab solely with the yardstick of territorial control.

Still, the government has advantages in its current offensive, when compared to previous campaigns. For one thing, the military's collaboration with clan militias is strengthening ties with local communities, while allowing for greater government penetration of rural areas. Previous offensives typically focused on securing cities, inadvertently deepening the rural-urban divide that has played to Al-Shabaab's strengths as a mobile organisation reliant on local communities for recruitment and financing. Secondly, today's campaign is Somali-led, unlike those from 2011 to 2015, when the government's forces played a secondary role to what is now ATMIS. This time around, ATMIS has stayed in the background, essentially serving as the holding force for urban locales while Somali soldiers venture into less densely populated areas.

There is also evidence that both the federal government and the clans are committed to sustaining their momentum. The current government in Mogadishu has arguably staked its reputation on defeating Al-Shabaab. Moreover, several of the operations to date have involved cross-clan collaboration, demonstrating an unusually high degree of consensus among those fighting the insurgents in central Somalia.

Progress, however, should not be chalked up exclusively to Mogadishu or local mobilisation, but rather to the combination of the two. The campaign has been most successful where community resistance to Al-Shabaab is strongest, and the government can be a force multiplier, as in eastern Hiraan. In cases where local engagement is less apparent, the government has struggled to advance. In this sense, the offensive might be characterised as a series of wars between clans and Al-Shabaab, with the government backing the former.

Al-Shabaab Adjusts to the Pressure

Al-Shabaab has suffered important losses in central Somalia, but it continues to put up significant resistance, showing the value it places on the region. An intelligence source told Crisis Group that the insurgency is likely to reinforce its fighters in central Somalia with personnel now stationed in the south, likely sending the wounded south to recuperate. Somali government officials say militants have defected, but not in significant numbers. Meanwhile, Al-Shabaab has sought to increase pressure on the government with large-scale attacks in Mogadishu and other cities, in addition to making regular incursions into areas the government has seized.

Al-Shabaab's flexibility suggests that the organisation is more likely to adapt to the government campaign than be defeated by it. For example, the group already appears to be changing its approach to the population in central Somalia, realising its coercive model for securing obedience has backfired. It has started offering more carrots than sticks, emphasising the need to promulgate the public good (maslaha) in its rhetoric, rather than exhorting communities to seek forgiveness (tauba) for having antagonised the group. This approach has borne fruit: in late December, in a setback for Mogadishu, a group of Salebaan elders in Galmudug reached a fresh agreement with Al-Shabaab

to avoid confrontation, withdrawing support for the government in return for the release of hostages and seized property.

The federal government's collaboration with the macawisley likely prompted Al-Shabaab's shift in tone. In the past, the group has been more willing to offer concessions to clans when it feels weak, only to roll them back later when it is in a stronger position. It remains to be seen if it will renege on its commitments this time, but Al-Shabaab likely realised it needed to change tack in order to maintain community relations.

Al-Shabaab has a track record of turning to guerrilla warfare when it is on the back foot and it has resorted to these tactics of late. Thus far, Somali forces have fought few major battles with the insurgents. The group prefers to preserve its strength, withdrawing from towns before the army's advance in favour of conducting hit-and-run attacks on recovered areas afterward. Sustained military pressure could certainly erode the group's capacity to act as a de facto authority in central Somalia. But Al-Shabaab's ability to exploit government weaknesses leads some observers to believe that the military cannot expect to quash the insurgency, even if it maintains a united front with the clan militias.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to bring to this floor areas in the world where U.S. troops are present where there is no clear end game, where there is not an end state that is clearly achievable.

What our generation has learned as a consequence of observing the great patriotism expressed by many of my colleagues who participated in this debate today is that we don't have the ability to beat an ideology out of anyone. We don't have the ability to go into these places that oftentimes have been riddled with bloodshed and violence and somehow convince them that a democracy or a parliamentary system is more beneficial than the greed that has been driving them for far too long.

That is the story of the Middle East. That is the story of North Africa. If my constituents have to go to Somalia and Syria, then I think everyone here should have to vote one way or the other, and I don't expect to win that vote, but I was expecting probably during this discussion to maybe hear a little bit more about what it is that we expect these people to do in Somalia to ultimately get them out.

What we have heard is some version of the argument that we have got to fight them over there so we don't fight them over here, even though all the evidence in the RECORD suggests that they don't have the capability to even strike us here, and that the harboring of terrorism that seems to justify the 2001 AUMF permission slip for American intervention in no way relates to the activities, capabilities, goals, ambitions of this particular group.

What this group wants to do is they want to be able to overthrow the government in Somalia and orient greater Somalia under their sharia law, and they are losing in that fight.

What we see online and what many of us have received in briefings in Congress is that when U.S. troops are present, that serves as a propaganda vehicle for a lot of these groups to be able to go out and recruit and add folks to their ranks, and that is certainly not what we want to see.

If the African Union had a greater role, if the African Union stepped up and worked to fill that vacuum with greater credibility with particular partners and particular localized clans, then that might achieve this objective in the absence of the death, the danger, and the deployment that has had our military spread far too thin for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, I heard in my colleague's opening that we have to reject the siren song of isolationism. I would observe that globalism is no lullaby. It is often soaked in blood and mired in civil war and violence, resulting in worse conditions than we found ourselves in.

There are 17 million Somalis. I am rooting for them. I hope that when my life ends, Somalia isn't synonymous with famine and failed states and civil wars and coups. I really hope that. However, we must also exercise sufficient humility in this body to understand the capabilities of persuasion for a relatively small batch of American troops given the problem set.

I return to the argument that I made earlier in this discussion. There is an opportunity cost to this in people. There are specific units that call my district home that are having to split between AFRICOM and INDOPACOM when the reality is whether or not our children are speaking Mandarin, our grandchildren are being dominated by the Chinese Communist Party is not going to be the result of who wins the battle of Mogadishu. It is going to be the result of who holds the high ground against our true pacing adversaries. Becoming the neighborhood block captain of Somalia is certainly not the behavior of a serious country engaged in various serious challenges against serious adversaries.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their indulgence. I certainly thank the leadership for permitting me such time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

I, again, oppose this resolution because it is not an effective or constitutionally sound approach to resolving the war powers questions in Somalia that many of us here are, in fact, looking to address.

This resolution will harm U.S. interests in the Horn of Africa and make the American people less safe.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues who are serious about asserting Congress' constitutional role on issues of war and peace: I have some encouragement from this debate that we will have further debates talking about Congress' responsibility.

I look forward to joining with the gentleman from Florida where I heard him talk about how climate change is affecting many of the areas on the continent. I look forward to working with him in that regard.

I look forward to working with him and hope that we can get the Speaker to bring over the repeal of the AUMF of 2002 that the Senate recently has voted on that we passed 2 years ago in the 117th Congress. I will come out of here looking at some areas on which we can work collectively.

I urge the gentleman to join me to talk and work so that we can repeal and replace the 2001 AUMF with a narrower and time-bound scope.

The issues we are discussing here today are pressing and relevant, but there is a better approach. I look forward to undertaking that approach with both of my colleagues on the floor and all of my colleagues on a bipartisan basis and hope that we will have this conversation and work closely together.

Let me also make a correction. I gave credit to General Kelly on the statement of if we don't put more money into diplomacy, we have got to spend more on bullets. That was General James Mattis. I want to make sure I give proper credit to the proper person in our military.

Let's work together. I think we have a real window of opportunity. The President of South Korea, who just gave a wonderful speech here, talked about how we won World War II and the Korean war together with our allies, saving democracies, putting our values first. Let's do it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this resolution, and let's work together in a bipartisan manner, particularly to help the continent of Africa, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS) are both very well-intentioned on this resolution today, and I firmly agree that Congress must reassert its Article I constitutional responsibility to declare war.

This body must replace the 22-year-old counterterrorism AUMF with an authorization that focuses specifically on the threats that we face today. Yes, it must be both time and event based because, frankly, when I heard Representative GAETZ, my colleague and a great patriot as well, mention this may not be a threat, I got shivers down my spine, and I remembered something when I heard former President Obama talk about ISIS as the JV team.

Under this administration, we have wide open borders, and frankly, it is a direct security threat. I am not comfortable taking our eye off the ball with an Al-Shabaab that is well funded that has designs on killing Americans.

This resolution, as a blanket statement, I do not believe accomplishes very specific, targeted time- and event-

based goals to keep Americans at home safe.

Our troop presence in Somalia is small, serving primarily in a training role. It has made critical national security gains. As I will mention again, I am a big Lions fan, and I learned growing up as a Lions fan that the reason we all knew the names of the offensive linemen is because our quarterbacks kept getting sacked. I learned very early that sometimes the best offensive linemen, the best small units are the ones you never know their name.

I believe that those nameless, faceless heroes all over the world in corners that the administration has not justified in 22 years deserve updated AUMFs with congressional authority and approval in order to justify their presence putting their lives on the line, being at risk, and being away from their families.

We all agree that the way we are doing things is wrong and must be fixed. Let's work together to fix it. We would not even be having this conversation if not for the courage of my colleagues to stand up and force the issue, so I personally thank them for forcing this debate. It is long overdue, and I am excited to do well by our servicemen and -women all over the country.

I again call on my colleagues to please join me in opposition to this resolution and commit to working with all of our colleagues to make sure that if the administration wants to send our men and women into harm's way, they better doggone well come to Congress first.

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

□ 1345

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, April 26, 2023, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

The question is on the adoption of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. GAETZ. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 418. An act to provide financial assistance to schools impacted by radioactive contaminants, and for other purposes.

S. 1311. An act to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 11. Joint Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards''.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 117–263, the Chair, on behalf of the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the National Commission on the Future of the Navy:

Mr. Mitchell Waldman of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 117–263, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the National Commission on the Future of the Navy:

Ms. Mackenzie Eaglen of Virginia.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

AUTHORITY TO ORDER THE READY RESERVE OF THE ARMED FORCES TO ACTIVE DUTY TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–35)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Effective today, pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and section 12302 of title 10, 1United States Code, and in order to respond to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021 (Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade), I am authorizing the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to order to active duty such units and individual members of the Ready Reserve under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned as the Secretary concerned considers necessary, consistent with the terms of section 12302 of title 10, United States Code. The authorities that have been invoked will ensure the Department of Defense can properly sustain its support of the Department of Homeland Security concerning international drug trafficking along the Southwest Border.

A copy of the Executive Order I have issued is enclosed.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 27, 2023.*

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 1 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER) at 4 p.m.

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(C) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE ALL UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, OTHER THAN UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY, FROM SOMALIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 30) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove all United States Armed Forces, other than United States Armed Forces assigned to protect the United States Embassy, from Somalia, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 102, nays 321, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 201]

YEAS—102

Auchincloss	Evans	Mooney
Barragán	Frost	Moore (AL)
Bean (FL)	Fry	Nadler
Beyer	Gaetz	Napolitano
Biggs	García (IL)	Nehls
Bishop (NC)	Garcia, Robert	Norman
Blunt Rochester	Gomez	Ocasio-Cortez
Boebert	Good (VA)	Ogles
Bowman	Gosar	Omar
Brecheen	Greene (GA)	Pallone
Buck	Grijalva	Perez
Burchett	Hageman	Perry
Burgess	Harris	Pingree
Burlison	Hern	Pocan
Bush	Horsford	Posey
Cammack	Hoyle (OR)	Pressley
Carter (LA)	Hudson	Ramirez
Casar	Huffman	Rosendale
Chu	Jacobs	Roy
Clarke (NY)	Jayapal	Santos
Cline	Jordan	Scanlon
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Schakowsky
Collins	Kelly (IL)	Schweikert
Comer	Khanna	Self
Crane	Lee (CA)	Spartz
Davidson	Lee (PA)	Steube
Davis (IL)	Luna	Thanedar
Deluzio	Luttrell	Tiffany
DeSaulnier	Mace	Tlaib
Dingell	Massie	Tokuda
Doggett	McClintock	Tonko
Donalds	McGovern	Trahan
Emmer	Miller (IL)	Van Drew
Espaillat	Mills	Velázquez

NAYS—321

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Cicilline
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Diaz-Balart
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huizenga
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
James
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
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Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lynch
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Porter
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—11

Beatty
DesJarlais
Hunt
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Mfume
Morelle
Peters
Ross
Salazar
Watson Coleman

□ 1632

Messrs. GRAVES of Louisiana, VALADAO, DUNCAN, Ms. De La CRUZ, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. SEWELL, Mses. MATSUI, TITUS, Messrs. HOYER, PENCE, ARRINGTON, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. EMMER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. SPARTZ changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the concurrent resolution was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to a medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 201.

Stated against:

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, due to a long-standing family obligation, planned well before the congressional schedule was available, I could not be present for votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 201.

AITKEN BIBLE FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the bravery of one man, Mr. Robert Aitken, the first printer for the Journals of Congress.

Prior to the American Revolution, all Bibles entering America were imported from Britain.

Shortly after America declared its independence, Mr. Aitken petitioned the Continental Congress to approve a version of the Bible for use in schools.

This text became the first Bible printed in English in North America and the first Bible approved and recommended by the American Congress.

Our Founders keenly understood the importance of religious liberty, and I remain thankful for their integrity in recognizing the Holy Scriptures as a document worth protecting.

Accordingly, I include in the RECORD the Aitken Bible to ensure that this document is made public to the American people throughout history. It can be found at: https://americanbibleproject.org/bible.

I commend the excellence of Robert Aitken and his pursuit of virtue in the public square.

DEBT CEILING CONCERNS

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, just over a week ago, I spoke on the House floor in support of a bipartisan debt ceiling framework proposed by the Problem Solvers Caucus.

Unfortunately, rather than taking up this framework, or one that can actually get signed into law, the majority advanced a partisan framework that will leave working families, seniors, and veterans behind.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, this partisan proposal could slash education funding for 143,000 students, cut funding for 44,000 veterans, jeopardize 17,000 families living below the poverty level, threaten housing access for 35,000, roll back investments in the Triangle's new, innovative technologies that support good-paying jobs. That is just in North Carolina's 13th Congressional District alone.

I support fiscal responsibility, but this proposal is anything but responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come to the table in good faith because the stakes are too high. Let's have a reasonable and responsible conversation to avoid defaulting on the debt.

MS. RENEE ATKINSON NAMED SOUTH CAROLINA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Renee Atkinson of Aynor High School for being named South Carolina's Teacher of the Year.

Aynor High School and the entire Horry County School District are blessed to have such a dedicated public servant who has touched the lives of so many of our children in her 20-year teaching career.

Not only is she exceptional in the classroom, but she devotes time to helping other teachers in Horry County learn and grow.

Our country's future relies on great teachers like Ms. Atkinson who mold and shape the lives of our young adults. I thank her for her passion and service to our community.

Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the mark she has left on her students, our community, and the great State of South Carolina. This is a much-deserved recognition.

Congratulations to Ms. Atkinson.

PROTECT THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America must pay its bills and must not default. Failure to do so would trigger massive job loss, a recession, and rising costs.

Congress must raise the debt limit, as previously done on a bipartisan basis. This cannot and should not fall on the backs of eastern North Carolinians, rural Americans, and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we must not engage in the politics of division and uncertainty. We must always protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can come to a bipartisan resolution to deliver for eastern North Carolina and America.

BUILDING AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans' ineffectual and outright wrong economic policies are bringing our country to the brink of default and opening the door to crippling financial hardships for America's working families.

In addition to catapulting our Nation into economic instability, the House Republican default on America bill will cause unemployment to double, the stock market to crash, and mortgage and student loan rates to skyrocket.

The Republican budget cuts vital funding to schools, forces communities to lay off thousands of first responders, and increases housing costs.

Rather than discuss the budget in good faith, Republicans are intent on holding the full faith and credit of the United States hostage.

Under the guise of responsible spending, Republicans are destroying our economy and putting the lives and livelihood of millions of Americans at risk in the process.

House Democrats stand united in working for the people and building an economy that lowers costs, creates good-paying jobs, and makes communities safer.

□ 1645

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BUD STACK

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Bud Stack, a decorated military veteran, loving father, and servant to his community.

A native of North Carolina, Bud joined the U.S. Navy, where he became a career pilot and officer and graduated from George Washington University. He served in Vietnam as an A–6 pilot based on an aircraft carrier and received many military honors for his service.

After retiring from the U.S. Navy, he worked with Grumman Aeronautics, Saudi Arabia Civil Air Safety, and later returned to Savannah with Gulfstream and FlightSafety International.

Always dedicated to his family, Bud made frequent trips to Brazil, where his sons lived and grew up.

Bud shared his love for Christ with stints in the nursery and as a Sunday school teacher at Bull Street Baptist Church. He also assisted in the college ministry, as well as ministering through meals to the elderly. He participated in several mission trips, with one to Israel being particularly special.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Bud will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

VALENTINE'S DAY BANDIT REVEALED

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a Mainer whose acts of kindness and love touched the lives of so many, even though most never knew his name until now.

On every Valentine's Day since 1979, Kevin Fahrman of Falmouth, Maine, anonymously papered the greater Portland area with red hearts with the help of family and friends.

Known as the Valentine's Day Bandit, he would blanket the city with hearts large and small in an enduring love letter to Portland, Maine. Every morning on February 14, Portland residents and visitors would wake up and walk the streets of the city covered in reminders of unconditional love handed out without any expectation of recognition or thanks.

The identity of the Valentine's Day Bandit remained a mystery that confounded and delighted Mainers for decades—until now. Kevin passed away unexpectedly this past weekend, and his family decided it was finally time to unmask the man who had left an indelible mark on the city of Portland.

Kevin never wanted recognition during his life, but his family wanted to honor him in his passing.

I thank Kevin's family for sharing him with us for so long and for allowing us the opportunity to say thank you and honor him now in his passing.

May his legacy of love transcend his life and continue to inspire us to show kindness to one another every single day of the year.

PRAISING BOBBI WILSON AND CONDEMNING RACISM

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Bobbi Wilson and her attempts to rid our neighborhoods of the invasive spotted lantern flies.

Bobbi Wilson is 9 years old and a young lady from Caldwell, New Jersey. When she learned about the dangers of spotted lantern flies, she made it her mission to collect and kill as many of them as possible.

This invasive species is so dangerous to local plants and trees that ecologists urge residents to squash them on sight.

Unfortunately, a local Republican Party leader called the police on her. He said that he was scared when he saw a young, 9-year-old Black female in his neighborhood.

I am livid that even Black children doing good deeds are subjected to the abject racism that infects this country.

Luckily, Bobbi Wilson was praised locally and nationally for her efforts. She earned recognition during a city council meeting and even from Yale University. No child in America should have to face the police for doing good deeds in their community.

U.N. DELEGATION TO VISIT MINNEAPOLIS TO ADVANCE RACIAL JUSTICE

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the U.N. visit to my Minnesota district to advance racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement and address the historic oppression of Black and Brown people in our country.

It has been nearly 3 years to the day since George Floyd was murdered at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department. Sadly, since then, the number of Black people killed by police has only increased—with over 1,000 police shootings a year in 2021 and 2020.

This is a systemic issue that requires systemic solutions. That is why, in the wake of the killing of Daunte Wright and George Floyd, I introduced a package of bills, including the Protecting Our Protesters Act, the National Police Misuse of Force Investigation Board Act, and the Global Police Brutality Resolution. Following the murder of Amir Locke, I introduced the End Deadly No-Knock Warrants Act.

We can and must fight systemic racial injustices in our criminal justice system, from the disproportionate arrest and incarceration rates Black and Brown people face to the marijuana laws that criminalize Black people and remain on the books.

CELEBRATING UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL'S SCIENCE BOWL VICTORY

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the University High School's Science Bowl team.

Recently, University High School competed in the National Science Bowl's regional competition, hosted annually at the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab. Over 100 students from southern California took part in this intense, ''Jeopardy!''-style tournament. It is a marathon, not a sprint, but these students were ready to run it.

The team spent months mastering the curriculum, which included everything from natural sciences to advanced mathematics, and their hard work paid off. Against 19 of the brightest teams, University High School prevailed.

This is now the school's fifth victory at the regional Science Bowl in the past 6 years. I am honored to celebrate these students' achievement and cheer them on as they head to nationals.

Keep making Orange County proud.

CONTINUING FIGHT FOR ERA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, for as long as I have been here in the United States Congress, which is more than two decades, we have been fighting to add to the Constitution a perfectly sensible amendment, one that does not offend the American people.

It simply says that the equal rights amendment declares that women are equal in this Nation from the early suffragette days to the days of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Susan B. Anthony. That is only a fair statement, that the rights of women should be considered part of the Constitution.

Unfortunately, today, the United States Senate voted it down when 51 of our Senators, including Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, whom I met outside the Senate Chambers, wanted to make sure that the Constitution stood on its four points of equality, justice, opportunity, and democracy.

We will continue to fight until the equal rights amendment is passed fairly in this Nation and for the world to see, as they have admired us for our principles of freedom, that we believe in freedom for all the people of this Nation, men and women and families. That is extremely important. It is sad that it was voted down today by our friends on the other side of the aisle.

END THE REGRESSIVE AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because all levels of government need to do a better job of getting taxpayer dollars to the classrooms and teachers instead of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., and the capitals of our respective States.

From Washington, D.C., to Sacramento to county governments, far too much educational money is squandered on administrators and central planning bureaucracies.

I see a path, Mr. Speaker, to paying our teachers up to 12 percent more without spending an additional dollar from current Federal or State budgets.

This week, I am introducing a bill that I hope eases the pain for teachers and students in the classroom. My Cash to Classrooms Act will ensure States are not allowed to use a backward, regressive formula for school funding called average daily allowance, or ADA.

In California, statewide data for the 2021–2022 school year shows an ADA-to-enrollment ratio of 91.4 percent. That means that 8.6 percent of what should be the average school's budget is withheld because of absentee rates at the State level.

That is an 8.6 percent reduction to their full funding because of a metric that, frankly, the schools and teachers can't control. The teachers and principals largely can't control who comes to school on a given day.

In many cases, the students and parents themselves can't control when they come to school. In California, there was a waiver that allowed schools to be fully funded despite absences because of COVID, but that waiver itself is now gone.

Also in California, many schools still today require students to stay home if they test positive for COVID, regardless of the symptoms. So, students aren't allowed to come to school, but the schools are forced to eat the costs.

I have heard from parents in Lancaster, California, and Palmdale, California, in my district, that they actually won't let their kids walk to school on certain days because they would have to walk there alone. The neighborhoods aren't safe enough for them to do so, and there are not enough busing options for them. So, on the days when the parents are unable to drive their kids to school, they keep them home.

Again, this is not within the control of the schools or teachers, so we can't blame the parents or the teachers or the students for any of this. That is a policy failure on the part of Sacramento.

Part of this is making sure that we keep our communities safe and give our communities busing options. However, again, schools pay the price when kids don't show up for school.

In reality, this average daily attendance policy is actually very regressive. It is particularly regressive for disadvantaged groups. It hurts the underfunded districts, the poorer neighborhoods, and the schools with higher percentages of minorities the most. These are the schools that need the funding the most, the schools that have the highest ratios of students to teachers, and the schools that have the toughest challenges with recruiting and retaining teachers in the classroom. These are especially the districts that can't afford to pay for the buses and additional costs to adequately provide for special ed children.

These poor teachers and principals are calling parents nonstop after school to try to get their kids to come back to school. They do so many times on their own dime and their own time, and some schools have even gone so far as to put extra people on the payroll for the sole purpose of ensuring accurate attendance counts, not for the student's sake but to prevent more money from being lost from the capitals. This, in turn, pulls even more resources and funding that could be used for teacher pay or class enrichment.

Schools are having attendance competitions in the classrooms now. I have seen it firsthand at my own child's school. Having attendance competitions as a teacher is like having passengers have an on-time departure competition on a commercial airline. You can root for an on-time departure as a passenger, Mr. Speaker, but, in reality, you have no say whether the flight takes off on time.

Teachers and principals can root for higher attendance rates, but the reality is that they can't really control it. Yet, they pay for it when there are absences.

Mr. Speaker, if you want better quality teachers and more of them, don't defund school budgets because of attendance. This is actually an evil practice.

Only seven States, including my State of California, unfortunately, utilize this average daily attendance, or ADA, method. There is a reason why 85 percent of the States don't do this. It is because it aggravates the problems of attendance in our public schools and because it doesn't make sense.

Let's pay our teachers more, not less. Let's get more resources into the classroom, not fewer. Let's not let bureaucratic agencies pocket the cash on underruns that are created as a result of absentees in the classroom.

In my district alone, local schools are getting only about 90 percent of their funding because of this archaic way of funding schools. We can give the teachers a 10 percent pay raise with that money if we didn't fund schools this way. This would actually attract more talent and a better quality workforce and keep that talent in the classrooms longer.

Here is another lever, Mr. Speaker. Administrators at the Department of Education here in Washington, D.C., on average make two times more than teachers in classrooms in California. The administrators here—the bureaucrats in D.C. within the Department of Education—make $120,000, on average, every year.

Let's pay the bureaucrats less and the teachers more.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to ensuring money is spent at the lowest levels of government. One dollar spent from the Federal Government behaves like 15 cents by the time it gets to the classroom.

Let's download the funds to the local districts, get it out of the State bureaucrats and the D.C. bureaucrats, and let's ensure the States fully fund their schools despite attendance rates.

□ 1700

CELEBRATING BISHOP HEARNS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community giant and historic leader of the Antelope Valley who is celebrating his 90th birthday this week, Bishop Hearns, Sr. of Lancaster, California.

Bishop Hearns came from humble beginnings, growing up as a sharecropper in Mississippi. Driven by the desire to serve, he went on to fight for our Nation overseas in Korea in the U.S. Army.

He came home and completed his education to become an engineer. He then started working at the beloved Air Force base in our district, Edwards Air Force Base, and had a groundbreaking career there.

Upon his retirement from engineering, Bishop Hearns decided to continue on his life's path of service by being the first African-American official elected in Lancaster, ultimately becoming mayor.

A multitude of accomplishments for a wonderful and heroic man, and someone I personally have great respect for in many ways, especially as a spiritual leader in our communities.

As the Antelope Valley gathers to celebrate Bishop Hearns' life, I too express my thanks and gratitude for his lifetime of continued service, leadership, and being a role model for all of us. May his patriotic and heroic life be a guiding light for all of us.

PRESIDENT BIDEN SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH HOUSE REPUBLICANS

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, with a myriad of crises under the President's current watch, from the border to our national security and, yes, to our economy and national debt, you would think that President Biden would be eager to come to the negotiating table with the House GOP to have the debates about the debt ceiling and have the conversations about viable solutions that actually get our economy back on track and ensure that we don't default on our debt later this year.

However, as we are learning, that is not the case. It turns out he doesn't seem to want to come for negotiations and sit down at the table with us with an outlook to get to a solution.

How did we get here, Mr. Speaker?

Let's take a trip down memory lane.

Let me remind you that macroeconomics is like physics with a dollar sign in front of it. For every action, there is a reaction. For every input, there is an output.

When you look back, for a number of years up until 2020, you will see that our Nation's annual operating budget was essentially a flat line. It was about $1.3 trillion every year from about 2009 to 2020.

In 2021, the number became $1.4 trillion.

In 2022, the number was $1.5 trillion.

In 2023, this last fiscal year, the number grew to $1.7 trillion.

This year, when the President comes to Congress with his budget request, we see that he is asking now for $1.9 trillion.

These numbers and figures are depicted in this chart. This line, instead of being flat and linear, has gone upwards and is parabolic.

Looking at that from the 2020 budget of $1.3 trillion versus what the President is asking for today, with $1.9 trillion requested, that is a growth of 46 percent in just 4 years. That doesn't include the $6 trillion of liquidity pumped into the market spaces and various Federal agencies and State agencies from the American Rescue Plan, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the bipartisan infrastructure package. There is still $6 trillion of additional liquidity in addition to these annual operating budgets in the market space.

Mr. Speaker, this really is an existential conversation that we are having about the economy right now. The President and the far left have been walking us into a turning propeller, and we all know that is a bad thing.

In the House, the majority, just yesterday, passed a good compromise bill, a fiscally conservative bill that addresses this concerningly sharp increase in Federal spending while also raising the debt ceiling, a looming situation we all must address soon before it turns into another crisis under Joe Biden's watch. The bill effectively allows us to avoid walking into the turning propeller.

It is called the Limit, Save, Grow Act, and it will actually provide $4.8 trillion in total savings and cost avoidance.

It will claw back billions of unspent COVID dollars that are still out there.

It will repeal the additional funding for 87,000 additional IRS agents.

It will unleash American energy production to lower energy costs for American families, making us more energy independent.

It will also put a stop to the bad Federal spending habits from the last 3 years that we have seen here.

This bill looks to reset our annual operating budget to fiscal year 2022, which is not an extreme position. First of all, FY22 was just 6 months ago, and we were operating under those constraints. As you can see, it is about the midpoint of our funding profile over the last 4 years.

This is a compromise bill. It is a great position to be in for fiscal conservatives, and it is something that the President should embrace and come to the table and have negotiations.

Oh, by the way, this bill does protect Social Security and Medicare, and it does not harm VA benefits, as some have been pushing a narrative of. This is good for our veterans, good for our economy, and good for the future of Social Security and Medicare, things that I have been very vocal about supporting over the last several years.

These false narratives about conservatives threatening Social Security and Medicare and VA benefits are outright lies. We are working to actually protect those programs, not jeopardize them.

President Biden has shown little to no interest in coming to the negotiating table to pass a fiscally responsible bill that addresses the debt ceiling. As I said at the beginning, there are many crises that need to be solved at the hand of President Biden. All roads seem to be leading to the White House when we look at our blizzard of crises that we are experiencing right now. We can add the debt ceiling that is imminently looming in front of us to this blizzard of crises.

As the House Republicans bring forth solutions, the President should work with us and implement these solutions as the President of the United States. At a minimum, he should be willing to come to the negotiating table and in good faith have these conversations, making compromises to get to a solution, just as our Founding Fathers would want him to.

CELEBRATING A NEW SPACE RENAISSANCE

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, just 120 years ago and after being around for some 300,000 years, mankind figured out how to fly in our own atmosphere.

Just 2 years ago, we figured out how to fly a helicopter in the Martian atmosphere.

Last fall, Artemis I completed its historic trip around the Moon, the farthest flight on a deep-space mission in a machine that is rated for human occupancy.

Just last week, SpaceX, under the leadership of Elon Musk, launched the largest rocket and flying vehicle ever flown on this planet.

We are truly in a new space renaissance and a new golden era for the great American journey, to the Moon and ultimately to Mars and beyond.

For the folks watching at home, if you have been reading the headlines, you know that Congress has been debating several important and, frankly, existential topics here recently.

Whether you are reading about the approaching debt limit crisis, our open borders, the evacuation of Americans

in Sudan, the increasing aggression from the Chinese Communist Party, the CCP, or the fentanyl crisis ravaging our hometowns as a result of the open border policy, it is easy to get the idea that everything is all doom and gloom in the world today.

Don't get me wrong, I understand, these are very serious issues, and, of course, issues that Congress needs to be hitting head-on, and our President needs to be doing the same.

Some in our country have gotten so fixated on pointing the finger at Americans and our beautiful country and trying to say how bad we are that they have lost sight of just how exceptional we are and how we still inspire many in our country and across the globe.

I stood here in this same spot 2 years ago and said:

''As a Nation, we are thirsty for something to rally behind, something that unifies us, something that we can all be invested in, be intrigued by, be impassioned about, and something to be positive about.

''There isn't a better movement to get behind than our Nation's modern space program.''

I believe in those words as strongly today as when I said them.

In addition to the accomplishments I mentioned earlier, in the past 2 years, NASA and American companies have launched Artemis I, supercharging the mission to establish a permanent human presence on the lunar surface.

We have sent the James Webb Space Telescope to the far side of the Moon to provide a generational leap in our understanding of the earliest days of the universe.

SpaceX in the last 2 years has launched 31 payloads.

NASA has recently named the next four humans to go to the Moon. These four crewmembers were named as the Artemis II crew. Three out of the four of them are F–18 pilots. One of them is a Canadian. And Miss Christina Koch, from North Carolina, who is an award-winning astronaut herself, will keep them all in line, I am sure.

Congratulations to the Artemis II crew. They have worked hard for this. They are going to represent the American pinnacle of experience in space over the next several years and represent us well, as they have in the past.

Mr. Speaker, my point here is twofold: One, despite all of the discord and fighting by elected officials, when government agencies are judiciously regulated and supported by Congress and partner with private entities that hire the best minds our country can offer, we can still achieve the impossible.

The public-private partnership with NASA and its commercial partners is working. The international partnerships between NASA and their counterparts overseas are working.

The second point is that none of this would have been possible without the 27th Congressional District of California. Ever since October 14, 1947, when Chuck Yeager freed mankind from the constraints of the sound barrier, the Antelope Valley has been synonymous with aerospace innovation. That is why it is known more frequently as the aerospace valley instead of the Antelope Valley.

We are now not only the home to Edwards Air Force Base, but also to the Air Force's Plant 42 where the next generation of military aircraft, like the B–21 and F–35, are developed and built to ensure that we maintain air dominance over any nation that would challenge us.

We also have the NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center where the X–59 is being developed to bring quiet supersonic flight to our commercial airways, Mr. Speaker. It is an aircraft that can fly supersonically and be hardly heard from the ground by the time it is all done. It is a fantastic development program, making the entire world more accessible than it has ever been before with commercial supersonic flight.

The aerospace valley is a source of immense pride for myself and my constituents, just like how our space missions are a source of pride for the entire Nation.

I say again, as I said 2 years ago, Mr. Speaker: ''Today, we have no excuses not to be inspired. We in Congress have no excuses to not support these exceptional programs in earnest and with pride. We have no choice.''

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my appreciation for all the brave men and women who have selflessly served the Nation in the United States Armed Forces.

America is the greatest Nation on Earth because of the many generations that have fought to preserve the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy as Americans.

As a former U.S. Navy aviator, I flew over 30 combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and I understand the service and sacrifice that our Nation's veterans and their families make.

For generations, young men and women have answered our Nation's call to serve. From the shores of Normandy to the jungles of Vietnam and the mountains of Afghanistan, our U.S. servicemembers have protected the beacon of democracy and her allies throughout the world. This is a debt that we cannot repay well enough.

Over the past year, we have lost members of the Greatest Generation in my district, including a gentleman by the name of Lou Moore and another by the name of Richard Manning. I had the honor of meeting these World War II heroes, these patriots who lived a life of service to our Nation. May God bless these American heroes.

To all of our Vietnam veterans, thank you and welcome home.

With all that said, we must ensure that we are actually taking better care of our heroes and our veterans. As a Member of Congress, my top priority will always be constituent services, and one of the greatest honors my staff and I have is to have the ability to assist veterans with Federal agency casework, most often with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since just last year, we have assisted over 200 veterans and stand ready to assist many more.

I especially thank two of my staffers, incredible caseworkers, a lady by the name of Chris Ward and another by the name of Frances Brown. They are the best constituent caseworkers in the Nation. Chris and Frances have processed hundreds of incoming requests from our veterans and participate in various outreach programs throughout our communities every week so that our office can be as helpful and as accessible to our veterans as possible. I am proud of all the work that Chris and Frances have done and continue to do to fight for our veterans.

Chris and Frances have helped veterans get wrongly accumulated debt canceled to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt. We have ensured that veterans are receiving their benefits, and assisted veterans in changing their disability rating to match the reality of their current conditions. Veterans that have served our Nation should never have to worry about having their basic needs met or their privileges and rights honored.

A veteran in our community was trying to obtain his 100 percent service-connected disability for years. After contacting our office, one of our caseworkers worked with the VA and got the VA to recognize his unemployability. This deems the veteran 100 percent disabled due to being unemployable, and therefore pays him as if he is 100 percent service-connected disabled.

□ 1715

This veteran was swiftly approved, received a back payment of $6,000, and now receives his annual stipend of $3,600 per month.

This veteran's casework success story is just one of many that come from our office, and I am super proud of all the work that my team does.

I say this not to brag about my team, although I am very proud of them, but instead, I say this to encourage more veterans to reach out.

If it is taking you more than a couple of days, please reach out, and we can help you accelerate that process, especially with the VA.

Since being elected to Congress, I've cosponsored numerous pieces of legislation to assist our military families and veterans, including bipartisan bills to improve VA healthcare accessibility and benefits to veterans suffering from disabilities related to toxic chemical exposure, provide veterans with PTSD access to therapy dogs, and create a global war on terror memorial on the National Mall.

I will continue to work on behalf of our Nation's veterans, through both

casework and legislation, to help bring needed assistance and honor to those that served our country.

God bless all those who have served. You shouldn't have to call your Member of Congress to get help, but we are honored to help you and serve you, and we encourage all veterans to reach out if they need the help. Mr. Speaker, the VA needs to do better for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), a fellow conservative, someone who has been a mentor and a leader not only in this body but in the classrooms herself, and she is the chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden is waging a war on America's workforce. First, he made the anti-worker PRO Act a legislative priority.

Then his Department of Labor proposed a rule to extinguish opportunities for workers who want to be independent contractors.

Now his handpicked nominee, Julie Su, has barely made it through the Democrat-controlled Senate HELP Committee on a party-line vote, paving the way for her to head the agency overseeing our Nation's workforce.

As California's Secretary of Labor, Su was the architect and chief enforcer of AB 5, a bill that mirrors current Federal anti-worker proposals like the PRO Act and DOL's proposed rule.

Nearly 80 percent of independent contractors prefer their current status to traditional employment. AB 5 forced many independent contractors to be reclassified or lose work opportunities. Many Californians lost their livelihoods. Most rejected the bill through a Statewide referendum.

AB 5 sank in such spectacular fashion that over 100 industry exemptions were created; from recording artists and song writers to dog walkers and home cleaners.

This is the policy that Democrats tacitly endorsed by supporting Julie Su for Secretary of Labor. I have talked at length with independent contract workers whose livelihoods are put in peril by Julie Su.

Let me explain her nomination and confirmation from their perspective. In the eyes of truckers, Su places 350,000 owner-operator jobs at risk. Truckers worked tirelessly to keep our economy afloat during the pandemic. This is their repayment?

In the eyes of journalists, Julie Su's confirmation tells them the independence of freelancing is not valuable to their industry.

In the eyes of tutors, Su is a slap in the face for those who helped save students from falling through the cracks during the pandemic.

Many tutors are independent contractors, and two of every three are women. They wouldn't have a place in Su's workforce.

In the eyes of every worker who files a 1099 on tax day, Julie Su is an assault on their way of life.

Many Members have rightly criticized Julie Su for her long track record of incompetence, like how she lost $31 billion to unemployment fraud in California.

Biden has already proven he will staff his Cabinet with woefully unqualified and incompetent Secretaries. Look at Mayor Pete.

I am worried about Su being an activist for Biden's pro-union boss and anti-worker agenda. It is no wonder that industry groups lined up against her confirmation in a rare display of agreement in Washington.

Her destiny might be out of the House's hands, but I can end with a promise. As chairwoman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I promise to conduct robust oversight of the Labor Department or the department of any radical who threatens our Nation's workforce.

We will deliver to independent workers, to truckers, journalists, tutors, and more, much deserved accountability from their Federal Government.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. FOXX for being outspoken on this issue. I come from California. I have seen the devastating effects it has had on independent contractors; a record number of Californians are leaving. No one associated with AB 5 should be allowed to be in charge of the Department of Labor.

RAISING MINIMUM PAY FOR THE MILITARY

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice support for my bill, the Raising Annual Income of Servicemembers by Enhancing Minimum Base Pay Act or the RAISE Act, which would provide our junior enlisted servicemembers a much-needed pay raise to a minimum of the equivalent of $15 an hour or roughly $31,200 per year.

As a former naval aviator and officer who represents a district that has an impact on many facets of our military and defense, I've seen firsthand just how much our Nation has neglected America's secret weapon, our heroic servicemembers. I stand here today to say that this ends.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the chart next to me, this details the monthly pay that our junior enlisted servicemembers currently make.

Starting out as an E–1 with less than 2 years, you can see a monthly salary of just $1,695 or roughly $20,340 a year.

That is the equivalent of about $11 an hour when you normalize it for a 40-hour workweek. Let that sink in: $11 an hour for someone putting their life on the line.

It is not until they are in for a few years and have been promoted a couple times that they make the equivalent of $15 an hour or roughly $31,000 a year.

In other words, it takes serving your country for several years, signing away some of your basic rights and freedoms, shaving your head, leaving home for 6 to 12 months, putting your life on the line, and going through a multitude of sacrifices, for our servicemembers to make as much as what a McDonald's worker starts at.

This is embarrassing, and it is flat-out wrong. That is why we must pass the Raise Minimum Base Pay Act or work this initiative into this year's National Defense Authorization Act to get our servicemembers the pay raise that they so desperately need right now. About 30 percent of our enlisted troops actually qualify for food stamps.

I will not stand here at this podium and feign support for big bills that provide small support for our troops. I won't do it.

Our Nation faces recruitment and retention shortfalls that we have never seen before, the steepest in over 50 years.

This is a frightening concern for our Nation's security, especially as peer threats like the Chinese Communist Party continue to grow—not just in terms of head count and technologies—their military capabilities with their eyes fixated on a potential invasion of Taiwan and the elimination long term of the United States.

Yes, right now we must get our servicemembers a pay raise and continue to improve quality-of-life issues for them so that we can strengthen our military's positioning, strengthen its recruitment and retention, and get our servicemembers a much-needed pay raise.

Mr. Speaker, any NDAA this year that fails to adequately address this issue fails to take care of our most precious weapon system, our troops, is not a good NDAA.

It is way past due to do what is right for the warfighter. Mr. Speaker, I am committed to doing so this year.

A PINCH OF SALT

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage both parties in this Chamber to add a pinch of salt to our legislative diets for the sake of the middle-class taxpayers.

The 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act or TCJA was the catalyst under the previous Trump administration that fueled the booming economy from 2018 through 2020 before COVID impacted us and before President Biden and Speaker PELOSI went on their out-of-control spending sprees.

These out-of-control spending sprees ultimately led to record-high debt and record-high inflation rates that we are very familiar with here today.

The TCJA or the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act actually lowered taxes for all tax brackets and doubled the standard deduction for single and married filers.

Mr. Speaker, the TCJA had a bit of a middle finger that was aimed at primarily blue states like mine, the great State of California.

It imposed a $10,000 State and local tax cap or SALT cap for both married and single tax filers. What this meant is that if you paid more than $10,000 in State and local income tax or property tax, you couldn't actually deduct more than $10,000 of those taxes within your Federal tax returns.

Despite overall lower tax rates and a doubling of the standard deduction, many middle-class Americans were actually hurt by this SALT cap and were net negative within the construct of the TCJA from 2017.

At the time in 2017, a $10,000 limit seemed like a lot, but in today's dollars, because of the record-high inflation I mentioned earlier we have seen over the last 30 months, $10,000 now behaves like the equivalent of $7,000 today in terms of the deduction.

At the time in 2017, only California, New York, and New Jersey were really affected by this cap. Since 2017, the median home value has nearly doubled in almost every State nationwide.

Now States that have any income tax or any property tax are hearing from voters and their constituents that this SALT cap at $10,000 is actually affecting them, as well.

At the time in 2017, this was seen as a white-collar, upper-class problem, but in California, New York, and New Jersey, we knew better.

We knew that if you owned a home and had a job, you were likely affected by this cap. This is very much a middle-class, blue-collar taxpayer problem in my State and especially in my district.

At the time in 2017, conservatives paid no attention to the fact that the cap was $10,000, whether or not you were married.

You could be single; $10,000 cap. Married; $10,000 cap. They failed to recognize that this was, in fact, a marriage penalty that they were imposing.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage us all to add a pinch of salt to our legislative agenda. Even doubling the deduction from $10,000 to $20,000 would still generate 75 percent of the estimated $800 billion of revenue created by this cap over a 10-year period.

We can still achieve most of the revenue from billionaires with a $20,000 cap, but we also with that $20,000 cap would allow middle-class Americans to keep more in their pocket.

To my colleagues on this side of the aisle who see this as a California problem and say, hey, screw California, I won't support subsidizing California's broken tax policies.

Well, I will remind you that if you ignore these challenges, you pretend like these problems don't affect you, you don't screw California because ultimately, California screws you.

Our problems become your problems, our State problems become Federal problems, and our tax policies influence Federal tax policies.

I also want to remind folks that California's GDP is roughly 750 percent larger than States like Tennessee and is actually 150 percent larger than the next biggest State's GDP.

In California, we don't talk about the burden of subsidizing the other States in terms of GDP and revenue, so we should not look at the SALT deduction cap as an issue of States subsidizing California on the tax side.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. Californians pay way too much in taxes, and Sacramento is beyond dysfunctional.

It is actually offensive how much we pay in taxes, but we can rightsize the SALT deduction limit at the Federal level to account for today's realities, and this would help all Americans.

The TCJA turns into a pumpkin and expires in 2025, but our party and conservatives have an opportunity to address the discrepancies of the SALT cap within TCJA before then, and we have an opportunity to shape this policy while we have the majority.

Mr. Speaker, on our side of the aisle, we have a significant number of Members from California, New York, and New Jersey whose constituents will accept nothing less than a real legislative victory on the SALT cap.

Why should they accept anything less? Their daily reality is the madness of bad economic policies that come from Sacramento and Albany and are compounded by bad policies here in D.C. like the SALT cap.

I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, a pinch of salt in this session will ensure fiscal conservatives keep the reins for another Congress.

Ignoring the issue ensures that the far left will not only regain control of the spending side but also regain control of our tax codes that are going to be up for a vote in 2025.

Congratulating the Hart Girls' Soccer Team

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hart High girls' soccer team on their recent CIF championship.

These young women showed up and gave it their all every single game this last season. Now they are the southern California regional champions.

They are recognized as one of the best soccer teams in the State, and I would say probably one of the best soccer teams in the Nation.

I recently had the pleasure of welcoming the Hart High girls' soccer team to my Santa Clarita office earlier this week.

I saw young leaders, young women who work hard and are disciplined not only in soccer but also with their academics.

They have accomplished so much at such a young age and have displayed what young athletic talent and leadership comes out of our beautiful 27th Congressional District in California.

Congratulations to the Hart High girls' soccer team. They are a shining example of how great our communities are, and they make us all proud.

□ 1730

SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, across our country, K–12 students are preparing to wrap up school as the summer nears. They have undoubtedly faced a tough academic year that, for some, has, unfortunately, been marked by the scourge of violence that continues to impact our Nation's schools.

This national problem extends from fights on campuses to local violent crime that breaks out near the campuses that induces lockdowns to evil, targeted shootings like we saw in Nashville just a couple of weeks ago.

As our Nation's children recess for the summer, it is on Congress to use this time to work toward meaningful solutions that protect our kids as much as they work to protect themselves.

Since the stewardship of President Reagan, our country has retained and demonstrated a time-tested doctrine of peace through strength to keep the homeland safe. President Reagan knew then, as we still see today, that anything less than the full projection of strength and willingness to protect our own invites attacks from evil actors.

This same principle, which has been employed by our Nation for the better part of 50 years, should also apply to our most precious asset, our children. As Americans, we need to be willing to plainly demonstrate to any person set on attacking our kids in school that any effort to do so will be met with swift and devastating force. That is why I introduced the Strengthening School Security for Students Act, which would require and fund at least two school resource officers for every 500 students in public schools in the United States using leftover unobligated COVID funds.

These school resource officers would be trained, they would be armed, and we would have two for every 500 students. That gives the school the opportunity to have multiple locations for these resource officers to put down any threats as quickly as possible.

Some of these SROs actually exist today, but recent data shows that only about 45 percent of the schools have a dedicated SRO on campus at least once a week. Mr. Speaker, that is not good enough. Our children deserve better.

We are surrounded by armed guards here in the Capitol on a daily basis. Every door we walk in, every building we go into, there are armed guards around us. Mr. Speaker, my life, your life are not more important than the lives of our children. They deserve to be protected as well.

A proportionate amount of SROs on campuses for students sends a clear, unwavering message that we will protect our students from any harm. It is critical that we take lessons learned from recent instances of violence and use them to address existing shortfalls and gaps in our schools, from hardening campuses to protect students to investing in the mental health facilities of staff as well as the students.

Mr. Speaker, another bill that I have brought forward to this body is the Safe Schools Act, which, again, uses existing unspent COVID funds that have already been obligated to schools and school districts to improve their

own security and make proper investments in programs that prevent violence.

For example, under this bill, schools would be allowed to use funds that were previously earmarked specifically for COVID relief and train teachers and faculty on how to best assist children experiencing a mental health crisis and provide immediate support when issues arise. If you ask me, that sounds like a great use of our underrun on COVID funding.

Mr. Speaker, this fight is a personal one for me. Like too many other folks in this Chamber, my own community has been touched by school violence when just a few years ago at Saugus High School, my alma mater, two young lives were taken too soon because of an act of violence. We can take meaningful action without sacrificing our duty to protect the constitutional rights of every American.

HONORING SERGEANT STEVE OWEN

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage support for my bill, H.R. 1627, the Sergeant Steve Owen Defending Our Defenders Act. It is critical legislation that would make the murdering of a police officer a Federal felony punishable by only life in prison or the death penalty.

For those of you who do not know Sergeant Steve Owen, he was a Los Angeles County Sheriff in the Antelope Valley in my district, a hero in our community, a family man who was brutally murdered in broad daylight on the streets of Lancaster back in 2016 by a vicious criminal who was out on parole.

Sergeant Steve Owen's death is unfortunately becoming a common story in this day and age. In fact, in 2021, we saw a 60 percent increase in murder of law enforcement officers. This is due to the defund the police movement and soft-on-crime policies from elected officials from the far left, D.A.s who have been hired by Soros to be soft on violent criminals, and it has severely handicapped our police officers' ability to do their jobs and, in some cases, to go home safely at the end of their shift.

This bill, named in honor of Sergeant Steve Owen, is all too necessary right now as our police officers face increased rates of crime against them. It is critical that we pass this legislation to ensure that our law enforcement officers have the protection necessary to do their jobs effectively and go home to their families.

This should not be a tough bill to support for either Republicans or Democrats. The men and women who protect us every day deserve to know that we have their back. They give us a security blanket in our communities as elected officials, we should give them a meaningful deterrence to any criminal who is willing to do them harm. We must do more to take care of our heroic law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line on a daily basis to keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), my good friend and West Point grad.

Mr. JAMES. Roger, my brother. Go Army.

Mr. Speaker, it is in similar fashion that I approach this body out of respect for American life and our servicemembers, even as I watched the situation unfold in Sudan with shock nearly 2 weeks ago when rival forces started fighting in the streets of Khartoum.

It caught our entire diplomatic establishment by surprise, despite the many risks of trying to get the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces to integrate into one structure.

The fighting has been relentless, and except for a brief window in which we withdrew our diplomats, every ceasefire has failed to truly hold. There are pockets of less violence today in Khartoum, but that is because thousands upon thousands have already fled the bloodshed.

I want to commend the bravery of our brothers and sisters and their professionalism, those military servicemembers who conducted a successful extraction of our embassy personnel, flying missions in Chinooks over 800 miles through the night and accomplishing their mission flawlessly. It was a remarkable success.

I am glad that our diplomats are now out of harm's way, but there remains much more work to be done. Unfortunately, that work is not being conducted with the competency and urgency that the situation in Sudan demands.

Congress was told thousands of American civilians are still in Sudan, but the Department of State, as this administration has shown a penchant for, has left them behind to fend for themselves.

This policy that is furthered by this administration not only leaves Americans abroad vulnerable, but as targets to those who would hurt and kill us. This Department of State is proving time and time again that they are unable to perform their duties confidently. We must look into this as a body in Congress.

Right now, the Department of State is unable to provide an update of how many Americans have contacted the department for assistance. They either can't or they won't. In either case, they will be held to account.

The Department of State refuses to be honest and transparent about the structure of the task force, the number of consular offices answering the need of Americans on the ground, or to describe how those Americans waiting to get out are being assisted besides updates on the next foreign flight or vessel.

There are French planes assisting their citizens, there are Chinese ships assisting their citizens, and there is silence for the cries of American citizens in Sudan being ignored. In a world where we cannot shoot our way out of conflicts exclusively, we need our diplomats to show up and with a plan that will have the full support of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, our President came to this Chamber mere months ago and told us repeatedly that he wanted to finish the job. It is not clear, after seeing what is happening in Afghanistan and seeing what is happening at our borders and seeing what is happening in Sudan that he ever started the job to begin with. We need the leadership of this body to stand up for American citizens when this administration will not.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, it is remarkable how quickly we forgot the lessons learned in Afghanistan. When we see the situation in Sudan and for Secretary of State Blinken to literally forget some of the lessons learned so quickly makes us wonder how many countries we are still vulnerable in as we move forward.

I want to reflect on Afghanistan because it hasn't been that long and, yet, I think many Americans have actually forgotten what has happened there.

We made several key strategic errors giving up Bagram Airfield: Leaving our allies in Afghanistan in the lurch without any notification in the dead of night, not handing operational control over from a State Department diplomatic mission in terms of an evacuation back to the DOD, and recognizing that we were, in fact, in a warfighting scenario where operational control should have been handed to the Department of Defense.

It was a demonstration of cabinet members under a weak administration not having the backbone to stand up and tell their boss, the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief, that, Boss, we have a problem. We need to be more proactive.

We need to take a step back, rethink our strategy here, and we need to make sure that every single American comes home. If you recall, we were actually bringing home American troops before we brought home American civilians in many of those cases.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE 44TH DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JAMIE WITTENBERG

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEAN of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 44th District Court Judge Jamie Wittenberg, who passed away last winter after a courageous 3-year battle with brain cancer. Elected in 2008, Jamie was one of the youngest judges ever to be elected in Oakland County, Michigan.

A Huntington Woods native and longtime Berkley resident, he attended Indiana University before graduating

from Wayne State Law school where he was a two-time recipient of the Leonard Gilman Scholarship. He served the State of Michigan honorably as a prosecutor in both Wayne and Macomb Counties prior to his election.

During his many years on the bench, Judge Wittenberg doubled the size of the sobriety court and helped to establish a teen court, a diversion program to help keep juveniles out of the judicial system and build brighter futures.

His family's world was upended over 3 years ago when he was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. No matter how daunting a diagnosis, Judge Wittenberg never complained. He never complained. He faced his cancer head-on by undergoing numerous surgeries, radiation, and chemotherapy. He remained in a state of ketosis. He far exceeded his original prognosis, handling a full court docket the entire time.

Judge Wittenberg was a respected and admired jurist who was a fixture of our southeast Oakland County community in Michigan. He was a mentor to countless attorneys and respected by everyone who appeared before him in court, no matter what side of the issue they were on. He will be remembered as being deeply fair and compassionate.

He is missed in our community, and this month he would have celebrated his 49th birthday. In addition to his beloved wife, Staci, Judge Wittenberg is survived by his four incredible daughters, Arielle, Talia, Brooke, and Maya, the lights of his life. He is survived by his parents, Mollie and Howard; his sister, Jodie; and, of course, his incredible brother, Robert Wittenberg who was sworn in by Judge Wittenberg as the Oakland County treasurer in just 2021.

We know his memory will be a blessing. May his memory be a blessing, and may we join together in this Chamber to continue to push for a cure, to continue to push for investments in tackling the scourge that is glioblastoma.

□ 1745

REFLECTING ON STATE OF U.S. INDUSTRIAL BASE

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to shift focus. I rise in this Congress reflecting on the state of the U.S. industrial base, reflecting as a Member of Congress from Michigan, as a Member of Congress who represents Oakland County, as a Member of Congress who lives in Oakland County, as a Member of Congress who represents Automation Alley, as someone who represents the largest concentration of automotive suppliers and, certainly, some of our automotive manufacturers, our original equipment manufacturers, as we like to call them.

Nearly every week since I got elected to Congress, I participate in a program. I call it ''Manufacturing Monday,'' and I visit our small businesses, our small manufacturers, our mom-and-pop shops, often passed down from parent to child; manufacturers who have been through a whole lot; manufacturers who guided the passage of the USMCA, which was done before COVID ever entered our lexicon, to give the North American Continent a fair shot at competing, a framework to compete, a framework to sell our goods internationally.

Export channels are phenomenal. They lead to revenues. They lead to productivity. People want to buy American products throughout the world. They recognize our flag. They recognize our craftsmanship.

Then, in no short order, after we passed USMCA, renegotiating NAFTA, giving our manufacturers and our workers a leg up, of course, we were disrupted. We were disrupted by a global pandemic.

In this very Chamber, as Members of Congress representing every ZIP Code throughout this Nation gathered to vote, gathered to respond to the charge of the time, people were tapping me on the shoulder. How are you doing this in Michigan so well? How are you responding to these supply chain disruptions? How do Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis, otherwise sometimes known as Chrysler, know how to immediately act to these supply chain disruptions, sourcing masks, producing ventilators, finding out who has the specs and who doesn't?

We kept working. We kept making. We stood up and responded to the industrial call to action of this very Nation, similar to how we did in the World War II era. It is in our very blood.

By the way, Michiganders, we are a northern State. Spring hits later than here in the mid-Atlantic, where the Nation's Capital resides. We are full of grit. We are full of toughness. We have seen some tough times, but we know how to rise through challenges and how to stick to the knitting and stick to the good work, even when the times aren't easy.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a very unique and interesting moment, yet again on the springboard of the remarkable passage of the CHIPS and Science Act that I was so proud to play a leading role in passing as the vice chair last term of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the subcommittee chair for the Research and Technology Subcommittee.

$52 billion for chips manufacturing is not a platitude. It is a real investment in industrial policy in this Nation.

Why do we need to invest in chip manufacturing? We innovated the microchip. We innovated the company called Intel. The late Gordon Moore, who we recently said good-bye to within the last 6 weeks, I believe, innovated that microchip alongside his fellow academics out in the Western part of this Nation. At one point, we were making 40 percent of the chips, and then something happened. We got laissez-faire. We forgot about what it means to have an industrial base in this country, taking it for granted.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I served very proudly in the administration of President Barack Obama when we were responding to the inherited crisis of the Great Recession, working on what was known as the auto rescue, the largest managed industrial bankruptcy in the history of this Nation of General Motors and then Chrysler, at the time selling 8, 9 million cars globally a year. It is known as SAR, the indicator. It was unfathomable where we would be 12 years later, a dozen years later, at 16, 17 million SAR.

We were talking about semiconductors. We were focusing on semiconductors. We were focusing on the minerals, not just the trade relationships, but the need to double down on manufacturing policy in the United States of America.

Some of you might know that President Obama created the White House Office of Manufacturing Policy. He created what was then called the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, now known as Manufacturing USA, about a dozen institutes in various research concentrations that exist throughout this Nation.

One we boast about in Michigan is known as LIFT. We are very proud of our friends at LIFT. It used to be focused very specifically on lightweight materials. Now, they are in a variety of spaces and joined with The Composites Institute doing R&D, doing workforce training, smaller scale.

We must look bigger. I am on the select committee, very proudly, serving under Chair MIKE GALLAGHER, also from the Midwest, from Wisconsin, the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

We are so dependent. We are so dependent on foreign markets. We want to sell to those markets, but when the pandemic hit our shores and you can't get the masks, and you can't get your manufacturing supply chains going because you outsourced it all, it is a wake-up moment. It was a major wake-up moment for microchips and semiconductors in the United States of America.

All of a sudden, very brilliantly, this very body, our Chamber, the House of Representatives, where all great ideas begin, we put forward a bill in partnership with our colleagues in the other Chamber, the Senate. It became the CHIPS and Science Act, $52 billion. We will talk about the number.

Have we talked about what taxpayers spent, what is the return on that investment? It is a $52 billion spend over half a decade. It was already signed into law in August 2022. It has already begat $200 billion of private-sector investment.

This is absolutely remarkable and brilliant. We are seeing these amazing microchip factories come into places across this country—Ohio, Arizona. We have Hemlock in Michigan.

The challenge isn't over. We can't manufacture fast enough. It is not a light switch, complex manufacturing.

Fabricators for chips can't get a hair strand caught in them. You must suit up. You must be trained. You must be disciplined.

We are focused on the workforce consideration, which is why I was delighted that my CHIPPING IN bill made it into the CHIPS and Science Act—$25 million to the National Science Foundation to invest in the workforce development and training for chips manufacturing.

This is cause for celebration. It is also cause for reflection because this bill, in many respects, was a catch-up bill. We were catching up to where we needed to be—40 percent of chips manufacturing in the 1990s, down to 10, 12 percent in the 2020s.

The tide rolls out. Cars are sitting in parking lots. Microelectronics industries are going haywire. Prices are going out of control. Then, people are wondering about China and Taiwan, why we have to get all of these chips from Taiwan, and what happens with the national security ramifications of this.

We can't move fast enough. Now, as we are doing the work on the competitiveness committee to lessen our reliance on the CCP and to recognize that the American way of doing business, the Western way of doing business through free markets in democratic nations, must continue to succeed as we inch our way, not just into the quarter-21st century, but the mid-21st century, which will be here before we know it.

What is our charge? We understand the trade relationship. We understand that, between 1985 and 2000, the U.S. trade deficit with China grew steadily from $6 billion to $83 billion, a trade deficit.

The deficit ballooned after the Chinese Communist Party joined the World Trade Organization in 2001. It is standing at a very stratospheric level at $309 billion.

When we look specifically at key industries, we see it here as well. I have already expounded on chips. We recognize there is still a weakness. We can't move fast enough. This is a call to action.

I have briefly mentioned rare minerals, critical minerals. Somewhere between 85 and 92 percent of the refining capacity is taking place in China, taking place on behalf of the CCP.

We don't want to be overly reliant. We want to focus on our trade relationships and our strategy.

I cannot tell you all the hundreds of manufacturing visits I have made as a sitting Member of this Chamber, not going in with a fancy podium, not going in with the press. I have two ears and a notepad and a member from my team, and we are establishing relationships. So, we are geeking out. It is great to see the equipment in action, but there are supply chain vulnerabilities.

There are supply chain gaps. We have gone through this with materials. Steel has gone haywire. We have tried to tariff. We are still paying high prices. We are glad that U.S. Steel is making money, finally.

Tariffs aren't going to be a comprehensive industrial policy for the United States of America. We have to figure out how to strategically invest.

We don't need to do it at the rate of our competitors who do everything—well, the one competitor in this case, the CCP that is top down. That is autocratic. That is state sponsored. We don't need to do it like that. We need to bring the private sector along.

Sometimes, these key stakeholders are begging for the table of collaboration. I saw this at the research institute that I worked in about a decade ago that was a part of that national network for manufacturing innovation, the Industrial Internet of Things, large data stacks, bringing together competitor companies, research institutions, and States to co-invest to get access to R&D.

We have to scale. That is what we have been doing. It is actually quite amazing.

Now, we ask ourselves, what is next? How are we going to build batteries in the United States of America?

A small startup in my district, located in Troy, Michigan, called Intecells, absolutely brilliant, making the batteries to go into the electric vehicle. Of course, that is what we mean now when we say ''battery.'' We think of the electric vehicle, the sustainability charge, absolutely brilliant.

Every Democrat in this Chamber, both House and Senate, joined together toward the end of the last term to pass the Inflation Reduction Act. Can you believe it?

If you looked to last century, well, my goodness, you would never see the environmental groups and the automakers being on the same page, but they were on the same page with this one—zero emissions, making the sustainable vehicle.

We did the bipartisan infrastructure bill. See, those who sit on this side of the Chamber can actually talk about our passage of the legislation.

They do thank us a lot on the CCP committee for CHIPS and Science. It was bipartisan, I will give you that, but we could have gotten more.

□ 1800

We didn't get any on IRA. We got a few on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. I am always delighted when we can work together in a bipartisan way, and I don't mock when we can't.

These are the things I am talking about that bring people together, our House Manufacturing Caucus, with Mr. JOYCE. We have a Democratic task force that I run with Whip CLYBURN on manufacturing: doing, delivering, and setting us up for success.

Manufacturing is technology. Manufacturing is high-tech. Manufacturing is software engineering. Manufacturing is computer numerical controls machines and computer-aided design. We are doing 2D and 3D, and we are doing the printing and all that other good stuff, but we need to get access to the materials. We need to figure out why we are behind on batteries and not blame each other and not blame the manufacturers who just want to build this stuff here.

I want the jobs here. I want the union jobs here. I want the lithium to come through good sources that we have access to, so we are not just hanging around and waiting and hoping that this comes in. Hydrogen is also a great opportunity for us.

But here is the deal, folks. Fighting each other isn't going to change the reality that 80 percent of the manufacturing capacity of those batteries is done in China. It is not. But Intecells, when I first met with them several years ago, their CEO, Shawn, said to me: STEVENS, we have got to make this here. We have got to do this here. We are losing this race.

Now, some of these whiz kids at Stanford University, that the chairman of the committee brought us to, are working on technology readiness. They are working on technology indicators.

Well, my automakers bring this to me: Who is doing what? Where are we in the spectrum? Here is where the U.S. is with the EU and the CCP and on.

We are also very excited and energized by our trade partnership with India and what that might mean, democracies working together. I happen to represent a very large concentration of Indian Americans who came to this Nation by Ford, primarily, to engineer and help work on the autos.

This is exciting. Let's continue to bring in high-skilled talent. Mr. DURBIN has a bill. We would like to get this done. We can't be operating off of 20th century immigration policies as we try and function and compete in the 21st century.

Some are chasing the glitz and glamour that comes with the job. I get it. They want attention. They want to raise dollars. I am not out here to attack anyone specifically. But our work is not just profound and tied to the great history of this very Chamber and this institution and all the things we need to do. No, Mr. Speaker, it is tied to the very charge of this century that we exist in, which is renovating our systems, focusing on the functionality and efficiency of government to best serve its stakeholders, the voter and the constituent. Period. End of story.

Well, it is a heap. We have got healthcare entanglements and bureaucracies that we need to address. We have got infrastructure challenges ongoing that, again, a bipartisan infrastructure bill, which was catching us up to work on fixing roads. Governor Whitmer in Michigan is highly focused on this.

Lead in the pipes. I have got pipe challenges in Oakland County, Michigan. I have got Royal Oak Township that has water costs through the roof. I have got Pontiac that had power outages like the rest of the county from

trees that we decided not to trim. Pontiac to West Bloomfield. We have got power outages for weeks on end in the innovation capital of the Midwest.

So we have got to do the nitty-gritty, right? We have got to roll up our sleeves and do the stuff. I say this with all due respect, Mr. Speaker. That isn't always sexy, but it makes us work better. Then we can get in, and we will focus, and we are focusing. We are not going to wait.

We parallel track our charge, we parallel track our effort, because artificial intelligence is here. This is maybe, in part, why I have a master's in philosophy and social policy, because it is raising unbelievable philosophical questions, artificial intelligence. It is not these gimmick podcasts that are just talking about falling in love with a robot or your kids doing homework with the AI chat. That is all interesting and disruptive.

No, this is about systems. This is about systems of artificial intelligence in our Department of Defense, in our hospitals, that are making decisions about our everyday life.

We need trust. As the vice chair of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I chaired a hearing on artificial intelligence and bias. That is one leg of this. A regulatory framework would help. Continuing to invest would help. Continuing to lead, as we have in the United States of America, brilliantly, because we have the talent. We want the talent. We are in a global race for talent.

Our universities of all stripes are really wonderful places to learn, educate, receive higher education, climb that ladder, produce that original research, and change the world. That is the only way we are going to succeed.

We measure ourselves sometimes by how many Ph.D.s we have. How many people get to stay in America after they get that Ph.D., right?

What are we losing out on because we haven't reformed?

I have talked about the materials. I have talked about steel. I want to mention aluminum. We are very proud of both industries. We want to have more here in America. We want to be strong on the materials front. We also want to continue to work on advancing our charges in the composite space.

I am also the originator of the House Plastic Solutions Task Force. Now, people get obsessed with the bottles, and the bottles need to be recycled. But plastic is in everything. It is in your clothes. It is in your shoes. It is in the chairs. We have got to think about better technologies to reuse.

Interestingly, my manufacturers in Michigan have Reman, and I have introduced legislation called Reman Day to salute their work and to continue to encourage it. There is no incentive to remanufacture your steel or your aluminum, but many companies see a bottom line with it, which is great. Those in the plastics sector, from my chemical manufacturers to my back-end manufacturers, are saying: We have got to reuse this plastic. Plastic comes from oil, folks. We don't want to just keep sourcing that way. We can reuse it.

We have got companies, startups, innovators, who are helping us better recycle plastic. But we also could look for other composites.

I don't really think banning plastic straws and drinking out of plastic cups with plastic lids is solving the meta challenge. I would be keen to the conversation of which we have entered into in this body of thinking through a limitation of single-use plastics for better recycling. By the way, there are other composites and other materials we can use.

Forvia, which is in my district, an auto supplier, is trying to minimize the plastic in the interior of the car to breathe healthier. That is what they are calling it. They are using hemp. I am not knocking anyone. I am just simply looking at solutions for us.

I have introduced the last two terms in Congress a plastic recycling technology bill that has really been bipartisan, and Representative TROY BALDERSON has joined with me in that bill in the past. We have worked on that in the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. That is a great start, because in some ways we are naive to think about their durability and plastics going into all of our food and plastics going into all of our equipment and cell phones and our medical tests and things like that. But we have got to think forward in terms of how we are going to succeed.

Here are some other bills that we would like to support in this Chamber, I would like to implore the support of my colleagues on.

Passing the Manufacturing Guard Act. The Manufacturing Guard Act is a bill to shore up our supply chains and prevent future emergency disruptions.

Some, when COVID hit our shores, were saying this is like a weather event that has disrupted a part of the world. No, that wasn't a weather event. It was a global challenge, and it was a sustained disruption. Cybersecurity attacks are the same way. Tsunamis are a part of this. We have got to better prepare.

A bill I introduced last Congress, alongside Mr. BALDERSON, Senators COONS, RUBIO, HASSAN, and CORNYN, would establish an Office of Supply Chain Preparedness in the Department of Commerce. How delightful would that be, as we have gotten CHIPS and Science done.

So they are cooking up a great team at Commerce under the great leadership of Secretary Gina Raimondo, who I would like to salute for her great effort and dedication to passing CHIPS and Science. I fully believe that the Department of Commerce could house such a supply chain preparedness office, working cohesively with the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. RITCHIE TORRES has a like bill along these lines which I endorse.

Members of the manufacturing guard would advise the supply chain office, would run simulations, would test our systems.

Where are we weak?

Where do we need to implement technologies for supply chain visibility?

We don't always know what's around the corner. We don't need to be afraid. Truman's wise words: America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, determination, and the willingness to do the job at hand.

This is our American moment, industrial policy for the 21st century.

Another bill that I would like to encourage my colleagues to support is the Promoting Digital Privacy Technologies Act. This is a great bill utilizing the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which we authorized and plussed up in CHIPS and Science and gave more energy to.

By the way, NIST is playing a huge role in the CHIPS and Science Act. My privacy-enhancing technologies bill is going to direct the NSF to support competitive fundamental research on privacy-enhancing technologies. It's going to direct NIST to facilitate the development of standards and best practices for the integration of what we call PETs, privacy enhancing technologies, in the public and private sector to ensure that Americans continue to reap the rewards of data analysis while also protecting their most sensitive information.

We don't need to jump in on hyper-regulation. But we can use Federal agencies like NIST and NSF, as we have seen them do since their origin, to serve as trustworthy and good partners with stakeholders from academia, industry, and the general public.

We also have a great bill called the Shifting Forward Vehicle Technologies Research and Development Act. It is a total mouthful, but it is a great bill. I introduced it last Congress alongside my colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL. That bill reauthorizes the Advanced Vehicle Technology Program for R&D at the Department of Energy.

I don't like to skip over the fact that the CHIPS and Science bill that was passed and signed into law did a lot of great things for DOE. We are seeing a lot of nice manufacturing partnerships and engagements with the Department of Energy throughout this country.

We are also seeing the Department of Energy being exercised as a critical part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, some of these early-stage grants that are going out for cell batteries and hydrogen in the hydrogen hubs.

But my Shifting Forward Vehicle Technologies Research and Development Act supports research for improving vehicle batteries for extremely fast-charging and wireless charging capabilities and efficiencies to lower costs, exploring efficient use, substitution, and recycling of critical materials.

Here we go again: Technology for recycling, thinking about how we can use

that approach for access to rare earth minerals or precious metals that are at risk of supply chain disruption, testing advanced battery safety protection systems for high-voltage power and heat and on.

□ 1815

WE MUST PASS QUANTUM BILLS

Mr. Speaker, we know we have got to make a move on quantum. Quantum bills, there is kind of a nice package cooking out in the Science Committee.

I am proud to share that in the last month I have served as the co-lead, co-author for two quantum bills. The Quantum Sandbox for Near-Term Applications Act, which I have done with my colleague Mr. OBERNOLTE to establish a quantum sandbox through public-private partnerships focused on quantum applications and development for the acceleration of this technology.

Supercomputers, quantum. We are always in a race with the CCP on who has the fastest supercomputer. Well, quantum has arrived. Quantum, like AI and like the supercomputers before it, are very expensive to run, very cumbersome, and very costly. How far does this go and how fast does it go?

We want to have these technologies here. This is why in CHIPS and Science we encourage the National Science Foundation, and we said to them, you are now going to create a new directorate: technology, innovation, and partnerships. It is all in this vain.

Mr. Speaker, I actually heard this from the Senate majority leader, Mr. SCHUMER, he said that we want to be leading in quantum.

The Quantum in Practice Act, which includes quantum molecular simulations and modeling in the National Quantum Initiative Act. That is my other bill.

The Science Committee is absolutely on the brink of taking up a reauthorization of the National Quantum Initiative Act to support and expand quantum information science and technology research. It is a critical technology for the U.S. to remain a global leader on.

Mr. Speaker, I have got a few closing points. One is a note of braggadocios. I boast in the great State of Michigan, the 10th largest State in the Union, and geographically the largest State east of the Mississippi, the most number of first robotic teams in the Union.

We are engaging our students with the industry of the future. We are building. We are making. We are doing exciting workforce development. Those students are going on to skilled trades. Those students are going on to engineering. Those students are going on to communications to help us compete in these industries of the future.

We must invest and lead in the development of the next generation of vehicles. That is what we are working on. We must have a robust investment in manufacturing and technology. I say investment as strategy. We have to do these things to win the future, and, most assuredly, we will do from the place that I call home, Michigan.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 28, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2023, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO SWITZERLAND, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 15 AND 20, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Gregory Meeks	1/15	1/20	Switzerland		7,520.81		(3)				7,520.81
Hon. Seth Moulton	1/15	1/20	Switzerland		5,921.35		(3)				5,921.35
Hon. Darrell Issa	1/15	1/18	Switzerland		570.00		(3)				570.00
Hon. Joaquin Castro	1/15	1/20	Switzerland		8,228.97		(3)				8,228.97
Hon. Mikie Sherrill	1/15	1/20	Switzerland		6,072.39		(3)				6,072.39
Hon. Maria Salazar	1/15	1/20	Switzerland		7,552.47		(3)				7,552.47
Hon. Madeleine Dean	1/15	1/20	Switzerland		7,538.74		(3)				7,538.74
Hon. Brendan Boyle	1/15	1/20	Switzerland		6,615.60		(3)				6,615.60
Committee total					50,020.33						50,020.33

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY, Mar. 31, 2023.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO NORWAY, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 24 AND 27, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Michael Turner	3/24	3/27	Norway		986.00		(3)				986.00
Hon. Gerald Connolly	3/24	3/27	Norway		986.00		(3)				986.00
Hon. Linda Sánchez	3/24	3/27	Norway		986.00		(3)				986.00
Hon. Brett Guthrie	3/24	3/27	Norway		986.00		(3)				986.00
Hon. Neal Dunn	3/24	3/27	Norway		986.00		(3)				986.00
Jason Galanes	3/24	3/27	Norway		986.00		(3)				986.00
Collin Davenport	3/24	3/27	Norway		986.00		(3)				986.00
Committee total					6,902.00						6,902.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY, Apr. 14, 2023.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

HON. JODEY C. HARRINGTON, Apr. 17, 2023.

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

HON. MICHAEL GUEST, Apr. 19, 2023.

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN, Apr. 17, 2023.

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

HON. SAM GRAVES, Apr. 14, 2023.

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–812. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq Section 4 of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–813. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period of April 1, 2022, through May 31, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–814. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the drawdown of defense articles and services and military education and training under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide immediate military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–815. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–816. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Major interim final rule — Postal Service Reform Act; Establishment of the Postal Service Health Benefits Program [RIN: 3206-AO43] received April 20, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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. BACON (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 2922. A bill to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 2923. A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, House Administration, Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 2924. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and develop approaches to mitigate identified or potential negative effects of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself and Mrs. PELTOLA):

H.R. 2925. A bill to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARR (for himself and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 2926. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a 3-year recovery period for all race horses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARR (for himself and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 2927. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the holding period used to determine whether horses are section 1231 assets to 12 months; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. MAST, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. STEWART, Mr. SELF, Mr. CARL, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ROY, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. FRY, Mr. PALMER, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 2928. A bill to cancel certain proposed changes to credit fees charged by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 2929. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Ms. MACE, Mr. TRONE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 2930. A bill to require automatic sealing of certain criminal records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2931. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide incentives for States to implement policy changes to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 2932. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on the Warrior Training Advancement Course of the Veterans Benefits Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CLINE (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 2933. A bill to eliminate the Federal Insurance Office of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MANN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 2934. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit a State from receiving or using funds or certain donations from private entities for the administration of an election for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 2935. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend the period during which certain survivors of a member of the Selected Reserve are eligible for health benefits under TRICARE Reserve Select; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. BOST, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 2936. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit staged collisions with commercial motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 2937. A bill to eliminate the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 2938. A bill to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 2939. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit the confinement of pregnant pigs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FERGUSON (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 2940. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most threatening infections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, Ways and Means, 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 Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 2941. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 2942. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide for the enrollment of citrus land in the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 2943. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to increase financial literacy instruction in elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 2944. A bill to prevent the misuse of drones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 2945. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an excess urban heat mitigation grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 2946. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to advance meritorious asylum claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. SANTOS, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 2947. A bill to deter the trafficking of illicit fentanyl, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. MAST, and Mr. BEAN of Florida):

H.R. 2948. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the operation of certain specialized hauling vehicles on the Interstate System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2949. A bill to ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 2950. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 2951. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand prohibitions under the clean vehicle credit on battery components manufactured or assembled by corporations associated with foreign entities of concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PORTER, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2952. A bill to amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to limit the admissibility of evidence of a defendant's creative or artistic expression against such defendant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MFUME, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ROSS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BEYER, Ms.

NORTON, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CASAR, Mr. TRONE, Mr. STANTON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 2953. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 2954. A bill to provide for improvements in the treatment of women in the criminal justice system; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on 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 Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. MCCLAIN):

H.R. 2955. A bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CASAR, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. CHU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. EVANS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 2956. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase criminal and civil penalties related to child labor, to require the Secretary of Labor to annually report to Congress on child labor violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MACE, and Ms. SHERRILL):

H.R. 2957. A bill to establish a postsecondary student data system; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. HERN):

H.R. 2958. A bill to provide for additional sanctions with respect to foreign persons that are officials, agents, or affiliates of, or owned or controlled by, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. LATURNER:

H.R. 2959. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to health care through expanded health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 2960. A bill to cancel certain proposed changes to credit fees charged by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BOWMAN):

H.R. 2961. A bill to ensure that the Department of Defense achieves a clean audit opinion on its financial statements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 2962. A bill to exempt certain Federal hydrogen programs from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 2963. A bill to provide for further congressional oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself and Mrs. PELTOLA):

H.R. 2964. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have ''Do Not Flush'' labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 2965. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants for providing evidence-based caregiver skills training to family caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 2966. A bill to reauthorize and limit the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 2967. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an emergency grant aid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. MACE, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 2968. A bill to require the disclosure of information relating to the cost of programs, projects, or activities carried out using Federal funds; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 2969. A bill to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 2970. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate certain requirements relating to the award of construction subcontracts within the county or State of performance; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2971. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BUCK, and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 2972. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and appropriate Federal regulators have the authority to claw back certain compensation paid to executives; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 2973. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and interdiction capability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 2974. A bill to establish a Federal Interagency Council on Housing Affordability and Preservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 2975. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 with respect to the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Ms. WILD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MULLIN,

Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Ms. TITUS, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 2976. A bill to increase the quality and supply of child care and lower child care costs for families; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 2977. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for the purpose of establishing, operating, or expanding one-stop crisis facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, 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 Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 2978. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any interest paid on an overpayment of tax in the case of an individual or small business; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 2979. A bill to require the designation of certain airports as ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 2980. A bill to provide for Department of Energy and National Science Foundation research and development coordination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 2981. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide a student loan allowance calculation for purposes of determining the student aid index; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MOLINARO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey):

H.R. 2982. A bill to establish the New York-New Jersey Watershed Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Ms. MACE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2983. A bill to amend the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to establish grants for States for purposes of modernizing criminal justice data infrastructure to facilitate automated record sealing and expungement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H.R. 2984. A bill to create a safe harbor for insurers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. IVEY, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 2985. A bill to regulate firearm silencers and firearm mufflers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WEBSTER of Florida (for himself and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 2986. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction for certain charity care furnished by physicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 2987. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to improve procedures and requirements related to election mail; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of New York (for himself and Mr. SORENSEN):

H.R. 2988. A bill to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.J. Res. 60. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require the United States and the States to jointly ensure a high-quality education to all persons within the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution calling for the end of impunity of unpunished Serbian sexual war crimes during the 1999 Kosovo war in the case of United States citizen and sexual war crime survivor Vasfije Krasniqi Goodman and other survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. MURPHY):

H. Res. 333. A resolution expressing support for designation of April as ''National Donate Life Month'' and expressing gratitude to all Americans who have registered to be organ and tissue donors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. EDWARDS):

H. Res. 334. A resolution recognizing the significance of ''Community College Month'' as a celebration of more than 1,000 institutions throughout the United States supporting access to higher education, workforce training, and more broadly sustaining and advancing the Nation's economic prosperity; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Ms. BALINT, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 335. A resolution condemning the horrific shootings that occurred in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 10, 2023, in the Old National Bank building, and on April 15, 2023, in Chickasaw Park, honoring the memory of the victims of the attacks, expressing condolences and support to all those impacted by these tragedies, and reaffirming the commitment of the House of Representatives to support all victims of gun violence; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H. Res. 336. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the House should recognize Robert Aitken's Bible as a historical document of the United States Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

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. BACON:

H.R. 2922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

Baltic Security

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 2924.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Homeland Security

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 2925.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make

all rules and regulations respecting property belonging to the United States under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill provides clarity that the ancillary uses (support facilities, tailings, etc) inherently accompany exploration and extraction activities for other mining-support activities.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 2926.

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 would make the three-year depreciation schedule permanent for racehorses; regardless of their age when put into service.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 2927.

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 would reduce the holding period for equine assets to be considered long term capital gains to 12 months, putting them on a level playing field with other similar assets.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 2928.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this bill is to cancel certain proposed changes to credit fees charged by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2929.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 2930.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require automatic sealing of certain criminal records, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 2931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide incentives for States to implement policy changes to reduce prison populations.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 2932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art, 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Issues

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 2933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact the legislation pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Elimination of a federal agency.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 2934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit states from accepting or using funds from private entities to manipulate administration of and to influence the outcome of federal elections.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 2935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

TRICARE benefits for surviving families of members of the armed services.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 2936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve the safety of truckers and civilians on US highways.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 2937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would repeal the CFPB.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 2938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Energy

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 2939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. FERGUSON:

H.R. 2940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to ''provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Antibiotics

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 2941.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

direct support professionals

By Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 2942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Ccnstitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide for the enrollment of citrus land in the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 2943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Grant programs to promote financial literacy for students

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 2944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prevent the weaponization of drones.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 2945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: ''[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:

Community Development

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 2946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to advance meritorious asylum claims.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:

H.R. 2947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would amend foreign sovereign immunity and anti-terrorism laws to allow victims of fentanyl and their survivors to bring civil claims against nations that facilitate the flood of fentanyl into the United States. The bill would also eliminate certain immunity protections for foreign nations that assist or permit fentanyl trafficking beyond mere negligence.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:

H.R. 2948.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would increase gross vehicle weight limits for stinger-steered automobile

transporters by 10%, which is 8,000 pounds, while capping single and tandem axle groups at a 10% increase. The bill would therefore allow automobile carriers to regain lost load capacity and reduce annual truck traffic by an estimated 16 million miles, eliminate the consumption of 3.2 million gallons of diesel fuel and prevent 32 metric tons of diesel emissions

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 2949.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

legislating

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 2950.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 2951.

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:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand prohibitions under the clean vehicle credit on battery components manufactured or assembled by corporations associated with foreign entities of concern, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 2952.

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:

Judiciary

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 2953.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, in order to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of future employment, consumer, antitrust, or civil rights disputes, and to prohibit agreements and practices that interfere with the rights of individuals, workers, and small businesses to participate in a joint, class, or collective action related to an employment, consumer, antitrust, or civil rights dispute.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 2954.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause, (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes improvements in the treatment of women in the criminal justice system.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 2955.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Child Abuse

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2956.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would increase the civil and criminal penalties for child labor violations as well as authorize an annual report from the Department of Labor.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 2957.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a postsecondary student data system.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 2958.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8 ''To regulate commerce with foreign nations . . .''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Modifies Section 301(a) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to close loopholes and require regular reviews of sanctions to ensure sanctions are applied to intended, individuals, organizations, and entities.

By Mr. LATURNER:

H.R. 2959.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 which provides Congress the 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 expand access to and uses of funds for Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Accounts.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 2960.

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:

Credit Fees

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2961.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Increase accountability on the Department of Defense for having failed 5 consecutive audits.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 2962.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To increase American energy production and restore energy leadership by simplifying the permitting of hydrogen production facilities

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 2963.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, SectIon 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure that Congress has the information necessary to carry out oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

By Mrs. McCLAIN:

H.R. 2964.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have ''Do Not Flush'' labeling, and for other purposes.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2965.

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:

Autism

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 2966.

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 disaster preparedness.

By Mr. MORELLLE:

H.R. 2967.

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 higher education.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 2968.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation will require public disclosure of the total cost to taxpayers for every project supported with federal funds.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 2969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

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 Goverment of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 2970.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Removing the underlying language within the Small Business Act which has, to date, provided the Small Business Administration the authority to to promulgate the bona fide place of business rule for 8(a) businesses.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The single subject of this legislation is:

Article I, Section 8.

Veterans' Affairs

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 2972.

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:
To amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and appropriate Federal regulators have the authority to claw back certain compensation paid to executives.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:
H.R. 2973.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to ''provide for the common Defence'', ''to raise and support Armies'', and ''to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'' as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and interdiction capability, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 2974.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constiution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Housing

By Ms. SCHRIER:
H.R. 2975.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Conservation

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:
H.R. 2976.
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:
child care.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:
H.R. 2977.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
mental health and substance use crisis stabilization services.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:
H.R. 2978.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
The bill would make the interest received on a delayed tax refund non-taxable income for individual filers and small businesses.

By Ms. STEFANIK:
H.R. 2979.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To designate the Valley International Airport in Harlingen, Texas, and the Plattsburgh International Airport in Plattsburgh, New York, as ports of entry.

By Ms. STEVENS:
H.R. 2980.
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:
Interagency Research

By Ms. STEVENS:
H.R. 2981.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Student Aid

By Mr. TONKO:
H.R. 2982.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I
The single subject of this legislation is:
This legislation establishes the New York-New Jersey Watershed Restoration Program to coordinate and fund restoration activities throughout the Watershed.

By Mr. TRONE:
H.R. 2983.
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:
To provide assistance to states to help implement their automatic record-clearing systems.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:
H.R. 2984.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill creates a safe harbor for insurers who engage in the business of insurance in connection wiht a cannabis related legitimate business.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:
H.R. 2985.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Prohibit the importation, sales, manufacture, transfer, or possession of silencers.

By Mr. WEBSTER of Florida:
H.R. 2986.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Consitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Income tax deductions

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:
H.R. 2987.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
to improve the handling of election mail

By Mr. WILLIAMS of New York:
H.R. 2988.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Among other powers, those vested in Congress pursuant to Article I, Section 8 to: Provide for the. common defense and general welfare of the United States; Regulate commerce, and Make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying Into execution Congress's other powers as provided under that Article.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes

By Mr. DESAULNIER:
H.J. Res. 60.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Education

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 79: Mr. FRY.
H.R. 82: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 319: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 334: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 335: Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. COMER, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. CAREY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, and Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 340: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 366: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 431: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 472: Mr. VAN DREW and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 480: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 528: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 531: Mr. BARR, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. CARL, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 537: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. MANN.
H.R. 547: Mr. COHEN and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 589: Mr. LATTA and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 603: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 648: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 655: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 700: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 743: Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CARL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BARR, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 751: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 758: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 775: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 807: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 834: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 891: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 895: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 911: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 986: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1065: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. MENG, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 1067: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1097: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1147: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 1191: Ms. CRAIG and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 1247: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 1263: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1276: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1277: Mr. TORRES of New York and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1319: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1329: Mr. MURPHY and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 1396: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 1399: Mr. VAN DREW and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 1421: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 1437: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 1441: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1458: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 1480: Mr. BOST and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 1486: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 1503: Mr. COLE, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1510: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 1520: Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 1524: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 1587: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 1613: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1624: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 1628: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1629: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1634: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. COLE, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1640: Mr. STEWART and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 1642: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 1669: Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. CARL, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1685: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1690: Mr. ISSA and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 1713: Ms. CARAVEO and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 1715: Ms. CARAVEO and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 1721: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 1754: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1761: Mrs. BICE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 1763: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1767: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 1770: Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1818: Mr. HILL and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 1828: Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ROSS, Ms. OMAR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 1831: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1833: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 1839: Ms. MANNING, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 1840: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1843: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2367: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. MANN.
H.R. 2370: Mr. MOLINARO and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 2377: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 2385: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2394: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2406: Mr. GUEST, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. SANTOS, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2423: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 2426: Mr. CASTEN and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2428: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 2434: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2439: Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. STANTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CHU, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CROW, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 2445: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2449: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 2567: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 2569: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2609: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 2620: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 2630: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2640: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2647: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 2662: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 2672: Mr. EZELL and Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 2684: Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 2718: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 2725: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 2728: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2732: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 2743: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2801: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2808: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 2810: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2816: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 2826: Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 2830: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2852: Mr. RYAN and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2871: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2876: Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2900: Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2905: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2906: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 2920: Mr. BACON.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. HILL.
H.J. Res. 54: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. FRY.
H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. LANDSMAN and Mr. PAYNE.
H. Res. 28: Mr. MFUME.
H. Res. 77: Mr. PALLONE.
H. Res. 143: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H. Res. 154: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. PALLONE.
H. Res. 196: Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HIMES, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H. Res. 259: Ms. CHU, Ms. Barragán, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. LYNCH.
H. Res. 262: Ms. PORTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H. Res. 307: Mr. MRVAN.
H. Res. 309: Ms. BALINT, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. RASKIN.
H. Res. 324: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 No. 71

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of our destinies, guide our Senators this day by Your higher wisdom. Lord, watch over them and use their work for Your glory. Replace fear with faith, pessimism with hope, and error with truth. May these lawmakers become Your instruments for enabling justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Give our legislators the serenity to accept what they can't change, the courage to change what they can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Provide them with strength and courage for the living of these days.

And, Lord, we thank You for the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the U.S. alliance with South Korea.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res 4, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 3, S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

S.J. RES. 4

Mr. SCHUMER. First, Mr. President, I would like to speak about the upcoming vote on the Equal Rights Amendment.

As we all know, the story of American democracy has been a hard but inexorable march toward greater equality—equality regardless of race, equality regardless of social status, equality regardless of marital status, and equality regardless of sex. That march began at the founding of our country, when Abigail Adams reminded her husband to ''remember the ladies'' when drafting the Constitution, which fell, unfortunately, on deaf ears.

It was a march that drew great numbers during the convention at Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848, and found expression in the abolitionist movement. That march took a bold step 100 years ago, when Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman drafted the original iteration of the Equal Rights Amendment and came before Congress for the first time.

Let that great march toward equality take the next bold step today when the Senate votes to take up this bipartisan resolution on the ERA.

This resolution is as necessary as it is timely. America can never hope to be a land of freedom and opportunity so long as half its population is treated like second-class citizens.

So 100 years after the ERA first came to Congress, the work is not done. The fight has yet to be won. The march continues. And we have a chance to take this next step forward.

The resolution is simple. It removes the arbitrary deadline for State ratification of the ERA that was imposed in the 1970s.

Today, 38 States have ratified the ERA, as required by the Constitution.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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But because two States acted only recently, after the deadline set by Congress, the ERA remains unratified.

Today's resolution says this deadline shall be in effect no more and, by doing so, recognizes that a sufficient number of States have now acted for the ERA to become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

There is no good reason—none—for this Chamber, this Congress, and this Nation to bind itself to limitations set 50 years ago. The Constitution itself imposes no such barrier. By keeping this barrier in place—this 7-year barrier—all we are doing is needlessly obeying skewed rules set by politicians who are long gone and whose views ought not to rule the day any longer.

In 2023, we should move forward to ratify the ERA with all due haste because, if you look at the terrible things happening to women's rights in this country, it is clear we must act. To the horror of hundreds of millions of American people, women in America have far fewer rights today than they did even a year ago. The protections of Roe v. Wade are gone, thanks to the MAGA majority on the Supreme Court. Over a dozen States have near-total abortion bans and millions of people have to travel hundreds of miles just to access reproductive care. That is sickening.

That is why the Senate, today, should vote in favor of advancing this ERA resolution so we can bring our Nation one step closer to greater justice, greater equality, and a more perfect union.

Again, let that great march toward equality take the next bold step today.

I thank Senators CARDIN and MURKOWSKI, as our lead sponsors—it is a bipartisan bill—and all Members who have championed this resolution. I will proudly vote yes on this measure.

LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023

Mr. President, now on default, yesterday, House Republicans passed, through the narrowest possible margin, a bill that amounts to a little more than a hard-right ransom note to the American people.

Republicans' ''Default on America Act,'' DOA, cannot possibly be called a real ''plan'' for resolving the default crisis. The DOA reads more like a threat coming directly from the House Freedom Caucus: Either Republicans will force a default on the debt, or they will force steep cuts, highly unpopular with the American people, for law enforcement, veterans, families, teachers, and kids.

Let's be perfectly clear. The Republicans' ''Default on America Act'' does nothing to actually resolve the looming debt crisis, and it has no hope of ever becoming law. If anything, the House's actions have made the likelihood of default more likely. It locks the House into an unacceptable position and pulls us even further apart.

This shows the real solution is a clean, bipartisan plan to avoid default. It is the same one both parties have adopted many times before. That is the solution, not this ''Default on America Act'' that is going nowhere.

If Republicans want to sell this terrible agenda to the American people, they should make their case in talks about the budget and appropriations, where it belongs, not by using the full faith and credit of the United States as a hostage.

Let me say that again. The Republicans' ''Default on America Act'' does nothing to resolve the default crisis and, in fact, makes it only more likely. The ''Default on America Act,'' which the House just passed, is not a step forward but rather a costly step backward.

Speaker MCCARTHY has claimed for months he wants to negotiate on avoiding default, but, according to reports, he is saying the opposite behind closed doors.

Per at least one GOP House Member, Speaker MCCARTHY called this radical bill ''a floor, not a ceiling.'' That is what he told the hard-right Members whose votes he needed. The Speaker has reportedly promised his right flank that, moving forward, he will oppose any measure that doesn't have every single hard-right priority considered in this bill.

In other words, to say this bill is ''a floor, not a ceiling'' is a threat to make the GOP bill even more extreme and avoid any alternative.

If these reports are true—and Speaker MCCARTHY has made clear he has no intention of negotiating—the Speaker can't say his bill is ''a floor, not a ceiling'' and also claim he wants to negotiate. This is rather a hostage-taking tactic, and this ''Default on America Act'' is the ransom note forced on us by a hard-right, unrepresentative small group in the House of Representatives who have leverage because of the rules there.

The GOP should realize that the American people will object to steep cuts to education, law enforcement, veterans' care, and border security that the DOA bill proposes.

So for all the effort the GOP spent trying to pass their bill, unfortunately, we are not any further along to resolving the debt ceiling crisis, and, if anything, we have taken a costly step backward.

It all brings us back to the place where we have been since the very beginning. The only real solution to avoiding a catastrophic default is the same solution that both parties have adopted in the past: Come together for a clean plan to avoid default, with no ransom notes, no ''floors,'' and no brinksmanship.

Democrats will not allow this ''Default on America Act'' to become law.

SAFE BANKING ACT

Mr. President, finally on safe banking, yesterday, Senators from both sides of the aisle—I met with them repeatedly—reintroduced the SAFE Banking Act.

SAFE Banking would ensure cannabis businesses that operate in States with legal cannabis have equal access to critical banking infrastructure. Clearly, this bill has provisions particularly aimed at helping minority business owners who are at a critical disadvantage in the cannabis industry.

Right now, the norm for the cannabis businesses is to operate on all cash, and that is simply not fair. It exposes them to too many risks and stifles their opportunities to grow.

Congress should be in the business of promoting entrepreneurs, promoting job growth, not holding these things back.

I have worked very hard to make progress in SAFE Banking Plus, and the work will continue, but I have also made it clear that one of my top priorities to ensure SAFE Banking passes is that it contain critical criminal justice provisions—most importantly, expunging criminal records for certain low-level marijuana offenses.

We have a moral responsibility in Congress to undo the terrible damage caused by the War on Drugs. It almost always has affected people of color. So I am going to work very hard with my colleagues to make sure criminal justice provisions are a part of SAFE Banking when it reaches the floor.

I thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We have met numerous times, and I think everyone is working in good faith, including Senators MERKLEY, DAINES, BROWN, SULLIVAN, and PAUL—a bipartisan group if there ever was one.

I look forward to working with my colleagues—Democrat and Republican—to make progress on SAFE Banking Plus this Congress, and I hope this portends more bipartisan cooperation on future cannabis legislation.

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. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

S.J. RES. 4

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we will shortly be voting on the cloture motion for S.J. Res. 4, and we are joined by Senator MURKOWSKI. I first want to start by thanking her for her extraordinary leadership on this issue and so many other issues that involve equality and opportunity for all Americans. It has been a journey that we have shared together, and I really want to thank her for her leadership on S.J. Res. 4.

It is bipartisan, and I know we are going to have a strong vote. I would just urge our colleagues not to filibuster equality. Let's get onto this resolution and complete the work that we have done. The States have already completed the work. Three-fourths, 38 States, have already approved and ratified the constitutional amendment for equal rights.

It is now necessary for us to take the final step and remove any doubt on the validity of the previous actions of Congress and the ratifications by the States. The courts have held what we have done before. It is up to Congress to do this. We have the authority, and we have the opportunity today by the vote that is going to take place.

We just got a statement on the administration's policy. President Biden strongly supports S.J. Res. 4. So we now have the support of the executive branch, and I hope that we can get the votes today in order to move forward on this. It is necessary.

We know that there are still systemic challenges based upon sex in our workplace, in healthcare, and domestic violence. This will be helpful, and most Americans already think it is part of the Constitution. So let's get the job done. We will have an opportunity to do so in a few moments.

Again, I want to thank my colleague, who has been a true leader on this, Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARDIN for his leadership on this issue, not only in this Congress but in the previous Congresses when we have attempted to advance this very important measure.

What we have in front of us right now is S.J. Res. 4, an amendment to add the Equal Rights Amendment to our Constitution. It is pretty simple. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. It is as simple as that. That is it. That is the full substance of the Equal Rights Amendment. We refer to it as the ERA.

I think most people in this country believe that it is already a part of the Constitution, that it is already a protection under it.

Justice Scalia stated more than a decade ago now:

> Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't.

A little bit of the history here: The ERA was first proposed back in 1923, 3 years after ratification of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote, fully 100 years removed from where we are today. Now, 50 years later, the ERA finally passed Congress, was signed by President Carter in 1972.

There was a 7-year deadline for ratification. Thirty-five States moved quickly, including the State of Alaska, within that deadline. It was extended once, in 1982, to give the remaining States some more time to consider it. But momentum waned as other things took precedent.

The ERA didn't go away, though. Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia became the 36th, the 37th, and the 38th States to ratify it between 2017 and 2020. And so where we are today is there are 38 States that have ratified the ERA. That meets the threshold of the three-quarters of the States that are needed to ratify a constitutional amendment, but that can't happen because of a technicality because the preamble of the ERA contains an outdated deadline for ratification.

And that is where our simple resolution comes in. It removes that arbitrary deadline to reflect what has actually happened instead of what Congress thought was going to happen some decades ago. It would affirm the Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified by 38 States, met the threshold to be made part of the Constitution, and allow that to finally occur.

Now, some have suggested that the ERA is no longer needed. We have certainly made great strides as women since 1923, but there is a lot more that needs to be done. Women are a majority of the U.S. population but continue to be underrepresented in elected office, in the courts, in the business world, and in so many other areas.

There remains, of course, a pay gap. We know of this. We hear the statistics all the time—a pay gap between men and women: 18 cents on the dollar according to the GAO—and that gap is wider across industries and within certain groups, to 22 cents on the dollar for women at private, for-profit companies and 23 cents for full-time managers.

As the Senator from Maryland has mentioned, the ERA is also needed to help address violence against women. Statistics from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, for example, show that 1 in 7 women compared to 1 in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.

Again, what the Equal Rights Amendment provides: It would establish fundamental protections against discrimination based on sex. Every one of us should agree that such discrimination is completely unacceptable and that every citizen, regardless of sex, should enjoy the same rights under our Constitution, and that is all we are doing here today.

Again, equality of rights under the law should not be denied on account of sex. It shouldn't be controversial, but just about everything nowadays somehow is.

There has been debate about whether Congress has the authority to act on this resolution. I believe we do. There is no constitutional provision, there is no law, no Supreme Court decision telling us that we can't. The Constitution contains no time limit for ratification of amendments, and there is clear precedent for States taking years—decades, even centuries—to do so.

The 27th congressional pay act amendment was ratified in 1992. That was a full 203 years after it was enacted in 1789.

Another issue that has been raised is the five States that have attempted to rescind their ratification, but the Constitution does not contemplate rescissions, and there is clear precedent for Congress determining that rescinding an amendment after ratification is ineffectual. In 1868, Congress adopted a concurrent resolution declaring that the 14th Amendment had been ratified despite the fact that two States—New Jersey and Ohio—had attempted to rescind their prior ratifications.

Again, the purpose of the ERA is to secure full equality for women, and there should be no time limit on that. Men and women should be treated equally under the law, and that is not a controversial position; it is a widely held view. The fact of the matter is, the vast majority of Americans support the ERA: 73 percent, according to one poll from 2020; 78 percent according to another; and 85 percent according to a poll from last year, including 93 percent of Democrats, 93 percent of Independents, and 79 percent of Republicans. At least half of the States have Constitutions like Alaska that guarantee equal rights based on sex in some way.

So I am proud, again, that our State stepped up in 1972 and, a few months later, by an overwhelming vote, amended our constitution to prohibit sex discrimination.

Mr. President, we are at the point where we are going to take a vote here right now. I am not entirely pleased by the timing of our debate on this resolution because we have not yet secured the 60 votes needed for its passage. I don't really like it being used as a filler on the floor, as somewhat of an exercise that runs the clock in a largely empty legislative calendar.

I don't see how the ERA or women in this country will ultimately benefit from that, but I am proud to lead this resolution with Senator CARDIN. I am proud to be working with him and others that, again, would see through the hollow arguments against the Equal Rights Amendment and would join us in passing it.

The American people are waiting for this. It is long overdue for Congress to act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, once again, I want to thank Senator MURKOWSKI for her leadership. This is a bipartisan effort, this joint resolution that we have, and it has been what the Equal Rights Amendment journey was about.

It started with action in the Congress. There was strong bipartisan support for the resolution for no discrimination based upon sex in our Constitution. It was passed by the House and Senate by bipartisan majorities.

The States' ratification process—I can tell you about the one in Maryland that I was part of when I was in the House of Delegates in our State legislature when we ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. There was strong bipartisan support.

And I am proud today that I am joining with Senator MURKOWSKI for the need for the Equal Rights Amendment

to be ratified. This is a bipartisan effort. I hope our colleagues will not filibuster it. I understand the concern.

This will be our first vote in the Senate on the resolution. The House has already passed it in two previous Congresses. I know that our House colleagues are watching, and I thank them for their leadership in the House. This will be our first opportunity in the Senate. I am glad we are having this opportunity.

With that, Mr. President, I would ask consent that, despite the previous order, we start the vote immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 3, S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Cory A. Booker, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Amy Klobuchar.

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 motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, 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) is necessarily absent.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hagerty	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Lee

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Gallery will come to order.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Gallery will come to order.

The Sergeant at Arms will remove the individual.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The individual will leave the Chamber.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sergeant at Arms will remove the individual from the Chamber.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sergeant at Arms will remove the individual from the Chamber.

The Senate will come to order.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, let me explain. I switched my vote to no, not because I am not strongly for ERA—I wanted to bring it to the floor—but it will allow us to go back and cast a vote again in the future. This issue is too important, so we are not giving up. So I am moving to reconsider so I can bring it back up at a later time.

I yield the floor.

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. 22, Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Luján, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 100 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Mullin	Vance
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Braun	Lee	Warnock
Feinstein	Moran	

(Mr. WELCH assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The yeas are 50, the nays are 45, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as everyone in America knows, fentanyl is ravaging communities across the country. It is killing more than 70,000 people a year in the United States alone, making it the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 49.

The fentanyl epidemic does not discriminate. It kills old people, young people, rich people, poor people, people from major urban areas, and people from the countryside. One of the most alarming trends of what we are seeing is the rise of fentanyl-related deaths among teenagers. In 2021, 77 percent of all teenage overdose deaths involved fentanyl, the synthetic opioid.

We continue to hear and read of heartbreaking stories of teens who overdosed in their bedrooms or in a car or at school. Sadly, this is a recurring nightmare in communities across Texas which have experienced a wave of overdoses among teens.

Last fall, I sat down with a number of people in Dallas to learn more about the community-wide effort to fight fentanyl. I heard from parents who lost their children, as well as law enforcement officials, local elected leaders, healthcare professionals, and school administrators.

I learned that most of the time, these teenagers think they are buying something that is relatively innocuous—Xanax or Percocet—only to find out that it is a counterfeit pill made to look like a prescription drug that is laced with a deadly dose of fentanyl.

And it doesn't take much. If you look at the end of your pencil, the piece of lead sticking out of the end of your pencil, that amount of fentanyl can kill you.

People will frequently refer to these not necessarily as overdoses but poisonings, because in most cases, the victims have no idea that they are taking a lethal dose of fentanyl. That was the case for Patricia Hammad's daughter, Cassandra, who died from a fentanyl overdose 2 years ago. Patricia told me that Cassandra took the pill because she thought it was a Xanax, but, actually, it contained a lethal dose of fentanyl.

I heard a similar story from parents in Hays County when I visited there in February at a high school. Darren and Shannon McConville lost their son Kevin to fentanyl last summer. Darren told me that Kevin took a pill to help him sleep at night, and that that pill cost him his life.

Earlier this week, I heard more heartbreaking stories from folks in Carrollton, TX, outside of Dallas. Lilia Astudillo told me about her 14-year-old son Jose, who loved playing sports and spending time with his brothers and sisters. One night, Jose took a pill that he thought would help him calm down before he went to bed. When Lilia went to wake her son up for school the next morning, it was too late. Her happy and talented son had died.

I also heard from another brave parent, Ryan Vaughn, who told me about his 16-year-old daughter Sienna. She was a cheerleader at Plano High School, and she loved going to concerts and thrift shopping. Sienna's father told me that he talked to her about the danger of drugs many times. Had she been offered fentanyl, he knows she would have said no. But when her friend came over for a family get-together and gave her what seemed to be an innocuous pill, she had no idea and she said yes. Later that evening, the Vaughns found their daughter and her friend overdosing. They were able to save her friend using Narcan. But for Sienna, it was too late.

These families in their communities have experienced every emotion in the book, including shock, fear, devastation, and anger; and they have channeled their grief and fury into action.

On Monday, I was at R.L. Turner High School and heard from Saniyah Rodriguez, who heard the telltale noise of somebody overdosing in the bathroom and saved that student's life using the lessons she learned on a video at school.

She said it took weeks before she could even go back into that bathroom having witnessed what she did—the gurgling noise of a fellow classmate overdosing was emblazoned upon her memory. Despite being traumatized by her experience, she was adamant that students cannot keep quiet about fentanyl. They must speak out and they must get help when a classmate needs it.

All around the school, in bathrooms and the hallways, there were signs in English and Spanish about the dangers of fentanyl. Communities across Texas are doing the best they can to fight fentanyl head-on, and I am grateful for the work they have done to protect and educate our children. But that is only one piece of the puzzle.

Law enforcement works around the block to take deadly drugs like fentanyl off the streets. And, fortunately, those responsible for dealing fentanyl-laced pills to students in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD have been arrested and charged. But, again, this is just one other piece of the puzzle.

When I spoke with the grieving parents in Hays County, which is in San Marcos right outside of Austin, TX, where I live, they stressed the importance of securing the border and preventing fentanyl from ever getting across the border into their communities in the first place.

Shannon McConville, who lost her son Kevin, was especially adamant about the need to do more to stop fentanyl from getting into the country in the first place. She said, when it comes to the border, the Biden administration is failing.

I completely agree.

The Biden administration has simply abdicated its responsibility at the border in the name of a humane response to the border crisis, but there is nothing humane about what is happening. We are losing more than 70,000 Americans a year to fentanyl, and given the rate that fentanyl is coming into the country, I fear the worst is still to come.

The most crucial step at this moment is to stop the poison from coming into the country in the first place, but it is all about money. The cartels continue to get rich. They care nothing about the deaths of these parents' children, and they care nothing about the devastation that they are bringing to our communities across Texas and across the country.

The most crucial step is to stop it before it gets here. Until that happens, the situation will only get worse. More fentanyl will come across the border and seep into our communities. More of our children, more of our neighbors, more of our friends, more of our loved ones will die from fentanyl poisoning, and the cartels and criminal organizations will continue to get rich from the suffering that they cause because they don't care about our suffering. They don't care about our grieving. They don't care about the deaths of these young people and the potential that has been snuffed out at an early age. All they care about is the money.

I appreciate everyone who joined me in Carrollton, on Monday, to talk about this crisis. I am especially grateful, as I said, to Saniyah Rodriguez and the families of Jose and Sienna, who had the courage to tell their stories. It has got to be incredibly painful to tell the stories about your sons or daughters losing their lives to this drug. This is not something that they look forward to doing, but they are driven to do it by the conviction that maybe, just maybe, the losses of their children's lives will not be in vain; that the Federal Government will step up and do its job to stop the poison from entering the country in the first place; and that maybe, as a result of their telling their stories and getting visibility on this issue, that it will save another life.

There is nothing that can prepare you for the pain a parent feels from losing a child, especially in such a cruel, unexpected, and unnecessary way. These are, admittedly, emotional and difficult conversations, but they

are important. As Jose's mother told me, we cannot let overdose deaths become faceless statistics.

People need to remember that these are not just data points. These are bright, young, loving people who were stolen from their families and from this world. They are our children, our grandchildren, brothers, sisters, friends, and classmates.

Until the Biden administration steps up and does its duty to secure the border and takes action to stop this fentanyl from entering the southern border in the first place, there will continue to be more and more victims and more and more grieving parents and families and friends like I heard from at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District this last week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN524 AIR FORCE nomination of Brian J. Bohenek, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN466 ARMY nomination of Jorge M. Arzolas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN467 ARMY nomination of James F. Cantorna, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN468 ARMY nominations (2) beginning Sandeep R. Rahangdale, and ending Christie A. Shen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN469 ARMY nomination of Song Qu, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN470 ARMY nomination of Timothy S. McKiddy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN471 ARMY nominations (6) beginning KEVIN J. HUXFORD, and ending DAVID A. RIDGEWAY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN474 ARMY nomination of Jerome C. Ferrin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN506 ARMY nomination of Chet M. Korensky, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN507 ARMY nomination of Anthony L. Ghezzi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN511 ARMY nominations (464) beginning MATTHEW ACOSTA, and ending D016876, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN512 ARMY nominations (433) beginning MARK P. ADAMS, and ending D016116, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN513 ARMY nominations (304) beginning ALEXANDER ACHEAMPONG, and ending D015566, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN514 ARMY nominations (35) beginning EMMANUEL T. ADENIRAN, and ending D015933, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN475 MARINE CORPS nomination of Nathan D. Morris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN476 NAVY nominations (2) beginning Ryan E. Dinnen, and ending Matthew C. Miller, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN477 NAVY nomination of Jillian M. Mears, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN478 NAVY nomination of Mary J. Hessert, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN523 NAVY nomination of Matthew A Bubnis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN526 NAVY nominations (2) beginning Andrew R. Flora, and ending Jordan J. Foley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN527 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning Micah R. Kelley, and ending Erica M. Mitchell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN528 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning ERICA J. BALFOUR, and ending JAMES R. TURNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN529 SPACE FORCE nomination of Craig E. Frank, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN530 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning Marouane Balmakhtar, and ending Daniel J. Levinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of PN284, PN354, and the names sent to the desk under PN285; that the Senate proceed to their en bloc consideration and vote without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of the following-named Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor: Cynthia Duerr, of VA; the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor: Conrad Estrada, of DC; Cristobal Zepeda, of CO; the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America: James Robert Adams, of IA; Leonore Kathryn Adams, of OH; Bilqis Majidah Aidara Adjei, of FL; Brandon Clinton Aitchison, of SD; Bryce Todd Armstrong, of VA; Hanitra M. Austin, of VA; Janel L. Baskerville, of VA; Natalie Ann Bonomo, of VA; Laura S. Bonsmann, of VA; Ralph E. Brown, of WA; Christina G. Bucton, of CA; Paul B. Butki, of NV; Camilo Andres Caballero, of GA; Patrick David Cho, of OH; Ross A. Conroy, of ME; Robert R. Cooper, of TX; Michael N. Cunningham, of VA; Jason E. Currier, of NH; Jon Adam Custis, of FL; Jennifer M. Das, of VA; Stephen Diaz, of VA; William L. Ding-Everson, of CA; Rebecca Clare Dister, of VA; Stephen C. Dove, of TX; Paily Eapen, of VA; Suzanne Kay Ebert, of NE; Nicole D. Fader, of VA; Laura A. Fields, of CA; Adam R. Gannaway, of TX; Mary C. Gillmore, of SD; Janette Lasken Gilman, of VA; Jason Robert Gross, of VA; Filmon Bekit Hagheray, of VA; Matthew V. Haley, of VA; Peter L. Hansen, of WA; Lani Harrell, of VA; George Spencer Harrison, of SD; Lori R. Hetrick, of VA; Wesley A. Holzer, of CA; Gabriel R. Hughes, of VA; Jenna Maye Hummel, of VA; Andrea Jo Huston, of TX; Justin V. Ivey, of VA; Isaac B. Jenkins, of CA; Alex Reis Johnson, of WI; Kathryn L. Jones, of SD; Braphus E. Kaalund, of CA; Ari Katz, of WA; Yongkyu Kim, of WA; Chloe Cosima Bowser Kirsch, of VA; Kevin Alex Kravitz, of OH; Eliasz Krawczuk, of NY; Jessica B. Kuntz, of PA; Scott Jonathan Lavon, of MD; Leonard H. Leid, of FL; Anne Elizabeth Lero, of VA; Jakub D. Liskowiak, of FL; Sara E. Locke, of CA; Robin L. Lowe, of VA; Julia S. Ludy, of VA; Wynne Mancini, of VA; Daniel S.

Mandell, of FL; Sheree N. Marambio, of CA; Taylor R. Mauck, of NH; Christine Ann Mooney, of VA; Katherine S. Morris, of WA; Ryan M. Mullen, of TX; Angelee Mullins, of MD; Kristen A. Nagle, of TX; Kathleen M. O'Brien, of MO; Jacob Samuel Olson, of VA; Jeffrey Charles O'Neill, of VA; Alexis L. Orton, of VA; Deniz Zeynep Ozdemir, of NJ; Valerie J. Parry, of WA; Augusta B. Philbin, of DC; Shirah E. Rissler, of VA; David N. Roberts, of VA; Gregory L. Rofman, of VA; Kimberly A. Roseman, of VA; Zachary Alexander Rosner, of DC; Kaitlin A. Ruehr, of VA; Matthew T. Schramm, of VA; Anne N. Sherman, of MD; Maria Skirk, of FL; Raymond Anthony Slanina, of CA; Mikolaj M. Slomka, of NV; Emilia Borgatta Smith, of AZ; Patrick D. Smith, of WA; Christina M. Stegura, of FL; Gregory Stevenson, of VA; Gregory Bruce Stoneberg, of VA; Thomas D. Talbot, of VA; Dragana Tatic, of FL; Bart John Thiltgen, of CA; Alisa May Thomas, of OH; Trisha M. Thomas, of VA; Brandon To, of VA; Jennifer Lee Turner, of VA; Katherine T. Wallace, of VA; Daniel James Walsh, of FL; Kip Tendai Whittington, of TX; Anne G. Willoughby, of VA; Philip J. Wolfe, of TX; Shay Robert Wood, of VA; Elizabeth M. Wysocki, of MA; Jessica Yoakum, of VA; and the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America: Brent L. Brown, of VA; the following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor: Tamika D. Abbott, of VA; Mary Ruth Avery, of FL; Bruce R. Begnell, of MD; William David Bent, of FL; William J. Bistransky, of VA; Walter M. Braunohler, of RI; A. R. Brouillette-Rodriguez, of VA; David John Burger, of VA; Ian Patrick Campbell, of OR; Dwayne L. Cline, of TX; Rachel L. Cooke, of VA; Cherrie S. Daniels, of TX; John C. Dockery, of TX; Christopher Lee Dudding, of VA; Marion Johnston Ekpuk, of VA; Anthony C. Fernandes, of VA; Michael E. Garrote, of PA; John P. Ginkel, of DC; David J. Greene, of DC; Edward G. Grulich, of VA; Jennifer A. Harhigh, of VA; Julia L. Harlan, of VA; James Robert Heller, of VA; Colleen E. Hyland, of NH; Robert L. Kingman, of VA; Michael F. Kleine, of DC; Gharun S. Lacy, of MD; Stephan Allen Lang, of VA; Jennifer A. Larson, of DC; Karen A. Lass, of VA; Gregory Daniel Logerfo, of VA; Deborah C. Lynn, of TX; Michael L. Mahoney, of WA; Marcos C. Mandojana, of TN; John T. McNamara, of VA; Larry L. Memmott, of MD; Marcus Robert Micheli, of VA; Andrew Thomas Miller, of VA; Benjamin Ward Moeling, of VA; Katherine E. Monahan, of AZ; Michael A. Newbill, of IL; Rebecca A. Pasini, of MD; Roy Albert Perrin, of DC; Brett George Pomainville, of CO; Daniel Alan Rochman, of VA; Edwin C. Sagurton, of VA; Douglas E. Sonnek, of CA; Christopher Teal, of DC; Marja Verloop, of WA; Peggy Jeanne Walker, of DC; Eric A. Watnik, of MD; James Andrew Wolfe, of CA; the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor: Jonathan A. Alan, of DC; Robert S. Allison, of MO; Christopher L. Andino, of VA; Stephanie C. Arnold, of VA; Juan T. Avecilla, of CA; Benjamin S. Bailey, of UT; Juliana K. Ballard, of MD; Elias Stephen Baumann, of FL; Courtney Allison Kramer Beale, of DC; Sally P. Behrhorst, of CA; Sheryl J. Bistransky, of OH; Jane Ellen Bocklage, of TX; Melissa A. Brown, of VA; Dena D. Brownlow, of CA; Steven R. Butler, of KY; Douglas G. Carey, of NM; Phathanie Chapman, of TN; Patrick Liang Chow, of VA; Dan Cintron, of VA; Louis J. Crishock, of VA; Jesse S. Curtis, of VA; Alexander N. Daniels, of NC; Mary E. Daschbach, of RI; Richard C.W. Davy, of MD; Alexander P. Delorey, of FL; Lillian Germaine deValcourt-Ayala, of CA; Melisa M. Doherty, of MN; Kathleen M. Eagen, of NY; Ann Marie Everitt, of FL; Timothy Eydelnant, of VA; Shannon B. Farrell, of VA; James D. Fellows, of NY; Mary Sue Fields, of VA; David Lawrence Fisher, of CA; Rebecca A. Fong, of CA; Thomas B. Fullerton, of FL; Colin P. Furst, of VA; Ann E. Gabrielson, of AZ; Lynne Brett Gadkowski, of FL; David H. Gamble, of VA; Gregory Nelson Gardner, of CA; David L. Gehrenbeck, of VA; Keith R. Gilges, of DC; Jeffrey D. Graham, of MD; Karen E. Grissette, of CA; Maureen E. Haggard, of WA; Ann M. Hardman, of TN; Zachary V. Harkenrider, of NY; Kimberly D. Harrington, of DC; Cynthia R. Harvey, of VA; Edward P. Heartney, of VA; Ian Tavish Hillman, of MD; John J. HILLmeyer, of MO; Brian B. Himmelsteib, of VA; Stephanie Elizabeth Holmes, of VA; Melissa P. Horwitz, of VA; Laura P. Hruby, of DC; Robert J. Jachim, of VA; Amanda S. Jacobsen, of WA; John E. Johnson, of WA; Pauline A. Kao, of WA; Emily L. Katkar, of VA; John C. Kelley, of DC; Emily Allt Kenealy, of VA; Karen Young Keshap, of VA; Elizabeth J. Konick, of NY; David A. Krzywda, of VA; William Henry Laitinen, of NH; Michael D. Lampel, of CA; Michael J. Layne, of VA; Nancy W. Leou, of VA; Jan Levin, of DC; Timothy E. Liston, of VA; Michelle G. Los Banos, of VA; Aaron L. Luster, of TX; Jason R. Mack, of NY; Deborah A. MacLean, of FL; Jenny H. Malheiro, of VA; Mark F. Marrano, of MD; Elizabeth K. Martin-Shukrun, of IL; Sara Mercado Mathews, of CA; Mikael C. McCowan, of NY; Alexandra K. McKnight, of VA; Luis Mendez, of FL; Jennifer T. Mergy, of CA; Eric S. Meyer, of CT; Kenneth L. Meyer, of OH; Deborah A. Miller, of MD; Terry D. Mobley, of AR; Carrie L. Muntean, of VA; Tiffany A. Murphy, of WA; Marc A. Nordberg, of TX; Adrienne B. Nutzman, of VA; Matthew E. O'Connor, of TX; Stephen P. O'Dowd, of VA; Rolf A. Olson, of VA; Jami L. Papa, of FL; Dante Paradiso, of OR; Darragh Theresa Paradiso, of OR; Deena Johnsonbaugh Parker, of VA; Morgan A. Parker, of VA; Melinda M. Pavek, of WY; Margaret H. Peirce, of VA; Peggy Le Am Plunkett Petrovich, of OH; Usha Pitts, of DC; James H. Potts, of IN; Anupama Prattipati, of PA; Tessa K. Rebholz, of DC; Scott R. Riedmann, of OH; Alberto Rodriguez, of FL; Elisabeth Michorl Rosenstock-Siller, of NY; Edwin S. Saeger, of MD; Juha P. Salin, of WA; Caroline J. Savage, of DC; Michael J. Schreuder, of MI; Nomi Seltzer, of NY; Charles H. Sewall, of DC; Matthew L. Shields, of VA; Demian Smith, of VA; Jeffrey B. Smith, of TX; Diane L. Sovereign, of CA; Daniel M. Stoian, of CA; Amy L. Storrow, of DC; Harry Robert Sullivan, of NV; Roger Chance Sullivan, of WA; Rakesh Surampudi, of PA; Inger A. Tangborn, of WA; Alexander J. Titolo, of VA; Scott C. Turner, of NY; Scott E. Urbom, of VA; Rajeev M. Wadhwani, of DC; John K. Watson, of VA; Catherine J. Westley, of IL; John W. Whiteley, of MD; Stuart Raymond Wilson, of NC; Joseph Edward Zadrozny, of TX; Marika R. Zadva, of VA; Melanie A. Zimmerman, of MD; and the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America: Gregory M. Anderson, of VA; Gregory F. Battistone, of FL; Francoise Z. Blais, of VA; Robert Bentley Calhoun, of VA; William W. Chang, of CA; Michael L. Cygrymus, of FL; Ralph E. Delarue, of VA; Donna Lynn Edmonds, of NC; Barry W. Fisher, of PA; Irving Fontaine, of NJ; Shelly Lynn Gasow, of CO; Rick A. Gregory, of VA; Yvon Guillaume, of FL; Cassandra Dione Marie Hamblin, of WA; James D. Hine, of VA; James E. Horner, of OK; Beth J. King, of FL; Osman M. Koclar, of NY; Calvin Dewayne Levo, of TX; Rajiv Malik, of CA; Tarik Merghoub, of VA; Patrick S. Mills, of TX; Thomas P. Nave, of FL; Francesco D. Pasqualino, of CA; Matthew M. Percival, of WA; Maurice B. Pettiford, of VA; Alston A. Richardson, of VA; Benjamin W. Sides, of AK; Glenda L. Siegrist, of VA; Jason H. Smith, of DC; Sebron J. Toney, of NV; Michael F. Vannett, of VA, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the decision last year by the Supreme Court's conservative majority overruling Roe v. Wade and the right to abortion marks the first time in our Nation's history that the Supreme Court has ever repealed a constitutional right.

One of the most striking features of the Dobbs decision was the almost complete absence of any serious discussion about the impact the ruling might have on the lives and health of women. In a 79-page ruling, women receive only a few paragraphs. Justice Alito, the author of the majority opinion, defended this disregard for women's lives and health by arguing that it is ''hard for anyone—and in particular, for a court—to assess . . . the effect of the abortion right on society and in particular on the lives of women.''

Perhaps the Court's conservative majority should have paid closer attention to amicus briefs filed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association, who warned that overruling Roe would unleash an immediate healthcare crisis across America. Ten months later, it is clear for anyone to see that the consequences of the Dobbs ruling are devastating. Instead of settling old controversies, the Dobbs decision has unleashed chaos for women and doctors. We are seeing a torrent of new State laws that aim to reduce abortion access by threatening to punish or criminalize those who provide abortions and, in some cases, those who help someone to obtain an abortion.

Nearly half of all States now impose severe restrictions on abortion—and at least a dozen States have enacted near-total bans. The laws surrounding abortion—and miscarriage management—seem to be changing by the week. A few weeks ago, a Federal judge in Texas issued a ruling that would ban the sale of mifepristone, one of the safest forms of reproductive care, nationwide—even in States where abortion remains legal.

Mifepristone was approved more than 20 years ago by the Food and Drug Administration as safe and effective. It is used in more than half of all abortions in the country. And it is used to help women suffering from a miscarriage. It has a better safety profile than penicillin, Tylenol, or Viagra. Thankfully, the Supreme Court issued a temporary reprieve by staying the decision. So, for the moment, mifepristone remains on the market while the case works its way through the legal system.

But the initial ruling by the Federal judge in Texas marked the first time that a judge has ever overruled the FDA to ban a medication deemed safe and effective by medical and scientific experts. And it is troubling confirmation that instead of ending the debate on abortion, Dobbs was actually the beginning of a different debate: How far will the war on women's healthcare go before we say enough is enough?

The number of horror stories that have emerged over the past year is staggering: stories of rape victims—as young as 10 years old—being denied healthcare because of laws outlawing abortion; an 11-year-old victim of sex trafficking—also denied a medically necessary abortion; stories of women being forced to flee their home States to access basic, reproductive care services; stories of pregnant women suffering miscarriages being turned away by doctors, until their lives are at risk, because healthcare providers are understandably afraid of facing criminal penalties and other serious punishments if their patient is not sick enough to receive abortion care.

Yesterday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, held a hearing in which we heard more about the horrific consequences of the Dobbs decision on pregnant women and the doctors who care for them. Let me tell you about one of our witnesses. Her name is Amanda Zurawski. She was one of the most profound and heartbreaking witnesses I have heard during my time in Congress.

Amanda lives in Texas, one of the first States in which a near-total ban on abortion took effect after Dobbs. Amanda endured 18 months of fertility treatments to get pregnant. When she finally did, she and her husband were over the moon. They named their soon-to-be little girl Willow.

Last August, in the second trimester of her pregnancy, Amanda felt something unusual. She called her doctor, who told her to come in as quickly as possible. After an examination, Amanda and her husband received a heartbreaking diagnosis: Her cervix had dilated prematurely. The loss of her baby was inevitable. Amanda asked what could be done to assure what she called ''the respectful passing'' of her baby and to protect Amanda from a possibly deadly infection.

To her shock, her doctors told her there was nothing they could do because of Texas's new anti-abortion laws—laws that threaten doctors with fines of up to $100,000, up to 99 years in prison, and loss of their medical license. Amanda's doctors tried to find another hospital nearby that could possibly help her—but those hospitals all had the same response: Because of Texas's new laws, they couldn't do anything.

Amanda told our committee: ''People have asked why we didn't get on a plane or in our car to go to a state where the laws aren't so restrictive. But we live in the middle of Texas, and the nearest 'sanctuary' state is at least an eight-hour drive. Developing sepsis—which can kill quickly—in a car in the middle of the West Texas desert, or 30,000 feet above the ground, is a death sentence, and it's not a choice we should have had to even consider. So all we could do was wait.''

After 3 agonizing days, Amanda developed a raging fever and dangerously low blood pressure. Sepsis had set in. Her husband rushed her to the hospital. Several hours later, her daughter arrived, stillborn. Amanda spent the next 3 days in the I.C.U. fighting for her own life. She has spent the last 8 months battling trauma and depression, as well as the medical fallout from her delayed treatment, including complications that may make it difficult to ever have children.

We also heard from an OB/GYN, Dr. Nisha Verma, who has chosen to stay and practice in Georgia despite knowing that, in her words, ''Georgia's law threatened to make [her] a criminal for providing life-saving care to [her] patients.''

Dr. Verma told our committee : ''Imagine looking someone in the eye and saying: 'I have all the skills and the tools to care for you, but our state's politicians have told me I can't.'''

She reminded us that the U.S. already has the highest maternal mortality rate of any wealthy nation. Restrictive abortion laws, she said, are making pregnancy even more dangerous for women. Regrettably, some of our Republican colleagues on the committee tried to make the hearing about what they called late-term abortions and other abortion foes call ''partial birth'' abortions—both medically inaccurate terms.

They neglected to note that abortions after 21 weeks account for less than 1 percent of abortions in this country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They also failed to acknowledge that in the very rare instances when an abortion happens later in a pregnancy, it is generally because the woman's life is in danger; a fatal fetal anomaly has been discovered, as in Amanda's case; or because a woman wasn't able to get an abortion earlier due to restrictive laws.

For nearly 50 years, abortion opponents said their only goal was to return the right to decide abortion laws to the State. It is now clear that was a trojan horse. Dismantling Roe was the first step. The real goal is to systemically strip away access to abortion nationwide. And that is exactly what they are doing. Last year, dozens of congressional Republicans proposed a bill that would ban abortion nationwide at 15 weeks—even in States that have chosen to protect access to abortion later in pregnancy. And one member of our committee noted yesterday: ''We're not going to back off.''

In addition, nearly 150 congressional Republicans joined an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the mifepristone case, arguing for the Court to keep in place the Fifth Circuit's stay that limited mifepristone access nationwide—even in States where abortion remains legal.

Congress needs to stop this chaos and needless, avoidable suffering by passing the Women's Health Protection Act to restore abortion access across the country.

REMEMBERING JOHN D. COONEY, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, earlier this year, Chicago—and the entire legal world—lost a giant. John Devitt Cooney, Sr., a titan of trial law, passed away at the age of 68. He was a skilled litigator who used his brilliant legal mind, charm, quick wit, and sense of humor to help everyday ''Davids'' in the never-ending battle against corporate ''Goliaths.'' John may have been born for the role.

His father, Robert Cooney, Sr., served in World War II, returned home—GI benefits in hand—and attended Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. When he graduated from law school, Robert worked in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office before setting up a successful personal injury firm. John followed suit.

Born and raised in Oak Park, IL, John graduated from Fenwick High School and went on to attend Georgetown University for his undergraduate studies. During his years at Georgetown, he briefly worked on Capitol Hill. It was the 1970s: an era of disco, tie-dye, and Watergate. While John may not have been all that interested in politics at the time, his experience on Capitol Hill enhanced his interest in the law.

John finished his studies at Georgetown and moved back to Illinois to attend Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. His first job out of law school was as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, just like his father, where he worked within the Felony Trial Division. It was a formative experience for John. As a young lawyer, he developed a deep empathy for how wrongful acts hurt victims and their families. It was there where he honed his craft, spending invaluable time in the courtroom, selecting juries, developing trial strategies, and presenting cases to juries.

After 5 years, in 1985, John joined his father, his brother Robert, Jr., and his future partner Kevin Conway, at the Chicago personal injury firm, Cooney & Stenn. John made partner in just five years at the firm that would become Cooney & Conway, one of the leading personal injury and wrongful death firms in the United States. John excelled in cases related to construction accidents and product liability, and he had a strong commitment to helping individuals in asbestos exposure cases.

Some may have only heard of ''asbestos'' or ''mesothelioma'' through late-night television commercials or radio ads. If that is the case, they are fortunate. Asbestos is a strong, heat resistant fiber that can be found in many building materials, such as insulation, roofing shingles, and pipe coverings. Inhaling these fibers can have devastating health consequences. As early as the 1930s, public health professionals were sounding the alarm about the dangers of exposure to asbestos. Yet, for decades, some companies ignored the risks, putting profits above the health and well-being of employees and consumers.

Between 1940 and 1979, nearly 30 million workers were exposed to asbestos, and around one-third of those workers were veterans. To this day, exposure to asbestos is the only known cause of mesothelioma, an aggressive and incurable form of cancer in which a tumor develops in the protective lining of lungs, and slowly compresses until the victim suffocates. It can take years to discover mesothelioma, and by the time it is discovered, the victim often only has several months to live.

John and his team at Cooney & Conway focused on holding the companies that put profits over people accountable and doing right by victims and their families. And they were successful, obtaining more than $20 billion for victims and their families, including a $200 million asbestos exposure settlement that was the largest personal injury settlement in the history of Illinois. While compensation does little to ease the pain or the loss of a loved one to this devastating disease, John's efforts protected victims' rights to justice and gave them a voice against powerful corporations.

John's legacy goes well beyond the courtroom. In 2014, John became president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, an organization of more than 2,000 members that has served the interests of plaintiffs' attorneys and consumers since 1952. He also was the founding chairman of the mass torts litigation committee for the American Bar Association, and he served as an elected governor of the American Association for Justice, the leading voice for trial lawyers at the national level.

John and his firm also gave back. Cooney & Conway provided more than $1 million to support the work of Dr. Hedy Lee Kindler, one of the Nation's leading mesothelioma researchers at the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center, a leading mesothelioma research and treatment center. John also served on the boards of the University of Chicago Medical Center and Lurie Children's Hospital.

Holding large manufacturers and the wealthiest corporations accountable was not just a professional endeavor. For John, it was personal. Everyday folks—pipefitters, laborers, construction workers, members of ''The Greatest Generation''—those are the people for whom John gladly went to bat. He knew these were people whose only error was venturing into a hazardous workplace, putting in a hard day's work, and daring to breathe, to try to make a good life for themselves and their families.

Earlier this year, Loretta and I gathered with John's family and friends at Old St. Pat's Church in Chicago, to say farewell to John and celebrate the light that he brought into this world. John's many friends filled every pew.

Loretta and I extend our sincerest condolences to Barbara, his loving wife of 35 years; his daughter Elizabeth (Matt); his sons Devitt (Bess); and Bobby (Hutton); his brother Robert, Jr., (Loretta); his entire family; and his many friends and colleagues. John's legacy and contributions to the law, to Chicago, and to our Nation will not be forgotten.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23–32, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost $1 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,
(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–32

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * $.550 billion.
Other $.450 billion.
Total $1.000 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Six (6) MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters.
Fifteen (15) T–700–GE–401C Engines (12 installed, 3 spares).
Nine (9) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems Joint Tactical

Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) (6 installed, 3 spares).

Eighteen (18) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (12 installed, 6 spares).

Six (6) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only).

Non-MDE: Also included are M514 impulse cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; MJ20 cartridge actuated thruster/cartridge actuated devices; WB53 fire extinguisher cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; CCU–136A/A impulse cartridge; GAU–21 crew-served guns (including pintle and laser pointer); AN/ARC–210 RT–2036 radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/AAR–47 missile warning systems; AN/APX–123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/ALE–47 dispensers; Electronic Countermeasures; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); AN/AAS–44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems; Identification Friend or Foe Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Applique, KIV–78; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); AN/ARQ–59 Hawklink radio terminals; Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS/OMIA); Aviation Maintenance Weapons Loading Trainer (AMWLT); Tactical Operational Flight Trainer (TOFT); AN/ALQ–210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) systems; APS–153(V) multi-mode radars; spare engine containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Norwegian MH–60R helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (NO–P–SAR).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NO–P–GFF.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 26, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—Defense Articles and Services Related to the MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters

The Government of Norway has requested to buy six (6) MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters; fifteen (15) T–700–GE–401C engines (12 installed, 3 spares); nine (9) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) (6 installed, 3 spares); eighteen (18) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (12 installed, 6 spares); and six (6) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only). Also included are M514 impulse cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; MJ20 cartridge actuated thruster/cartridge actuated devices; WB53 fire extinguisher cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; CCU–136A/A impulse cartridges; GAU–21 crew served guns (including pintle and laser pointer); AN/ARC–210 RT–2036 radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/AAR–47 missile warning systems; AN/APX–123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/ALE–47 dispensers; Electronic Countermeasures; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); AN/AAS–44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems; Identification Friend or Foe Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Applique, KIV–78; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); AN/ARQ–59 Hawklink radio terminals; Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS/OMIA); Aviation Maintenance Weapons Loading Trainer (AMWLT); Tactical Operational Flight Trainer (TOFT); AN/ALQ–210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) systems; APS–153(V) multi-mode radars; spare engine containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Norwegian MH–60R helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $1 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to perform search and rescue, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions, including vertical replenishment and communications relay. Norway will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Norway will have no difficulty absorbing these helicopters and support into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Owego, New York. The purchaser has requested offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by U.S. Government representatives and the assignment of contractor representatives to Norway on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery and integration of items and to provide supply support management, inventory control, and equipment familiarization. In addition, there will be up to four (4) contractor representatives in Norway full-time for the duration of the case.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–32

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopter focuses primarily on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and anti-surface warfare (ASuW) missions. The MH–60R also performs search and rescue, naval gunfire support, surveillance, communications relay, logistics support, personnel transfer, and vertical replenishment missions. The MH–60R carries several sensors and data links to enhance its ability to work in a network centric battle group and as an extension of its home ship or main operating base. The mission equipment subsystem consists of the following sensors and subsystems: an acoustics system capable of, but not configured for, future dipping sonar and sonobuoy operations, Multi-Mode Radar (MMR) with integral Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) interrogator, radios with COMSEC, Electronic Support Measures (ESM), Integrated Self-Defense (ISD), and Multi-Spectral Targeting System (MTS). The aircraft processes sensor data onboard, and transmits data via Common Data Link (CDL) (also referred to as Hawklink). The aircraft is night vision compatible. It can carry AGM–114A/B/K/N Hellfire missiles, as well as MK 46/54 torpedoes to engage surface and sub-surface targets. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopter is capable of carrying the Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS), GAU–61 Digital Rocket Launchers, Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS), GAU–21 crew-served guns, and M240 crew-served guns.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Norway can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23–34, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost $166 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public

of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,
(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–34

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* $0 million.
Other $166 million.
Total $166 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The Government of Norway has requested continued sustainment and associated services for four (4) C–130J aircraft beyond Block 6 through 2028. Included are Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); aircraft components, spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; aircraft support and support equipment; unclassified publications and technical documentation; software delivery and support; unclassified Computer Program Identification Number (CPIN) systems; telecommunications support; minor modifications, maintenance and maintenance support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NO–D–QBV).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NO–D–QAT.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 26, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—C–130J Sustainment

The Government of Norway has requested continued sustainment and associated services for four (4) C–130J aircraft beyond Block 6 through 2028. Included are Joint Mission Planning Systems, (JMPS); aircraft components, spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; aircraft support and support equipment; unclassified publications and technical documentation; software delivery and support; unclassified Computer Program Identification Number (CPIN) systems; telecommunications support; minor modifications, maintenance and maintenance support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $166 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats by bolstering operational readiness while enhancing air and defense capabilities with a modernized fleet. Norway already has C–130Js and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Marietta, GA. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement would be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Norway.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness because of this proposed sale.

REMEMBERING ULYSSES S. GRANT

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, 201 years ago today, a great American hero was born. Ulysses S. Grant rose from humble beginnings to stand next to Washington and Eisenhower, as one of America's truly indispensable generals. William Tecumseh Sherman once remarked that ''Grant is the greatest soldier of our time if not of all time.'' This great defender of the Republic won our bloodiest war and crushed the darkest forces of disunion. He was an unshakable pillar of strength, upon which this Nation's future rested time and again.

Virtually no one foresaw Grant's rise to greatness before the Civil War. Although he had graduated from West Point and distinguished himself as a soldier in the Mexican-American War, he had stumbled from one failure to another in private life. When the Confederates attacked Fort Sumner, that all changed. He redonned his army uniform and marched into the history books.

For the first 3 years of the Civil War, Grant fought on the western front, winning several of the Union's early victories while commanders in the East dithered. After Grant's first great victory, his Confederate counterpart sued for peace and asked what terms he would give them. Grant firmly responded that he would accept, ''no terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender.'' This earned him the nickname ''Unconditional Surrender Grant'' and resulted in the largest capture of enemy troops in the history of Western Hemisphere up to that time.

Grant waged a relentless form of warfare. He knew that ''the art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can and as often as you can, and keep moving on.'' Grant's warrior spirit famously moved President Lincoln to declare that ''I can't spare this man—he fights.'' When Grant's enemies spread the rumor that he was an alcoholic and should be dismissed, Lincoln wryly responded that ''if he could find out what brand of whiskey Grant drank, he would send a barrel of it to all the other commanders.''

Grant displayed his famous determination and grit during the brutal battle of Shiloh, one of the bloodiest episodes of the Civil War. In the first day of fighting, Grant's army was mauled by Confederate forces under the command of Alfred Sidney Johnston, the Confederacy's most capable general at the time. General Sherman approached Grant that rainy night beneath a great oak tree and said, ''well, Grant, we've had the devil's own day, haven't we?'' Grant replied between puffs of his ubiquitous cigar, ''Yes. Lick em tomorrow though.'' He made good on this promise, threw back the Confederate forces, and won the carnage-filled battle. Sidney Johnston was killed in the fighting and Confederate President Jefferson Davis later wrote that ''it was the turning point of our fate.'' This story remains so legendary in the Army that it was commonplace for young officers in the Iraq war to conclude a hard day by borrowing from Grant: ''lick 'em tomorrow.''

After the bloodshed at Shiloh, scheming Washington insiders and armchair generals removed Grant from the field, only to be forced to return him to the fight.

Grant continued his brilliant streak of victories and on July 4, 1863, the 87th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he seized the fortress city of Vicksburg, splitting the Confederacy in two and securing the Union's control of the mighty Mississippi. This was perhaps the greatest strategic victory of the war. Combined with the victory at Gettysburg the previous day, Grant's seizure of Vicksburg put the Union on the path to victory.

Soon after Grant's decisive victory in the Battle of Chattanooga a few months later and capture of the supposedly impregnable heights of Missionary Ridge, Lincoln promoted him to the rank of lieutenant general, a position that no one had held since George Washington. A few days later, Lincoln also named him the commander of Union forces.

In his new command, Grant quickly turned eastward and confronted Robert E. Lee, a skilled tactician who had run circles around the Army of the Potomac for 2 years. Lee had spooked Union commanders for years with his audacious battle plans. But not Grant. ''I am heartily tired of hearing about what Lee is going to do,'' an exasperated Grant admonished them. ''Some of you always seem to think he is suddenly going to turn a double somersault, and land in our rear and on both our flanks at the same time. Go back to your command, and try to think what we are going to do ourselves, instead of what Lee is going to do.''

As he marched into the Confederacy, he told a reporter, ''if you see the President, tell him from me that whatever happens, there will be no turning back.'' In the weeks and months that followed, Grant attacked Lee's army again and again. Whether he won or not, Grant continued to advance deeper into the Confederacy. Grant's army fought in the burning forests of the Wilderness and in the muddy trenches of Petersburg, experiencing extraordinary hardship but never allowing Lee to regroup or reinvigorate his shrinking army. Less than a year after Grant

began his Overland Campaign, Union forces took the rebel capital of Richmond and broke the back of Confederate resistance.

U.S. Grant wasn't a great general simply because he won the war. He was also great because he never lost sight of the first goal of the war: to reunite our shattered Republic and restore the ''bonds of affection'' and ''mystic chords of memory'' between Americans, North and South. Instead of humiliating Lee at Appomattox Courthouse, Grant offered him generous and honorable terms. Uncompromising in war, Grant was magnanimous in peace. He allowed Confederate officers to keep their sidearms and horses, did not demand Lee's sword, and promised not to prosecute rebels who laid down their arms. And as Lee departed the courthouse, Grant and his staff took off their hats in respect, a small act for the victors, but an extraordinary gesture to the defeated Confederates.

Today, if you travel to his memorial and final resting place in New York City, you will see his four-word 1868 Presidential campaign slogan etched into stone, which summarizes the prayer of every soldier. Those words read ''Let Us Have Peace.''

Our country may not exist today if it weren't for Ulysses S. Grant. It may have been shattered and divided forever by civil strife, but for one man. That is why I was pleased last year to sponsor his posthumously promotion to the rank of General of the Armies of the United States, the highest rank in the U.S. military only held by George Washington and John Pershing.

This was an important step towards recognizing the greatness of a too often neglected hero in our Nation's past. His close friend, General Sherman, reputedly said that he didn't understand Grant and didn't believe Grant understood himself. And for decades, our Nation too has misunderstood this American giant. But as we reflect upon his accomplishments two centuries after his birth, we realize how great they were and how extraordinary he was. I hope that we continue to reclaim this exceptional and noble American's legacy.

RECOGNIZING GIFFORDS

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 10-year anniversary of an organization that has been instrumental in our efforts to protect kids and families from gun violence: Giffords, the organization founded by former Congresswoman and gun violence victim, Gabby Giffords.

This anniversary is particularly important to me because Gabby Giffords and I were in the same House of Representatives freshman class in 2007. Our offices were right next to each other, and we became fast friends, dreaming up the idea for supermarket office hours called ''Congress on Your Corner.'' Four years later, on January 8, 2011, Gabby was shot in the head at one of those events. Eighteen others were also shot, and six died. She almost lost her life that day and began a very long road to recovery.

But my friend Gabby is a fighter, and she doesn't back down. Two years after she was shot and just 25 days after 20 children and six educators were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, she launched an organization dedicated to the fight to end gun violence. Today, that organization is known as Giffords.

Giffords and the gun violence prevention movement spent the next decade growing stronger, more determined, and more convinced that the righteousness of our cause would eventually prevail. Gabby and her organization channeled the outrage and frustration of millions Americans into action. Across the country, they helped to pass 525 lifesaving laws that make sure guns only end up in the hands of responsible, law-abiding Americans. They took on the gun lobby in State legislatures and the courts. They raised awareness, recruited volunteers, and registered new voters.

On May 24, 2022, at Robb Elementary School, an all too familiar tragedy struck, 19 children and 2 teachers shot and killed in their classroom. A weary American public once again called on Congress to act, and for the first time in 30 years, it did. One month later, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, legislation to tighten our gun laws, invest in mental health services, and make our schools and communities safer.

That historic piece of legislation would not have been possible without Gabby Giffords. In the face of unimaginable adversity, Gabby spent a decade helping to build a gun violence prevention movement more powerful than the gun lobby. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is just the beginning, and we will keep fighting to end the scourge of gun violence in this country together.

In reflection of Giffords' 10-year anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their tireless advocacy to end gun violence and honoring my personal hero, Gabby Giffords.

TRIBUTE TO RILEY COBURN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Riley for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Riley is a native of Upton. She recently graduated from the University of Wyoming, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in international studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Riley for her dedication to our office. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team.

TRIBUTE TO SOPHIA JARAMILLO

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sophia for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sophia is a native of Tennessee. She attends the University of Mississippi, where she studies journalism and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sophia for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE JOHNSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Katie for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Katie is a native of Casper. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she studies international relations, philosophy, and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Katie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID ''GUNNER'' KELLY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Gunner for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Gunner is a native of Mississippi. He is currently attending Casper College and plans to attend the University of Wyoming in the fall. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Gunner for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO BRYAN NOEL

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Bryan for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Bryan is a native of New Hampshire. He attends Arizona State University, where he studies political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Bryan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO KODY SMOOT

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kody for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kody is a native of Idaho. He recently graduated from Boise State University, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in health informatics and information management. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kody for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING SIMPLY BLOOMING

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Simply Blooming of Traer, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Simply Blooming was founded in 2006 by Lisa Eikamp as a one-stop shop for all of your floral needs. Simply Blooming has flowers from all over the world in store. As an experienced floral designer, Eikamp is able to design and accessorize an arrangement for a variety of events and occasions. Simply Blooming's website boasts a broad portfolio of floral designs including prom corsages, wedding bouquets, and sympathy flowers. In addition to flowers, you can also find a variety of plants, home decor, stylish clothing, and even boots for sale.

This year has been a momentous one for Simply Blooming. They opened a new location in Vinton on the exact day of their 17th anniversary of the flagship store opening in Traer. The second store is called Simply Blooming, Too, and has already become an integral part of the Vinton community. They had a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the occasion, and an Elvis Presley impersonator even stopped by for the festivities.

Part of what makes Simply Blooming special is their attention to customer service. They maintain active social media profiles updating customers on the arrangements they design, community events hosted at Simply Blooming, and information on all of their new products.

Simply Blooming's commitment to providing flower arrangements for every occasion is clear. In 17 years, Ms. Eikamp has been able to provide quality customer service by treating her customers like family. I want to commend Lisa Eikamp and the entire team at Simply Blooming for their work. This business exemplifies the innovative spirit and leadership skills of the Iowa entrepreneur. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Iowa.•

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND LINDA BURLOCK

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Robert and Linda Burlock of Berlin as April's Granite Staters of the Month. For half a century, the couple has shown tremendous dedication to their community by continually welcoming new families and residents moving into the East Side of Berlin.

Throughout the time that Robert—''Bobby''—and Linda have lived on Grafton Street in Berlin, every time newcomers have arrived, they have made it their personal mission to welcome them. They are the unofficial ambassadors for the neighborhood. One time, when Bobby saw from across the street two newcomers struggling to move their furniture, he sprung up to help. He originally had taken days off of work to relax and lay back, but instead, he spent the next few days helping the newcomers settle in. Another time, when a neighbor's father passed away, Bobby helped her clean out her father's garage, a task that would have been daunting if done alone. When heavy snow covered Grafton Street, Bobby would send over a buddy with a snow plow to his neighbors' yards, and when their front yards were overgrown with grass, he would offer to mow their lawns. Linda worked in lockstep with her husband to welcome the newcomers, always inviting them over for drinks and quickly forging strong friendships. For every new neighbor, she would always make a dish to send over as a welcome gesture.

Beyond any single act of assistance, Bobby and Linda have developed a sense of community in Berlin that is truly special. When their longtime neighbor and good friend passed away a few years ago, a newcomer moved in from New Jersey. Although he kept to himself at first, Bobby and Linda were determined to get to know him, and soon enough they were good friends. Bobby says that he now sees his new neighbor as another son.

Bobby and Linda's generosity leaves a lasting impact on the people that they assist, showing neighbors, new and old, that everybody counts. And they set an example for all Granite Staters by showing that each and every one of us can make a difference in our own community. I hope that all Granite Staters are inspired by Bobby and Linda's story and follow their example of extending kindness to strangers, since our communities are only as strong as their individual members. Bobby and Linda are a shining example of the Granite State spirit of kindness and generosity, and I am glad to honor the neighborhood spirit that they have created on the East Side of Berlin.•

REMEMBERING HARRY A. ARVIDSON

• Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I would like to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and World War II veteran, Mr. Harry A. Arvidson.

Harry was a proud patriot who loved his country. Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, he answered the call to duty during World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy submarine service in 1942 and left high school before graduation to serve.

During his time in uniform, Harry served as a ship cook third class for his regular duty and radar observer for his battle station post. His first assignment was on the USS *Pollack*, where he was a member of the *Pollack*'s ninth war patrol, a patrol that sunk and damaged more ships than any of the other *Pollack* patrols conducted in the Pacific. At the end of the war, Harry was assigned to a 40-man prize crew which boarded and seized a surrendering Japanese I–400 submarine. Harry and the prize crew sailed submarines into Tokyo Bay for the surrender ceremonies.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946, Harry returned to civilian life, married his wife Lola, and had two children, Lynda and Scott. While Harry was deployed during the war, Lola also contributed to the wartime effort as a member of the Rosie the Riveters, working on airplane gliders.

In 1956, Harry and Lola moved to Conrad, MT, where they established the Home Cafe on Main Street in Conrad. Harry and Lola ran the Home Cafe

until 1982, when they retired and passed the torch over to Scott and their daughter-in-law, who continue to run the family business today. Soon after, Harry and Lola moved to Lincoln, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Harry was immensely proud of his service to the Nation. Since 1972, he was a member the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII organization, even serving as the Montana State commander for many years. In that role, he helped host the 53rd national convention in Billings alongside his family. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 9 in Lincoln and a member of the Montana Honor Flight that traveled to Washington, DC, in 2012.

On October 18, 2022, Harry passed away at the age of 97 at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital, joining Lola—his wife of 72 years—who passed in 2019. Today, it is my honor to commemorate his service and legacy. Harry's exemplary service and that of the entire Greatest Generation is what makes our country the greatest in the world. He is a true patriot who made Montana proud, and he will be sorely missed. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14059 OF DECEMBER 15, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ORDER TO ACTIVE DUTY SUCH UNITS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE TO ENSURE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CAN PROPERLY SUSTAIN ITS SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER—PM 9

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Effective today, pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and section 12302 of title 10, United States Code, and in order to respond to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021 (Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade), I am authorizing the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to order to active duty such units and individual members of the Ready Reserve under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned as the Secretary concerned considers necessary, consistent with the terms of section 12302 of title 10, United States Code. The authorities that have been invoked will ensure the Department of Defense can properly sustain its support of the Department of Homeland Security concerning international drug trafficking along the Southwest Border.

A copy of the Executive Order I have issued is enclosed.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 27, 2023.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1353. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules for the provision of emergency connectivity service, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1353. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules for the provision of emergency connectivity service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 349. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely (Rept. No. 118–14).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 933. A bill to amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to modify requirements relating to data centers of certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–15).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Vanuatu.

Nominee: Ann Marie Yastishock.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee: None.

Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: Elizabeth H. Richard.

Post: Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank of Ambassador.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee: Self: none.

Elizabeth Rood, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Turkmenistan.

Nominee: Elizabeth Rood.

Post: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee: Act Blue (Biden Presidential Campaign), $199.00, 10/19/2020, self; Act Blue (Biden Presidential Campaign), $15.00, 10/9/2020, self; Senate Majority PAC, $50, 5/9/2021, self.

Eric W. Kneedler, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda.

Nominee: Eric William Kneedler.

Post: Republic of Rwanda.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Self: None.
Spouse: None.

Hugo Yue-Ho Yon, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Maldives.

Nominee: Hugo Yue-Ho Yon.

Post: Republic of Maldives.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
1. Self: none.
2. Liza Andriani Yon, none.

Karen Sasahara, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Nominee: Karen Hideko Sasahara.

Post: Kuwait.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: $16.66, 11/18/2020, Andy Kim; $16.67, 11/18/2020, Jon Ossoff; $16.67, 11/18/2020, Raphael Warnock; $100.00, 07/31/2021, Andy Kim; $100.00, 11/17/2022; ActBlue.
2. Spouse: (Michael Ratney): None.

Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Niger.

Nominee: Kathleen FitzGibbon.

Post: Ambassador, Republic of Niger.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Kathleen FitzGibbon: None, N/A, N/A.

Martina Anna Tkadlec Strong, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Nominee: Martina Anna Tkadlec Strong.

Post: Ambassador to the UAE.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

No contributions.

David J. Kostelancik, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Albania.

Nominee: David J. Kostelancik.

Post: Republic of Albania.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Patricia J. Kostelancik: None.

Robin Dunnigan, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United states of America to Georgia.

Nominee: Robin Dunnigan.

Post: Georgia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date and donee:

1. Self: $250, Oct. 28, 2020, Biden for President; $250, Oct. 21, 2020, Biden for President; $250, Oct. 14, 2020, Biden for President; $500, Sep. 23, 2020, Biden for President.

Spouse: $500, Oct. 13, 2020, Biden for President.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Amanda K. Brailsford, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1328. A bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian Tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1329. A bill to direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out activities to support Armenian Genocide education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1330. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a burial and funeral allowance for certain veterans who die at home or in other settings while in receipt of hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1331. A bill to ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1332. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1333. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants for providing evidence-based caregiver skills training to family caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1334. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and interdiction capability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1335. A bill to establish the New York-New Jersey Watershed Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 1336. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated using the value of the low-cost food plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1337. A bill to temporarily prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until a certain level of taxpayer services have improved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1338. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply the mailbox rule to documents and payments electronically submitted to the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1339. A bill to provide for increased oversight of entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of group health plans and health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1340. A bill to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1341. A bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1342. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide incentives for States to implement policy changes to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1343. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to alter the definition of ''conviction'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 1344. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an emergency grant aid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1345. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator

of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1346. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1347. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to waive cost-sharing under the TRICARE program for three mental health outpatient visits per year for certain beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1348. A bill to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ROMNEY, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1349. A bill to establish a postsecondary student data system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1350. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have ''Do Not Flush'' labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1351. A bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1352. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1353. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1354. A bill to increase the quality and supply of child care and lower child care costs for families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1355. A bill to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most threatening infections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1356. A bill to establish a task force on organizational structure for artificial intelligence governance and oversight; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1357. A bill to address advertising by digital asset intermediaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1358. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and the Flood Control Act of 1968 to provide for provisions relating to collection and retention of user fees at recreation facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1359. A bill to create a safe harbor for insurers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1360. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to include exposure to perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances in periodic health assessments of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1361. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for floodplain easement restoration and management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1362. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to enhance rulemaking requirements for the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1363. A bill to eliminate the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1364. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to provide the Attorney General with greater authority to promote enforcement of disclosure requirements for agents of foreign principals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1365. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide for the enrollment of citrus land in the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1366. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a forest incentives program to keep forests intact and sequester carbon on private forest land of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1367. A bill to amend XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1368. A bill to counter the military-civil fusion strategy of the Chinese Communist Party and prevent United States contributions to the development of dual-use technology in China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1369. A bill to expand access to capital in underserved markets by providing resources for the Small Business Administration to approve additional Non-Federally Regulated Lenders to make business loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration to small business concerns in low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 1370. A bill to reauthorize and limit the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 1371. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that consumer reporting agencies and other credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1372. A bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1373. A bill to increase access to medication for opioid overdose reversal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1374. A bill to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers from entering into contracts that would prevent or

restrict patient access to drug pricing information otherwise available through consumer decision-support tools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1375. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BENNET, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1376. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1377. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the low-income housing credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1378. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide incentives for behavioral health integration under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1379. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an excess urban heat mitigation grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1380. A bill to amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to provide States and communities with additional assistance to plant and maintain trees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1381. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1382. A bill to amend section 1507 of title 18, United States Code, to establish appropriate penalties for obstruction of justice by picketing or parading in or near court buildings or residences of judges, jurors, witnesses, or other court officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1383. A bill to regulate firearm silencers and firearm mufflers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1384. A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1385. A bill to develop a national strategy to increase the number of youth recreation visits to Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 179. A resolution condemning the wrongful detainment of United States citizens and residents by the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. Res. 180. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 30, 2023, as ''National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 181. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 24 through April 28, 2023, as ''National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 182. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 183. A resolution celebrating the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 184. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2023 as ''Parkinson's Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 185. A resolution designating April 2023 as ''Financial Literacy Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WELCH):

S. Con. Res. 9. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 184, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) 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. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 473

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill to provide for drone security.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 626

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 626, a bill to recommend that the

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to enhance mental health and psychosocial support within United States development and humanitarian assistance programs.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to reform the labor laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1271, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels, and for other purposes.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1311, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) 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''.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H–2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States''.

S. RES. 113

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 113, a resolution recognizing the need for greater access to rural and agricultural media programming.

S. RES. 157

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 157, a resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 174

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 174, a resolution condemning the human rights record of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and the brutal killing of Eswatini activist Thulani Maseko on January 21, 2023.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1337. A bill to temporarily prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until a certain level of taxpayer services have improved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 1337

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 ''Increase Reliable Services Now Act''.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL TAX ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person for the purpose of conducting enforcement activities during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which—

(1) the Internal Revenue Service has maintained, for 6 consecutive months—

(A) a level of access for accounts management phone lines of not less than 90 percent; and

(B) an average speed of answering enterprise-wide calls in 4 minutes or less; and

(2) not less than 90 percent of the regular employees of the Internal Revenue Service perform work in person at their job sites.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The term ''enforcement activities'' means activities described in section 10301(a)(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117–169.

(2) LEVEL OF ACCESS.—The term ''level of access'' means a telephone performance measure that reflects overall taxpayer call demand and Internal Revenue Service assistance and is calculated by dividing—

(A) the sum of assistor calls answered and the automated calls answered; by

(B) the total dialed number attempts (not including any dialed number attempts after hours).

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF ADDITIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FUNDS FOR TAXPAYER AUDITS.

Section 10301(a)(1)((A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '': *Provided further*, That the Internal Revenue Service shall not audit taxpayers with taxable incomes below $400,000 at a greater rate than such taxpayers were audited for the most recent taxable year beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act''.

SEC. 4. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE HIRING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person (other than for activities related to return processing and call center operations) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which the Internal Revenue Service meets the requirements of subsection (b).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) With respect to the completion of processing original and amended tax returns, the completion of processing suspended tax returns, and the resolution of accounts management cases, the Internal Revenue Service has an aggregate inventory not in excess of 5,000,000 items as of the close of any calendar quarter.

(2) With respect to tax returns eligible for a refund, refunds are issued to taxpayers on average within six weeks or less of the receipt of the return.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days after the last day of each calendar quarter beginning during the applicable period, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in consultation with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees report on—

(1) the level of access for accounts management phone lines for each month during such calendar quarter;

(2) the average speed of answering enterprise-wide calls for each month during such calendar quarter;

(3) the percentage of regular employees of the Internal Revenue Service that perform work in person at their job sites during such calendar quarter;

(4) the aggregate inventory of unprocessed original and amended tax returns, unprocessed suspended tax returns, and unresolved

accounts management cases as of the last day of the calendar quarter; and

(5) with respect to tax returns eligible for a refund, the average length of time between receipt of a tax return and the issuance of a refund.

(b) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—For purposes of this section, the term ''applicable period'' means the period beginning with the first calendar quarter beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending with the first calendar quarter in which the Internal Revenue Service—

(1) has met the requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(a); and

(2) has met the requirements of section 4(b).

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—For purposes of this section, the term ''appropriate Congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1341. A bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Madam President, it is time for a national investment in building a strong and resilient educator pipeline to ensure that all schools have the diverse, profession-ready teachers, principals, librarians, counselors, and other specialized instructional support personnel they need to support student development and academic achievement. Today, along with Senators CASEY, LUJÁN, VAN HOLLEN, WYDEN, STABENOW, MERKLEY, and HEINRICH, I am reintroducing the EDUCATORS for America Act to provide the blueprint for building this pipeline. I am pleased that Representative ALMA ADAMS is introducing a companion bill in the other body.

For years, we have seen declines in enrollment in educator preparation programs. Now in the wake of the COVID–19 pandemic, schools are facing pervasive staffing shortages. An Education Week survey found that 40 percent of school district leaders and principals describe the shortages as ''severe'' or ''very severe.'' The National Association of Secondary School Principals reported that nearly 4 out of 10 principals expect to leave the profession in the next 3 years. We cannot afford to neglect the educator pipeline any longer.

As we work to replenish the ranks of our educators, we also have the opportunity to advance diversity in the profession. Multiple studies have shown that racial diversity can provide significant benefits to students. However, the gap between the demographic makeup of the student body and the education profession has been widening. Even though over 50 percent of students are people of color, a 2022 Department of Education report showed that 80 percent of public-school teachers identified as White, a figure that has barely changed since 2000.

The EDUCATORS for America Act calls for a $1 billion annual investment in the educator pipeline, divided evenly between State capacity building and direct support for educator preparation programs and partnerships with high-need school districts. It addresses the full scope of educator workforce development, including early outreach and career exploration, financial assistance, and wraparound supports for those pursuing education careers. It supports clinical preparation for teachers, principals, and other educators, as well as fostering faculty development, all with a focus on ensuring equity and diversity.

The EDUCATORS for America Act will also reduce financiq] barriers to pursuing careers in education. The legislation will double the value of the TEACH— Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education— grant to $8,000 per year and provide greater flexibility for meeting service requirements. It forgives loans for teachers, principals, and early childhood educators in high need schools after 5 years of service, and it establishes a new monthly credit for all other educators that will allow them to earn loan forgiveness as they serve instead of being forced to wait a decade before receiving any benefit.

The EDUCATORS for America Act reflects input from stakeholders across the field about what is needed to recruit, prepare, and support educators. To date, more than 50 organizations have endorsed it.

The Nation's outlook for the future is tied to the strength of the education profession. Our economic prosperity, the health of our democracy and civic society, and our ability to meet the challenges of climate change and the information age depend on our students having access to well-prepared and supported educators who reflect the diversity of the students they serve.

Today, the profession is in crisis. It is time to act. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the EDUCATORS for America Act and work with me to see that it is enacted into law.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1343. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to alter the definition of ''conviction'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Fair Adjudications for Immigrants Act.

This legislation would ensure that immigrants with criminal convictions do not face barriers to naturalization and experience unfair removals after their convictions have been dismissed, expunged, or pardoned by a Federal or State locality.

The Fair Adjudications for Immigrants Act is important in ensuring immigrants are not unjustly treated after receiving a criminal charge that never resulted in a conviction or after a previous conviction no longer stands.

Specifically, this bill would ensure that immigrants whose convictions have been overturned are not penalized when they are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction or for sentences that have been fully suspended by the sentencing court.

By redefining the term ''conviction'' in the Immigration and Nationality Act, this legislation also clarifies that any adjudication that is appealable or in which the court has issued a judicial recommendation against removal or probation without judgment will not count as a conviction.

The bill would apply retroactively to any conviction, adjudication, or judgement entered before, on, or after the enactment of this bill. Finally, it establishes that an immigrant cannot be removed on the basis of a conviction if the sentencing court issues a recommendation against removal to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Under current law, rather than having access to many rehabilitative measures that are afforded in the criminal justice system, immigrants with dismissed criminal charges, suspended sentences, or criminal convictions that are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction still face severe consequences in the immigration court system.

Some of the immigration consequences that immigrants can face include unjust removals, mandatory detention, and barriers to naturalization.

It is imperative that we resolve this disparity between immigration and criminal law to prevent those immigrants with dismissed criminal charges or with convictions that are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction from continuing to face punitive immigration consequences.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1353. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1353

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 ''Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY.

Section 455(m)(3)(B)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''teaching as'' and inserting the following: ''teaching—

''(I) as'';

(2) by striking '', foreign language faculty, and part-time faculty at community colleges), as determined by the Secretary.'' and inserting ''and foreign language faculty), as determined by the Secretary; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(II) at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)), a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c)), or a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)), in non-tenured track employment as an adjunct or contingent faculty, teacher, or lecturer who—

''(aa) teaches—

''(AA) not less than 9 credit hours per semester, 6 credit hours per trimester, or 18 credit hours per calendar year; or

''(BB) not less than a total of 30 hours per week, as determined by multiplying each credit or contact hour taught per week by 3.35 (or a larger number, if determined appropriate by the Secretary); and

''(bb) is not employed on a full-time basis by any other employer.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 179—CONDEMNING THE WRONGFUL DETAINMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 179

Whereas the Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees the right to assemble, freedom from censorship, and the freedom of speech and thought to its citizens;

Whereas, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation has failed to protect these ideals and has used the power of the state to diminish the rights of Russians and others within its borders and across the territories Russia unlawfully occupies;

Whereas President Putin's regime has used the power of the state to unlawfully detain individuals committed to fighting corruption within the Russian Federation;

Whereas President Putin's regime has unjustly targeted and detained individuals such as Sergei Magnitsky, who provided evidence that $230,000,000 had been stolen from the Russian treasury by senior Russian officials;

Whereas Sergei Magnitsky died at the age of 37 after being denied critical medical care while being unjustly detained in inhuman conditions;

Whereas President Putin's regime also utilizes the power of the state to target political opponents and repress freedom of speech, thought, and expression;

Whereas Alexey Navalny, a Russian opposition leader and vocal critic of President Putin, has been unjustly detained and subject to poisoning by the Kremlin;

Whereas the Putin regime has also used its power to unjustly detain citizens of the United States;

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is currently serving a 16-year prison sentence after being wrongfully detained by the Russian Federation for espionage;

Whereas, following Paul Whelan's conviction on June 15, 2020, the Department of State released a statement demanding his immediate release, and this statement continues to be ignored by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on April 12, 2022, United States resident Vladimir Kara-Murza was arrested for condemning Russia's war in Ukraine and was charged with ''spreading deliberately false information'' about the armed forces of Russia, which was criminalized under a Russian law passed after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Vladimir Kara-Murza was convicted of treason and sentenced to 25 years in prison;

Whereas additional United States citizens continue to be detained in Russia for unjust cause, including American journalist Evan Gershkovich;

Whereas wrongful detention, as defined in section 302 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741) and Department of State guidance, covers the detention of United States nationals, including lawful permanent residents (LPRs);

Whereas, under section 302 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741), the Secretary of State is required to review the cases of United States nationals detained abroad to determine if there is credible information that they are being detained unlawfully or wrongfully and if this determination is made, the Secretary is required to transfer responsibility for such case from the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State to the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA);

Whereas a referral to SPEHA, pursuant to Executive Order No. 14078 (relating to Bolstering Efforts To Bring Hostages and Wrongfully Detained United States Nationals Home), allows SPEHA to utilize additional tools not regularly available in order to deter and disrupt hostage-taking and wrongful detentions by imposing costs on terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and other malicious actors who take hostages for financial, political, or other gains and thus threaten the integrity of the international political system and the safety of United States nationals and other persons abroad;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation Lynne Tracy stated, ''The right to have political opinions, or to disagree with the decisions of one's own government, are fundamental freedoms enshrined in both the Russian constitution and international treaties to which Russia is a party.'';

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of President Putin, has clearly failed to uphold the values guaranteed in the Russian constitution and the international treaties the Russian Federation is party to;

Whereas the actions of President Putin's regime, including illegal detainments, military operations against sovereign nation states, and attacks on political opponents, constitute acts of international terrorism;

Whereas, under chapter 113B of title 18, United States Code, the term ''international terrorism'' means activities that involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State, and appear to be intended—

(1) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

(2) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

(3) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping;

Whereas, at a minimum, the Government of the Russian Federation's treatment of detained Americans, Russian citizens, and others through inhuman prison conditions, including the lack of medical care, and the lack of due process constitutes a danger to human life which would be a criminal violation in the United States and is clearly intended to intimidate or coerce the free exercise of rights available to individuals in the Russian Federation; and

Whereas United States law authorizes the designation of countries that have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism as state sponsors of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the United States Government to designate Vladimir Kara-Murza as wrongfully detained under United States law;

(2) condemns the wrongful detainment of all United States citizens and residents by the Government of the Russian Federation and demands their immediate release from such detention;

(3) stands with the people of Russia in their desire to exercise freedom of speech and expression, without retaliation by an oppressive regime;

(4) demands that the Russian leadership be held accountable for their inhumane and unjust actions against their own citizens who want nothing less than to be represented by a fair and just government; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to immediately designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism under United States law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 180—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 30, 2023, AS ''NATIONAL ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION AWARENESS DAY''

Ms. HIRONO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 180

Whereas up to 2,400,000 individuals in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and up to ⅔ of individuals with chronic hepatitis B are unaware of their infection;

Whereas hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver transmitted via infected blood and other bodily fluids, including through mother-to-child transmission and injection drug use;

Whereas hepatitis B is associated with significant disparities among communities of color (including Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and African immigrants), sexual and gender minority communities, and those affected by the opioid crisis;

Whereas individuals with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, and chronic liver disease, and individuals on hemodialysis are at an increased risk for hepatitis B co-infection;

Whereas there is no cure for hepatitis B, and individuals with chronic hepatitis B require lifelong medical care;

Whereas chronic hepatitis B represents 1 of the most common causes of liver cancer;

Whereas 1 in every 4 individuals with unmanaged chronic hepatitis B will develop liver cancer, cirrhosis, or liver failure, with liver cancer having a 5-year survival rate of only 18 percent in the United States;

Whereas safe and highly effective vaccines to protect against hepatitis B are available;

Whereas, in accordance with universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination recommendations in the United States, infants and children have been routinely vaccinated against hepatitis B since the 1990s;

Whereas all adults between 19 and 59 years of age, and adults 60 and older who have hepatitis B risk factors, are recommended to be vaccinated against hepatitis B;

Whereas the hepatitis B vaccine, which is 95 percent effective and was the first anticancer vaccine to be developed, is projected to have prevented 310,000,000 cases of hepatitis B worldwide from 1990 to 2020;

Whereas only 30 percent of adults in the United States are vaccinated against hepatitis B;

Whereas the number of reported acute hepatitis B cases increased by 11 percent nationwide from 2014 to 2018;

Whereas, as a result of the drug use epidemic, there have been significant regional increases in acute hepatitis B cases in the United States, including—

(1) a reported 489 percent increase from 2015 to 2016 in Maine;

(2) a reported 114 percent increase from 2009 to 2013 in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee;

(3) a reported 78 percent increase in 2017 in southeastern Massachusetts; and

(4) a reported 56 percent increase from 2014 to 2016 in North Carolina;

Whereas 36 percent of new hepatitis B cases are among individuals who inject drugs;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV and 5 to 10 times more infectious than hepatitis C; and

Whereas there are significant opportunities, particularly with respect to the drug use epidemic, to prevent new hepatitis B infections and thereby reduce the incidence of liver cancer and cirrhosis through efforts to—

(1) increase adult hepatitis B vaccination; and

(2) maintain childhood hepatitis B vaccination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 30, 2023, as ''National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day'';

(2) recognizes the importance of providing support and encouragement—

(A) for all adults to be tested for hepatitis B at least once in their lifetime in accordance with recommendations;

(B) for individuals susceptible to infection to be vaccinated against hepatitis B; and

(C) for individuals diagnosed with hepatitis B to be linked to appropriate care; and

(3) in order to reduce the number of new hepatitis B infections and hepatitis B-related deaths, encourages a commitment to—

(A) increasing adult hepatitis B vaccination rates;

(B) maintaining childhood hepatitis B vaccination rates; and

(C) promoting provider and community awareness of adult hepatitis B vaccination.

SENATE RESOLUTION 181—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 24 THROUGH APRIL 28, 2023, AS ''NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK''

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 181

Whereas there are more than 1,000,000 specialized instructional support personnel serving the schools and students of the United States, including—

(1) school counselors;

(2) school social workers;

(3) school psychologists; and

(4) other qualified professional personnel, such as—

(A) school nurses;

(B) psychologists;

(C) social workers;

(D) occupational therapists;

(E) physical therapists;

(F) art therapists;

(G) dance and movement therapists;

(H) music therapists;

(I) speech-language pathologists; and

(J) audiologists;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide school-based prevention and early intervention services to reduce barriers to learning;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel work with teachers, school leaders, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to promote student and school success;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide educational, social, emotional, and behavioral interventions and activities that support—

(1) student learning; and

(2) teaching;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel help to create environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to learning;

Whereas safe and supportive school environments are associated with improved academic performance;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel support—

(1) student communication;

(2) the development of social skills by students;

(3) the physical wellness of students;

(4) the physical development of students; and

(5) the behavioral, emotional, and mental health of students; and

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel serve all students who struggle with barriers to learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 24 through April 28, 2023, as ''National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week'';

(2) recognizes that specialized instructional support personnel implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes;

(3) commends—

(A) those individuals who work as specialized instructional support personnel; and

(B) the individuals and organizations that support the efforts made by specialized instructional support personnel to promote and improve the availability of specialized instructional support services;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together to raise awareness of the importance of specialized instructional support personnel in school climate and education efforts;

(5) recognizes the important role of specialized instructional support personnel in efforts to improve mental health, reduce drug use, and improve overall community safety for students; and

(6) encourages experts to share best practices so that others can replicate the success of those experts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 182—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 182

Whereas, each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, fiber, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground utility lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to having underground utility lines located often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas, in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State ''One Call'' systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas, in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated ''811'' as the nationwide ''One Call'' number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities (hereinafter referred to as the ''''One Call''/811 program'');

Whereas the nearly 2,000 members of the Common Ground Alliance, States, ''One Call''/811 program, and other stakeholders who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national ''Contact 811 Before You Dig'' campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators contacting 811 to find out the location of underground utility lines before digging;

Whereas the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–90; 125 Stat. 1904) affirmed and expanded the ''One Call''/811 program by eliminating exemptions given to local and State government agencies and their contractors regarding notifying ''One Call''/811 centers before digging;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report published by the Common Ground Alliance in October 2022—

(1) estimated annual instances of excavation-related damages to underground facilities were on-pace or higher than the approximately 486,000 damages from the prior year; and

(2) failing to contact 811 in advance of a digging project caused 26 percent of these damages;

Whereas, in 2021, the Common Ground Alliance conducted a survey of active diggers who have completed a project during the prior year and found that 74 percent of the more than 1,800 respondents were aware of the ''One Call''/811 program; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as ''National Safe Digging Month'' to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national ''Contact Before You Dig'' number: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month;

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to contact 811 by phone or online before digging; and

(3) encourages all damage prevention stakeholders to help educate homeowners and excavators throughout the United States about the importance of contacting 811 to have the approximate location of buried utilities marked with paint or flags before digging.

SENATE RESOLUTION 183—CELEBRATING THE 151ST ANNIVERSARY OF ARBOR DAY

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 183

Whereas Arbor Day was founded on April 10, 1872, to recognize the importance of planting trees;

Whereas Arbor Day is a time to recognize the importance of trees and an opportunity for communities to gather and plant for a greener future;

Whereas Arbor Day is observed in all 50 States and across the world;

Whereas participating in Arbor Day activities promotes civic participation and highlights the importance of planting and caring for trees and vegetation;

Whereas such activities provide an opportunity to convey to future generations the value of land and stewardship;

Whereas working forests have contributed to an increase in the number of trees planted in the United States and are sustainably managed, with less than 2 percent of working forests nationally harvested each year;

Whereas a key factor in preventing forest conversion and deforestation is keeping forests productive;

Whereas working forests are a critical part of a nature-based solution to climate change, and by providing a continuous cycle of growing, harvesting, and replanting, active forest management maximizes the ability to sequester and store carbon and improves forest resilience;

Whereas private forests play an important role in conserving at-risk and declining species, and collaborative conservation efforts can benefit species while also helping to keep forests as forests;

Whereas sustainably grown wood can be used in a wide variety of resilient infrastructure and building applications—from traditional timber framing to high-tech mass timber—and as a natural, renewable, and biodegradable material, the significant use of wood building materials in buildings and bridges helps decrease global carbon emissions;

Whereas the Arbor Day Foundation and the Tree City USA program have been committed to greening cities and towns across the country since 1976, and, in that time, more than 3,600 communities have made the commitment to becoming Tree City USA communities;

Whereas Tree City USA communities are home to more than 153,000,000 individuals in the United States who are dedicated to core standards of sound urban forestry management and who dedicate resources and time to urban forestry initiatives, which helps make their communities and our country a better place to live;

Whereas National Arbor Day is observed on the last Friday of April each year; and

Whereas April 28, 2023, marks the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes April 28, 2023, as ''National Arbor Day'';

(2) celebrates the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Arbor Day; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to participate in National Arbor Day activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 184—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2023 AS ''PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH''

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 184

Whereas Parkinson's disease—

(1) affects more than 1,000,000 individuals in the United States;

(2) is the fastest-growing and second most common neurodegenerative disease in the world;

(3) is believed to be caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause in most individuals is still unknown; and

(4) is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas it is estimated that, by 2037, the number of individuals with Parkinson's disease in the United States will nearly double, and the disease will cost the United States at least $80,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson's disease can include dementia and cognitive impairment, tremors, slowness of movement and rigidity, gait and balance difficulties, speech and swallowing difficulties, depression, and a variety of other symptoms;

Whereas there are millions of family caregivers, friends, and loved ones whose lives are greatly affected by Parkinson's disease; and

Whereas more research, education, and community support services are needed to—

(1) find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease; and

(2) maintain dignity for those living with the disease today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of April 2023 as ''Parkinson's Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals living with Parkinson's disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals across the country working to improve the quality of life of people living with Parkinson's disease and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 185—DESIGNATING APRIL 2023 AS ''FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH''

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 185

Whereas, according to the report entitled ''Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2021'' by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, a noted increase in financial well-being occurred broadly as the United States recovered from the COVID–19 pandemic, but existing gaps in education, ethnicity, and disability persisted;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households—

(1) approximately 4.5 percent of households, representing 5,900,000 households in the United States, are unbanked and, therefore, have limited or no access to savings, lending, and other basic financial services; and

(2) an estimated 14.1 percent of households, representing 18,700,000 million households in the United States, are underbanked;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Consumer Financial Literacy and Preparedness Survey of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and Wells Fargo—

(1) 47 percent of the general population in the United States report having credit card debt;

(2) 38 percent of adults in the United States report carrying credit card balances from month-to-month; and

(3) 44 percent of the general population in the United States have a budget and keep close track of expenses, such as food, housing, and entertainment;

Whereas, according to a report entitled ''Financial Capability of Adults with Disabilities'' by the National Disability Institute and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, people with disabilities were more likely to struggle with the key components of financial capability, which are making ends meet, planning ahead, managing financial products, and financial knowledge and decision-making, and could benefit from targeted financial education;

Whereas, according to the statistical release of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the fourth quarter of 2022 entitled ''Household Debt and Credit''—

(1) outstanding household debt in the United States has increased by $2,750,000,000,000 since the end of 2019;

(2) outstanding student loan balances have more than doubled in the last decade to nearly $1,600,000,000,000; and

(3) the share of debt newly transitioning into delinquency increased for nearly all debt types, following 2 years of historically low delinquency transitions;

Whereas, according to the 2022 report entitled ''Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation's Schools'' by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 25 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement; and

(2) only 23 States require students to take a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement, either independently or as part of an economics course;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared—

(1) to make sound money management decisions about credit, debt, insurance, financial transactions, and planning for the future; and

(2) to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas financial education in schools in the United States is critical to a long-term financial inclusion strategy to reach students who are not able to get sufficient personal finance guidance at home;

Whereas, according to the 2021 report entitled ''Game Changer: The Evaluation of the Jump$tart Financial Foundations for Educators Professional Development Program'' by the Financial Literacy Group, teacher training regarding financial education improves student outcomes significantly, especially among historically underserved students;

Whereas increased financial literacy—

(1) empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions; and

(2) reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth; and

Whereas, in 2003, Congress—

(1) determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

(2) in light of that determination, passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2023 as ''Financial Literacy Month'' to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE IS A CLIMATE EMERGENCY WHICH DEMANDS A MASSIVE-SCALE MOBILIZATION TO HALT, REVERSE, AND ADDRESS ITS CONSEQUENCES AND CAUSES

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. CON. RES. 9

Whereas the 8 warmest years on record have now occurred since 2014, with 2016 as the hottest year recorded, and each of the past 4 decades have been warmer than the one preceding;

Whereas global atmospheric concentrations of the primary global warming pollutant, carbon dioxide—

(1) have increased, primarily due to human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, by 40 percent since preindustrial times, from 280 parts per million to 415 parts per million;

(2) are rising at a rate of 2 to 3 parts per million annually; and

(3) must be reduced to not more than 350 parts per million, and likely lower, ''if humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted'', according to former National Aeronautics and Space Administration climatologist Dr. James Hansen;

Whereas global atmospheric concentrations of other global warming pollutants, including methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons, have also increased substantially since preindustrial times, primarily due to human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels;

Whereas climate science and observations of climate change impacts, including ocean warming, ocean acidification, floods, droughts, wildfires, and extreme weather, demonstrate that a global rise in concentrations of global warming pollutants is already having dangerous impacts on human populations and the environment;

Whereas, with the current 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming above preindustrial levels, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration finds that climate change is already increasing the frequency of extreme weather and other climate-related disasters, including drought, wildfire, and storms that include precipitation;

Whereas the overall costs of these disasters for the United States in 2022 was roughly $165,000,000,000, the third highest recorded total costs, including 18 separate weather and climate disasters which cost at least $1,000,000,000 each and caused at least 474 direct or indirect known fatalities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds that there are wide-ranging, acute, and fatal public health consequences from climate change that impact communities across the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Climate and Health Assessment of the United States Global Change Research Program, climate change is a significant threat to the health of the people of the United States, leading to increased—

(1) temperature-related deaths and illnesses;

(2) air quality impacts;

(3) extreme weather events;

(4) numbers of vector-borne diseases;

(5) waterborne illnesses;

(6) food safety, nutrition, and distribution complications; and

(7) mental health and well-being concerns;

Whereas environmental and public health threats from climate change and climate disasters are not randomly distributed and disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color;

Whereas the consequences of climate change are felt most severely by frontline communities and endanger populations made especially vulnerable by existing exposure to extreme weather events, such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing disabilities and health conditions;

Whereas individuals and families on the frontlines of climate change across the United States, including territories, living with income inequality and poverty, institutional racism, inequity on the basis of gender and sexual orientation, poor infrastructure, and lack of access to health care, housing, clean water, and food security are often in close proximity to environmental stressors or sources of pollution, particularly communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities, which—

(1) are often the first exposed to the impacts of climate change;

(2) experience outsized risk because of the close proximity of the community to environmental hazards and stressors, in addition to collocation with waste and other sources of pollution; and

(3) have the fewest resources to mitigate those impacts or to relocate, which will exacerbate preexisting challenges;

Whereas climate change holds grave and immediate consequences not just for the population of the United States, including territories, but for communities across the world, particularly those communities in the Global South on the frontlines of the climate crisis that are at risk of forced displacement;

Whereas the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the intelligence community have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top national security risk;

Whereas the climatic changes resulting from global warming above 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, including changes resulting from global warming of more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, are projected to result in irreversible, catastrophic changes to public health, livelihoods, quality of life, food security, water supplies, human security, and economic growth;

Whereas, even with global warming up to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, the planet is projected to experience—

(1) a significant rise in sea levels;

(2) extraordinary loss of biodiversity; and

(3) intensifying droughts, floods, wildfires, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, according to climate scientists, addressing the climate emergency will require a just phase-out of the use of oil, gas, and coal in order to keep the carbon that is the primary constituent of fossil fuels in the ground and out of the atmosphere;

Whereas, in 2022, some of the largest oil and gas companies in the world reported record annual profits and rewarded shareholders with buybacks while knowingly exacerbating the ongoing climate crisis;

Whereas the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that limiting warming through emissions reduction and carbon sequestration will require rapid and immediate acceleration and proliferation of ''far-reaching, multilevel, and cross-sectoral climate mitigation'' and ''transitions in energy, land, urban and rural infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems'';

Whereas, in August 2022, the United States took its single most aggressive action to tackle the climate crisis and transition to create renewable energy solutions when Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and referred to in this preamble as the ''IRA'') was signed into law by President Biden;

Whereas the IRA includes $369,000,000,000 for energy security and climate change, including investments in disadvantaged communities, projects that repurpose retired fossil fuel infrastructure and employ displaced workers, and setting the United States on course for a renewable energy transition as soon as possible;

Whereas the IRA creates new environmental justice block grants, establishes renewable energy financing, provides funding for Tribal communities to boost climate resilience, makes it more affordable to purchase energy efficient and electric appliances, incentivizes domestic manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, and will boost the renewable energy economy;

Whereas the passage of the IRA is projected to reduce global warming emissions in the United States between 31 percent to 44 percent below 2005 levels by 2030;

Whereas the United Nations Environment Programme still found in October 2022 that the existing commitments made in the Nationally Determined Contributions since the 2015 Paris Climate Conference are insufficient to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

Whereas urgent governmental action is still required to address the severe environmental, economic, social, public health, and national security threats posed by the climate crisis;

Whereas the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will continue to require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate crisis;

Whereas the United States has a proud history of collaborative, constructive, massive-scale Federal mobilizations of resources and labor in order to solve great challenges, such as the Interstate Highway System, the Apollo 11 moon landing, Reconstruction, the New Deal, and World War II;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States protects the fundamental rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the laws, and a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society and the preservation of those fundamental rights;

Whereas 18 national governments across the world and the European Union have declared a climate emergency, as well as the State of Hawaii and more than 190 cities, counties, and local jurisdictions in the United States;

Whereas the United States maintains existing resources and international commitments for bilateral and multilateral assistance to support economically emerging countries, including the Green Climate Fund, the Clean Technology Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the International Sustainable Landscapes programs, which should be supported with robust funding levels;

Whereas President Biden also maintains existing executive authority under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the various Acts concerning rivers and harbors, the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.), and the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) that can be used to address the ongoing climate crisis;

Whereas, under these existing authorities, the President can phase down the rate of fossil fuel production on Federal lands and in Federal waters, limit gas exports, halt approval of new fossil fuel infrastructure projects, establish national limits for greenhouse gases, and decarbonize transportation;

Whereas a national climate emergency declaration would further unlock the broad powers of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.), and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

Whereas such a declaration can be used to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address environmental injustice, invest in large scale mitigation and resiliency projects, create additional jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits, and ensure a just transition to a renewable energy economy;

Whereas such a declaration will allow the United States to further mobilize domestic industry, ramp up domestic manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, and deploy resilient energy infrastructure;

Whereas such a declaration can also reinstate the ban on crude oil exports, suspend offshore fossil fuel leases, curb fossil fuel imports, and stop the hundreds of billions of dollars in investments in fossil fuel projects abroad while taking additional steps toward strengthening our emergency preparedness for thousands of high-risk communities;

Whereas such a declaration necessitates the adoption of policies and processes rooted in principles of racial equity, self-determination, and democracy, as well as the fundamental human rights of all people to clean air and water, healthy food, and adequate land, education, and shelter, as promulgated in the 1991 Principles of Environmental Justice;

Whereas frontline communities, Tribal governments and communities, people of color, and labor unions must be equitably and actively engaged in a national climate emergency declaration, in such a way that aligns with the 1996 Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing, and prioritized through local climate mitigation and adaptation planning, policy, and program delivery so that workers in the United States, and the communities of those workers, are guaranteed a strong, viable economic future; and

Whereas the United States has an obligation, as a primary driver of accelerated climate change, to mobilize at emergency speed to ensure the safest climate and environment possible, not just for communities of the United States but for communities across the world, particularly those on the frontlines of the climate crisis which have least contributed to the crisis, and to account for global and community impacts of any actions the United States takes in response to the climate crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) climate change caused by human activities, which increase emissions of greenhouse gases, constitutes a climate emergency that—

(A) severely and urgently impacts the economic and social well-being, health, safety, and national security of the United States; and

(B) demands that the President wield both existing authorities and emergency powers to ensure a national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale to mitigate and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency for current and future generations; and

(2) nothing in this concurrent resolution constitutes a declaration of a national emergency for the purposes of any Act of Congress authorizing the exercise, during the period of a national emergency or other type of declared emergency, of any special or extraordinary power.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have four 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 Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 8 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 Thursday, April 27, 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 Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 182 and S. Res. 183.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title, en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 182) supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

A resolution (S. Res. 183) celebrating the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 182 and S. Res. 183) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Johnstone nomination postcloture; further, that all cloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. and that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen on Tuesday, May 2; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:26 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 1, 2023, at 3 p.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CYNTHIA DUERR AND ENDING WITH CRISTOBAL ZEPEDA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TAMIKA D. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL F. VANNETT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023. (MINUS 1 NOMINEE: LAURA E. WILLIAMS)

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES ROBERT ADAMS AND ENDING WITH BRENT L. BROWN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 27, 2023:

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. BOHENEK, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JORGE M. ARZOLA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES F. CANTORNA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SANDEEP R. RAHANGDALE AND ENDING WITH CHRISTIE A. SHEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SONG QU, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY S. MCKIDDY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN J. HUXFORD AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. RIDGEWAY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEROME C. FERRIN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHET M. KORENSKY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANTHONY L. GHEZZI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH D016876, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK P. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH D016116, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER ACHEAMPONG AND ENDING WITH D015566, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EMMANUEL T. ADENIRAN AND ENDING WITH D015933, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF NATHAN D. MORRIS, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN E. DINNEN AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW C. MILLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JILLIAN M. MEARS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MARY J. HESSERT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW A. BUBNIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW R. FLORA AND ENDING WITH JORDAN J. FOLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICAH R. KELLEY AND ENDING WITH ERICA M. MITCHELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERICA J. BALFOUR AND ENDING WITH JAMES R. TURNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF CRAIG E. FRANK, TO BE COLONEL.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MAROUANE BALMAKHTAR AND ENDING WITH DANIEL J. LEVINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CYNTHIA DUERR AND ENDING WITH CRISTOBAL ZEPEDA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TAMIKA D. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL F. VANNETT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023. (MINUS 1 NOMINEE: LAURA E. WILLIAMS)

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES ROBERT ADAMS AND ENDING WITH BRENT L. BROWN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MSGT. LARRY A. LEDFORD

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Master Sergeant (MSgt.) Larry A. Ledford of Kingsport, Tennessee for his military service during the Vietnam era.

MSgt. Ledford joined our U.S. Air Force almost immediately after he graduated from high school in 1968. He was first stationed at Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) in Guam. Later, he was sent to HQ Intelligence where he was tasked with providing administrative support to his fellow service members who were responsible for interpretating bomb assessment targets in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos while they were also identifying additional targets. Notably, he took part in both Bullet Shot and Linebacker II Operations. Some of his additional station assignments were Bergstrom Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas, Air Force HQ Southern Europe, and Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

His final assignment was the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Upon active-duty retirement, he served another 18 years with our Department of Defense (DoD).

A family man through and through, he wishes to personally thank and recognize his devoted wife, Mrs. Jane Ledford, as they celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary later this year. Like MSgt. Ledford, Mrs. Ledford faithfully served DoD. with a career spanning nearly 40 years of civil service. He also proudly mentions his two very accomplished sons Steven and Bryan, who followed in their footsteps in service to DoD as government contractors.

Please join me in honoring MSgt. Ledford for his long career of service to our Nation in both military and civilian sectors.

HONORING ROBERT BRICK ON RECEIVING THE 2022 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ON BEHALF OF TRAVERSE CONNECT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Robert Brick for receiving the 2022 Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Traverse Connect.

Bob is a tenured real estate broker with 50 years of experience, as well as the owner of RE/MAX Bayshore Properties, a nationally recognized real estate firm in the greater Traverse City area. Since starting his career in 1973, Bob has continually displayed professionalism and a desire to help his local community through his business.

Upon graduating from St. John's University of Minnesota, Bob began his time in real estate and cemented himself as one of the Nation's top brokers. Working with his children, Bob has facilitated positive change throughout the area by partnering with organizations such as Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and by creating his own relief fund for those impacted or displaced by natural disasters.

Bob has continually strived to be the best community member he can be and has used his platform to extend a helping hand to his fellow residents. His commitment to the people of Traverse City is undeniable and his work will have a lasting impact on the area's most vulnerable residents for years to come. Traverse City, the surrounding communities, and all of Michigan's First District owe Bob our support and gratitude as he accepts this well-deserved award. His dedication to the betterment of others' lives highlights the character of both Bob and his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Robert Brick for his steadfast service to the Traverse City region. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Bob and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the East Bay Municipal Utility District, upon celebrating its 100th anniversary serving the East Bay community. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the critical work the District has accomplished to ensure the health and prosperity of the East Bay environment and community.

Originally founded in 1923, under the State of California Municipal Utility District Act, the East Bay Municipal Utility District has provided access to water for generations of Californians. Today, the company continues its commitment to preserving the environment and faithfully serving the people of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District plays a vital role in building, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure that protects and strengthens California's water supply. Through the East Bay Municipal Utility District's critical leadership in developing the Freeport Regional Water Project, it is helping meet the daily water needs of both Sacramento and the East Bay.

Since its founding, the East Bay Municipal Utility District has worked tirelessly as a trailblazer in environmental stewardship, consistently leading efforts to promote environmental sustainability. The East Bay Municipal Utility District was the first wastewater agency in North America to produce more renewable energy than it uses, by capturing methane gas from the water treatment process. This groundbreaking development served as a national model of renewable energy, inspiring other public and private agencies across the country.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the East Bay Municipal Utility District upon its 100th anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for its generations of service to the East Bay community.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL KILGORE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Staff Sergeant Michael Dwayne Kilgore of Johnson City, Tennessee who served during the Vietnam War era from March 1968 to February 1970.

During Vietnam, he served in a Recon Platoon which was attached to Echo Company 2nd Battalion, 8th Air Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division. As part of the Recon Platoon, he surveyed the area of operation ahead of the main force, however, he was usually the first person to receive contact from the enemy.

During his service, SSGT. Kilgore was awarded two Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts, 3 Air Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal. He also was stationed in numerous locations around the East Coast and graduated from the War College at Fort Bennington, Georgia.

ENCOURAGING THE EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS TO URGE OTHER NATIONS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ENSURE THAT EXISTING AGREEMENTS REAP TANGIBLE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE CITIZENS OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND ALL PEOPLES IN THE REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 311.

All people deserve safety, justice, equality, human rights, and the right to self-determination. No child anywhere should go to bed at night fearing ongoing violence.

Israel is an important and strategic ally in the Middle East region, and our national security interests are intertwined. The United

States provides $3.8 billion in security assistance to Israel's government each year, and I support the use of these funds for security purposes such as Iron Dome. These dollars should be used to keep the Israeli people safe, but unfortunately the American people do not know how billions of this annual security assistance is being spent. That is why I have worked for years to account for the use of these funds.

Not $1 of U.S. aid should be used to commit human rights violations, demolish families' homes, or permanently annex Palestinian lands. Peace can only be achieved when everyone's human rights are respected, and Congress has a responsibility to not ignore the well-documented mistreatment of Palestinian children and families living under Israeli military occupation.

The resolution also fails to mention a two-state solution, for the first time ever. I echo the concerns of many of my House colleagues about this missing commitment for all parties to work together toward a peaceful future.

I join Jewish Voice for Peace, the Institute for Middle East Understanding, and many other civil society groups in opposition to this poorly written resolution.

There is a path to peace and security in the Middle East, and it requires leading with our U.S. values of democracy and equal justice for all.

RECOGNIZING PASCO COUNTY FIRE CHIEF SCOTT CASSIN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fire Chief of Pasco County Fire Rescue, Scott Cassin. Chief Cassin has served Pasco County since 2010 and became Chief on August 26, 2012. For nearly 37 years, Chief Cassin has served in fire service, serving communities in Indiana and Florida. He has worked nearly every job available in the service and has exemplified his commitment and passion to all he has interacted with.

Overseeing Pasco County Fire Rescue which responds to 80,000 calls annually and operates a fleet of 175+ vehicles with 700+ personnel, Chief Cassin's strong leadership has allowed the department to innovate and continually push the limits of modern fire service.

I thank Chief Cassin for his years of service to our community. It is my hope that he enjoys the retirement he has earned.

HONORING NICOLE BRADDOCK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicole Braddock, whom I have named the 2023 Climate Crisis Champion for Solano County because of the important work she has done to promote conservation and address the impacts of climate change on California's 4th Congressional District.

Nicole Braddock was born in Cedarville, California. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Davis in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, and she holds an MBA from Capella University. In addition to these impressive educational achievements, Ms. Braddock has a strong commitment to bringing communities together and building common ground in conversations around climate change.

Through her role as the Executive Director of Solano Land Trust, Ms. Braddock has championed the protection of more than 8,000 acres of working farms and natural areas as well as the restoration of miles of creeks and streams. Solano Land Trust goes beyond land conservation to ensure the establishment of strong relationships between community members and the land.

Ms. Braddock has also advocated for the development of accessible trails and picnic areas to promote public resources available to all members of our community. Ms. Braddock's strong desire to give back to the community is exemplified through her development of partnerships, which allow for every individual in Solano County to benefit from protected natural areas. Additionally, Ms. Braddock supports land conservation efforts through her work on the National Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council. The Land Trust Alliance works with local land trusts to expand land conservation locally and nationally.

Outside of her participation with the Land Trust, Ms. Braddock volunteers with numerous nonprofit organizations and provides pro bono coaching to local leaders working in land conservation. Ms. Braddock also serves on the board of the Solano Economic Development Corporation, an organization dedicated to growing Solano County's economy through the creation of new jobs and competition among businesses.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Nicole Braddock is a leader dedicated to land conservation and environmental advocacy. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Solano County's 2023 Climate Crisis Champion.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT DENNIS GONZALEZ-FURMAN UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman of the 437th Air Mobility Wing for earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman joined the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing in meeting a challenge of colossal scale, when they helped execute the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman and the 349th Air Mobility Wing played a critical role in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. They directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated in the United States Air Force.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed during Operation Allies Refuge. These valiant servicemembers, like Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman, put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many and epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Technical Sergeant Dennis Gonzalez-Furman of the 437th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING SERGEANT HAROLD WAYNE LEONARD

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Sergeant Harold Wayne Leonard of Bluff City, Tennessee for his heroic service. Sgt. Leonard saw multiple deployments, including serving in Germany during the Berlin Crisis, in South Korea, at Ft. Bragg during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and Vietnam.

Assigned to the 8th Artillery 25th Infantry Division, Sgt. Leonard and his comrades fought 60 continuous days and nights in Cu Chi where North Vietnamese rigged explosives, booby traps, and punji sticks. In grueling conditions, he served bravely in what his fellow soldiers coined as, ''Hell's Half Acre''. Along with his division, his service in the Battle of Cu Chi proved invaluable to the discovery of the Viet Cong's district headquarters with over half a million military and intelligence documents.

He and his division were awarded the second highest unit decoration bestowed upon a U.S. Army unit, the Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy. A family man, he insists all recognition and commendations for his service are given to Mrs. Leonard, his devoted wife of 62 years, for her many sacrifices in providing him great love and care.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF FIRST SERGEANT RYAN DUBUQUE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize First Sergeant Ryan Dubuque on his retirement from the U.S. Army after 21 years of service to our Nation. After more than two decades of military service, including working to recruit the next generation

of Servicemen at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Ryan has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

Receiving his education from Columbia College and Liberty University, 1SG Dubuque's service has made him a respected leader among Michiganders. In addition to his time with Army Recruiting, 1SG Dubuque also served multiple tours in Iraq. Choosing to defend our Nation's values both at home and abroad, 1SG Dubuque has continually shown his desire to lead those around him. His years of service in our Nation's military, both in recruitment and in deployment roles, has had a lasting effect on the community and his absence from our Armed Services will be felt across the state of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize First Sergeant Ryan Dubuque for his 21 years of service in the U.S. Army. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to 1SG Dubuque and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING DENISE RUSHING

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denise Rushing, whom I have named the 2023 Climate Crisis Champion for Lake County because of the important work she has done to address the threat and impacts of climate change on California's 4th Congressional District.

Ms. Rushing has prioritized energy, environmental, and climate issues throughout her career. Her degree in Environmental Engineering from Stanford University informed the environmental work she has done with private firms and business start-ups. Her executive experience includes her flagship work as Director of Energy Efficiency for PG&E, where she pushed the market to adopt networked meter data for more efficient energy readings.

As a public servant, Ms. Rushing implemented her ecologically inspired approach to community and cultural transformation with incredible success. Over her two terms representing the Lake County's Third District on the Board of Supervisors, she championed two of the largest public solar energy installations in the western United States. Ms. Rushing also initiated the formation of key wildfire safety plans, new wildlife preservation sites, and two county-wide working groups on Energy Sustainability and Food Security. Her leadership has paved the way for Lake County to be awarded two state-wide honors for renewable energy and cultural projects: the Green California Energy Innovator of the Year Award and the Green California Leadership Culture Award.

Since her tenure in public office, Ms. Rushing has continued to find ways to dedicate herself to environmental advocacy in our community. She served multiple terms on the Sierra Club Lake Group Executive Committee, most recently as the committee chair from 2018 to 2021. Ms. Rushing is also the co-founder of Rockhaven Ecozoic Center, an eco-spiritual nonprofit. Additionally, she volunteers as part of the Pachamama Alliance's Awakening the Dreamer and Climate Advocacy programs. She even offers her expertise to others in permaculture design certificate programs and regenerative land management courses for educators. She also provides free renewable energy education curriculum for the residents of Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, Denise Rushing is a dedicated leader in energy and environmental advocacy. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Lake County's 2023 Climate Crisis Champion.

CELEBRATING THE VILLAGE OF HINSDALE ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Hinsdale, Illinois. A place that has been a pillar of Cook and DuPage counties for nearly two centuries.

Hinsdaleans have long played an important role in shaping the community. It was thanks to Hinsdaleans that the village undertook numerous civic improvements that were ahead of their time. In the 1890s civic projects such as a water pumping station, a sewage system, electric street lights, street paving, and sidewalks contributed to the village's appeal.

I am honored to represent the Village of Hinsdale and thousands of Hinsdaleans in Congress.

Happy Sesquicentennial, Hinsdale. Here's to the next 150 years.

HONORING MRS. ANGIE WOMBLE RAWLS ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES AT PEARL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Angie Womble Rawls on the occasion of her retirement as Director of Choral Activities at Pearl High School.

Mrs. Rawls has dedicated her 30-year professional career in the Pearl Public School District to cultivating excellence in education through her role in the tine arts. Not only has she taught her students how to read music and stay on key, but she has also helped build leaders through guidance, encouragement, and persistence. Mrs. Rawls has provided her students with exciting opportunities and has given them lasting joy in music.

Mrs. Rawls has been recognized by her peers as a phenomenal pianist, an award-winning choral director, and a respected clinician and adjudicator. Her choirs regularly receive all-superior ratings, and she has played an integral role in building a legacy of success in the Pearl Schools choral activities program. Mrs. Rawls received the Ernestine Ferrell Award, the highest honor for a choral director in Mississippi, in 2018, the Heart of the Arts Award for the State of Mississippi in 2019, and the Mississippi Music Educators Association Outstanding Music Educator of the Year Award in 2020. Mrs. Rawls was named 2022–2023 Teacher of the Year for the Pearl Public School District in recognition of her dedication to her students and for her substantial role in the success of the district overall.

I thank Mrs. Rawls for her dedication to Mississippi's future leaders and for her success in bringing the joy of music to so many in our state. May the Lord continue to bless her and keep her.

HONORING NADINE ELMGREN ON HER RETIREMENT AND 42 YEARS OF SERVICE IN MONTESSORI EDUCATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Nadine Elmgren for 42 years of service as a Montessori Educator. Of her 42 years in Montessori Education, Nadine spent 35 years in The Children's House, acting as the Young Children's Community Guide, Primary Classroom Guide, Teacher Mentor, and Elementary Classroom Guide. Her undeniable drive to support her students and the community is applaudable, and she has had an immense impact on the lives of those she has worked with throughout her extensive career.

Upon graduating from Marylhurst College with a bachelor's degree in education, Nadine began her certification process for Montessori Education. She has continually strived to be an example for her students, as well as a reliable and trustworthy influence during their formative and perhaps most important years in school. Nadine has demonstrated what it truly means to be an exemplary educator, contributing to the academic and social growth of countless children throughout her time in Montessori Education.

Prioritizing the success and wellbeing of her students, Nadine has personally sacrificed much in her endeavor to change her students' lives for the better and to prepare them for their bright futures. It is a loss for the region that Michigan's First District will be without Nadine when school starts next fall, but her retirement is the culmination of years of hard work and an unwavering dedication to putting her students above herself. She deserves our gratitude for her tireless efforts to help those around her and the community in its entirety.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Nadine Elmgren for her decades of service to the Montessori Education system, including 35 years at The Children's House. She has led by example for her career and has been truly cherished by her coworkers and students alike. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Nadine and her family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING KATIE JACKSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Katie Jackson, whom I have named the 2023 Climate Crisis Champion for Sonoma County because of the important work she has done to address the threat and impacts of climate change on California's 4th Congressional District.

Ms. Jackson was born in San Francisco, California and attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Ms. Jackson is an exemplary leader in the fight against greenhouse gas emissions. In 2016, she spearheaded an effort at Jackson Family Wines to become the largest onsite solar energy generating winery in the United States. Ms. Jackson also led the development and implementation of the company's Rooted for Good: Roadmap to 2030. This sustainability and climate action plan will transition Jackson Family Wines to completely regenerative farming practices and halve the company's carbon footprint over the next decade. Moreover, the plan will put her family's business on the path to becoming carbon-net-negative by 2050.

Ms. Jackson is committed to expanding sustainable practices not just in her business but in the entire wine community. She has been a leader in pushing for reforms in the international wine community that promote environmental stewardship. For example, as a co-founder of International Wineries for Climate Action, she works to mobilize wineries around the world to commit to fifty-percent absolute carbon reductions by 2030 and being carbon-net-negative by 2050. International Wineries for Climate Action was the first wine or agriculture organization to become a member of the United Nation's Race to Zero Campaign.

In addition to her work on reducing emissions, Ms. Jackson has done exceptional work on conservation. She has secured many Safe Harbor Agreements through her company to conserve habitats for endangered species including the California tiger salamander and the coho salmon. Moreover, she supported the reintroduction of thirty thousand coho salmon eggs into Yellowjacket Creek to support salmon population growth in the Russian River. Ms. Jackson has also led Jackson Family Wines to partner with the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians to undertake a major groundwater recharge project in the Alexander Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Katie Jackson is an exemplary leader in sustainable viniculture and endangered species conservation. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Sonoma County's 2023 Climate Crisis Champion.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANDREA LEVY GOLDMAN

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of my friend, Andrea Levy Goldman, who sadly passed away on December 10, 2022, surrounded by her loved ones.

Andrea was born on March 27, 1985, to Mark Levy and Jo Ann McClosky Levy. She was the granddaughter of Donald and Judy McClosky, and Richard and Beatrice Levy. She was the middle sister to Brian and Evan. She was the twin flame to her husband, Adam Goldman, and a loving mother to Bryce. She was also a proud aunt to her nieces and nephews Mason, Decker, Sunday, Layla, and Henry.

After graduating from Pine Crest School in 2003, Andrea earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Florida and a Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University.

Andrea was a proud third-generation Floridian who loved spending time with her family, traveling, hiking, going to the beach, volunteering with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and supporting the Florida Gators and Miami Dolphins.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the life of Andrea Levy Goldman. May her memory be a blessing to her family, friends, and those whose lives she has touched.

HONORING VIETNAM ERA VETERAN JOHN STEWART

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and Vietnam era veteran John Stewart of Telford, Tennessee who served in the United States Army from 1967 through 1970. He was stationed in Korea, as well as Vietnam, where he served as a heavy equipment operator.

Stewart was first stationed in South Korea working on clearing roads in the winter for convoys near the Joint Security Area. While working there he witnessed the famous POW exchange of the Navy soldiers who were captured by North Korea on the USS *Pueblo*. In October of 1969, he was deployed to South Vietnam where he transported construction machinery.

After finishing his tour in Vietnam, he safely returned to his home in the United States in late 1970.

HONORING LIEUTENANT BRIAN GIDDIS FOR OVER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lieutenant Brian Giddis for over 25 years of service in the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office. Throughout his time working in the department, Brian has displayed professionalism and respect for law and order while working to protect his community and its citizens.

Upon graduating from Montague High School in 1987, Brian pursued higher education at Delta College. After ranking 3rd in his class for Basic Police Academy Training at the college, Brian served as a part-time patrolman at the Hart and Montague Police Departments until becoming a deputy of the Grand Traverse County Sheriffs Office in 1997. Committed to his work, he has had a lasting impact on the local community and the department.

Deserving of unwavering respect and recognition, Lieutenant Brian Giddis' decorated career underscores his faithful commitment to the people of Grand Traverse County and epitomizes the ideal police officer. Grand Traverse County, and all of Michigan's First District, owe Brian our praise and gratitude for his time and devotion to his county over the past 25 years as a public servant.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lieutenant Brian Giddis for his decades of service to the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office. His continued commitment to and sacrifice for our communities is something we must not take for granted. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Brian and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING TYRONE LOGAN, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 2023 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR THE VIRGINIA DISTRICT OFFICE

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tyrone Logan, the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2023 Small Business Person of the Year for the Virginia District Office.

Over the last 40 years, America's strongest economic growth has been driven by small businesses and their employees. Currently, small businesses employ half of our country's workers. Entrepreneurs like Mr. Logan are an example of the American Dream, and today we celebrate his hard work and innovation.

Mr. Logan has an unwavering record of serving our Commonwealth and our country. He started his military career with the U.S. Marine Corps and later transitioned to the U.S. Navy, where he took part in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. During his time with the armed forces, he served as a Master Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician and supported Special Operations Forces and Ground Combat Elements.

In 2010, Mr. Logan co-founded Obsidian Solutions Group, a company focused on America's homeland security, private sector security, and overall national security. Today, he serves as Obsidian Solutions Group's CEO, where he leads a team that focuses on integrating innovation and technology. Obsidian Solutions Group is an adaptive and flexible organization that emphasizes service and remains focused on putting mission first—working directly with our defense and intelligence communities to keep our communities safe. That's why Virginia's Seventh District is proud to be the home of OSG facilities, showrooms, and—most of all—its dedicated employees.

Mr. Logan's leadership is clear. In 2019, OSG was recognized as one of the 50 Fastest Growing Companies in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area. Additionally, Obsidian Solutions Group was listed as one of the most successful businesses on the INC 5000 list. And in 2020, Mr. Logan was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce. Today, we celebrate another achievement of many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tyrone Logan, the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2023 Small Business Person of the Year for the Virginia District Office.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MICHAEL GELLER UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Michael Geller of the 3rd Wing for earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, Senior Airman Michael Geller joined the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing in meeting a challenge of colossal scale, when they helped execute the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. Senior Airman Michael Geller and the 349th Air Mobility Wing played a critical role in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. They directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated in the United States Air Force.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed during Operation Allies Refuge. These valiant servicemembers, like Senior Airman Michael Geller, put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many and epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Michael Geller of the 3rd Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING JULIA JACKSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julia Jackson, whom I have named the 2023 Climate Crisis Champion for Sonoma County because of the important work she has done to address the threat and impacts of the climate crisis on California's 4th Congressional District.

Ms. Jackson was born in San Francisco, California and attended Scripps College in Claremont, California where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Ms. Jackson's work is fundamental to our state and nation's progress in implementing clean energy solutions. She sits on the California Department of Food and Agriculture State Board, where her expertise on sustainable farming plays a critical role in developing new agriculture policy. Ms. Jackson also founded the philanthropic organization Grounded, which funds clean energy projects, develops nature-based approaches to lowering atmospheric carbon levels, and provides legal advances on indigenous and environmental rights.

Additionally, in partnership with the Department of Energy, she launched the Clean Energy Freedom campaign to create a workforce pipeline to fill 900,000 new clean energy jobs. This effort was an instrumental component of President Biden's executive order invoking the Defense Production Act to accelerate our nation's production of key clean energy technologies.

Ms. Jackson has also responded to the climate crisis with international action. As a cofounder of the Keystone Species Alliance, she partnered with government officials in Mexico to introduce legislation protecting keystone species such as bees, mangrove trees, and salmon. In further collaboration with the Mexican government, Ms. Jackson created a coalition of nations who committed to protect biodiversity to lower the amount of carbon in our atmosphere.

Ms. Jackson sits on the board of many environmental organizations whose missions include exposing criminals committing offenses against wildlife, educating the public on Arctic and ocean protections, and generating innovative green policies that will advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, as Chair of US Allies to Stop Ecocide, she endeavors to make the systemic, severe destruction of our natural environment a crime against peace at the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Speaker, Julia Jackson is a dedicated leader in energy and environmental advocacy. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Sonoma County's 2023 Climate Crisis Champion.

HONORING SSGT. JAMES ''REX'' SHOUN

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SSGT. James ''Rex'' Shoun. It was my honor to pin Staff Sergeant James ''Rex'' Shoun for his service to the U.S. Air Force.

SSGT. Shoun of Elizabethton, Tennessee enlisted in basic training which took him from Lackland, TX to Lowery, CO, and onward to Thailand as a member of the 635th Munition Maintenance Squadron.

He returned to the U.S. to receive additional training as security police and deployed to Texas, Okinawa, and Guam where he was responsible for guarding B52 strategic bomber aircraft and their munitions.

HONORING WAYNE SCHMIDT AND HIS 14 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Senator Wayne Schmidt for his 14 years of service in Michigan's State Legislature. As a State Representative and Senator, Wayne's work had an immeasurable impact on the people of Northern Michigan, and his commitment to his community cannot be overstated.

After graduating from Traverse City Central High School and the University of Chicago, Senator Schmidt began his distinguished career in the Grand Traverse region, where he served for five terms on the Traverse County Board of Commissioners. In 2008 he was elected to the State House of Representatives, where he served for three consecutive terms before being elected as the State Senator representing the 37th District. His many legislative accomplishments during his time in office included streamlining government regulations, promoting job creation, and helping turn a $1.5 billion state government deficit into a $500 million surplus. Outside of his work in public office, Senator Schmidt has given his time to many local community organizations, including the Boardman Neighborhood Association, the Traverse City Kiwanis Club, the Economic Club of Traverse, the National Cherry Festival, the Downtown Traverse City Association, Grand Traverse Area Right to Life Association, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Wayne Schmidt for his lifetime of service to Grand Traverse County and his 14 years in Michigan's State Legislature. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Senator Schmidt and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SUPERINTENDENT KURT BROWNING

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning, who was recently named Superintendent of the Year by Magnet Schools of America. This is a tremendous accomplishment and exemplifies Mr. Browning's tireless work to expand school choice in Pasco County. Since being elected Superintendent in 2012, he has worked to provide quality learning experiences for all students. Superintendent Browning's team has facilitated the opening of 26 new magnet schools and other rigorous programs aligned to fields of study based on community need

and student interest. These enhancements have facilitated greater student success, as evidenced by an increase in the number of students earning college credit prior to graduation and the number of Cambridge and 1B diplomas earned. Additionally, during his tenure, more students have been able to attain the highest level of Bright Futures Scholarship—making college more affordable for these academic achievers.

I thank Superintendent Browning for his commitment to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to reach their highest potential, and I wish him continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I voted for H. Res. 311 on April 25, 2023, because I support the resolution's general goals to expand normalization agreements between Israel and its neighbors and encourage future cooperation between the United States and Israel on shared economic, security, and civilian priorities.

However, I was disappointed that H. Res. 311 failed to reaffirm bipartisan support for a two-state solution that respects the dignity of both the Israeli and the Palestinian people. As nations around the world confront their own struggles with democracy, H. Res. 311 also was a missed opportunity to emphasize U.S. support for a free and liberal democracy in Israel. I hope future efforts to recognize Yom Ha'atzmaut will fully address these important issues.

ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize six individuals for Asian Pacific Heritage Month for their contributions to the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. All of these individuals mentioned their humble beginnings and their love for America. Each of these honorees have made significant contributions to the District through selfless contributions and hard work to benefit others. By sharing their culture and helping others, they have benefitted all of America.

Nebraska State Senator Rita Sanders, a Philippine American born in Hawaii who resides in Bellevue, has been married to her husband for 25 years. Her grandparents immigrated from the Philippines to Hawaii, where her grandfather worked in the sugar cane industry and her grandmother in the coffee industry. They worked their way up and eventually owned a coffee farm.

Rita's father was born and raised in Hawaii, later joining the United States Army. While on deployment in Germany he met Rita's mother, where they later married and moved to Hawaii.

Senator Sanders is honored to be a member of the U.S. STRATCOM Consultation Committee, the Offutt Advisory Council and the UNMC Board of Counselors. She served as mayor for the city of Bellevue from 2010 to 2018. While currently serving as the state senator for Nebraska's 45th district, Rita and her husband are commercial real estate developers in their spare time.

As mayor of Bellevue, Senator Sanders worked to return the famed ''Bells of Balangiga'' to the Philippines. While Filipinos have been one of the United States strongest allies since World War II, the return of the bells had been a friction point in relations with the Philippines.

The return of the bells started with a meeting she had with President Duterte of the Philippines, included a formal ceremony with Secretary of Defense James Mattis in Cheyenne, Wyoming announcing the authorization to return the bells, and ended with a ceremony she attended in Balangiga in East Samar, Philippines. After 117 years since being taken by the United States, they were finally returned home where they rightfully belonged, thanks to the hard work and leadership of Senator Sanders.

Dr. Joanne Li is a native of Hong Kong and became University of Nebraska Omaha's Chancellor in July 2021. She is the first woman of color to serve as UNO chancellor and the first Asian-American in the history of the University of Nebraska System to hold an executive leadership role. Dr. Li has a passion for serving learners of all ages among all social, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Dr. Li's parents escaped Communist China as young teenagers. Education was not something her parents could afford for themselves. At a young age, Joanne yearned for a desire to see the world. She enjoyed literature written in different languages and dreamed of being something bigger than herself. Being a rebel at heart, she took a chance to join one of her best friends from Hong Kong and came to the U.S. to start her higher education journey.

Receiving full ride scholarships throughout her higher education journey, Dr. Li graduated with summa cum laude with a major in finance and a minor in economics from Florida State University. Her Ph.D. is also from Florida State University, in Finance with a support area in Econometrics. As a Chartered Financial Analyst, Dr. Li's areas of research interests include corporate governance, executive compensation, banking and investments, and international finance. She has held faculty positions at institutions including Loyola University, Towson University, Wright State University, Florida International University, and UNO.

In addition to her accomplishments as an administrator in higher education, Dr. Li is also a highly engaged leader and scholar who lends her experience to a wide array of causes and organizations including Women in Business (WiBe), the CNBC's Financial Wellness Council, the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Board of Trustees; the Board of Directors for the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU); the Board of Directors for Opera Omaha; and the Board of Directors of the Omaha Symphony. She serves as a member of the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) Global Network Americas Advisory Board; a founding member of the International Advisory Council of the Lisbon School of Economics and Management in Portugal and the National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan. Most recently, Dr. Li joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Board of Directors for the Omaha Branch.

The death of his father due to a cardiac event is what drove Indian American Dr. Deepak Gangahar to become a Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon with special emphasis on cardiac surgery. His mother, who had no formal schooling, was his confidant and trusted friend, ensuring Dr. Gangahar never felt lacking in any way.

Dr. Gangahar completed medical school in India and immigrated to America in 1971 for post graduate education in General Surgery. He then pursued a fellowship in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Having grown up in a small town and in an agricultural state, Dr. Gangahar and his wife found shared social values, work ethics and ideal opportunities in Nebraska. Dr. Gangahar and his colleagues cofounded the Nebraska Heart Institute and the Nebraska Heart Hospital in Lincoln, which became the premium group in Mid-West in the field of Adult Thoracic and Cardiovascular diseases from catheterbased interventions to Heart & Lung Transplantation and Mechanical Hearts. Now retired, Dr. Gangahar works with TeamMates, a school based mentoring program founded by Coach Tom and Nancy Osborne. In addition, he enjoys working with new Start-Up companies, primarily in the medical field to make healthcare safer and efficient.

Dr. Gangahar credits who he is today to the value he got from his parents, mentoring from his teachers and elders, and the opportunity of freedom to choose from his country of choice, the United States of America.

Chinese American Hong Zheng came to the United States in 1992 at the age of 19. He opened his first Chinese restaurant in Missouri 1998 and subsequently moved to Omaha in 2000 to start new restaurants and a grocery business. He currently owns seven Asian restaurants and five Asian Chain Supermarkets across the Midwest region.

He has been an active member in Nebraska Chinese Association since 2008 and was elected as Chairman of Board for NCA for four years. He has been an Honorable Chairman since then and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Bellevue University.

Hong says he appreciates the opportunity to live the American dream, especially as he knows how difficult it can be for new immigrants to adapt and thrive in a foreign country. That is why he serves his community—to give back and assist other immigrants and help them succeed.

In 2019, Hong helped raise money for local flood victims and in 2020 he coordinated the donation of over 25,000 masks and PPE to local health clinics and hospitals. He sponsored the One Community Culture Festival in 2019 and 2022 to celebrate culture and diversity. Finally, he has sponsored scholarship programs at Bellevue University for local and international students in need since 2019.

Born and raised in Vietnam during the war, Huong Truong understood the importance of responsibility to her family and helping with household tasks while also attending school 5 kilometers away. She is an avid reader and sports enthusiast who gained a deeper understanding of American people, customs, and history. She was so impressed by the intelligence and emotional deaths of Americans,

which led her to pursue her American dream, arriving in the United States in 2001.

In one year, Huong earned $42,000 from her job and was able to buy a house and car for her family. She then became the owner of a nail salon and met her husband, Nick. Together they operate King Kong Restaurant and have three daughters and a son.

Huong is very passionate about helping others and volunteering is a personal mission for her. She is currently helping six families who are facing difficult circumstances, including a 107 year old woman who needed assistance with money and medicine. Huong said she feels blessed by God with good health and a kind heart and is grateful to America for giving her the opportunity to live her dream.

Born in North Korea in 1938, Sung Jo and his family fled to South Korea in 1946 to join his father, who had fled a year earlier after facing arrest from Communist police. His father's crime? Giving a speech celebrating the liberation from 35 years of Japanese rule-something we call freedom of speech.

At 21 years old, Sung Jo was drafted by the Korean Army and served for 18 months. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English Literature in 1963. He started working for the Holt Adoption Program in Seoul and went to the United States in 1967 and was responsible for bringing orphaned Korean children to their adoptive parents. His family joined him in July 1969, and he became a U.S. citizen in 1974.

Sung Jo started working at Nebraska Machine Production in 1972 and served as Chair of the Korean Association of Nebraska from 1995 to 1996, and as a member of the Board of Directors in 1997. In 2002, he volunteered as an interpreter at the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan in South Korea and from 2003 to 2014 he served as the Chair of the Omaha Korean American Senior Group.

In 2005 he became a Lifelong member of the National Korean War Veterans Association and received a citation in 2007 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his services to the Korean American community. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Korean War Veterans Association.

Sung Jo wanted to continue to serve as a liaison between the Korean War Veterans Association and Korean American community, so he donated face masks for Korean War veterans who could not leave their homes during the COVID pandemic.

I salute and thank each of these six honorees for their service and dedication to not only Asian Pacific communities and the Second District of Nebraska, but to America.

HONORING VALERIA CANTOR MÉNDEZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Valeria Cantor Méndez, whom I have named the 2023 Climate Crisis Champion for Yolo County because of the important work she has done to address the threat and impacts of climate change on California's 4th Congressional District.

Ms. Méndez was born in Caracas, Venezuela and attended her first two years of high school at Mount View School in San Jose, Costa Rica. Before her senior year, she moved to Rocklin, California where she completed her final year of high school.

Ms. Méndez has prioritized environmental justice and Indigenous sovereignty throughout her academic career. She studies at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) and is working towards a bachelor's degree with a major in Community and Regional Development and a minor in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning. Ms. Méndez utilizes her personal experiences as a student along with her strong interest in environmental justice to raise awareness and generate support for climate action in the UC Davis community.

As the campaign vice-chair for Students Enacting Environmental Defense, Ms. Méndez advocates for environmental justice as an integral value of the University of California system. Ms. Méndez's dedication to climate response inspires others in the UC Davis community as she invites greater engagement on climate action for everyone from the students to the chancellor. Ms. Méndez explores the connections between environmental justice and Indigenous sovereignty by building strong working relationships between faculty and climate-allied student organizations. She also served as a student research assistant with the UC Davis Center for Regional Change, a project that builds community resiliency through environmental sustainability.

Ms. Méndez has a strong interest in combatting the effects of the climate crisis and educating future generations on issues of environmentalism. In addition to her work at the UC Davis. Ms. Méndez educates high school students through the Youth, Plan, Learn, Act Now program about the historical context of environmental justice emphasizing the contributions of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color. Ms. Méndez is also the hub co-coordinator for Sunrise Movement Davis, a youth empowerment movement with the goal of stopping climate change.

Mr. Speaker, Valeria Cantor Méndez is a dedicated leader in energy and environmental advocacy. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her here today as Yolo County's 2023 Climate Crisis Champion.

HONORING HM3 RAYMOND SHOCKLEY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (HM3) Raymond Austin Shockley from Morristown, Tennessee for his honorable service in the United States Navy as partner of the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration.

After basic training in 1964, HM3 Shockley's first duty station was at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, now known as Walter Reed Military Medical Center, where he provided front line medical services like that of a nurse. In doing so, he met and equally cared for all his fellow service members, even President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1965 he was transferred to Camp Pendleton in California to further his training as a Marine. Still following a commitment to serve, he went on to Okinawa, then Vietnam where he aided the wounded and experienced the horrors of war. He returned to San Diego, CA and finished his service on the USS *Sperry* AS 12 named for Elmer Sperry, a Fulton-class submarine tender repair ship. Presently, he continues his lifetime of service as Commander of our local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 59 in Morristown.

Further, HM3 Shockley wishes to personally share, "To all the men and women that were a part of my military life, you all will remain my brothers and sister forever. "

Join me in thanking HM3 Shockley and letting him know he truly made a difference.

HONORING MAJOR WARREN SCHWAB FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE AND 102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize retired aviator Major Warren Schwab for his distinguished military service and for recently celebrating his 102nd birthday. Flying B–24 Liberators during World War II, Warren valiantly took part in over 20 missions during the largest and deadliest global conflict in history. Upon its conclusion in 1945, he continued his military career by serving in both the Korean War and Vietnam. Warren's commitment to the state of Michigan and to the defense of our Nation has been unwavering and serves as an inspiration to many.

Born in 1921, Major Schwab grew up during the Great Depression and enlisted in the military shortly thereafter. Upon entry into our armed forces, Warren demonstrated exemplary tact and bravery in every mission he was part of. Notably, he led the way on June 6, 1944, by conducting morning bomb raids on enemy positions across the Normandy Coast and Munich. His unparalleled gallantry and commitment to his peers is undeniable and worthy of recognition.

Major Warren Schwab is a living testament to all who have sacrificed in service to our country. Surviving one of World War II's most dangerous positions with some of the highest mortality rates of all enlisted personnel in the war, Major Schwab chose to continue his service to our country and his community. His recent 102nd birthday on February 24th prompts all residents of Michigan's First District to cherish and thank those servicemembers who reflect Mr. Schwab's caliber of devotion and sacrifice. We are blessed as a Nation to have Veterans like Major Warren Schwab.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Major Warren Schwab for his service in the U.S. Armed Forces and for his 102nd birthday, celebrated on February 24, 2023. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend our utmost respect and gratitude to Major Schwab for his military service, and our congratulations for his recent birthday. I would also like to extend my best wishes to him and his family in their future endeavors.

HONORING MR. ODED NORKIN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Oded Norkin, an extraordinary public servant who over the past year has provided extensive humanitarian assistance to the Country of Ukraine. When Russia began its illegal invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Mr. Norkin answered the call and selflessly dedicated his time to sourcing and delivering critical aid to the most vulnerable citizens of Ukraine. For Mr. Norkin, this was personal: his grandparents, Sara and Moshe Norkin, were killed in the streets of Odesa, Ukraine, in 1941, during the Holocaust. Mr. Norkin, who was born in Israel and served in the Israeli Army during the 1973 war before immigrating to the United States in 1978, has become a pillar of the community in Mid-Michigan. A man of action, he immediately looked for ways to help.

Mr. Norkin, alongside the Greater Lansing Jewish Federation and concerned citizens across the State of Michigan and beyond, gathered donations for the people of Ukraine. Separate from his activism, Mr. Norkin serves as the Vice President of Michigan Flyer, a public-transportation bus company. Because of this, he was able to translate his knowledge of the transportation industry into lifesaving help for the people of Ukraine. In the early days of the war, Mr. Norkin, together with a team of volunteers, helped evacuate elderly and infirm citizens of Odesa and Kharkiv to safety. Mr. Norkin and his team also secured five vehicles—four ambulances and one commercial vehicle—and necessary medical supplies and emergency equipment to be sent to Ukraine. The Greater Lansing Jewish Federation raised donations to cover the cost of an ambulance, defibrillators, and additional first aid supplies.

The ambulances were refurbished, supplied with emergency equipment specific to conflict zones, and delivered to cities across Ukraine. Mr. Norkin transferred the first of these ambulances to Odesa in March 2022. Within a month, a second and third ambulance were sent to Dnipro full of supplies to help aid vulnerable citizens. The fourth ambulance was later sent to Kyiv, and a commercial evacuation vehicle was sent to Chernivtsi.

Mr. Norkin has galvanized support for the Ukrainian people across Michigan and beyond. He has partnered with civil society leaders in Israel and Romania who have supported his efforts and connected him with like-minded individuals who assisted in completing these missions.

Mr. Norkin remains an important leader in his local community. Even while traveling abroad to deliver aid, he remains active in the Kehillat Israel Congregation and the Rotary International Service Club. Through these connections, Mr. Norkin continues to recruit, organize, and inspire others to join him in his mission to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine.

Mr. Oded Norkin continues to carry out this important work. He answers to a higher call to render assistance to those in greatest need, stands as a shining example and inspiration to all for his selfless efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine, and will forever be remembered.

HONORING THE LAKE COUNTY CAMPUS OF WOODLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr, Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College in recognition of their 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1972, the college was originally named the Lake County Center of Yuba College and offered academic and career technical courses at the Konocti Harbor Inn in Kelseyville. Two years later, it moved to Clearlake where it began to grow into the 12.7 acre facility it is today. The college was recognized as a center by the California Commission of Post-Secondary Education in 1990 and renamed ''Clear Lake Campus'' in 2003. It is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The college's most recent expansion came in 2012 when it added a new student services center, library, kitchen, dining room and additional classrooms. In July 2016, the college merged with the Woodland Community College and adopted its current name. Last year, the City of Clearlake announced that it would invest $55,000 in the Lake County Campus to implement a last dollar scholarship program.

In its 50-year history, the Lake County Campus has developed a reputation as one of California's premiere community colleges, offering acclaimed courses in business, early childhood education, biology, welding, chemical dependency counseling and various other subjects to thousands. It has also helped make college more affordable by offering two years of pre-transfer work for students interested in attending other institutions. The Lake County Campus prioritizes diversity of background and thought, providing interactive classrooms that encourage an open exchange of ideas.

In 2000, the college opened its culinary department which has since grown into one of its most popular programs. Under the leadership of Chef Robert Cabreros, the department includes the student-run Aroma's Restaurant and offers multiple certificates as well as a partnership with the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, the Lake County Campus of Woodland Community College has been a source of quality education for over half a century and made immeasurable contributions to its community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that it is honored here today.

HONORING SPC. JAMES L. SCHREINER

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Army Specialist, 5th Class James L. Schreiner of Seymour, Tennessee for his valiant service during the Vietnam War from February 1966 through January 1969.

Specialist Schreiner served 2 tours of duty with the 572nd Transportation Company in Long Bihn and Bien Hoa, Vietnam, where he delivered ammunition and supplies directly to the front lines of battle. Following his military service, Specialist Schreiner returned to Chicago to raise his two sons with his wife, Diane, where he joined the Chicago Police Department as a patrolman and later homicide detective.

After 31 years of public service, Specialist Schreiner retired from law enforcement in 2002. He is deeply proud of his 2 sons, who are both colonels serving in the U.S. Army and Space Force, as well as his 6 grandchildren, one of whom is also an Army officer.

HONORING CHARLES NORTHROP'S MILITARY SERVICE AND RECENT CELEBRATION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize retired aviator Charles Northrop for his distinguished military service and for recently celebrating his 100th birthday. Flying P51s during World War II, Charles Northrop valiantly served our Nation during the largest global conflict in history. He is a longtime resident of Traverse City and has had a profound impact on his community. Northrop's commitment to the state of Michigan and to the defense of our Nation has been unwavering and serves as an inspiration to many.

Joining the armed forces in the early 1940s, Charles was assigned to his unit and began his time in the P51 Mustang shortly thereafter. While flying for the United States, Charles became an indispensable part of our rapidly expanding wartime air wing. Upon the War's conclusion, Charles returned to the United States and started his time at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. Established in 1941, Redstone Arsenal acted as a chemical weapons production center and is now one of the Nation's largest defense complexes.

Charles Northrop is a living testament to the sacrifice and fortitude of countless United States servicemen and women. He has dedicated himself to our Nation in service both at home and abroad and is the embodiment of American exceptionalism. His recent birthday on February 13th, on which he turned 100 years of age, is worthy of our recognition and celebration. I wish you a happy birthday, Charles, and thank you for your tireless service to our country and to the residents of Michigan's First District.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Charles Northrop for his service in the U.S. Armed Forces and for his 100th birthday, celebrated on February 13, 2023. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Mr. Northrop for his legacy of service and wish him a happy birthday. I would also like to extend my best wishes to him and his family in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE CONTRA COSTA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Contra Costa Special Districts Association (CCSDA) on its 30th anniversary.

Since 1993, CCSDA has provided a space for Contra Costa's independent special districts to exchange ideas and information in order to best serve our communities. The organization was founded when Chuck Beesley, former General Manager of the Contra Costa Mosquito Abatement District and Bob Berggren, General Manager of the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District, realized the need for a space in which Contra Costa's special districts could work together on various regional issues. CCSDA was founded in order to ensure that special districts receive tax revenue needed to provide essential services to the public and to increase awareness of the services special districts provide.

As part of its work, CCSDA plays a key role in disseminating important information from Contra Costa County's special districts to key stakeholders, the public, and local government agencies. This is critical as special districts provide an array of services to Contra Costa residents including fire protection, parks and recreation, flood control, natural resource conservation, wastewater management, and more. Further, CCSDA facilitates communication between the special districts and provides a space for the County's special districts to collaborate on a number of projects. Additionally, CCSDA works closely with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) to promote good governance by offering professional development resources to the special districts. Their work has been instrumental in expanding local services and improving access to public services.

Please join me in recognizing the Contra Costa Special Districts Association's 30th anniversary and congratulating them on their success.

HONORING S. DALE HIGH

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. S. Dale High, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as he has been named the recipient of the Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award from the Pennsylvania Society.

Dale High is the Chair Emeritus of the High Companies. In 1963, Dale joined his father and brother in the family business, becoming Chairman of the Board, President and CEO in 1977. Over the course of 60 years since he joined the business, Dale has transformed the company through expansion into new industries, employing nearly 2,000 individuals across 38 facilities in 8 states.

In 1980, the High Foundation was formed. ft is a charitable organization which has given generously to support organizations and to eliminate the issues that contribute to the cycle of poverty.

The High Foundation supports those working to solve problems with education, housing, transportation, healthcare, financial literacy, childcare, nutrition, and more.

There is no question the positive impact that Dale High's actions and leadership have contributed to our Lancaster County community and beyond. He is certainly a Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I congratulate him on this well-deserved award and thank him for making a difference in our community.

HONORING E–4 CORPORAL KYLE E. PRICE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent E–4 Corporal Kyle E. Price of Elizabethton, Tennessee, who I had the privilege to meet at our Carter County Pin Ceremony.

Cpl. Price says he became both ''a man and a lifelong Marine'' in March of 1970, after he graduated from Boot Camp at Paris Island. Cpl. Price specialized as a machine gunner where he wielded an M60 squad automatic weapon, nicknamed ''The Pig'' due to its sheer size, and carried 200 linked rounds of ammunition every single day in defense of our Nation and freedoms. His duty stations included Camp Geiger (NC), Sea School Norfolk Naval Shipyard (VA), Hue and Da Nang (Vietnam), Marine Barracks Alameda Naval Air Station (CA), and the Marine Barrack Subic Bay Naval Base, Olangapo (Philippines).

He was also assigned security duties aboard the USS *Enterprise* CVAN–65, the first nuclear-powered ship to engage in combat, when she launched aircraft against the Viet Cong. His lifelong status as a Marine has continued far beyond active duty as a member of The Tri-Cities Detachment of the Marine Corps League (Gray), where he served as Commandant.

He is also a life member of VFW Post 2166 (Elizabethton), American Legion Post 24 (Johnson City) and an officer of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs Pound 300 TN Pack, the Honor Society of the Marine Corps League.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS CHERRYLAND POST 2780 FOR 90 YEARS OF CONTINUED SERVICE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to commemorate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Cherryland Post 2780 for 90 years of continued service to their members and community. Since being chartered in 1933, Post 2780 has grown significantly, originally having 43 members, and now boasting more than 900 members. Post 2780 has cemented itself as one of Northern Michigan's most impactful organizations for community members and veterans alike. Their impact on the community is immeasurable, and their organization has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Since 1933, this post has encountered obstacles on all fronts, yet has continually evolved to stand the test of time and to become one of America's most respected VFW posts due to their exemplary work at the district, state, and national levels. Through donation drives and fundraisers, Post 2780 has helped their community and local veterans acquire the necessary tools to live happy and healthy lives. From distributing donated wheelchairs to those in need, to being a key contributor to the Toys for Tots Program, Post 2780 prioritizes the most vulnerable members of society and aims to make an indelible impact on all who require assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Cherryland Post 2780's staff, families, members, and volunteers for their continued efforts to make the post an extraordinary part of Northern Michigan. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors and wished everyone had a safe and enjoyable afternoon at their 90th Anniversary event on Saturday, March 25th.

RECOGNIZING DENISE JONES

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Texas teacher Denise Jones. Denise has faithfully served Birdville Independent School District for over 50 years as an administrative assistant and educator. Denise is a dedicated, loving and loyal teacher who cares about her students and their well-being.

Joining Birdville ISD in 1972 as a senior in high school, Denise has shown unwavering commitment to the school district and her students. 2023 marks her 50th year as an educator working across numerous grade levels and subjects. This year also marks her 25th working in the special education department. Denise believes regardless of what may be happening in the world, teaching children kindness should always be a priority. I think I speak for everyone in Birdville ISO and in Texas–24 when I say thank you to Denise for devoting 50 years of her life to educating our children and securing their future.

I congratulate Denise on earning this recognition for all her tireless and dedicated work.

HONORING SPC. BOBBY L. McCLURE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Army Specialist Bobby L. McClure of Sevierville, Tennessee

for his distinguished service from May 1966 through May 1968.

In December 1966, Specialist McClure arrived in Vietnam where he served the 231st Signal Detachment attached to the 220th Aviation Company, which provided close air support missions in support of the Marines in Phu Bai near Hue. Specifically, Specialist McClure maintained and fixed aircraft navigation and radio equipment for the 220th Aviation Company.

After completing his military enlistment, Specialist McClure worked for Hewlett-Packard in Colorado and Maryland, before he returned to his hometown of Sevierville in 1976.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Representative Dave Joyce and I introduced the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act, or the SAFE Banking Act. This legislation would prevent federal interference in the relationship between a depository institution and a cannabis or cannabis-associated business. This legislation will also protect these businesses' employees are eligible for federal loans and other banking services like employees of any other legal business.

U.S. cannabis laws are broken, including those that prevent state-legal cannabis businesses from accessing banking services and force regulated businesses to operate fully in cash. To date, 38 states have enacted medical marijuana programs, including 21 states that have also decriminalized broader adult use. However, the conflict between state regulation and federal prohibition prevents many financial institutions, including community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and credit unions, from serving cannabis and cannabis-related businesses and their employees. Denying state-legal medical and adult-use cannabis businesses, particularly small and locally owned businesses, access to banking services is untenable. Without access to bank accounts, credit cards, and checks, state-legal cannabis and cannabis-related businesses are forced to operate in cash, leaving them vulnerable to a dangerous and deadly pattern of violent robberies.

The SAFE Banking Act will finally allow state regulated cannabis and related businesses to access banking services. This legislation will save lives and livelihoods.

The House has passed the SAFE Banking Act on a bipartisan basis seven times. I am delighted that the Senate is joining us in making it a priority. I look forward to working with our co-leads and our colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and end the harmful prohibition on banking services for state-legal cannabis businesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to a medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 195 (PQ-H. Res. 327), NAY on Roll Call No 196 (H. Res. 327), and YEA on Roll Call No. 197 (H.R. 1353).

HONORING TRAVERSE CITY'S OUTGOING CITY MANAGER, MARTY COLBURN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Traverse City's outgoing City Manager, Marty Colburn, for his exceptional work since taking the position in 2015. Throughout his time as Traverse City's City Manager, Marty has displayed exceptional professionalism and gained the respect of many in his community.

In nearly eight years as City Manager, Marty has overseen the completion of multiple community projects that have benefited the city and the livelihoods of its residents. From the long-anticipated Boardman Lake Loop Trail to affordable housing projects, Marty has pushed many initiatives over the finish line for the health and well-being of all community members.

Marty's accomplishments are deserving of respect and have had an indelible impact on Traverse City and the surrounding region. The relationships he has forged with local townships and communities will continue to have positive effects for years to come. Marty deserves praise for his time as City Manager and his continued devotion to the community he served.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Marty Colburn for nearly eight years of service as Traverse City's City Manager. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to Marty and his family and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING MSG. (RET.) CARL WAYNE NICHOLS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent MSG. (Ret.) Carl Wayne Nichols for his distinguished service in the U.S. Army.

Hailing from Butler, Tennessee, MSG. Nichols began his service in 1970, during which he toured Vietnam as a member of the 173rd Airborne.

MSG. Nichols continued his service as a member of Operation Desert Storm, and later in Indianapolis, Indiana. Join me in thanking him for his service.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1403–S1427

Measures Introduced: Fifty-eight bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1328–1385, S. Res. 179–185, and S. Con. Res. 9. **Pages S1417–19**

Measures Reported:

S. 349, to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 118–14)

S. 933, to amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to modify requirements relating to data centers of certain Federal agencies. (S. Rept. No. 118–15) **Page S1416**

Measures Passed:

National Safe Digging Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 182, supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month. **Pages S1426–27**

Arbor Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 183, celebrating the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day. **Pages S1426–27**

Measures Considered:

Equal Rights Amendment: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res 4, removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. **Pages S1403–06**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 99), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1406**

Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1406**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021, authorizing the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to order to active duty such units and individual members of the Ready Reserve to ensure the Department of Defense can properly sustain its support of the Department of Homeland Security concerning international drug trafficking along the Southwest Border; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–9) **Page S1416**

Johnstone Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S1406–07**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 100), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1406–07**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, May 1, 2023; that all post-cloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; and that that the motions to invoke cloture filed on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 ripen on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. **Page S1427**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Page S1408**

Messages from the House: **Page S1416**

Measures Referred: **Page S1416**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S1416–17**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1419–20**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1420–26**

Additional Statements: Pages S1415–16

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S1426

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—100) Page S1406

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 3:26 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1427.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the posture of United States European Command and United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from General Christopher G. Cavoli, USA, Commander, United States European Command/North Atlantic Treaty Organization Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and General Jacqueline D. Van Ovost, USAF, Commander, United States Transportation Command, both of the Department of Defense.

CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES OVERSIGHT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Credit Reporting Agencies, after receiving testimony from Mark W. Begor, Equifax Inc., Atlanta, Georgia; Chris Cartwright, TransUnion, Chicago, Illinois; and Brian J. Cassin, Experian, Dublin, Ireland.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, Eric W. Kneedler, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Karen Sasahara, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Elizabeth Rood, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Martina Anna Tkadlec Strong, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Hugo Yue-Ho Yon, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Robin Dunnigan, of California, to be Ambassador to Georgia, and David J. Kostelancik, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, all of the Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Amanda K. Brailsford, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 67 public bills, H.R. 2922–2988; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 60; H. Con. Res. 36; and H. Res. 333–336, were introduced. Pages H2082–85

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H2088–89

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Recess: The House recessed at 9:06 a.m. for the purpose of receiving His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea. The House reconvened at 12:31 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. Page H2053

Recess: The House recessed at 1:46 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. Page H2069

Directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove all United States Armed Forces, other than United States Armed Forces assigned to protect the United States Embassy, from Somalia: The House failed to agree to H. Con. Res. 30, directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove all United States Armed

Forces, other than United States Armed Forces assigned to protect the United States Embassy, from Somalia, by a yea-and-nay vote of 102 yeas to 321 nays, Roll No. 201. **Pages H2056–69**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that in response to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021 (Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade) he is authorizing the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to order to active duty such units and individual members of the Ready Reserve under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned as the Secretary concerned considers necessary, consistent with the terms of section 12302 of title 10, United States Code—referred to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–35). **Page H2069**

Senate Referrals: S.J. Res. 11 was held at the desk. S. 418 was held at the desk. S. 1311 was held at the desk. **Page H2069**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2069.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H2069–70.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL ASSETS: IDENTIFYING THE REGULATORY GAPS IN SPOT MARKET REGULATION

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development held a hearing entitled ''The Future of Digital Assets: Identifying the Regulatory Gaps in Spot Market Regulation''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Drug Enforcement Administration. Testimony was heard from Anne Milgram, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Testimony was heard from Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Federal Trade Commission. Testimony was heard from Lina Khan, Chair, Federal Trade Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Department of the Air Force Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request''. Testimony was heard from Frank Kendall III, Secretary of the Air Force, U.S. Air Force; General Charles Q. Brown, Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force; and General Chance Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force.

A REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE'S POSTURE AND CAPABILITIES IN STRATEGIC COMPETITION AND IN SYNCHRONIZING INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations held a hearing entitled ''A Review of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise's Posture and Capabilities in Strategic Competition and in Synchronizing Intelligence Efforts to Counter the People's Republic of China''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: Ronald M. Moultrie, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security; General Paul M. Nakasone, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency, and Chief, Central Security Service; and Lieutenant General Scott Berrier, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency.

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S DATA PRIVACY SHORTFALLS: HOW A NATIONAL STANDARD FILLS GAPS TO PROTECT AMERICANS' PERSONAL INFORMATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a hearing entitled ''Addressing America's Data Privacy Shortfalls: How a National Standard Fills Gaps to Protect Americans' Personal Information''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE BIOSAFETY OF RISKY RESEARCH: EXAMINING IF SCIENCE IS OUTPACING POLICY AND SAFETY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled

''The Biosafety of Risky Research: Examining if Science is Outpacing Policy and Safety''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL ASSETS: IDENTIFYING THE REGULATORY GAPS IN DIGITAL ASSET MARKET STRUCTURE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Inclusion held a hearing entitled ''The Future of Digital Assets: Identifying the Regulatory Gaps in Digital Asset Market Structure''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK (FINCEN) AND THE OFFICE OF TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE (TFI)

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI)''. Testimony was heard from Brian E. Nelson, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Department of the Treasury; and Himamauli Das, Acting Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 2794, the ''Border Reinforcement Act of 2023''. H.R. 2794 was ordered reported, as amended.

CISA 2025: THE STATE OF AMERICAN CYBERSECURITY FROM CISA'S PERSPECTIVE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled ''CISA 2025: The State of American Cybersecurity from CISA's Perspective''. Testimony was heard from Jen Easterly, Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

AMERICAN CONFIDENCE IN ELECTIONS: STATE TOOLS TO PROMOTE VOTER CONFIDENCE

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''American Confidence in Elections: State Tools to Promote Voter Confidence''. Testimony was heard from Donald Palmer, Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission; Mac Warner, Secretary of State, West Virginia; and public witnesses.

FIXING FISA: HOW A LAW DESIGNED TO PROTECT AMERICANS HAS BEEN WEAPONIZED AGAINST THEM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled ''Fixing FISA: How a Law Designed to Protect Americans Has Been Weaponized Against Them''. Testimony was heard from Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice; Sharon Bradford Franklin, Chair, U.S. Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; and Beth A. Williams, Board Member, U.S. Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office''. Testimony was heard from Kathi Vidal, Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, and Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee began a markup on H.J. Res. 29, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment''; H.J. Res. 46, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat''; H.J. Res. 49, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat''; H.R. 215, the ''WATER for California Act''; H.R. 764, the ''Trust the Science Act''; H.R. 1245, the ''Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2023''; H.R. 1319, the ''Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act''; H.R. 1419, the ''Comprehensive Grizzly Bear Management Act of 2023''; and H.R. 1567, the ''ACRES Act''.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''An Overview of the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget Request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration''. Testimony was heard from Bill Nelson, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

HEARING ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AT THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WITH IRS COMMISSIONER WERFEL

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Hearing on Accountability and Transparency at the Internal Revenue Service with IRS Commissioner Werfel''. Testimony was heard from Danny Werfel, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture held a hearing entitled ''Defense Intelligence Agency Budget Hearing''. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

UKRAINE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Committee concluded a hearing to examine church, state, and Russia's war on Ukraine, after receiving testimony from Yevstratiy (Zoria), Metropolitan of Bila Tserkva; and Igor Bandura, Baptist Union of Ukraine.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Tribal Perspectives on Housing and Transportation'', 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request'', 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Antimicrobial Resistance: Taking on the next Emerging Public Health Threat'', 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled ''The Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program: FEMA's Perspective'', 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 1690, to authorize Secretary of State to negotiate regional immigration agreements, and for other purposes; and H.R. 589, to impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism, 9:30 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, continue markup on H.J. Res. 29, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment''; H.J. Res. 46, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat''; H.J. Res. 49, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat''; H.R. 215, the ''WATER for California Act''; H.R. 764, the ''Trust the Science Act''; H.R. 1245, the ''Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2023''; H.R. 1319, the ''Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act''; H.R. 1419, the ''Comprehensive Grizzly Bear Management Act of 2023''; and H.R. 1567, the ''ACRES Act'', 9:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1669, the ''VET–TEC Authorization Act''; H.R. 562, the ''Improving Veterans Access to Congressional Services Act of 2023''; H.R. 1089, the ''VA Medical Center Facility Transparency Act''; H.R. 1530, the ''Veterans Benefits Improvement Act''; H.R. 1529, the ''Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act''; H.R. 1256, the ''Veterans Health Administration Leadership Transformation Act''; and H.R. 366, the ''Korean American VALOR Act'', 10 a.m., 390 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Central Intelligence Agency, hearing entitled ''People's Republic of China Counterintelligence Capabilities'', 9 a.m., HVC–304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, May 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, April 28

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.J. Res. 39—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''.

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