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No. 129

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 26, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE EZELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

EXPANDING RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, more than 500,000 Pennsylvanians lack access to fast and reliable internet service at their homes, often adding a layer of difficulty to students who are trying to learn, to businesspeople who are trying to engage in commerce from their homes, or to patients who are trying to connect

with their physicians for telehealth visits.

As I travel throughout my district, I hear from farmers who struggle to implement precision farming due to a lack of GPS signal. When I visit schools, I hear from teachers about students who struggle to complete their homework simply because they lack access to high-speed internet in their homes.

These problems are persistent, and each contributes to the larger issue: that rural communities are suffering from a lack of access to broadband internet.

To ensure that our rural communities are not left behind, it is time for Congress to commit to building out rural broadband infrastructure as part of the agriculture and rural development appropriations.

Ensuring high-speed internet connections, whether from fiber-optic cables, wireless towers, or satellite, will ensure that students are able to learn from home, that employees are able to work from home, and that patients are able to heal from home.

We as a Congress must stand committed to rural broadband development.

PROTECTING OUR FARMLAND

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, right now, nearly 400,000 acres of American farmland are owned by Chinese investors.

The increasing reach of the Chinese Communist Party is incredibly alarming, as this land is being purchased near sensitive military installations and other areas critical to our national security.

It is imperative that the Biden administration gain a better understanding of these land purchases and develop programs to halt the purchase of agricultural land by those associated with China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

We must ensure that the USDA is able to improve tracking of foreign

land ownership and help to ensure that our communities are protected and safe from the actions of the Chinese Communist Party.

This is a national security issue, and it is time for Congress and the Biden administration to take swift and decisive action to protect our American farmland.

POLITICAL POLARIZATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reflecting on a moment that occurred just after I was sworn in to this office.

My former Republican colleague Mark Kirk gave me some of the best advice I had ever received. He said: In the end, anything that gets done here that is any good gets done in the middle, through compromise.

It begs the question: Are we currently in a position to work well together? Can we effectively govern?

The fact is, right now, the occasions when we work together are few and far between. No established democracy in recent history has been as deeply polarized as the United States is now.

A study from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that polarization in the U.S. has increased more dramatically since the late 1970s than in any other country they have examined.

We are not just uniquely polarized on the world stage. We are also uniquely polarized in the context of our own history.

Here is one example. In 1960, 4 percent of Republicans and 4 percent of Democrats said they would be displeased if their son or daughter married someone of the opposite party. In 2019, that number is 45 percent of Democrats said they would be unhappy

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

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



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if their child married a Republican, and 35 percent of Republicans said they would be unhappy if their child married a Democrat.

Well, the reasons are manifold. Americans today read less print than ever before. They can now pick and choose their own news, perspectives, and facts. Cable news channels have moved further to the extremes to keep their audiences engaged. When we all read news designed to affirm our own thoughts, we lose empathy and understanding of how other people come to their decisions.

We must each take responsibility for broadening our sources. You don't have to seek out the opinions of extremists to do this. Seeking out balanced news and news sources, supporting local news, and not rewarding so-called hot takes with money and clicks can all get us closer to a return to more fact-based news.

The rise of social media has also heightened tensions and encouraged extremism to flourish. In an environment where the loudest voices rise to the top, it is all too easy for politicians and elected officials to begin believing that they, too, must be the loudest, most extreme voice.

The words of our leaders have always carried significant weight, but in today's world of heightened tensions, they have even more ability to shape the perceptions of our citizens. As leaders, we have a responsibility to cool the temperature of public discourse. Instead, many conservative speakers have chosen to ramp up the temperature and exploit the tensions that exist.

Dangerous, polarizing rhetoric is not the answer. It is poison. Ultimately, we have a responsibility to lead through example in how we address one another.

At the time of our greatest division, the President stressed the importance of leading "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

As John Adams said: "I fear that in every [elected office,] members will obtain an influence by noise, not sense; by meanness, not greatness; by ignorance, not learning. . . . There must be a decency and respect."

There must be decency and respect on both sides.

Gerrymandering has also played a role in our national polarization. Let's look at it. Between our two parties, only about 60 of the 435 seats in this House are truly contested in general elections. A lack of true swing districts means that candidates are driven to the polls to win their primaries and that fewer are concerned about appealing to the center in a general election. As a result, items that were once non-partisan have become bitterly so, issues like funding the government, violence prevention, trade, and even raising the debt ceiling.

Now, finding common ground on core issues can be nearly impossible. Dis-mantling gerrymandered districts can

help put our country on the path of depolarization and produce a Congress and State legislatures that are more reflective of the majority of Americans' views.

Our country has faced deep, polarizing challenges before. To put our current moment in perspective, let's look back at the words of the President who guided our country through the most divided of times.

In a January 1838 speech in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln said: "At what point, then, is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher."

We must heed the call to action from these words. We must change how we address our country, how we are elected, how we speak to each other, and how we learn and get informed. We must all learn that empathy and compromise should be commended, not condemned. Our success or failure will determine if "any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure."

TREATING AND REDUCING OBESITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, as a physician, I believe that we must support and utilize available medical breakthroughs. That is why I am proud to co-lead the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act, legislation that would provide a direct line to chronic weight management medications for Medicare recipients struggling with obesity.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity is prevalent in over 40 percent of adults aged 60 and older. The National Institutes of Health attributes obesity to an increased risk for health problems such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, and certain cancers.

This bill would assist those struggling to lose weight and would help decrease comorbidities associated with obesity. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act.

Iowa's First District is blessed to have the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, and this bill would allow out-of-State children to access our top-tier clinical trials, specialists, and care teams.

Currently, children enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program must have an out-of-State care team be screened by their home State's Medicaid program, even though the providers have already been screened and enrolled in their own State program. This causes delays and

can cause a child's condition to worsen, putting their lives at risk.

This legislation would streamline the process by allowing providers who treat children and are in good standing to enroll in multiple State Medicaid programs for a period of 5 years.

As a mother, physician, former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, and a Congresswoman, I understand the duty to care for our children's health, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

REMEMBERING BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT K9 OFFICER PACO

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Burlington Police Department's K9 Paco.

K9 Paco served with the Burlington Police Department for nearly 2 months and was in the process of being trained for assignment as our second K9 unit with K9 Handler Officer Gallegos.

K9s are specifically trained to help members of our law enforcement, and their keen sense of tracking and detection are invaluable for officers.

This is a sad day for the Burlington Police Department, and I will continue to keep the Burlington Police Department and Paco in my prayers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GLORIA MOLINA

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gloria Molina, a trailblazer for Latino politicians.

Gloria fiercely served and advocated for the communities she represented, for the city of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, and the State of California. She passed away in her home, surrounded by her loving family, on May 14, at the age of 74.

Gloria was raised in an immigrant household with her nine siblings. Her father, Leonardo, was a construction worker born in Los Angeles but raised in Casas Grandes, Mexico. Her mother, Concepcion, was a homemaker from Mexico. Together, her parents immigrated to the U.S. in the 1940s. Gloria was the oldest of 10 children. As she did everything in life, she led by example and helped wherever and whenever she could.

Gloria's commitment to public service began during President Jimmy Carter's administration, where she served as a deputy for Presidential Personnel and soon after that with the San Francisco Department of Health and Human Services.

Gloria's activism was sparked by the Chicano movement, as she was a woman of firsts. Gloria was first elected to office in 1982, when she became the first Latina elected to the California State Assembly. Some people made the mistake of underestimating Gloria's commitment to her community and her tenacity. She beat the establishment candidate.

In 1987, Gloria ran for the Los Angeles City Council seat that had been redistricted, becoming the first woman councilmember of Mexican ancestry to serve on the Los Angeles City Council.

In 1991, she was elected and became the first Latina member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. She was known as a fiscal watchdog committed to governance reforms, protecting public healthcare, and fighting for quality-of-life issues for millions of residents.

Throughout more than 30 years as an elected official, Gloria changed the landscape of Los Angeles, putting an end to a 100-year pattern of dumping negative land-use developments on the east side of Los Angeles. Her work in East LA resulted in the Los Angeles Metro Board of Directors naming a train station in her honor.

Gloria worked with Mothers of East Los Angeles, a group that organized against and successfully defeated the proposal to build a prison in East Los Angeles.

Gloria valued the power of storytelling through art. She founded the historical LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes and the Eastside Arts Initiative, which provides financial support to community-based organizations.

□ 1015

Thanks to her love of quilting, Gloria founded the quilting group the East L.A. Stitchers, so that others could express themselves through this art form.

Gloria successfully advocated for increased access to parks and green spaces, as well as culturally engaging recreational areas. The motion to rename Grand Park to the Gloria Molina Grand Park was approved and will allow Gloria's legacy and impact to live on in projects that she fought so hard to create.

On top of green and recreational spaces, Gloria constantly fought for the improvement of women's rights and representation. She would regularly fight against the construction of projects that would disrupt predominantly Chicano and Mexican neighborhoods.

On top of her work in politics in the mid-2000s, she would drive around through Skid Row in her free time looking for children living in unsafe conditions so that she could call the Department of Family and Children Services to find them a home.

She led a program that was later named the Gloria Molina Foster Youth Education Program, with the sole purpose of being able to increase the high school graduation rates of students in foster care systems.

As its leader, she and the program did just that and elevated graduation rates from the national average of 58 percent to an amazing 80 percent. One of her final statements as she retired was that she only regretted not being able to raise the average even more.

Gloria stood as a constant beacon of hard work, perseverance, and

strength—a role model to Latinas looking to succeed in politics, and a role model to everyone.

Gloria taught us all to fight for those without a voice and to let our passion drive our success. Her impact will be felt for generations to come.

Gloria is survived by her daughter, Valentina; son-in-law, Brendan; grandchildren, Santiago and Ximena; nine siblings; nieces; nephews; Ron Martinez; and many die-hard Molinistas.

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are fulfilling our commitment to our country's veterans by fully funding veterans' healthcare programs, veterans' benefits, and Veterans Affairs programs in the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Not only are we fulfilling our promise to those veterans who have served our country, but we are taking our efforts up a notch to go above and beyond what the VA is already doing by increasing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Prosthetic Research Program.

I am a proud supporter of this program, and I requested that the Appropriations Committee fully fund this program to the level included in the bill, which is \$938 million. That is a \$22 million or 2.5 percent increase as compared to fiscal year 2023 and is in line with the President's budgetary request.

The VA's Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service is the largest and most comprehensive provider of prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the world. This funding will go a long way in making sure the VA has the necessary funds to research ways to restore veterans' abilities to function within their families, communities, and workplaces.

This increased funding will also help the researchers within the VA research program recover from slowed research because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sustained and predictable funding growth for VA research is imperative to help ensure the best return on spending to improve the health of veterans and all Americans.

Although the VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research Program is specifically dedicated to improving the health and well-being of those who have served the United States in uniformed services, it has had a tremendous impact on the care of all Americans.

The research conducted within this program has led the way in many different healthcare fields, including the treatment of digestive diseases. There is no better way to utilize our tax dollars than by contributing to a cause that will help restore veterans' functionality and also lead to advancements in medical care for all Americans.

Additionally, the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, which has direct ties to my district and constituents, has a proud, longstanding, and multifaceted partnership with the Veterans Administration in Nashville and the mid-South across clinical care, medical training, and research activities. They are proud to join me in supporting increased funding for this medical research program within the VA healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that medical research at the VA not only helps those that have put it all on the line in service to this country—some sacrificing pieces of their body that they will never get back—it helps all Americans, as I have already mentioned. This is a great use of taxpayer funds, and I couldn't be prouder to support this initiative to fund this program at the level I have already mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members on both sides of the aisle to support this provision in the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

STORIES OF SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to recognize some of Virginia's many proud veterans and military families. One of my most powerful memories of my late grandfather was when I took him to the World War II Memorial and had the opportunity to stand with him on the side marked Pacific and hear some of his stories from his time in service. These are stories that he, throughout my childhood, never shared, but at that memorial chose to share with me.

As a Representative for Virginia's Seventh District and as a Representative of many military families and veterans, I ensure that I am giving a voice and putting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some of the extraordinary stories of service that we have throughout our district.

Earlier this year, I reached out to Virginians across the Seventh District asking them to share stories of service to recognize their loved ones who answered the call or share their own experiences. I heard from people across the Seventh District, and I was proud to share some of those stories in May during Military Appreciation Month, and I will continue to do so into the future.

Kenneth J. Schmidt from Prince William County shared the long record of service in his family, writing "My family is a proud military one. Our father served during World War I. Seven brothers-in-law, two cousins, and my oldest brother served during World War II. My other brother and I served during the Korean war. Army, Navy, Air Force, we were there."

I thank Mr. Schmidt for his family's sacrifices on behalf of our country.

We received a story from James Willess who lives in Fredericksburg. Mr. Willess wrote, "My father, Homer Leroy Willess, served in the U.S. Navy from July 1937 to September 1945, mostly in the Pacific theater. Four of his brothers also served in the Navy, and his eldest sister served as an Army nurse during World War II. Three of his younger brothers served in the Navy during the Korean war, and their youngest sister served as a Navy nurse during the Vietnam war. I am extremely proud of my father and siblings for serving their country in uniform during three major wars."

Neil Hornung from Spotsylvania, a veteran himself, shared with us, "I served in the Marine Corps from 1982 until 2008. Served in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Uphold Democracy. My last tour was as the Marine Corps lead for critical infrastructure."

I thank Mr. Hornung for his service.

Mr. Hornung wanted to recognize a member of his family who followed in his footsteps. He wrote, "My oldest son is First Lieutenant Brandon Hornung, United States Marine Corps, currently stationed on Okinawa."

I thank Brandon for his service. Please stay safe.

Paul from Spotsylvania shared his father's story of service in the United States Marine Corps. He wrote, "My dad, Ed Czartosieski, was at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in Korea as a marine pilot flying Corsair aircraft. He flew out of Hagaru and was surrounded by Chinese forces. He assisted in saving many lives with the 'advance to the rear' as the Marine Corps. He retired as a test pilot for Grumman Aerospace on Long Island. Dad is doing well in Greenport, New York, and soon to be age 100." Paul wrote, "I hope to get to the United States Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia."

Harry Dolph from Stafford sent us the story of his mother, a patriot who stepped into service on behalf of our country when it needed her the most. Mr. Dolph wrote, "My mother, Caroline Alva Bush, was one of the first dozen women to enlist in the U.S. Navy during World War I, and served in personnel in Washington, D.C."

George Wratney from Orange County shared a story highlighting the sacrifices and contributions of military families.

Mr. Wratney shared with us, "I was a Marine in Vietnam from April 1968 to May 1969, but this is about my bride of 22 months when I left home, and the thousands of military brides like her, who had no one 'in their boat' back home to share stories, fears, anxieties. No email then. No social media. Only prayers. We owe them, all of them, much gratitude as they stood by."

I thank Mr. Wratney for his service and recognizing the service and the sacrifice of military families like his bride.

Veterans, servicemembers, and Virginia's proud military family members are our neighbors, friends, and community members—their stories are woven into the fabric of our Nation and certainly Virginia's Seventh District. We owe them a debt of gratitude, and we must thank every American who answered the call and every American that will do so in the future.

We are undoubtedly freer thanks to the service and sacrifice of Virginians that answered the call.

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the direction of our country. In America right now, we are facing a lot of problems. House Republicans have done our part to pass commonsense solutions, but we still have a lot of work to do to get this country back on track.

In January, I released my commitment to the Big First, which is a legislative roadmap to create an economy that is strong, a Nation that is safe, a future that is built on freedom, and a government that is accountable.

Most of the glaring problems in America today fall into one of these four categories, and the reality is that House Republicans have commonsense solutions to all of them, but the Biden administration is refusing to listen.

We need to create an economy that is strong. Washington has a spending addiction. America is \$32 trillion in debt, and the Federal Government is deficit spending to the tune of \$1 trillion every year. The Biden administration has canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and pushed Green New Deal regulations on small businesses, while attempting at the same time to do away with stepped-up basis and impose a new farm killer capital gains tax on agriculture producers.

Here is the commonsense solution: When you stop the wasteful spending, you don't have to tax people to death. When President Biden took office, inflation was at just 1.4 percent. Inflation hit 6.4 percent in 2022. That is a tax on all Americans.

In the House of Representatives, we passed the Lower Energy Costs Act and the REIN IN Inflation Act to unleash American energy production and revitalize our economy, but the White House still isn't listening. America's position in the global marketplace is degrading, the value of the dollar has been plummeting for a year, and it is time to get our economy back on track before it is too late.

We also need to create a Nation that is safe. Violent crime is on the rise, the suicide rate is climbing, drug addiction and mental illness are spiking, and many parts of our country are basically in chaos. Meanwhile, we are still hearing calls from Washington Democrats to defund the police, and the

Biden administration refuses to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border where fentanyl, criminals, and victims of human trafficking come across every day, unfortunately, into our country.

Here is the commonsense solution: House Republicans passed legislation to secure the border, finish the wall, criminalize all forms of illicit fentanyl, and support the training and hiring of more State and local law enforcement officers. Today, we don't live in a Nation that is safe, but House Republicans have already passed bills that would stop the chaos and usher in safety and order.

We also need to create a future that is built on freedom. Each year I host at least one townhall in every one of the 60 counties in the Big First District. As I travel across the State and meet with Kansans, I listen to their concerns about Big Government, sweeping executive order, and infringement on basic rights, like the Second Amendment and the right to life.

House Republicans are standing for freedom in the face of Big Government overreach. We passed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act that would defend the lives of innocent children following a botched abortion attempt.

We also passed the Parents Bill of Rights that states that parents have the right to know what their children are being taught. These are no-brainers. It is sad that we even need to pass bills like this because the rights to life and freedom are supposed to be foundational to America in the first place.

On the American farm we also see freedom under attack. The Biden administration vetoed legislation that would have revoked President Biden's Waters of the U.S. rule because his administration prefers to regulate every puddle and drainage ditch from sea to shining sea.

□ 1030

On top of that, the Biden administration hamstringed producers by adding the lesser prairie-chicken to the endangered species list, and I am looking forward to my colleagues' and my voting to disapprove of that rule.

Our message is this: Whether you are a parent, a child—born or unborn—a student, a farmer, or a small business owner, you don't need the Federal Government trying to control your life.

Finally, we need to create a government that is accountable. According to recent IRS whistleblower testimony made public by the Ways and Means Committee, it appears that President Biden was not only aware of his son, Hunter Biden's, corrupt foreign business deals, but was also in the room for them. We need to conduct rigorous oversight to root out corruption in the executive branch. We also need to hold the Federal Government accountable and rein in the White House's abuse of power.

As the Biden administration has proven time and time again, executive orders are out of control, and they are no way to govern in a democracy. That is why I introduced the More Accountability is Necessary Now Act, which requires the President to notify Congress and the public before issuing any new executive orders pertaining to agriculture, energy, natural resources, the right to life, the Second Amendment, and immigration. This is a common-sense way to hold the government accountable and stop some of the Big Government overreach that Kansans and the Big First are sick and tired of.

I don't serve in Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I am here to do my part in making America stronger. We need to rebuild our country on behalf of Americans who have had their rights stripped from them, their taxpayer dollars wasted, their values shoved back in their face, and their country's economy brought to the brink of disaster by an administration that isn't getting the message.

We need everything from a balanced budget to a strengthened supply chain, from lower taxes to a secure southern border, and from a strong farm bill to robust police and military forces.

We have a lot of work to do, and if we open our eyes to the real problems that Americans are facing today and look at the commonsense solutions on the table, we can accomplish real meaningful change in our country.

With prayer and hard work, I believe America's brightest days are yet to come.

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON VENEZUELA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing political, human rights, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and its hemispheric consequences, including the arrival of 187,000 desperate Venezuelans at our southern border last year.

This crisis has many causes, beginning with misguided and distorting economic policies implemented by successive Venezuelan Governments. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the maximum pressure secondary and sectoral sanctions policy put in place by former President Trump and continued by President Biden has deepened the economic pain and hardship suffered by the Venezuelan people. The goal of that policy was to remove Nicolas Maduro from power in Venezuela. It has not worked. Rather, as The New York Times editorial board wrote on July 22, that Maduro "instead consolidated his grip on Venezuela, blamed its economic misery on American sanctions and drew his country closer to Russia and China."

Throughout my time in Congress, I have strongly defended the idea that

human rights should be at the center of U.S. foreign policy, and I have led many bills to redress human rights abuses, including the Global Magnitsky targeted sanctions legislation. Nevertheless, I don't support the use of sanctions to punish entire peoples for the actions of their leaders or to bludgeon an adversary into submission.

This is why I have said that the Trump-era sanctions should already have been lifted by the Biden administration, and I continue to believe that. However, unfortunately, that has not happened, and it seems unlikely that it will in the near future.

In the end, human rights advocacy is meant to improve and restore the lives of victims of abuses and to change conditions so that abuses will not recur. As a human rights advocate, I have a moral responsibility to do whatever I can to advance these goals.

That is why I welcomed the administration's support for the resumption of negotiations between the Maduro government and Venezuelan opposition in Mexico last year. It is why I believe the social fund for the basic needs of the Venezuelan people, whose creation was agreed to during those negotiations, should be stood up as soon as possible. Additionally, it is why I was encouraged to see the statement of principles that came out of the International Conference on Venezuela convened by the Colombian government last April.

The statement laid out three steps—the establishment of a chronogram for elections, the easing of sanctions in parallel as agreements are reached between the parties, and the continuation of the negotiations accompanied by accelerated implementation of the social fund—that, taken together, offer a real opportunity to begin to resolve Venezuela's crisis.

These steps would empower and benefit all Venezuelans seeking to rebuild their country and their future.

Everyone who is concerned about the human rights of the Venezuelan people should take advantage of this opportunity. I still believe the Trump-era sanctions should be lifted, and I will continue to urge the Biden administration to do so.

Democracy and civil rights will not be advanced by maintaining punishing economic sanctions. All that does is continue to hurt innocent people. Nonetheless, we need to find a way to move the ball forward, and I believe there is an opportunity now. Time is short, and there is a lot of uncertainty, but there is also some hope, and that should guide us.

CONGRATULATING BRIAN HARMAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Savannah, Georgia, native, a Pooler Packer alum, a Savannah Christian School graduate, a UGA Bulldog, a cur-

rent First District constituent, and an extraordinary golfer on his first major championship win at the 151st British Open Golf Championship in England, Brian Harman.

This win is an incredible honor for the entire First District and was a long time coming for Brian, decades in the making.

Mr. Speaker, you see my sons in this picture. They played youth basketball with Brian, and, in fact, my talented wife, Amy, was the coach of that team. We are so very proud of Brian.

I remember seeing firsthand the talent that Brian possessed, and it wasn't any surprise when Brian went on to play competitively for the University of Georgia's golf team or to finish runner-up at the 2017 US Open.

This past week, after four rounds of golf, Brian's final score at the 2023 Open was 271, 13 strokes under par and six strokes ahead of all other golfers in the tournament.

Brian's win was decisive and hard-earned, and I, on behalf of the entire Savannah community and the First District of Georgia, congratulate him immensely for his victory.

Brian has made Savannah, the First District of Georgia, the State of Georgia, the Pooler Packers, the Savannah Christian School, and the Bulldog Nation proud this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing more great work and many more championships from Brian in the future.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN SOUL BARBECUE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the local St. Simons barbecue restaurant, Southern Soul Barbecue, for being named the Best Barbecue Restaurant in Georgia.

This year, Yelp searched around the entire country to find the best barbecue restaurants in the Nation, and Southern Soul was an easy selection.

After serving charities in 2007, Griffin Buffin and Harrison Sapp launched their barbecue business in a subleased kitchen before moving into an antique converted gas station.

They caught their big break in 2010 when Southern Soul was featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

The St. Simon's community continued to support their favorite barbecue business even after a horrible fire erupted in the establishment in 2010.

Southern Soul didn't let this tragic fire stop them, and in the year 2023, they are still winning awards and serving the best barbecue in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Southern Soul on their sustained success, and I thank them for all they do for our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. RALPH DIXON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Ralph Dixon, a loving husband, a humble veteran, and a proud grandparent.

Ralph was born in Blackshear, Georgia, in the First Congressional District

in 1929 and graduated from Blackshear High School with the class of 1949. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, spending 21 years in uniformed service.

His official service may have ended in uniform, but his service to the Nation did not stop there. After returning, he began a new 20-year career as a civil servant at Fort Stewart.

On top of his work serving our country, Ralph was very active in the First Baptist Church in Hinesville, becoming a deacon and singing in the choir for over 50 years.

He is preceded by his loving wife of 66 years, Jacqueline Waters Dixon.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family, including 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

CONGRATULATING LEOPOLD'S ICE CREAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate local Savannah ice cream parlor, Leopold's Ice Cream, for being named in Yelp's Top 100 ice cream shops for 2023.

While it is the many positive Yelp reviews that landed Leopold's on this list, the parlor's superb reputation has been built on over a century of hard work and success.

Leopold's was founded in 1919 by three brothers from Greece on the corner of Gwinnett and Habersham Streets in Savannah.

Streetcar riders would reportedly jump off the streetcar to get their super premium ice cream, which is handcrafted and uses original, secret recipes and techniques handed down in the Leopold family.

Over the years, Leopold's Ice Cream has received rave endorsements by many famous historical figures and celebrities alike.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Stratton Leopold and Leopold's Ice Cream on their tremendous achievement and thank them for being a joy and an inspiration to the great city of Savannah, Georgia, and the First Congressional District of Georgia.

FOOD ASSISTANCE WILL BE SLASHED

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because working families in my district and across the country deserve better than the legislation the Republican majority is forcing through this week.

Under the leadership of Speaker McCarthy, House Republicans have drafted a partisan bill that will slash funding for critical food assistance programs that parents depend on to feed their children.

In fact, under this extreme proposal, the GOP is defunding hundreds of millions of dollars from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for

Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC for short.

That means that 5 million women and children nationwide, including 74,000 children and 24,000 women in my home State of Massachusetts, are going to see their benefits drastically cut.

Mr. Speaker, if you think that sounds bad, just wait until you hear how Republicans are going to do it.

For children, House Republicans are trying to reduce the WIC fruit and vegetable benefit from \$25 to just \$11 to cover a whole month. For pregnant and postpartum women, the GOP is slashing the fruit and vegetable benefit from \$44 to \$13 a month.

For breastfeeding moms, this extreme proposal imposes a devastating 60 percent cut from \$49 to just \$15 each month.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts are unnecessary, they are dangerous, and they are cruel. Above all else, this bill is a demonstration of the Republican Party's values. It is a demonstration of what they think life is like for working families, that you can simply tell a mom and her children or an expecting mother to stop being poor, and magically they won't be poor anymore.

As someone who grew up in a working family that lived paycheck to paycheck, I can tell my colleagues across the aisle firsthand: That is not how it works.

In fact, telling families to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps" while cutting the very program that they depend on to feed their children is going to have the opposite effect. It is going to force millions of Americans—millions of children—into hunger or worse.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know many of my Republican colleagues may not know what it is like to worry about making ends meet. They may not know what it is like worrying if they will be able to put food on the table the next day or have to swipe that EBT card at the grocery store in front of a long line praying it will cover everything in your cart.

However, there are thousands—if not tens or hundreds of thousands—of people in their home State who know exactly what that feels like and who experience that feeling every single day, and they are depending on them to stop what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, stop trying to cut the last safety net that they have to make sure their kids don't go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous legislation.

AGRICULTURE SPENDING

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4368, the Agricultural Appropriations bill which stands as a beacon of hope for our

farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

This bill represents a balanced approach to funding necessary agencies and programs, and it also reclaims fiscal responsibility and reins in the wasteful spending that has plagued our government for far too long.

We, as stewards of the American people's resources, owe it to them to utilize taxpayer dollars wisely and efficiently. One of the key aspects of this bill is the redirection of billions from partisan bills that contained Democrats' priorities, such as the Inflation Reduction Act.

By channeling these funds toward supporting America's producers and rural communities, we demonstrate our commitment to the heart of our Nation's economy: agriculture. Additionally, we recognize the need to address the changing circumstances brought on by the pandemic.

The bill seeks to restrict the USDA Secretary's discretionary spending authority on unauthorized, non-emergency programs. We must put an end to wasteful Washington spending and hold our government accountable for every dollar spent. It also seeks to kneecap the bureaucracy in D.C. by empowering State and county offices.

By directing USDA hiring efforts to assist producers and rural communities at the grassroots level, we acknowledge the importance of local knowledge and understanding in addressing the unique challenges that they face.

Moreover, the bill includes essential clawbacks of prior appropriations, rescinding funds that were allocated for radical Green New Deal initiatives and other programs that have been deemed unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill is not just about funding, but it is about our values, our commitment to the American people, and our dedication to a prosperous future for this great Nation.

□ 1045

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

This legislation reaffirms our commitment to serving those who have served us so bravely, our military veterans.

I recently had the privilege of visiting the Bath, New York, VA hospital in my district, in Steuben County, where I witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication of the VA staff and the challenges they face daily in providing the best possible care for our Nation's heroes.

There are clinics across my district that act as lifelines for our veterans, offering crucial services that range from mental health care to cancer

treatment and beyond. These facilities are responsible for serving thousands of veterans and empowering them to heal, recover, and rebuild their lives. They deserve our unwavering support, especially in their darkest hours.

Mr. Speaker, we can agree that caring for our veterans is not a partisan issue, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and secure the funds needed to uphold and strengthen our VA healthcare programs. By investing in these programs, we invest in the well-being of our veterans and their families and ensure they receive the highest standard of care that they rightfully deserve.

ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AND RE- MOTE AREAS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, since my first day in Congress, access to quality, affordable healthcare and mental health services has been among my top priorities.

I represent one of the most rural and remote districts in the country. I have seen and heard firsthand the devastating consequences of inadequate access to care.

On Molokai, a constituent shared with me the weight and pain she felt over the loss of her daughter. The treatment and end-of-life care her daughter needed wasn't available on island, so she was forced to leave her children and family behind and tragically passed away without them by her side.

On Lana'i, a kupuna sat me down and said: "I love living here . . . but it is a difficult place to be born and to die." If you need obstetric care, assisted living, or end-of-life care, you have to board a plane, most often alone.

In Wai'anae, a close friend and community leader held up a CDC report in his hand and expressed his anger and frustration that the life expectancy of residents living on the rural west side of O'ahu was a decade less than those living in downtown Honolulu.

In the small, close-knit community of Kauai, too many people have a family member or friend who took their own life. With limited access to mental health professionals and services, our Garden Isle has historically struggled with high rates of suicide and suicide attempts.

In Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii, a woman cried as she told me that her sister died because she couldn't get the emergency care she needed in time. She then asked me if I knew what the golden hour was, that critical window of time between emergency medical care and a medical trauma happening.

I told her I did. My mother missed hers. She was in a car accident, and the hospital in our community didn't have the appropriate trauma services to deal with her injuries, so she was taken to

the next town, where she passed away shortly after getting to the ER.

For many of my constituents, they are just one diagnosis away from a major illness and the impossible financial and family decisions that will come with it. Yet, they live in geographically isolated areas—their homes, where they continue to be denied their right to healthcare.

While Hawaii's geography and demographic makeup are, in fact, unique, these barriers to healthcare are similarly felt elsewhere across the country.

More than 60 million Americans, one-fifth of the United States population, live in rural areas. Compared with their urban counterparts, rural Americans are generally older and have less resources and poorer healthcare conditions.

While they may require more medical attention and care, rural Americans often have more limited access to care as a result of physician shortages, lack of reliable transportation options, insufficient health insurance coverage, and increased exposure to environmental and occupational hazards.

These disparities in healthcare access highlight the need for greater attention and resources aimed at improving healthcare and outcomes in rural and remote communities.

That is why I am proud to co-lead the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus. Together with the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), we have revived this bipartisan coalition to ensure every American, no matter their ZIP Code or circumstances, has access to the care that could literally save their lives.

When it comes to my hope for rural healthcare, it comes down to the four As.

Accessibility: The distance a patient must travel by car, plane, or ferry to receive medical services;

Affordability: The cost for a patient to get the care they need;

Acceptability: The extent to which a patient receives culturally and linguistically appropriate services in healthcare; and

Availability: The extent to which providers have the requisite resources, such as personnel and technology, to meet the individual needs of patients.

In a time of such deep divisions in our country and Congress, we must find ways to come together to recognize the urgent needs of our constituents and do better for all of our people.

The Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus will look beyond the partisan gridlock of Washington to tackle the rural healthcare crisis in the United States.

From the pristine, sandy beaches of Hawaii to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, rural Americans are asking Congress to step up and take meaningful action to save their hospitals and clinics, address health inequities, strengthen their healthcare workforce pipeline, ensure fair and adequate reimbursement for providers, and reduce healthcare costs.

For the health and well-being of all of our people, I invite my colleagues to join us in this movement to enhance access and delivery of healthcare and mental health services for rural and remote communities throughout our country.

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE, NOT A BUREAUCRACY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a government that represents the people, not a bureaucracy that represents Washington's interests.

Pending on the Supreme Court docket is *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, a case with the potential to overturn 40 years of bureaucratic overreach and restore the proper role of Congress, the courts, and the Presidency.

Nearly 40 years of deference by lawmakers and judges to the executive has given rise to the administrative state, sometimes called the fourth branch of government. Over time, this unaccountable bureaucracy has gradually subverted the doctrine of separation of powers laid out by our Founders.

According to the Constitution, Article I vests the power to make law in the Congress; Article II vests the power to enforce law in the Presidency; and Article III vests the power to interpret law in the courts.

In no article are all three powers—to make, enforce, and interpret the law—jointly vested in a managerial bureaucracy of 1.8 million civil service employees. The very idea is offensive to our founding.

However, at the heart of *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* lies the doctrine of *Chevron* deference, a legal construct which would make our Founders turn in their graves. It is a 1980s judicial invention that shifts lawmaking powers from lawmakers and adjudicating powers from judges to a plenary executive branch.

In the 1980s, *Chevron* deference may have been reasonably supported by those who believed faithful bureaucratic agents could be trusted to fill in areas where the law is silent. In 2023, the Biden administration's relentless pursuit of government power has disabused any dewy-eyed believer in faithful bureaucrats.

The 40-year experiment of *Chevron* deference has allowed the bureaucracy to aggrandize nearly unlimited power, culminating in the Biden administration exceeding its authority from sea to shining sea and from cradle to grave with overregulation.

Just recently, President Biden and Secretary Cardona tossed up a Hail Mary when their illegal, economically disastrous, taxpayer-funded student loan bailout for the wealthy arrived at the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court emphatically said no. It also said

that such a scheme “requires that Congress speak clearly before a Department Secretary can unilaterally alter large sections of the American economy.”

Nevertheless, the Biden administration continues to claim the power to implement its student loan bailout under even more ambiguous legal pretenses.

President Biden’s National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, is yet another example of the unforeseen consequences of Chevron deference. Within the NLRB, bureaucrats command the power to create law, execute law, and adjudicate legal conflicts. Under the Biden administration, the NLRB has issued sweeping rules regarding joint employer status and union elections, enforced said rules, and then adjudicated hundreds of cases, overturning longstanding preferences.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce is working hard to conduct oversight of an agency that assumes it has lawmaking, law enforcing, and law interpreting power. These abuses, and many more, are the direct failure of the Chevron deference regime.

For many in this body, fighting back against the Biden administration requires confronting an uncomfortable truth. Congress creates, enables, and abides by the administrative state when it passes statutory language without clear meaning. Congress’ illegal delegation of its Article I authority and the accelerated transfer of legislative powers to unaccountable bureaucrats in the executive has been a fault of this body over decades and the fault of both parties.

Today, there are over 123 statutes that enable the President and his agencies to circumvent ordinary lawmaking processes upon the declaration of a “national emergency.” The ultimate national emergency, however, is if unscrupulous politicians abdicate the power vested in them by the American people to make laws and instead make more legislators. Then, the people will have no means to hold their government accountable.

In fulfilling House Republicans’ Commitment to America, we are demanding accountability from the Federal Government. To fulfill the will of the people, the Court must repeal Chevron deference in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*.

I pray next term that the Court reclaims and fortifies Congress’ rightful powers.

CELEBRATING 88TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a foundational program that has delivered for older Americans and people with disabilities.

Since 1935, Social Security has lifted millions of families out of poverty. It

has protected seniors’ retirement, helped disabled Americans live with dignity, and provided a lifeline for families that have lost loved ones. Over 1 million Californians rely on Social Security.

We should build on that success, not dismantle a program that adds zero dollars to the Federal deficit.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Social Security 2100 Act, which will safeguard this program for generations to come.

Workers pay into Social Security. They work hard and contribute to our economy. Congress has a duty to keep that Nation’s promise and guarantee that Social Security will be there when workers and their families need help.

On the 88th anniversary of Social Security, let’s recommit ourselves to fulfilling this responsibility.

NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY ANNIVERSARY

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, August 5, 2023, marks the 60th anniversary of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a milestone that shows our commitment to peace and safety.

The year before the treaty’s signing, the world was closer to nuclear war than ever before. By halting most nuclear tests, this agreement cooled the arms race and demonstrated the power of diplomacy.

The anniversary of this treaty also serves as a solemn reminder that the United States has never taken responsibility for the harms of the 67 nuclear tests that we conducted in the Marshall Islands.

With world tensions heightening once again, the ideals put forth six decades ago in the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty remain just as important today. I have introduced bipartisan legislation to formally apologize for the harms we inflicted on the Marshallese people, and I will continue to demand action as a member of the House Indo-Pacific Task Force.

We owe it to our kids and grandkids to safeguard this planet for future generations.

□ 1100

HOLDING THE FAA ACCOUNTABLE

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Aviation Administration is responsible for keeping Americans safe in the air and on the ground. It should be subject to rigorous and consistent oversight.

Our constituents deserve a Congress that does its job of holding the FAA accountable. Too often, the FAA takes months just to respond to congressional inquiries, much less fix these longstanding problems.

I am proud that the House adopted my bipartisan amendment requiring the head of the FAA to testify annually before Congress so that we can get answers about the Agency’s successes and shortcomings. My amendment also strengthens the transparency on FAA’s response time for congressional requests.

Holding Federal agencies accountable is not a partisan issue. Every

American benefits from tough, consistent, and fair oversight. I urge the Senate to include this oversight amendment in its own FAA legislation.

BRAIN IMAGING HELPS BLAST EXPOSURE VICTIMS

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, our troops risk their lives to keep us safe. In training and during combat, they can develop health conditions that aren’t immediately visible. To repay those who serve our country, we must do all we can to identify and treat these internal injuries and prevent them when possible.

In recent decades, we have seen a striking increase in troops with traumatic brain injuries due to blast exposure. I have worked with Democrats and Republicans to deliver help.

The House recently adopted a bipartisan amendment that I wrote to gather more data on how routine brain scans can contribute to the diagnosis, treatment, and even prevention of brain injuries.

At least one study has shown that regular brain imaging can accelerate patients getting the care they need and put them on the path to recovery. A more complete understanding of this technology will help us get our servicemembers the top-notch care they deserve.

ADDRESS THE THREAT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, since I was a little boy I have been told that a dog that won’t bark in his own backyard ain’t much of a dog.

Mr. Speaker, the number one enemy to the Communist Chinese Party is the United States of America. As a matter of fact, Xi Jinping has clearly stated that by 2049 he wants China to be the world leader diplomatically, economically, militarily, even in space. As a matter of fact, they are on pace right now to outperform and pass the United States as a leader in space before 2045.

Where are we right now? Well, China owns \$870 billion in U.S. Treasuries that finance our debt. They either own or have a huge portion of the Chicago Stock Exchange, AMC Theaters, General Electric’s appliance division, General Motors, and Smithfield Foods, just to name a few.

On another alarming note, they own 384,000 acres of American agricultural land. That is a 30 percent increase just since 2019. On top of that, they own land near an Air Force base in North Dakota. That is a clear threat to our national security.

That is what the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration appropriations bill is going to address. It is going to put American interests first by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit the purchase of land by those associated with our foreign adversaries.

Mr. Speaker, this dog is barking, and Congress needs to address the threat right here in our own backyard.

BRING STEEL PLANTS BACK TO AMERICA

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, recently I traveled to Lordstown, Ohio, in Ash-tabula County, Ohio; Johnstown, Penn-sylvania; and Farrell, Pennsylvania. I saw steel mill after steel mill shut down, including in Cleveland, in De-troit, and in Downriver, Michigan.

Of the world's top 15 steel companies, China has 9 and the United States of America doesn't have a single one. How did we let this happen as a country? How did we decimate American steel, costing community after community so many good jobs, hurting urban centers with large African-American working populations, and hurting fac-tory towns across America? This was a colossal mistake.

In the 1950s, we used to make over 50 percent of the world's steel. That is down to 2 or 3 percent. Today, China makes nearly 50 percent of the world's steel.

This is a national security issue if we ever have to mobilize for our military. This is a climate issue. China's steel puts three times the emissions into the atmosphere than American steel does because we use electric arc furnaces and recycled material, unlike the blast furnaces that China uses.

It is time for America to have a strategy to bring modern steel produc-tion back home. We can make steel that is cleaner and of higher quality; and we can revitalize towns like Johns-town, Pennsylvania; Lordstown, Ohio; Akron, Ohio; and Downriver, Michigan, if we build these modern steel plants.

I am going to be working with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to in-troduce a modern steel act to say that the government should partner with our steel unions and with our steel companies to build modern steel in the United States of America.

This will be clean steel with either hydrogen or electric arc furnaces. This will create good-paying jobs. This will be good for national security, and this will ensure that America leads in steel in the 21st century, not China.

Mr. Speaker, we made a big, big error in the United States of America, losing our lead in domestic production. It is time for our country to become a man-ufacturing superpower again. It is time to begin that with modern steel.

RESCUE WORKERS HELP THOSE IN NEED

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the actions of emer-gency responders in Appomattox and Campbell Counties.

Recent major rainstorms caused se-vere flooding that affected many of the residents of these counties. When that happened, the Concord Rescue Squad, the Concord Volunteer Fire Depart-ment, and the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department sprang into action, working around the clock to coura-geously save many people from the floodwaters.

These three emergency squads mobi-lized and volunteered their time once again, as they always do, to help those in need. All their water rescue teams were activated as they demonstrated true selflessness, bravery, and decisive action, while making multiple rescues of drivers trapped in submerging cars.

In fact, these three volunteer squads effectively responded to over 10 calls in one night. They had to navigate dan-gerous conditions and unsafe roads, helping to clear fallen trees, power lines, and other debris. They also saved many others whose houses were flooded with no other way to escape the flood-waters.

I am grateful for the valiant efforts of the Concord Rescue Squad, the Con-cord Volunteer Fire Department, and the Appomattox Volunteer Fire De-partment. I am proud to represent them in Virginia's Fifth District.

DANVILLE FIRE CAPTAINS HONE SKILLS

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of three fire captains in Danville, Vir-ginia.

Few people demonstrate the mental and physical strength, personal dili-gence, or sacrificial love and commit-ment to their communities that fire captains do.

Three Danville fire captains recently honed their skills through the Virginia Chief Officer Academy. The academy is a 6-day training period established to equip aspiring chief officers in over-coming whatever leadership challenges may come their way.

During the program, students were trained in personal leadership and other skills needed to lead at the exec-utive level.

I am proud to congratulate these cap-tains on their completion of this pro-gram at the University of Richmond on Saturday, July 22:

Captain J. Satterfield,
Captain W.T. Poteat, and
Captain J.P. Haymore.

They have worked tirelessly to effec-tively serve the Danville community. After completing the program, these men are even more ready to lead as chief officers in the Danville Fire De-partment.

I am proud to represent these hard-working individuals in the Fifth Dis-trict of Virginia, and I admire their ex-cellent character and determination to help those in need.

HONORING MARVIN ARRINGTON, SR.

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

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my con-stituent, Mr. Marvin Arrington, Sr., a giant in the Atlanta community, where he served as one of the city's longest running councilmembers, a father, a friend, and a judge.

An Atlanta native, Judge Arrington graduated from Henry McNeal Turner High School and went on to graduate from what was at that time Clark Col-lege on a football scholarship. He began his legal studies at Howard University School of Law before returning home to Atlanta and integrating Emory Uni-versity School of Law, where he was one of the first two Black students to graduate from the law school.

At age 28, Judge Arrington was elect-ed to the Atlanta Board of Aldermen and continued serving after the city charter amendment changed the board into a city council. In 1980, he became Atlanta City Council president, a posi-tion he held for nearly two decades. In 2002, he was appointed judge in the Ful-ton County Superior Court, where he sat on the bench until his retirement in 2012.

During Judge Arrington's trail-blazing tenure in public service, he helped build and shape Atlanta into the great city that it is today. He left his imprint on the city's public transpor-tation system and expanded Zoo At-lanta into the award-winning attrac-tion that it is today.

In the early 1990s, Judge Arrington was one of the driving forces on the team who brought the 1996 Summer Olympic Games to the city of Atlanta. While he was at it, he used the lead up to the summer games to convert run-down public housing projects to qual-ity, affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, we have a saying in At-lanta, "Atlanta Influences Every-thing," and that is true in part because of Marvin Arrington, Sr.'s, great work to influence the growth of Atlanta. In fact, in 2019, the city council chambers were named after him to honor the tre-mendous impact that he had on our city.

Judge Arrington was a member of Big Bethel AME Church, the Gate City Bar Association Hall of Fame, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incor-porated. For 16 years, he was a member of the board of trustees for Emory Uni-versity. He served in many roles—elected, appointed, and, yes, volun-tee—but in all things he demonstrated a deep commitment to equity, justice, and empowering young people.

Marvin Arrington, Sr.'s, life of serv-ice and sacrifice is a reminder for ev-eryone of the rent we pay for living in this society. Atlanta is the city that I chose to call home, and it was the work of leaders like Marvin Arrington, Sr., that made it the city to choose.

I send my deepest condolences to his daughter, Michelle Arrington; his son, Fulton County Commissioner, Marvin Arrington, Jr.; and his entire family. Marvin Arrington, Sr.'s, legacy will in-spire future leaders for generations to come.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Apart from You, O Lord, anything we have, anything we boast in, anything we hope for amounts to nothing. We draw near to You this day, the source of our strength, for in You only do we trust.

As we pray for this country, we ask that You would preserve all that You have granted us, especially the gift of liberty, which protects us from tyranny and oppression. In exercising this gift, may we do so with civility, respecting the rights of those who think differently.

As we pray for our communities, we ask that You would inspire in us the commitment to the common good. In living out this pledge, may our hearts be inclined to find the paths toward peace and security for all our neighbors.

As we pray for our world, we ask that You would give refuge and protection to those who are enduring unimaginable adversity. Answer the prayers of those who call upon You in the war-torn regions and contested areas of Ukraine, Sudan, Armenia, the Sahel, and so many others. In praying for Your people around the globe, we ask Your counsel that we may have the eyes to see and the minds to discern how You would have us serve You in these places.

On this day, stand before us and guide us. May we prove faithful wherever and however You would have us serve You this day.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. LETLOW led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Republicans are continuing to deliver on our commitment to America—a Nation that is safe—by providing the Department of Defense with the facilities it needs to protect us from foreign adversaries.

One of the bills we will consider is the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill that funds the Department of Defense facilities and veterans' healthcare programs.

We don't stop there. This bill prohibits the use of funds to promote or advance the destructive critical race theory and prohibits the Biden administration's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

There is more work to be done to get our military back to the world's elite fighting force focused on combating adversaries. By taking these small steps to eliminate fraud, waste, abuse, and unnecessary programs, we are taking the right first steps.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PASTOR RALPH W. EMERSON, JR.

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the great tenure of Reverend Ralph W. Emerson, Jr., who will be conducting his last sermon at Rising Star Baptist Church on Miller Avenue and Avenue M in Fort Worth this August before he kicks off his retirement.

Reverend Emerson, better known as Pastor Ralph, was first called to preach in 1978 and was ordained that very year in December. He became the assistant pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church in 1989 and after 1 year he was called to be the senior pastor in 1990. During his illustrious tenure at Rising Star he has really served the community well. He made sure that kids know how to read, that souls are fed, and he has done a tremendous job.

Reverend Emerson has worked dutifully in several different capacities and

several cities, including Compton, Houston, and Fort Worth. Prior to coming to Rising Star, he was an active member of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Los Angeles and Faith Baptist in Houston.

Reverend Emerson is involved in so many different endeavors in the community: JPS, our public hospital, Aids Outreach, different food banks, and again, he does a tremendous reading program for kids in the summer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Reverend Emerson on his retirement and the community thanks him for his service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HERSELL WEST

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the remarkable life of Hershell West who has left an extraordinary impact on our community and an outstanding legacy across the State of Louisiana.

Hershell is known as a role model across the State, most famously as one of Louisiana's great sports heroes, as a true legend in the world of college basketball.

Hershell was a respected community leader across the State of Louisiana, serving as a mentor and teacher to generations of young Americans. Hershell is most notably known for his selfless spirit and his unique ability to inspire others to action.

Throughout his career he displayed an unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of those around him. He had outstanding accomplishments as an athlete and coach, including Louisiana State AA Championship in 1959, the NAIA Championship in 1961, and elected as one of the first 25 members of Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

We remember and celebrate his extraordinary life, his skill, his honor, and his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, today the House honors an outstanding Louisianan, Hershell West.

RECOGNIZING ERIN DOTY

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Erin Doty and celebrate her great accomplishments as my legislative director for the past 8 years.

She led my legislative strategies to great success. Under her leadership, we passed 47 bills into law. Some of our most memorable bills are the Safe Step Act, the Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Act, and the Honoring our PACT Act.

Erin has a heart of gold, a relentless commitment to social justice, and a

special talent to make sure I never missed a vote. She was unwaveringly dedicated, often staying very late for votes, despite me insisting that she go home to rest.

Erin is a wonderful human being, a good friend, and a trusted adviser.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Erin for her service on behalf of the American people, especially the people of California's 36th and now 25th District. We miss you dearly and we wish you luck and look forward to your future endeavors.

JULIE SU'S IMPERILED CONFIRMATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Julie Su has now exceeded the previous record for the longest duration between a Presidential Cabinet nomination and a confirmation—when the same party controls the White House and the Senate—since 1887.

It is no surprise that Axios even dubbed her as “Biden's forever nominee.”

That is not a title, and certainly not an accolade worthy of a gold star or pat on the back. For months on end, her nomination has languished before the Senate. This is a telltale sign that she does not have the votes.

One doesn't need to be an expert in reading tea leaves to see that her nomination is on life support.

Mr. Speaker, I will offer some much-needed advice to the Biden administration: rip the Band-Aid off already and pull Julie Su's nomination.

SHORTAGE OF PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS AT VA CLINIC

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for the ongoing shortage of primary care physicians at Stockton VA Clinic in my district.

There are nearly 30,000 veterans that live in San Joaquin County, but earlier this year the Stockton VA Clinic went from eight doctors to just four in the span of just a couple of months, a 50 percent reduction of full-time, in-person physicians. This is completely unacceptable. This is leading to a case-load of over 7,000 veterans for every doctor that we have.

My constituents have been telling me that they have to wait more than 90 days to get an appointment. Men and women who risk their lives for our freedom deserve better than months-long wait times to see a doctor.

As we consider the VA's budget this week, it is clear that we can do so much more to address the workforce shortages in my district and across the country at the VA. Our veterans deserve better.

Primary care is an essential part of every veteran's medical care, and it is on us to make sure that that care is never in jeopardy. I will continue to fight for the funding to fully staff our clinics until we get that done.

PROVIDING FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE OF OUR NATION

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, both fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills we are considering this week will ensure that the Federal Government fulfills one of its main duties outlined in the Constitution, providing for the common defense of our Nation.

Until our Republican majority took over, this body neglected this duty and failed to prepare our Nation for the threats posed by China and Russia. Our Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill will provide our military with the resources they need to succeed.

This funding will be focused on investments in the Pacific theater, barracks, and other quality-of-life projects so that our men and women in uniform will be ready to meet any challenge that they face.

Additionally, our agricultural appropriations bill will invest in strengthening our supply chain, so we don't have to rely on foreign adversaries for necessities like food and medications.

In passing both of these critical bills, we provide for the safety and the prosperity of our great Nation for generations to come.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING LESLIE MERRILL

(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, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Mainer and a longtime public servant, Leslie Merrill. Leslie is retiring this month after 22 years of dedicated constituent service to the people of Maine's First District, having served under my predecessor before joining my office.

I believe that the majority of us who work in this institution do so because we want to improve the lives of those around us.

Leslie has committed her career to doing just that—whether guiding asylum seekers and refugees through the immigration process, securing passports for many anxious travelers, or assisting Maine youth with the Academy nominations process so that they may pursue a career in the military.

Beyond her considerable skills as a caseworker, she has been a mentor to countless staff, sharing her Rolodex,

her institutional knowledge, and her relationships with those in agencies across the country, all of which have been invaluable to constituents and colleagues throughout the First District.

Importantly, she has been a treasured friend to so many of us in and outside of the office. The lives of Mainers are infinitely better for Leslie having served as their advocate, friend, and neighbor.

We will miss Leslie dearly. We wish her and Peter the very best in their next adventure.

WADSWORTH BLUE TIP FESTIVAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the annual Blue Tip Festival in Wadsworth, Ohio.

The Blue Tip Festival is a long-standing community celebration. The festival's name pays tribute to the city's former largest employer, the Ohio Match Company and their famous blue tip matches.

Each year, the Blue Tip Festival begins the Tuesday after Father's Day with a 2½-mile parade. The parade leads to the ceremonial lighting of a 17-foot blue tip match sculpture that holds the record for the world's largest matchstick sculpture. The next 5 days are filled with family fun like amusement rides, carnival games, festival food, and more.

I commend the city of Wadsworth and the Blue Tip Festival Committee for their commitment to make the Blue Tip Festival one of the best celebrations in Ohio's Seventh District. Year after year, their dedication has created a space for our community to recognize and enjoy Ohio's rich history. Here is to another safe and fun 50 years of the Blue Tip Festival.

UPS-TEAMSTERS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic labor deal reached between the Teamsters and UPS. This is a monumental achievement for organized labor, underscoring the power of unions that make up the backbone of our economy and our democracy.

I would especially like to recognize Teamsters Local 348, which represents UPS workers in Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

These hardworking, dedicated union members were on the front lines throughout the entire pandemic, keeping our country running by consistently delivering essential supplies, food, and medicine to communities

across our district, as well as throughout the country.

This historic contract acknowledges their hard work and sacrifices and raises the bar for all workers in all industries.

I was proud to join my Labor Caucus colleagues last week in sending a bipartisan letter reaffirming my constituents' right to collectively bargain, and I will always stand with workers to support higher wages, safer working conditions, and better benefits.

Congratulations, again, to the 340,000 Teamsters at UPS, and I thank them for their dedication to setting a new standard for workers across the country.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to speak about the fiscal year '24 Agriculture Appropriations bill, specifically how this legislation supports American farmers and ranchers by slashing regulations and reducing spending back to prepandemic levels.

Georgia is the top poultry producer in the Nation. Our poultry industry generates an economic impact of \$28 billion for our State.

This bill eliminates harmful regulations that unnecessarily dictate how to raise and market livestock which negatively impact Georgia producers and consumers alike. It also cuts spending to account for the end of the COVID pandemic emergency by saving \$32 billion in taxpayer dollars.

My colleagues and I in the House are going to have the opportunity to discuss this legislation and support our rural communities and farmers.

RECOGNIZING IRENE PEREZ PLOKE SGAMBELLURI

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri. A proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and a World War II survivor are just some of the words used to describe Ms. Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri, or as many call her, Aunty Irene.

Aunty Irene has been a fighter for World War II survivors, a champion for Guam's Greatest Generation, and one who has worked tirelessly over the decades to ensure that those who endured the atrocities of the occupation are recognized by the Federal Government.

Aunty Irene advocated for the payments of World War II reparations for decades, and the fruits of her labor were rewarded when former President Donald Trump enacted legislation to ensure these reparations were fulfilled.

During the month our community celebrates Guam's liberation, I honor her for her years of advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Aunty Irene, and may God continue to bless her and her family.

RECOGNIZING NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Northside High School Women's Softball team on winning the class 3 State championship, the program's first State title since 2010 and its second win in history.

Beating the York Falcons by 3-1, the Vikings delivered strong performances needed to win.

These talented athletes include Baylee Compton, McKenzie Taylor, Leila Aguilar, Sydney Jordan, Karlee Austin, and Abbie Caldwell.

Baylee pitched a five-hitter for the Vikings, striking out 16 of the Falcons' players and walking one.

The Vikings scored twice in the top of the fifth to grab a 2-1 lead. In the seventh inning, the ladies scored another run, then held strong on defense to prevent the Falcons from catching up.

Mr. Speaker, all of these young ladies are a true testament that with hard work and determination, you can achieve your dreams.

We congratulate, again, all of the players, Coach Kassie Brammer, their families, as well as the Northside faculty and staff.

Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of their accomplishment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4366, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 9, 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"; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 24, 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"

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 614 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 614

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be

subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) 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". All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 7. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) 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". All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be amended by striking the last sentence in the first section of the resolution and insert "All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived."

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation.

House Resolution 614 provides for consideration of three measures: H.R. 4366, S.J. Res. 9, and S.J. Res. 24.

The rule provides for H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024 to be considered under a structured rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member on the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule makes in order 41 amendments.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration S.J. Res. 9, a resolution of congressional disapproval related to the lesser prairie-chicken under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designees, and provides one motion to commit.

Finally, the resolution provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 24, a resolution of congressional disapproval related to the northern long-eared bat under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designees, and provides one motion to commit.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4366 fulfills our commitment to America's veterans by fully funding their healthcare programs and benefits, providing robust funding for mental health services, and rejecting the Biden administration's efforts to insert far-left policies into the VA.

As a Navy veteran, I am proud that this bill improves the quality of life for servicemembers by investing more than \$17.6 billion in military construction and family housing for our heroes.

This includes critical investments in childcare development centers, upgrades to barracks housing, and billions to counter China in the Indo-Pacific.

Additionally, H.R. 4366 includes a provision prohibiting the closure of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and also prohibiting the use of funds to build detainee facilities on U.S. soil.

□ 1230

As a veteran of the global war on terror and someone who prosecuted terrorists in the Iraqi court system, I saw firsthand the destruction and chaos caused by these radical extremists. Bringing these terrorists to U.S. soil is unthinkable to me, and many of these terrorists were directly involved in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation also provides important congressional oversight of the Biden administration.

S.J. Res. 9 and S.J. Res. 24 utilize the Congressional Review Act to nullify the Department of the Interior's rules related to the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat.

In both instances, bureaucrats from the Biden administration are placing red tape on economic development and private land use, and without warrant. These rules expose farmers to litigation and lawsuits for routine farming activities, shut down existing conservation efforts from private industry, and impose new restrictions on farmers and ranchers.

This is just another example, another instance, of far-left, extreme Democrats in Washington, D.C., making it more costly for Americans to make a living, put food on the table, and develop our rural communities.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, my friend from Pennsylvania, for the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman said, today's rule provides for consideration of three bills. The first of those bills is H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, this is typically a bipartisan bill, one of the most bipartisan bills that we consider in the United States Congress. That is not the case this year. Why? Because House Republicans decided to inject into this bill extreme policy riders that threaten the freedoms of each and every American. They have kicked off appropriations season by doubling down on funding bills that endanger essential services.

Just to speak frankly, neither this bill nor any of the others that they will bring to the floor on the appropriations

side have any chance of becoming law. My colleagues across the aisle know that.

Today, they come to the floor to proudly tout a bill that would slash \$1.3 billion—not my number; their number—from military construction programs that support quality-of-life services for members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Democrats fight against cuts to vital programs that help the American people. Unfortunately, House Republicans are doing the opposite.

We saw this cycle many times, Mr. Speaker. Throughout the last 7 months, it has been hard to understand what my colleagues across the aisle truly want.

At the beginning of this Congress, the other side of the aisle voted for a House rules package that promised an open rules process for amendments. Yet, here we are, debating another rule structured by Speaker MCCARTHY and Republican leadership.

Now, House Republicans threaten to shut down the government in order to fulfill an unpopular agenda full of far-right policy riders that undermine equal opportunity, restrict access to abortion, and more.

We are going to hear a lot from my colleague, my friend on the other side of the aisle, about what he claims this bill will do. It is important for the American people to understand three simple things.

It cuts military construction by \$1.3 billion. Think about the impact that will have, Mr. Speaker, on servicemembers across the country.

It funds no infrastructure backlog for the Department of Defense. Mr. Speaker, we have a \$100 billion infrastructure backlog in the Department of Defense for installations across the world, across the country, and in our districts. The President asked for \$2 billion to start to address that backlog. House Republicans said no. How much did they give? Zero.

Finally, the bill does nothing to address toxic PFAS contamination—not a thing. Last year, House Democrats, under President Biden's leadership, appropriated \$200 million toward PFAS remediation to address the toxic chemicals that are literally killing people across the country. This bill appropriates how much? None.

Those are the facts.

If that weren't enough, as the gentleman said, we are considering two other bills today. The American people watching this might think that perhaps House Republicans would decide to bring a bill to the floor to lower costs, address inflation, try to reduce the cost of healthcare, grow the middle class, build safer communities, or address school safety. No. House Republicans have declined to put any of those bills on the floor. Instead, what are we left with? Hearings and bills on gas stoves and, today, bills on the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat. That is what we are here to debate, Mr. Speaker.

I think the American people would be deeply disappointed at the choice of priorities that House Republicans are pursuing. Let's get back to the core issues at hand. Let's negotiate in good faith. Let's do the people's business.

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

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

Let's just go back and look at what has been said over the last few months. For the last few months, the administration and extreme congressional Democrats have been spreading lies that House Republicans were cutting veterans benefits. These lies were merely designed to score cheap political points at the expense of our veterans.

Let's go through a few of the quotes from extreme Democrats.

President Biden stated in May: "Republicans in Congress proposed budget cuts that would threaten veterans housing services, medical care, and mental health care."

It didn't stop there. Ranking Member TAKANO stated, on April 26, they are holding veterans benefits "hostage, again pointing to concerns about fiscal responsibility."

In the Senate, Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER stated, on March 1: "Republican proposals would narrow healthcare eligibility for veterans and cut VA mandatory funding."

Now we get to this week, when House Republicans will pass a bill that will fully fund veterans benefits, fully fund veterans healthcare, and fully fund all other veterans programs. This bill provides the VA \$16.4 billion over the fiscal year 2023 enacted level and matches the President's budget request for fiscal year 2024.

There is no question who was and who was not misleading the American people. There is no question that our actions today support veterans. Just watch to see how many of those Democrats will vote "no" tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend and a member of the House Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding me time to address the House today.

I rise today in support of keeping the promises made to our Nation's veterans. Millions of men and women served this Nation in uniform bravely, and they have been failed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Too often, the VA has left veterans and their loved ones with long delays, substandard service, and neglect. Now, rather than continue the Trump administration's work to hold the VA accountable, the Biden administration is instead focused on promoting divisive ideologies and radical leftist priorities.

Mr. Speaker, the VA should be focused on the needs of our Nation's vet-

erans, not promoting a political agenda. The legislation before us today puts the VA back on the task at hand, caring for the men and women who gave their all for this country, like finally pushing the VA to fix its electronic health record system, where patient safety issues have been so dire that they have even resulted in several deaths.

Let me say that again. The inability of the VA to do its job has resulted in injury and death to veterans. Sadly, this isn't the first time we have heard of such negligence. We need to do better. We owe better, and this bill will help accomplish this today.

I think I speak today for all the veterans in my district when I say that they are sick and tired of indignities and substandard care due to electronic records.

I strongly support the underlying legislation before us today, and I hope my colleagues can overcome partisan outrage to stand with our Nation's veterans.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that only in Washington can politicians demand recognition after being shamed into doing the right thing. That is what we just heard.

We all know that the default on America act that House Republicans pursued was primed to cut veterans benefits. House Democrats, President Biden, and Senate Democrats led the charge to convince our colleagues to come back from the brink, and now they have the audacity to demand that we thank them for it.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, this comes from the same party that overwhelmingly voted against the Honoring our PACT Act, the most comprehensive healthcare legislation for veterans in my lifetime, the proudest vote I have taken since I was sworn into the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, 174 of them voted against it, including the gentleman from Pennsylvania. Now they have the audacity to claim that they are fighting for veterans?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the distinguished assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I rise to take note of the sad irony that the extreme Republican majority is bringing this appropriations bill to the floor on the 75th anniversary of President Truman's desegregation of the Armed Forces.

President Truman's heritage would suggest that he would be an unlikely champion for civil rights. He grew up in a segregated town in Missouri, in a family that owned slaves and defended slavery.

When our 33rd President heard of the blinding of Sergeant Isaac Woodard, Jr., a decorated Black World War II veteran who was brutally attacked by a police officer while traveling home to

Winnsboro, South Carolina, on a Greyhound bus—still in his uniform after being honorably discharged—Truman was moved to forsake his upbringing and desegregate the Armed Forces.

President Truman courageously recognized and acted to further our Nation's fundamental obligation to our servicemembers and veterans, regardless of their backgrounds.

We should be working to build upon the progress he made, but regrettably, the MILCON-VA bill that the majority is bringing to the floor today would constitute a significant step backward.

This ill-conceived legislation, in addition to reducing funds for the military construction projects that are fundamental to our servicemembers' quality of life, is also an attack on the dignity of our veterans.

It attacks the dignity of women veterans by blocking reproductive healthcare when their health is endangered.

It attacks the dignity of veterans in need of gender-affirming care by blocking the VA from providing it, even if it is recommended by a doctor.

It attacks the dignity of veterans and all Americans of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality by blocking the Biden administration's ongoing efforts to advance equity.

President Truman recognized that our national security is enhanced by respecting the dignity of all American patriots who sacrifice to defend it. This legislation being brought today by the extreme Republican majority is at odds with that principle.

□ 1245

If the Members of today's extreme Republican majority were in office in 1948, I fear they would have attacked President Truman's desegregation order as an unacceptable diversity, equity, and inclusion measure, which section 417 of this legislation would ban.

I fear that if this bill were enacted into law, it would prevent the military from discussing the blinding of Sergeant Isaac Woodard and its influence on President Truman because the topic would be deemed critical race theory, which would be banned by section 415, rather than the historical fact that it was.

Will this section ban our military leaders from making repairs to the GI Bill benefits that were denied Black World War II veterans?

Mr. Speaker, when President Truman was informed of Isaac Woodard's blinding, he reportedly exclaimed: "My God, I had no idea it was as terrible as that. We have got to do something." Sadly, this extreme Republican majority seems to find new ways to be terrible every week.

I rise in opposition to the consideration of this awful bill because Democrats know we have got to do something to prevent them from pushing us off our trek toward a more perfect

Union that President Truman so courageously advanced 75 years ago today.

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

Mr. Speaker, since we are discussing the Department of the Interior's out-of-touch rulemaking decisions this week, let's talk about last week with the Department of the Interior. The Department proposed a new rule adding barriers to the future of energy production. This decision will drastically impact oil and gas investments and will raise energy costs for hardworking Americans.

Let's not forget that under the Trump administration, our Nation was energy independent, and this rulemaking will only deepen our reliance on foreign adversaries for energy.

According to a recent Morning Consult poll, 88 percent of Americans believe we should produce oil and gas here in the United States, and 85 percent agree domestic energy production counters China and Russia. Again, that is 85 percent. In addition, 88 percent believe that domestic energy production will help lower costs for families. That is 88 percent. These seem to me like pretty overwhelming numbers.

However, we have a bunch of unelected, career bureaucrats who are accountable to no one who are making these decisions. It is clear that Biden's Department of the Interior rulemaking continues to hurt our national security, our economy, and our energy independence, not to mention how wildly out of step this administration is with the American people. It is time that extreme Democrats stop the war on American energy.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I really wish I could say that caring for our veterans is a bipartisan issue, something we all agree on. Instead, for the first time in years, the appropriations for military construction and VA will not be bipartisan because my colleagues across the aisle have not put veterans first. Instead, they have tacked onto their VA bill a kitchen sink of culture wars.

H.R. 4366 would trample on our veterans' freedoms, slash access to reproductive care, and slash access to gender-affirming care. It would prohibit training that helps people from different backgrounds work together that addresses the inequalities that still exist in our military. It would allow homophobia to run rampant.

This legislation makes our VA facilities less welcoming for the thousands of diverse New Mexicans who receive care there.

Every homeowner knows it is better to fix a leaking roof right away because if not, it is going to be really expensive.

Yet, this bill cuts \$1.5 billion from military construction. Our military housing and health clinics are leaking, but these cuts will cost us so much more in the future. We must do more than just thank our veterans for their service. We can't just use words. We must actually back it up with resources.

When Democrats led the House, we passed the Honoring our PACT Act to expand healthcare coverage and compensate veterans exposed to toxic substances, which 174 Republicans voted against. Democrats listened to the needs of our communities and passed legislation that made an actual difference in their lives.

Now veterans have until August 9 to file a claim to receive retroactive 2023 benefits. To make sure our veterans know about these benefits, I am hosting a PACT Act townhall on August 1.

That is what it looks like to not just thank veterans but to truly care about the patriots who served our country. That is the difference that Democratic leadership makes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I understand it is a little empty on the other side of the aisle. There are perhaps not many Members who want to come to the floor to defend the propriety of this bill that cuts military construction funding, and I don't blame them.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), whom I respect, has the unenviable task of trying to make the case for a bill that cuts military construction funding, does nothing to address the infrastructure backlog, and cuts PFAS toxic exposure remediation, to say nothing of the many other ills within the legislation.

We heard a lot earlier about the supposed work that House Republicans are doing on the appropriations front. Of course, this is the first appropriations bill that has come to the floor. However, we still can't get House Republicans to commit to protecting Social Security and Medicare, as House Democrats have championed. Of course, we know why. It is because they have been unabashed about their efforts to cut both vital programs.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment that we have offered before to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which unambiguously states that it is the House's duty to keep our solemn promise to American workers and seniors to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and reject any cuts to these critical programs.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) to discuss our very important proposal.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may not have something to say today, but I surely do.

I rise today to express my profound disappointment in House Republicans' decision to prioritize their extremist agenda over passing a strong, bipartisan appropriations bill.

I pride myself on always looking for ways to find common ground with my Republican colleagues, and the bill to fund the VA and military construction usually provides ample opportunity to do so. We need to do everything we can to ensure that our current and former servicemembers are provided the best possible care.

I was hoping I could count on my friends across the aisle to put forth a bill that we could all support, just like we have done time and time again. Instead, extremists in the party have hijacked this bill and removed dedicated funding for PFAS cleanup, eliminated funding for climate resilience during a time of increasingly severe weather events, and put women and families at risk by restricting access to potentially lifesaving healthcare.

By including these provisions, extremists on the right have decided that playing partisan politics is more important than improving the lives of our Nation's heroes.

Mr. Speaker, unlike our colleagues across the aisle, Democrats are focused on delivering results on the things that matter to our communities. For this reason, if we defeat the previous question, we will bring up a resolution affirming our commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare.

Why don't Republicans want to do the same thing? These programs are critically important lifelines for tens of millions of Americans across the country. In west Michigan, my home district, Medicare provides lifesaving healthcare coverage for over 100,000 seniors. Additionally, nearly 150,000 recipients receive \$264 million in monthly Social Security benefits, including over 110,000 seniors.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, these are the sorts of programs we should be spending our time working on and strengthening, not unserious messaging bills which will be dead on arrival in the Senate. We are just wasting time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can bring up this important legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing, I guess if you say something to knock people,

you just assume they are going to think it is true.

Let's talk about the facts. Let's talk about the numbers. This bill provides the VA \$16.4 billion above FY23 levels. We are over the levels the Democrats passed last year. We are actually at the levels that the President wanted, that he put in his budget request for FY24. We are fully funding the VA.

My crystal ball is broken today, but I am willing to bet that every single Democrat will vote "no" on this bill which, again, fully funds the VA and all the programs that they are talking about. Let's just see where they vote tomorrow. It is quite amazing.

The talk about DEI in the military, under the Biden administration DEI created a recruiting and retention crisis without any reason for doing this, and that has weakened our military readiness. I was in the Navy. I lived through this.

I can tell you that DEI and CRT are plummeting our recruitment numbers. For what? From 2015 to 2020, the Army went on a witch hunt. The Army reported 21 of roughly a million soldiers were subject to disciplinary actions due to participation in extremist organizations. That was in 2020, they said a million soldiers were involved in this.

In 2021, the DOD did a study on that, and it reported that less than 100 of the over 2 million servicemembers actually participated in prohibited activity. For those of you without a calculator, that is roughly 0.00005 percent. That is what we are fighting over here.

The underlying legislation we are talking about actually eliminates wasteful spending for DEI and CRT, and puts it where we need it, in veterans' programs and military construction. It also does a lot to reverse the negative impact on military readiness and what is driving down our recruitment—just one of the many things that is driving down our recruitment.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman talked about facts. Again, these are not my numbers. These are their numbers. This year in this bill, House Republicans appropriate \$17.5 billion for military construction. That is \$1.5 billion less than the current level. In other words, it is a decrease. It is a cut of \$1.5 billion to military construction, which is used for housing for our servicemembers.

Under current levels, there is \$200 million dedicated to PFAS remediation. In this bill, there is none.

President Biden requested \$2 billion to address the infrastructure backlog in our military. Under this bill, there is none.

These are not my numbers. These are their numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from The Hill today titled: "Senate GOP fears House actions could lead to shutdown: It's going to be a problem."

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

There was no objection.

[From The Hill, June 15, 2023]

SENATE GOP FEARS HOUSE ACTIONS COULD LEAD TO SHUTDOWN: 'IT'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM'

(By Al Weaver)

Senate Republicans are worried the House GOP's decision to write government funding bills at levels below those laid out in the recently passed bipartisan debt ceiling bill will create a tough road for lawmakers to avert a government shutdown.

House Republican leaders this week announced a plan to write 2024 spending bills at fiscal 2022 levels, an attempt to assuage House Freedom Caucus members who effectively shut down all work in the chamber last week over their dissatisfaction with the debt ceiling deal struck by Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and President Biden.

The news outraged Democrats and landed like a thud with GOP appropriators in the Senate, leaving them to scramble to get a funding bill through Congress before the end of September.

"It's going to be a problem," Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.), the No. 5 Senate Republican and an Appropriations Committee member, told The Hill. "I don't want to co-opt what Sen. [Susan] Collins [R-Maine] might say, but . . . we struck an agreement that will write to those numbers."

"We'll go into a collaborative conference, try to hash it out," Capito continued. "But I don't think it's going to be easy."

The Senate has eight working weeks between now and the end of September before a spending deal is needed, with the annual monthlong August recess sandwiched in between.

In total, the decision to put the bills together at the 2022 levels would represent a \$120 billion haircut that Democrats in both chambers and most Senate Republicans are not at all prepared to swallow.

A number of Senate Republicans were already upset that the debt ceiling agreement likely will not allow for an increase in defense spending in any 2024 funding deal, and the possibility of even greater cuts is making the road to an agreement even more treacherous than before.

"I'm not concerned that we lack the capacity to do it," Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), a Senate Appropriations Committee member, told The Hill. "But we have to have the will to get on it."

If there's anything that makes some senators hopeful that they can reach a resolution, it's the carrot and stick included in the debt ceiling deal. If a spending accord is not struck, a 1 percent cut across the board for defense and nondefense priorities would go into effect next year—a result almost no one in the upper chamber wants.

Senators on both sides of the aisle are warning the national security implications will be dire if the cuts take place.

"I think there's an incentive for both sides to try and get to a deal even though it's going to be really hard," said Sen. John Thune (S.D.), the No. 2 Senate Republican. "Moving bills here is hard enough. It's going to be really challenging I think in the House."

McCarthy and House Republicans have attempted to assuage concerns that a shutdown may be the end result of their decision and have insisted they are adhering to the debt deal. They say the budget caps represent a ceiling, not a floor, meaning writing bills at 2022 numbers is reasonable.

Democrats could not disagree more. They note lawmakers generally look at spending caps as spending levels to aim for, not a number to come in under, and they believe McCarthy is "reneging" on his deal with the

White House, according to Sen. Angus King (I-Maine).

"This is a big problem," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), a Senate appropriator. "This is obviously a bad start in the House because the ink was barely dry . . . before Speaker McCarthy ran away from the bargain he struck."

"It seems pretty clear that Speaker McCarthy's No. 1 priority is political survival and I think feels he has to cater to the far-right, MAGA crowd there," Van Hollen continued. "It's clearly going to make for some rocky moments over the next couple of [months]."

The gripes of Senate Democrats echo their House colleagues. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) said Democrats will oppose anything under the spending levels laid out in the debt ceiling deal.

"The Senate is going to mark up to the deal that was made. And so House Republicans are going to completely make themselves irrelevant [and] make their members vote on these deep, deep cuts, and it has no possibility of becoming law," Rep. Pete Aguilar (Calif.), the chair of the House Democratic Caucus, told reporters Tuesday in the Capitol.

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has already vowed to bring up the series of a dozen appropriations bills at the levels agreed to in the recently passed debt ceiling bill.

And some in the Senate are simply ignoring the House's actions as lawmakers realize that any spending deal will have to move in a similar fashion to the debt ceiling deal, which drew conservative ire but ultimately passed in a bipartisan fashion.

"It doesn't strike me as serious. . . . I don't think it can pass the House and even if it does it definitely can't pass the Senate," said Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), a Senate appropriator. "We're going to have to do a bipartisan appropriations bill and they can start out with whatever partisan position they want, but this ain't it."

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, that article is quoting a Republican Senator from the gentleman's region, his neighbor, Senator SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO.

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When House Republicans shut down the government in 66 days, which they seem committed to doing, the American people will be right to ask the question, they will be justified to ask the question of why House Republicans decided to focus their time on the northern long-eared bat and the lesser prairie-chicken. It is a fair question for the American people to ask.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for his leadership, and the manager of our friends on the other side of the aisle.

The United States military, each and every soldier, each and every member of every single branch, take an oath when they leave their loved ones and accept the responsibility of dying for this country. If you have been able to fight on a battlefield and become a veteran, you still have taken that oath and you were willing to die for this country.

With the enormous cuts that are facing our soldiers, our families in this

military construction legislation, let me make it plain for my colleagues. They will deny those who take an oath, Active Duty, their families, job opportunities. They will deny them housing.

Has anyone been to bases and seen some of the military housing that needs absolute either rebuild or rehab?

Have you understood the importance of food assistance, particularly to veterans' families depending on that?

Do they know how important it is for the soldiers to feed their families, to keep roofs over their heads?

Do they know how important it is to provide education and training opportunities for those who leave the United States military?

Let me remind you of the importance of their oath, and then let me remind you of the hard-earned work that this Congress did with President Biden to provide the PACT Act. The proposed cuts would have drastic consequences for the PACT Act. That is the bill that recognizes the toxicity that our brave men and women were in while they were fighting battles. That exposure fund could lead to slashing the medical care resources in the fund by 86 percent and fully abandoning the toxic exposure fund next year.

Are we defaulting on our commitment to those who took the oath to die for this Nation? I think that is worthy of shame.

Cities will be vulnerable when their veterans do not have the resources that are necessary for them to have.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine the burden on local cities?

Our veterans are homeless. Our veterans are suffering, many times from PTSD, and if we do not have the kind of support services for them that this legislation provides, where are we in terms of the kind of housing and other assistance that they may need?

I just simply ask my friends on the other side of the aisle, we stand here on the floor, I am fighting for the cities and the States that receive these dollars ultimately, because that is where the people are.

I do want to oppose the bills that are endangering our endangered species, S.J. Res. 9 and H.R. 4366. I oppose endangering our endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

This is a bill that appropriates funding for our military, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and other related agencies for fiscal year 2024.

I strongly oppose this bill's realignment of military construction funding from priority projects to other less relevant projects.

The level of funding allocations in this bill does not help the Veteran Affairs to support key priorities of its Administration such as ending veteran homelessness, increasing access

to mental healthcare, and providing suicide prevention services, as well as investments in other critical areas, including caregiver support programs, overdose prevention, and treatment programs.

While it is important to make annual adjustments to bills such as this, our national strategic planning cannot be based on vague predictions; it must present a concrete plan that goes beyond the current year.

This Congress, and other relevant elements of the U.S. government should focus on a real integrated strategy that considers all aspects of national security spending while also helping to protect our veterans.

Any reckless policies that attempt to claw back billions in funding for veterans' medical care would have negative impact on our veterans and put their healthcare in jeopardy.

This bill should reflect efforts by the Congress to secure protection for adequate funding to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to continue to spend those essential resources for veterans' medical care.

Doubling down on the Default on America Act by cutting over \$142 billion in funding does nothing but hurts our veterans, farmers, and their families by denying them access vital programs that they rely on.

Surprisingly, Republicans do not want to end there; recent reports indicate that they want to go up to over \$159 billion in funding cuts, and even as high as \$189 billion with their insatiable desire for drastic cuts in funding for programs that support American families.

Republicans need to stand by their word and let this House and the American people know where they stand on their support for veterans.

Any radical cuts in funding by Republicans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development would be devastating to more than 50,000 veterans who rely on the Housing Choice Vouchers for their housing needs.

Cutting funding to the Department of Labor by as high as 30 percent would result in more than 4,200 veterans losing the job training, counseling, and job readiness services they so desperately need; a group that is already either experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Earlier versions of Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill that Republicans supported in subcommittee provided for the transfer of \$4.5 billion in critical funding for veterans' medical care to other purposes.

The Republican-backed bill, if passed, could have resulted in drastic cuts to dedicated funding for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances.

Republican proposed cuts would have drastic consequences for the PACT Act Toxic Exposures Fund and could lead to slashing the medical care resources in the Fund by 86 percent, and fully abandoning the Toxic Exposures Fund next year.

I, along with my Democrat colleagues, will continue to work with veterans' organizations to ensure that this bill does not pass with these unreasonable cuts to critical programs and services that veterans across the country depend on.

Congress cannot renege on the pledge and promises that are contained in the PACT Act; to provide the necessary, dedicated, funding; this bill requires nothing short of full funding for the Toxic Exposures Fund.

Even with all these necessary measures, the 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies funding bill still

falls short of our commitment to veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

This Committee should not pass a bill that cuts military construction by billions of dollars in effort to cut down on the entire process of funding the government.

Through the PACT Act, the Biden administration continue to deliver its promise to better serve and better take care of our veterans of all wars who have been exposed to harmful chemicals like Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances.

That funding for toxic exposures should not have to compete with other discretionary priorities; it should complement other funding sources.

In addition to these drastic cuts, Section 258 of H.R. 4366 would prevent the VA from using funds to implement, administer, or carry out the Interim Final Rule (IFR) published on September 9, 2022, which expanded access to abortion for certain veterans, a provision which also prevents the VA from providing needed care to veterans when the health of the woman is endangered.

Our country must ensure that the department of Veteran Affairs is able to provide access to abortions, especially in instances where the life or health of the pregnant veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, or when a pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

Sections 414, 415, and 417 of this H.R. 4366 further outline provisions that seek to limit efforts by the Federal Government to implement a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty, inequality, and diversity.

In its current state, this bill would prevent the Veteran Affairs from using funds to display any but the listed flags, intended to prevent the Veteran Affairs from displaying flags demonstrating support for historically marginalized groups such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex veterans.

This would indiscriminately undermine same sex marriage while also unduly complicating the routine business of the Department to provide healthcare and other services for veterans.

The President's budget proposal presents a viable solution to provide desperately needed funding for construction projects and the military construction bill must prove to support the President's commitments to our veterans.

Any real, pragmatic progress in Veteran Affairs' infrastructure backlog requires dedicated investment in our facilities outside the normal discretionary funding streams.

It is my sincere hope that this military construction appropriation would ensure the quality of care at Veteran Affairs facilities for our veterans and Veteran Affairs employees.

As our military leadership has indicated, 30 percent of our military infrastructure worldwide remains in poor condition; cutting funding for military construction is not a viable solution to this problem.

With the present need to address recruitment and retention problem that currently faces our military, and to ensure a major quality of life issue for our servicemembers, we cannot afford these senseless cuts to military construction funding.

I cannot support the passage of this military construction bill because our nation cannot to

backtrack on our commitment to our servicemembers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I speak in opposition to S.J. Res. 9, a resolution that provides for congressional disapproval to legislatively de-list the lesser prairie-chicken from protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Specifically, this bill calls on Congress to disapprove the rules submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to protections for endangered and threatened wildlife and plants.

The population and habitat of the lesser prairie-chicken, an endangered southwestern prairie grouse, is under growing threat.

Originally numbering in the millions, the population of this bird has decreased by as much as 97%, and it now only inhabits 16% of its former habitat.

Aerial survey results from 2012 through 2022 estimate a 5-year average lesser prairie-chicken population of 32,210 across the five-state region in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, as well as my state of Texas.

The conversion of natural grasslands to agriculture, energy development, fire suppression, drought, and the use of herbicides to kill Shinnery Oak habitat are all ongoing challenges that cause habitat loss and fragmentation.

Additional harm is caused to these birds' habitats by fencing, power wires, and other tall structures that entice perching by predatory animals.

The lesser prairie-chicken is a sign of healthy prairies and grasslands because it requires huge, undamaged natural grassland parcels to support self-sustaining populations.

This makes them a crucial indicator of the general well-being of America's grasslands, a treasured and iconic terrain.

It is essential that we work together to uphold the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is responsible for the recovery of iconic species like the bald eagle.

I urge my colleagues to support science-based decisions and join me in opposing this bill, S.J. Res. 9.

Mr. Speaker, I speak in opposition to S.J. Res. 24, which relates to the endangered species status of the Northern Long-Eared Bat.

S.J. Res. 24 is a resolution of congressional disapproval to legislatively down-list the Northern Long-Eared Bat from "endangered" to "threatened."

Not only would this downgrade the Northern Long-Eared Bat's status today, but it would effectively block the species from being moved up to a higher endangered threat level, no matter how close the species comes to extinction.

It would be irresponsible to use extreme legislation, not science, to down-list the Northern Long-Eared Bat, thereby effectively scaling back its protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Without ESA protections, states, industries, and other entities will have little incentive to conserve or recover the Northern Long-Eared Bat.

It is highly likely that the bat populations would likely dwindle further towards extinction.

Moreover, by using the Congressional Review Act Process, this Congress is effectively limiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from making similar future listings for this bat species.

This move would prevent the agency from using its discretion to take the necessary

measures for species conservation and will impede long term recovery efforts.

Ultimately, Congressional action in this arena gives industries, not science, the upper hand in species listings.

It is clear that some of my colleagues are doing the bidding of the timber and agriculture industries, despite the consequences that Northern Long-Eared Bat extinction could have on biodiversity and long-term agriculture and timber industry practices.

Down-listing this species would be especially dangerous in the current moment because the Northern Long-Eared Bat population is actively under threat from white nose syndrome, a deadly fungus that has caused a rapid decline in bat populations.

The Northern Long-Eared Bat's current endangered status provides adequate protections while wildlife scientists work to address the underlying causes of white-nose syndrome.

More broadly, Congress should not be interfering with the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under its Endangered Species Act authority.

Species populations are constantly fluctuating based on environmental factors, invasive species, climate change, and other emerging threats.

To remain up to date, the ESA requires periodic study and updates to ensure protections align with the best available science.

By blocking future up-listing decisions, using the Congressional Review Act undercuts the ESA's inherent flexibility and agencies' science-based decision-making for species conservation.

I urge my colleagues to support science-based decisions for endangered and threatened species and oppose this bill.

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

We can sit here and talk about the numbers all day because the Republicans, we have actually increased military construction \$800 million over what President Biden requested in his budget. We are \$800 million over what the President wanted.

Where are we using that money? Well, we are using it in places like the South Pacific. Today, China is the global leader in human rights abuses.

In 2021, the Trump administration determined that the CCP is committing genocide against the Uyghurs. In the South China Sea, China is militarizing disputed territory and growing their malign influence.

In 2020, let's not forget that China ended Hong Kong's longstanding autonomy and a democracy came crashing down.

In 2019, a manmade virus escaped from a Chinese lab in Wuhan, killing tens of millions around the world. In the near future, the CCP plans to invade our ally, the free and independent democracy of Taiwan.

That is why I support the underlying legislation which focuses investment in the Pacific theater by providing \$1.425 billion for infrastructure related to the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and \$131 million for U.S. INDOPACOM. That is the Indo-Pacific Command.

Again, think about those numbers. Think about combating China and their malign influences. When the Democrats sit here and say they are going to vote against this bill, they are voting against strengthening our Pacific theater against the malign influence of the CCP.

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

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

Again it feels like Ground Hog Day. Again, I have great respect for my friend from Pennsylvania, but I don't understand what numbers he is looking at.

Does he deny that in statute we appropriated last year \$19 billion for military construction?

He is an appropriator. I am happy to engage in a colloquy with him to the extent that he wishes to clarify that.

Last year, military construction was funded at \$19 billion. This year, it is funded at \$17.5 billion. Not complicated, and, of course, the gentleman knows that because half of his caucus is bragging about the fact that they have cut military construction and a variety of other programs, juxtaposed against the levels that were set by Congressional Democrats.

This is not disputed anywhere but apparently during this particular debate. They are cutting military construction. They are not funding military infrastructure backlog needs that the President has requested of this Congress; and they have zeroed out any dedicated funding for PFAS remediation. Those are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY).

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule on H.R. 4366 and the underlying bill. I oppose this bill because it hurts our servicemembers, it hurts our veterans, and it weakens our military.

This bill fails our servicemembers and hurts our military readiness. It cuts over \$1.5 billion for military construction projects all over the country, and includes no funding, no funding to make military installations like Fort Knox and Fort Campbell more resilient against climate change and the natural disasters that have ravaged my home State of Kentucky.

Instead of writing a bill that strengthens our military or will improve resources for our servicemembers, my Republican colleagues are bringing to the floor a bill riddled with the partisan provisions to get rid of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, restrict women's access to abortion and reproductive healthcare, and make VA facilities less welcoming for all of those who served our country.

These are distractions. We shouldn't pick and choose which servicemembers we honor. Anyone who answers the call to serve our country deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and they deserve to have access to quality

healthcare, food, housing assistance, and more.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does nothing to actually support our military, our veterans, and our servicemembers.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 18½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Again, I thank my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania for the respectful debate. I understand that we don't see eye to eye on the bills that this House will unfortunately be considering this week but, nonetheless, I appreciate his courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, today marks 200 days since House Republicans gaveled us into this 118th Session of the United States Congress; 200 days that they have been in control; 200 days that they have had the gavels here in Washington, D.C.

The American people would be justified in asking how have House Republicans spent those 200 days. Any bills to address inflation, to lower costs for working families, any bills to grow the middle class, to build safer communities? The answer is none.

Instead, they have pursued extreme policy after extreme policy, and this MILCON appropriation bill is no exception. Gas stoves, the northern long-eared bat, the lesser prairie-chicken, and whatever other issue House Republicans conjure up when we are back in session, that is how they have chosen to spend their time and taxpayer dollars.

When House Democrats were in control, working with President Biden and our colleagues in the upper Chamber, we focused on issues that mattered to the American people:

A bipartisan infrastructure law that, unfortunately, most of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber voted against that is rebuilding bridges and roads and highways across this country from Pennsylvania to Colorado, ensuring folks have clean water to drink and clean air to breathe;

The PACT Act, the most comprehensive veterans' healthcare legislation enacted in my lifetime, that 174 Republicans in this Chamber voted against;

The Inflation Reduction Act, capping insulin costs at \$35 for seniors participating in Medicare across the country. That is how we spent our time.

As I said earlier, we know that in 66 days, House Republicans will shut down the government. They are

telegraphing that. Many of their Members have said publicly that they want to shut down the government; that, in their view, a shutdown of the government is the desired outcome; 66 days.

Mr. Speaker, in 72 hours, Republicans will gavel this Chamber out of session. They will adjourn this Chamber for a 45-day recess.

Mr. Speaker, 66 days until the government runs out of funding, 45-day recess, 72 hours until that recess, and we are here debating the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat.

It is deeply disappointing, and it does not comport with how the American public expects us to operate here in Washington, D.C. We can do better, and I would challenge my Republican colleagues to come back from the brink that I described earlier, work with us in good faith. Help us deliver for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule, and to vote "no" on the underlying bills. If you support cutting military construction, if you support not addressing military infrastructure backlog, if you support zeroing out PFAS remediation then, by all means, vote for the MILCON bill. But if you oppose those draconian cuts, as I do, then I hope you will vote "no."

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

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

I thank my good friend from Colorado for the spirited debate. I always enjoy it.

We are here today because the Biden administration wants to tell the American people what they can do, how they can live. They want to tell you what kind of car you have to drive. They want to tell you what kind of stove that you can buy. They want to tell you what kind of energy you can use to heat your home.

Now, under these Department of the Interior rules, Biden bureaucrats want to place further burdens on our farmers and ranchers, our rural communities, and economic development and on public and private land.

Instead of focusing on the lesser prairie-chicken and the long-eared bat, maybe the Department should focus on securing our domestic energy supply chains and supporting American energy independence. Maybe that is the real purpose of why we are here talking about these issues, to force this Department to actually focus on what matters to American security and the American economy.

I urge my colleagues to send that message to the Biden administration and support the underlying legislation.

Additionally, as a Navy veteran, I support the underlying legislation that fulfills our commitments to America's veterans, our servicemembers, and their families.

□ 1315

Let's not forget that this MILCON-VA bill is \$800 million for military construction over what President Biden requested in his budget request for FY24. It is also at the President's requested level of FY24. Maybe instead of attacking these numbers, my Democratic colleagues should be attacking their far-left Democratic President who wanted numbers below what the Republicans wrote for these numbers, and, again, we are fully funding Biden's requested VA numbers.

It is simple that a "no" vote on this is a vote against our veterans, and that is absolutely horrifying. Our country has sent generations of heroes around the globe to defend our freedoms and the freedoms of others. It is essential that we now take care of those who took care of us.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Mr. NEGUSE is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 614 OFFERED BY
MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 8. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 178) affirming the House of Representatives' commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

SEC. 9. Clause 1 (c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 614;

Adoption of House Resolution 614, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3395, if ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4366, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 9, 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"; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 24, 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"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 614) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) 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; Threat-

ened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment"; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) 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", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 191, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 367]

YEAS—208

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

Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)

Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—191

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fletcher
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)

NOT VOTING—35

Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Cárdenas
Carter (TX)
DeLauro
Foster
Fry
Gallego
Garcia, Robert
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Huffman

□ 1351

Mr. KHANNA changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on today's Previous Question. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 367.

Stated against:

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 367 on H. Res. 614, my vote was not successfully registered. Had my vote been registered, it would have been a “nay.”

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall 367. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 367.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 217, noes 206, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 368]

AYES—217

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

Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew

Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup

Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—206

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert

NOT VOTING—11

Gallego
Huffman
Issa
Kim (CA)

Kuster
Lynch
Sewell
Trone

□ 1358

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on rollcall No. 368.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present for roll call votes 367 and 368 today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 367 and "nay" on rollcall No. 368.

U.S. SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY
REVIEW ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3395) to direct the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to evaluate foreign ownership of marine terminals at the 15 largest United States container ports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOO LOCKS SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC REPORTING ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3399) to study the security of the Soo Locks and effects on the supply chain resulting from a malfunction or failure of the Soo Locks, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VET-
ERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4366, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 614 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4366.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1415

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. ISSA in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

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

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4366, a bill that would provide funding for military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

During the last Congress, \$3 trillion was spent outside of the normal appropriations process. As spending soared, so did inflation. There was damage done to the economy, and the work of the Appropriations Committee changed significantly over those 2 years. That is why, earlier this year, I asked subcommittee chairs to evaluate all of the funding in the pipeline.

When the President's budget finally arrived, I directed them to review each agency budget line by line. I thank the subcommittee chairs for their work to identify ways to save hard-earned tax dollars.

These savings have allowed us to reduce overall spending without short-changing—which is most important—national defense, homeland security, and veterans.

The bill before us demonstrates our commitment to reduce overall spending and still honor our commitment to our veterans. This bill makes good on that promise by fully funding veterans healthcare. It will ensure our veterans get the medical treatment and benefits they deserve.

Specifically, the bill prioritizes our Nation's heroes by providing critical funding for our military bases and facilities, improving the quality of life of our servicemembers and their families,

and ensuring our veterans are appropriately honored in our cemeteries and battle monuments. The bill also prohibits funding to be used for biased and controversial programs.

Mr. Chair, I thank the Members and staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work. This is a strong bill, and I look forward to supporting it.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4366, with great respect to both of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Chairwoman GRANGER and Chairman CARTER, who are friends but with whom we strongly disagree on this legislation.

The FY 2024 military construction, veterans affairs, and related agencies bill is, sadly, not one that I can support.

Back in May, the subcommittee mark of the MILCON-VA bill cut the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund by \$14.7 billion in 2024 and completely eliminated the toxic exposures fund in 2025, less than a year after we passed the bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act that promises dedicated funding for veterans of all wars exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances.

This was in addition to the default on America act introduced in April by Republicans, which included a \$2 billion rescission to immediately cut critical funding for VA and include no protections for veterans funding. We pushed back hard on these cuts as Democrats, and we were successful.

Thankfully, as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, President Biden was able to undo that grievous harm by delivering the promise we all collectively made to our veterans by fully funding the toxic exposures fund.

However, the problems did not stop there, and Democrats made significant efforts to right the other major wrongs in this bill, but, unfortunately, to no avail.

The MILCON-VA bill is traditionally one of the more bipartisan bills—actually, so often that it is almost indistinguishable who is in the majority and who wrote those bills.

That is not the case, sadly, this year because it is riddled with partisan riders, coming out of the full committee on a party-line vote significantly worse off than where it started. Riders include preventing VA from implementing its interim final rule that provides access to abortions for the life or health of the mother and in the case of rape or incest, as well as abortion counseling to provide healthcare services for women who desperately need it, and, importantly, to ensure that veterans have equal access to healthcare regardless of what State they live in because they get their healthcare from a Federal agency.

It includes riders that do everything from prohibiting VA from implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives as well as training; prohibiting VA from flying the Pride flag over VA facilities; creating a license for people and organizations to discriminate against LGBTQI+ people under the guise of religious liberty and prevents the Federal Government from adequately responding; and prohibiting access to gender-affirming care, further disenfranchising veterans from VA.

VA is a place where all veterans should feel welcome, included, and cared for. All veterans means all veterans, and what this bill does is shameful.

On the MILCON side, this bill cuts funding for servicemembers and their families by \$1.5 billion compared to the enacted level, compared to current services.

The Republicans have cut military construction funding by \$1.5 billion compared to the current funding. In fact, this bill is \$200 million lower after the full committee markup than when it was first introduced in subcommittee. Even after the agreement with President Biden was signed into law, this bill cuts even more.

We have a recruitment and retention problem, Mr. Chairman, and this bill cuts funding for military construction.

We have major quality-of-life issues for our servicemembers, and this bill cuts funding for military construction and cuts funding for things like childcare centers, training centers, and airplane hangars that house and protect our billions of dollars of military equipment.

This bill cuts dedicated funding for PFAS forever chemicals remediation and cleanup, which is a cut of \$200 million from the current level, and dedicated funding for military installation climate change and resiliency projects, which is a cut of \$90 million from the current level.

There is an enormous need for funds to clean up PFAS forever chemicals contamination at BRAC sites as the services are still in the early stages of dealing with PFAS forever chemicals contamination.

Dedicated PFAS forever chemicals funding has previously been provided in this bill so we can ensure continued progress in remediating contamination at closed bases and minimize the impact for those surrounding communities. This is critical funding needed to fulfill our commitment to ensure those pieces of land are safe for future use and for people who live nearby. This is poison that Republicans are refusing to provide funding to clean up.

Furthermore, neglecting to continue investing in protecting our installations from climate change is a national security risk. We all know how extremely costly disaster assistance funding is. I am from Florida. I certainly know about that better than most.

Last year, we provided DOD with \$90 million, a comparatively small sum of funding now, which will pay huge dividends in the future and ensure our national security in the face of our changing climate. By eliminating the dedicated resilience funding this year, this bill would threaten future military readiness.

Cutting military construction by \$1.5 billion slows our historically bipartisan efforts to reduce the infrastructure backlog to strengthen our national security and to improve the quality of life of our servicemembers and their families. We are backtracking on our commitment to our servicemembers and their families.

To make matters worse, veterans rely on programs throughout the Federal Government, not just programs in this bill. Instead of honoring the bipartisan budget agreement that this Chamber voted into law just last month, the FY 2024 House appropriations bills collectively break the commitment that was negotiated, agreed to, passed by a majority of Congress, and signed into law by President Biden to adequately fund critical domestic investments. Instead, these bills are written to the same exact number used before negotiations even began.

These drastic cuts diminish access to education, transportation, job opportunities, and food assistance that veterans and their families rely on.

Is there no line that Republicans won't cross? Is there no population that is off-limits?

The MILCON-VA bill is just one piece of the puzzle, Mr. Chairman, and gutting all the other programs that veterans and their families rely on throughout the Federal Government breaks our promises to veterans and pulls the rug out from under those who served our country and whom we promised to take care of upon their return. I cannot and will not support it.

The House MILCON-VA bill, as well as all 11 other appropriations bills, are headed for a collision course with the Senate, which got to work in a bipartisan manner. By the way, their version of this bill passed unanimously out of full committee. They got to work in a bipartisan manner to complete appropriations bills on time, consistent with the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

These appropriations bills renege on the agreement and risk an automatic, across-the-board cut with a CR, toward which we are clearly headed—or, worse, toward a government shutdown.

I will follow, Mr. Chairman, one of the first tenets that I learned as a legislator many years ago: Your word is your bond. I will stand by our veterans and our servicemembers by opposing this bill that deprives them of the services, care, and quality of life that they have earned and deserve.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. CARTER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I am honored to present the fiscal year 2024 military construction, veterans affairs, and related agencies appropriations bill to the House today. This bill is special because it supports our troops and their families and the Nation's veterans.

The bill provides \$17.5 billion for military construction and family housing projects. This is less than the FY23 enacted amount. However, it is nearly \$800 million above the President's request.

We focus this investment in the Pacific to deter China's aggressive and coercive actions. We also provide significant funding for new barracks and child development centers.

The bill fully funds veterans programs at the level requested by the President. It keeps our promises to veterans, and we do more to help veterans in the Pacific. We also ensure taxpayer funds will be used appropriately and effectively by increasing oversight of several programs.

I thank my subcommittee ranking member. Although she disagrees with this bill, she has been a joy to work with, and our partnership has been good.

I thank all the people who have worked on this bill and all of their families and the families of the veterans.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4366.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the military construction and veterans affairs appropriations bill, which falls short of our commitments and backtracks on our promises to our veterans, our servicemembers, and their families.

This bill cuts funding for critical military construction by over \$1.5 billion compared to its current level. It is built on a house of cards that will crumble as this body and the American people come to realize the full scope of cuts the majority is pursuing.

This is not the only bill that supports programs and services that our veterans rely on. Republicans cannot credibly claim to fully fund veterans programs. The American people can clearly see how veterans are being treated when they look at the rest of the majority's domestic funding bills.

□ 1430

Make no mistake. If it were not for the Democrats, this bill would have decreased funding for veterans' medical care by \$2 billion. In addition to that, the funding for the Honoring our PACT Act would not have been there. In 2024, they were going to underfund it. For 2025, they completely eliminate it.

We should not be in this position, and the global economy should never have been used as a bargaining chip to extract cuts to domestic spending. However, to prevent a catastrophic default, the President reached a deal with the Republican Speaker to lift the debt ceiling and to set spending levels. We have a path to fund the United States Government on time, a path that this Congress agreed to on a bipartisan basis, and we ought to take that path.

Instead, this bill offers cuts to vital programs our veterans, servicemembers, and their families depend on. It cuts \$200 million in dedicated funding for PFAS remediation and cleanup. These chemicals do not easily break down in the environment. They are a source of groundwater contamination on military bases, which can lead to serious health problems. Failure to quickly clean up contaminated areas puts the surrounding communities, including military families and civilians, at risk.

This bill ignores the national security risk that will directly affect all of our bases at home and abroad—climate change. Additional dedicated funding for resilience projects is leaving America's servicemembers and veterans completely exposed in the line of fire.

Instead of responsibly funding our veterans in a bill palatable to both sides of the aisle, this bill is loaded up with hateful riders that have no business in appropriations language. Prohibitions on equity and inclusion programs and flags demonstrate grossly misplaced priorities, fighting culture wars, leaving our veterans, hard-working families, and the economy out to dry.

The bill places the Federal Government in the room with women and their doctors. By making it harder for veterans to access healthcare, we take a step closer toward a national abortion ban. Our veterans did not volunteer to serve this country and defend our freedom to have their freedom and their autonomy stripped by this Congress.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) is recognized and controls the remaining 26 minutes.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, on which I have the honor of serving with him.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I am grateful to my appropriator colleagues for rightsizing the bureaucracy and reining in the wasteful and unnecessary spending after this government grew 40 percent during COVID. The taxpayers deserve fiduciaries who spend their money like it was our money. That is really the prevailing philosophy we should all embrace. I, again, commend the appropriators for the painstaking efforts to rein this in.

I support the bill, but I highlight in an amendment one of the most egre-

gious and largest wasteful spending categories, and that is improper payments. The Federal Government wastefully and fraudulently spends taxpayer money at an alarming rate. In 2021, it was almost \$300 billion. Last year, it was \$245 billion.

Mr. Chairman, that is money you could spend on a soldier or a sailor or on a safety net or infrastructure. It is going nowhere. It is larger than the Departments of Energy, Commerce, and Justice. It is a third of our defense spending.

The VA is not the only problem. It is pervasive. At the VA, there is a long-term care category that has an improper payment rate of 47 percent. Think about that. Almost 50 cents on every dollar is wasted in this program. It is unconscionable, Mr. Chairman.

If you look across the board, the earned income tax credit, 30 cents on every dollar wasted, \$18 billion. The Medicaid program wasted \$80 billion last year. The child tax credit wasted \$5 billion. The list goes on. If we are going to rein in spending, if we are going to save the country from a debt crisis, we have got to get our fiscal house in order and focus on improper payments. It is not right.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), a fierce advocate for our communities' veterans and a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, well, my, my, my, here we go again. The Republican attacks on access to legal abortion never end. Today, the target is women veterans, women who left their loved ones, trained hard, sometimes risked their lives to stand up for our freedom, and now it is time to stand up for theirs.

All women should have the freedom to make their own personal decision about when or whether to start or grow a family. This bill would undermine the current Biden policy that allows VA medical centers to provide an abortion when the life or the health of the pregnant veteran is in danger.

Republicans are willing to force women to wait until they are on death's door to receive the healthcare that they need. Really? This is how we thank veterans for their service?

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Chairman, years of out-of-control government spending has fueled inflation and skyrocketed our Federal debt. It is far past time we prioritize those most important core functions of government as intended by our Founders in the Constitution.

The fiscal year 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill does just that. It prioritizes programs for those most important: our Nation's veterans, and facilities for our men and women defending our country.

My, my, my, what do we hear from the other side? Complaints about not being able to fly certain flags at military bases, complaints about not being able to fund climate change bureaucracies in our veterans' facilities, complaints about actually not being able to use taxpayer dollars to fund abortion services.

This bill focuses on core government functions. It fully funds veterans' healthcare, veterans' benefits and VA programs. It ensures our veterans get the medical treatment and benefits they deserve. It provides funds to the agencies that ensure our military and veterans are appropriately honored in our cemeteries and battle monuments, and it prioritizes our Nation's Active Duty servicemembers and their families by providing nearly \$800 million above the President's budget request for military construction and family housing. Let me repeat that: \$800 million above the President's budget request.

We can and we must support our Nation's heroes who have sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms and protect our homeland. That is why we must pass this strong legislation and make clear that we stand with our brave men and women in uniform.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentlemen from Tennessee and California understand what kind of money really matters here. It is very nice to say that you are \$800 million above the President's budget request.

The money that matters is where we are now and what Republicans are proposing to spend going forward. Republicans are cutting—which, of course, Mr. CLINE neglected to mention—military construction \$1.5 billion below what we spend now. That is a cut by anyone's definition. They can play games with the language and the way they describe things, but there is no getting around that they are cutting \$1.5 billion from military construction.

What does that mean? That might just sound like, oh, we will build a few less buildings, it is not going to be that bad. Understand that DOD has assessed that 30 percent of our military infrastructure around the world is in fair or poor condition. Many of us have traveled around the world to inspect military bases, and we talk to our troops and pledge to our servicemembers how much they mean to us and how we have their backs. I have had the opportunity to be shown places where our hangar doors are held together with wax and spit, particularly in places like Okinawa and other areas where there is a lot of erosion and metal rusts more quickly. I live in a coastal State, and I have a coastal district, so I understand what happens there when you are on the coast from the salt air. I watched a servicemember try to pull closed a hangar door that was jury-rigged with a coat hanger because they couldn't get the door closed the way it normally

should, and we did not provide them funding anywhere in the near future to ensure that we can keep billions of dollars' worth of military equipment safe.

Republicans are standing here and saying things that absolutely do not pass the straight-face test when they are trying to suggest that they are doing right by our servicemembers.

We have a retention problem in our military. We have people who have testified to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee who are current servicemembers who talked to us about how they intended to spend their careers in the service, but because of the way they and their families felt treated, the decrepit housing that the military can't seem to get straight when it comes to dealing with mold and broken items and repairs that are necessary, they chose a different career path.

If we continue on the path that Republicans have proposed, then what that means is that we are going to lose servicemembers, like we are already losing. That is irresponsible and unacceptable.

Mr. Chairman, I will have more to say at a later time. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2024.

I am proud that this legislation fully funds programs to care for our Nation's heroes, and it ensures that our military infrastructure needs are met to address critical national security priorities. This bill focuses on the important work of these agencies while also preventing the radical woke policies of the Biden administration from distracting these departments from their primary responsibilities.

A recent example of these policies can be seen in my home State of Mississippi, where a VA facility chose to replace an American flag with an LGBTQ Pride flag.

The mission of the VA is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise, a promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military, their families, their caregivers, and their survivors. The work and the message of the VA should not be divisive but, rather, respectful toward our veterans and consistent with the purpose for which the VA was created.

I am grateful that language is included in the bill to ensure that the only flags flown over VA facilities or national cemeteries are government, military, or POW/MIA flags.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to support this bill. We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude, not a political message.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE), who

represents tens of thousands of military servicemembers as well as veterans and is an incredible advocate on their behalf.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a Representative from southern Nevada, where we have Creech Air Force Base, Nellis Air Force Base, and hundreds of thousands of veterans that call southern Nevada home. As their Representative, I have extreme disappointment with this bill that we have before us, the MILCON-VA bill.

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As a member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, I take great pride in our work. This traditionally has been bipartisan and laser-focused on the needs of our veterans, of our servicemembers, and their families, and on the military's construction requirements to meet global security challenges facing our Nation, not just today, but in the future.

Unfortunately, this bill is not a reflection of that MILCON-VA tradition of putting politics aside and putting our military, our servicemembers, our veterans, and our Nation first. Instead, this bill sacrifices our promises to veterans, our military readiness, and our national security, honestly, in favor of meeting the demands of a few extremist Republican politicians.

Instead of ensuring our Nation provides for Americans who have sacrificed to keep our Nation safe, this bill focuses on picking culture war fights, banning the VA from flying certain flags or banning them from taking steps to advance equal opportunity and health access for every veteran.

Instead of focusing on preparing our military to protect U.S. interests, the bill would prevent the VA from providing lifesaving reproductive healthcare to female veterans.

As my colleague just said, the mission of the VA should be respectful to our veterans. I say to every woman veteran who has put her life on the line for our freedom that we should show them the respect that they can make their own choice and be free to make their own choice for their own healthcare.

I want to be clear, as a woman who has undergone a D&C, that abortion care is healthcare. I will say that again. Abortion care is healthcare. Women who have put their lives on the line for our country, for our freedom, should have the ability to make that choice.

The policies that extremist politicians, in addition to that, have tacked on to this bill prevents the VA from providing that type of care, even in the case when a pregnancy is the result of rape, incest, or the life of the mother is at risk.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may

consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Policies that extremist politicians have tacked on to this bill are offensive to men and women who serve our country, including my constituents at Creech and Nellis Air Force bases.

I am especially alarmed at the \$1.5 billion in proposed cuts to military construction. I am supportive of being thoughtful and responsible with our Federal spending, but at a time when our Nation faces mounting security challenges across this globe, I cannot understand how we can stand here today and cut nearly 10 percent of funding that would ensure that our military bases are fully equipped to handle global threats.

This bill would increase the backlog of projects at bases like Nellis and Creech, where I have heard directly from my airmen and airwomen working out of temporary, cramped, and outdated, unsafe facilities; and this, at a time when our military is already struggling with recruitment and retention.

Full military construction funding is key to enable that our servicemembers meet National Defense Strategy demands, so we must invest fully in critical facilities, like Nellis' communication support center and the Weapons School Campus.

We also need to support the mission-critical Reconnaissance Operations Training Facility and to repair the base's taxiway at Creech.

We call on our men and women in our military to make our Nation and keep our Nation safe, but this bill does not meet the demands of our servicemembers and, instead, abandons men and women who we should be supporting most in southern Nevada and beyond.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and, instead, please let's get back to working together to get servicemembers and our veterans the resources that they need, that they have earned, and give them the respect and the freedom that they have fought for.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized and controls the time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I thank the gentleman, the chairman, for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this fiscal year 2024 military construction and veterans affairs appropriations bill.

Despite some of the allegations from my friends on the other side of the aisle, this is a good bill. The budget process is not about how much you cut; it is about where you cut. That is what is important.

This bill is a good bill because it supports our veterans and our servicemembers. In fact, this bill fully funds President Biden's request for the VA and even exceeds the administration's request for military construction.

On top of that, the VA funding in this bill is \$16.5 million more than the fiscal year 2023 enacted level—the enacted level. Let me repeat. This bill fully funds veterans' healthcare programs, period.

This includes keeping our promise that we just made to provide care to our toxic-exposed veterans, as we did last year through the Honoring our PACT Act.

I am also proud that we robustly funded military construction projects across the world, focusing on our barracks, our child development centers, to the tune of almost \$800 million more than the administration's request.

This bill cuts wasteful spending, wasteful spending for programs that my constituents back home do not support, like critical race theory and DEI.

Now, they want to say that we have politicized the issue of abortion within this bill. The fact of the matter is, President Biden's administration, through rulemaking in DOD, put in this language—that is why we are taking it out because they put it in—that they were going to use taxpayer dollars to actually facilitate someone getting an abortion.

That is not what the taxpayers want. That is not what the Hyde amendment allows, and the partisanship that they referred to earlier is their partisanship.

This administration and almost every executive agency in this government now legislates by fiat. They pass rules, 100-page rules. Those aren't rules. That is legislation. That is law. We have got to stop that, and we are doing that in this bill.

I am very proud that in this bill we prohibit the VA from continuing to implement their abortion policy that they put in; it is nothing more than this administration's way of circumventing the Dobbs decision.

House Republicans are delivering on our promise to care for the men and women who have served this Nation.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. House Republicans, we are simply delivering on our promise to care for the men and women who serve this Nation.

I commend Chairwoman GRANGER and Chairman CARTER for having put this bill together in a fiscally responsible manner. Yes, we have made some cuts, but they were responsible cuts. They were cuts that needed to be made. We cut the waste so that we could help our men and women who serve this country in uniform. I urge support of this bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4366.

PFAS contamination is in my district, as in everyone else's district across this Nation. In my case, it is largely as a result of the legacy of fire-fighting foam used at what was Willow Grove Naval Air Base. My own brother worked there.

PFAS contamination, we know, is extremely dangerous, and I will say those who produced these chemicals for six decades have known of their danger and hid it for many, many years.

The brave men and women of our military were disproportionately highly exposed to rates of PFAS. More than 700 military bases have been contaminated with PFAS. The servicemembers that call these bases work or home have been continually exposed to these forever chemicals, as have their neighbors in the surrounding area.

We are still learning more and more about the health effects from this level of toxin; decreased fertility, increased risk of cancers, obesity, thyroid hormone disruption, just to name a few.

Congress and the White House have a responsibility to protect our current and future servicemembers from these toxins, as well as their neighbors. That is why the FY23 appropriations bill included an additional \$200 million in dedicated funding for PFAS remediation and cleanup.

Unfortunately, this bill has no dedicated funding for PFAS and does not meet the President's funding request. Failing to address this widespread nationwide PFAS contamination on our military bases and the surrounding areas is failing our servicemembers.

Our military members stand up for us every single day. Today, we must stand up for them and all of our citizens by investing in PFAS research and remediation by rejecting this bill.

The Pennsylvania Constitution, article I, section 29, provides that we have a right to clean air, clean water, and the preservation of our natural aesthetic. Let's live up to that right.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4366, the fiscal year 2024 military construction and veteran affairs appropriations bill, which honors our veterans, supports our national security, and cuts wasteful government spending. I say again, it cuts wasteful government spending.

Last November, when the American people entrusted Republicans with the House majority, we made a commitment to a Nation that is safe. Today's legislation delivers on that commitment and ensures the Department of Defense has the resources and facilities it needs to protect our homeland from foreign adversaries.

H.R. 4366 provides nearly \$800 million above the President's budget for military construction, including \$80 million for the first phase of construction for the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence Signal School at Fort Gordon.

Building a 21st century military is crucial to fielding threats in the ever-evolving cyber environment, and that starts with these critical investments being made at Fort Gordon.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 4366.

The CHAIR. The Chair would advise all Members we are in the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, first I would like to acknowledge all the amazing women that serve in our Nation's military and the mothers that serve in our Nation's military.

But I will respond to something I heard a few minutes ago here, the pronouncement, the actual statement that abortion is women's healthcare.

I state for the record, abortion is not healthcare in any way. Abortion is the murder of the unborn child in a woman's womb. Abortion is defined as taking a life. It doesn't save a life. It kills a life.

Abortion methods are brutal, horrific, absolutely some of the worst things in today's times; ripping the limbs off an unborn baby, ripping its head off, killing it with chemicals inside of its mother's womb.

This is not something that taxpayers should have to ever pay for. This is something that honestly should not exist. Abortion is murder, and it is evil.

We should be supporting mothers in the military. We should be supporting women's actual healthcare, and that is not abortion.

□ 1500

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. EDWARDS). The gentlewoman from Florida has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 15 minutes remaining.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, as the expression goes: Show me your budget, and I will show you what my values are.

It is very clear with the lollipop tree of culture war riders that this bill that funds the quality of life and the national readiness and security of the United States of America and the protection and quality of life of our military servicemembers, it is clear that because this bill cuts \$1.5 billion below what we are currently funding in military construction, the Republicans have shown where their values are.

They can put all the lipstick on the pig that they have developed in this

bill that they want, but at the end of the day, they are still cutting \$1.5 billion from military construction. That is cutting funding for airport hangars, for training centers, for childcare centers, for infrastructure that ensures that we can keep our servicemembers safe when they are serving overseas, while they are serving in the United States, and that is something that we have not done in modern times in this bill.

Why? Because generally the military construction, veterans affairs, appropriations bill is, on a bipartisan basis, written as a commitment that we make to take care of our servicemembers while they are serving in the military on Active Duty and to take care of our veterans when they transition to retirement and spend the rest of their lives as veterans.

This committee has a special responsibility. We are the only committee in the Congress that is responsible for the entire life cycle of an individual from when they start their service on Active Duty all the way through Active Duty and through their life as a veteran. We have a special responsibility to make sure that we are taking care of them, and cutting \$1.5 billion is the opposite of that.

The values that our friends on the other side of the aisle have shown is very clear. What they were more interested in doing, and the priority that was at the top of their agenda, included riders that prevent all veterans from getting equal access to healthcare no matter where they live. What they want to do in this bill—and you will see in subsequent amendments that will be offered—is they want to take away women veterans' right, their ability to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

Furthermore, because veterans get their healthcare from the VA, it is essential that we do not discriminate against those veterans, those women veterans, no matter where they live; that they be able to get that access to healthcare whenever they need it to ensure that they can make their own reproductive healthcare decisions regardless of the State they live in.

We spent the bulk of our time in the subcommittee and the full committee debating riders that do everything from prohibiting VA from implementing diversity and equity policies so that all veterans, no matter their religion, their culture, their ethnicity, their sexual orientation, that all veterans are treated equally; that we can ensure that no one feels alienated when walking through the doors of the VA facility.

The Republicans zap any program, any policy related to treating veterans equally and making everyone feel welcome when they walk in that door.

It was a top priority for them to prohibit VA facilities from flying the Pride flag over VA's facilities. If that is one of their top priorities, it is no wonder that they are cutting a billion-

and-a-half dollars out of military construction, because our friends on the other side of the aisle have their policies backwards when it comes to taking care of the people who have served our country and continue to serve our country.

They have given a license to discriminate against people who are LGBTQIA+ under the guise of religious liberty. They are preventing the Federal Government from adequately responding to that and from VA to provide healthcare services to everyone equally, and they are prohibiting access to gender-affirming care, which no matter what you might like to believe on the other side of the aisle, there are people who have served our country who deserve those services.

All veterans should feel welcomed, included, and cared for. The fact that they are cutting funding for PFAS forever chemical cleanup means that we are going to be causing cancer and severe illness—which people are already getting by being exposed to these forever chemicals. We are going to ensure, because of the Republican values that are reflected in this bill, cutting funding for PFAS forever chemicals, we are going to ensure that more people who served our country and who live nearby facilities that need to be cleaned up from these chemicals get sick and eventually die. That is on them.

There is enormous need for more funding to help make sure that we can do right by our veterans. This bill does the opposite, and I stand in opposition to it. I urge all Members to join me in voting against this bill so that we can go back to the drawing board.

We will likely go back to the drawing board, I am quite sure, as this bill is on a crash course with the Senate bill which does a much better job at living up to the values that we all should adhere to, and that is taking care of people who have served our country and are serving our country nobly now.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4366

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facili-

ties, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$1,517,455,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$345,775,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$162,900,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Army" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$4,477,961,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$602,625,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$52,683,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$2,439,614,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$450,614,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$30,300,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air Force" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the

military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$2,651,047,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$304,045,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$369,261,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$42,361,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$19,075,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Army National Guard" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$189,322,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$36,200,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$600,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air National Guard" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$117,076,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the

amount, not to exceed \$23,389,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$61,291,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$6,495,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$330,572,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$12,146,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$29,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air Force Reserve" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$293,434,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$539,174,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$304,895,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, includ-

ing debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$395,485,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$277,142,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$373,854,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$237,097,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$324,386,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$50,785,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$6,611,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, \$496,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code,

when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construc-

tion, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag

officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than \$15,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

"Military Construction, Army", \$47,700,000;
 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$689,409,000;
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$148,300,000;
 "Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$280,100,000;
 "Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$26,800,000;
 "Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$126,742,000;
 "Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$40,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Air Force Reserve", \$8,500,000; and
 "Family Housing Construction, Air Force", \$27,000,000:

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year

2024 submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army”, “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force”, and “Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide” accounts pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2024 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obligated before October 1, 2025, for fiscal year 2017, 2018, and 2019 military construction projects for which project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2024 by a National Defense Authorization Act: *Provided*, That no amounts may be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term “congressional defense committees” means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design and for construction improvements to Department of Defense laboratory facilities, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$30,000,000;
“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$30,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$30,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required by this section.

SEC. 129. For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force”, \$252,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for expenses incurred as a result of natural disasters: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 130. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design, for child development

centers, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$25,000,000;
“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$25,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$25,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 131. For an additional amount for the accounts and amounts specified for planning and design, for barracks, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction Army”, \$65,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$65,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$65,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 132. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for unspecified minor construction for demolition, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$15,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$15,000,000;

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$15,000,000;

“Military Construction, Army National Guard”, \$15,000,000;

“Military Construction, Air National Guard”, \$15,000,000;

“Military Construction, Army Reserve”, \$5,000,000;

“Military Construction, Navy Reserve”, \$5,000,000; and

“Military Construction, Air Force Reserve”, \$5,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required by this section.

SEC. 133. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$122,210,000;

“Military Construction, Air Force”, \$90,400,000;

“Military Construction, Army National Guard”, \$134,881,000; and

“Military Construction, Army Reserve”, \$23,000,000;

Provided, That funds may only be obligated to carry out cost to complete projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2024 submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds under this section.

SEC. 134. For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$50,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2028, for planning and design for Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program construction: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 135. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 136. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of the Air Force, or any other Department and Agency, may be obligated or expended for the construction or modification of facilities for temporary or permanent use by the United States Space Command for headquarters operations unless, pursuant to subsection (b), the preferred location for permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command is selected or until the required report is submitted.

(b) In the event a permanent location for the headquarters is selected other than the preferred location as identified by the Department of the Air Force in January 2021, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional appropriations committees a report on the rationale for the selection of a permanent location for the headquarters of the United States Space Command.

(c) Subsection (a) shall not apply to any repair necessary to maintain facilities to protect personnel or property.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$4,655,879,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended; and, in addition, \$181,390,281,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$22,109,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2025 under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$11,523,134,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United States Code, \$12,701,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended; and in addition, \$135,119,422, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, during fiscal year 2024, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$316,742,419.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$78,337, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,026,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$460,698, which may be paid to the appropriation for "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$2,718,546.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$3,899,000,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent fea-

sible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$71,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: *Provided further*, That nothing in section 2044(e)(1) of title 38, United States Code, may be construed as limiting amounts that may be made available under this heading for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 in this or prior Acts.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$20,382,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$11,800,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$9,400,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, \$500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$938,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$480,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$475,000,000, of which not to

exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$287,000,000 of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$6,401,000,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,606,977,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That \$4,668,373,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That \$125,650,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the “Information Technology Systems” account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$3,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table entitled “Information Technology Development Projects” under this heading in the report accompanying this Act.

VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, \$1,863,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility, including any changes from the deployment plan or schedule: *Provided further*, That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office: *Provided further*, That 25 percent of the funds made available under this heading shall not be available until July 1, 2024, and are con-

tingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

(1) providing the Committees on Appropriations a report detailing the status of outstanding issues impacting the stability and usability of the new electronic health record system, including those that contributed to the October 13, 2022, deployment delay, along with a timeline and measurable metrics to resolve issues, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act;

(2) certifying and detailing any changes to the full deployment schedule, no later than 60 days prior to July 1, 2024; and

(3) certifying in writing no later than 30 days prior to July 1, 2024, the following—

(A) the status of issues included in the report referenced in paragraph (1), including issues that have not been closed but have been suitably resolved or mitigated in a manner that will enhance provider productivity and minimize the potential for patient harm; and

(B) whether the system is stable, ready, and optimized for further deployment at VA sites.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$296,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$881,000,000, of which \$373,096,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$507,904,000 shall remain available until expended, of which \$110,000,000 shall be available for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities, including for projects that would otherwise be funded by the Construction, Minor Projects, Medical Facilities or National Cemetery Administration accounts: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement ac-

companying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the “General Administration” account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2024, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2024; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$680,000,000, of which \$612,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$68,000,000 shall remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous “Construction, Minor Projects” appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$164,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2024 for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Readjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities” accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers among the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, and “Medical Support and Compliance” accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers among the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, and “Medical Support and Compliance” accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the “Medical Facilities” account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for “Construction, Major Projects”, and “Construction, Minor Projects”) shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the “Medical Services” account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Readjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2023.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obli-

gations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from “Compensation and Pensions”.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans’ Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2024 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2024 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services shall be available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$86,481,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, \$6,960,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and \$7,772,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the “General Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services

from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects”.

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under “Medical Services” are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Medical Services” and “Medical Community Care” accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term “rural Alaska” shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled “Quarterly reporting”, under the heading “General Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “Board of Veterans Appeals”, “General Administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration” accounts for fiscal year 2024 may be transferred to or from the “Information Technology Systems” account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not

result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the “Information Technology Systems” account: *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024 for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “Construction, Minor Projects”, and “Information Technology Systems”, up to \$430,532,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 220 of title II of division J of Public Law 117-328 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2024, for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, up to \$456,547,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available for “Construction, Major Projects” may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 225. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled “Disability claims backlog”, under the heading “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223: *Provided further*, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$1,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the “Medical Services” account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2024 in this title (except appropriations made to the “General Operating

Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2024, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, under the “Board of Veterans Appeals” and the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term “civil service” has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term “Executive action” includes—

(i) any Executive order, Presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and

(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of

the hotline specified in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who receive follow up services from the hotline or mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;

(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not continue receiving, mental health care who commit suicide; and

(C) determine the number of veterans described in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.

SEC. 232. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2025, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the “Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration’s Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance” published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 233. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “service-connected” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term “assisted reproductive technology” means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of “Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members” issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—

(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

(4) The term “adoption reimbursement” means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this sec-

tion are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).

SEC. 234. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 235. Section 842 of Public Law 109-115 shall not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to contractor performance by a business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

SEC. 236. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall discontinue using Social Security account numbers to identify individuals in all information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs as follows:

(1) For all veterans submitting to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs new claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, not later than September 30, 2024.

(2) For all individuals not described in paragraph (1), not later than March 23, 2026.

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use a Social Security account number to identify an individual in an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is required to obtain information the Secretary requires from an information system that is not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall supersede section 238 of division F of Public Law 116-94.

SEC. 237. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025 for “Medical Services”, section 239 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 238. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 239. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 for “Medical Services”, funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 240. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 241. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025, section 258 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 242. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede the access of the Inspector General to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General access to all records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure by any department or agency covered by this section to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 243. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 244. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2024 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2023 to a general purpose funded program unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notification of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action and an approval is issued by the Committees.

SEC. 245. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 246. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research commencing on or after October 1, 2019, that uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research specifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after October 1, 2019, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the scientific objectives of the research can only be met by using such canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(B) such scientific objectives are directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related; and

(C) the research is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including any subsequent revisions to such document.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authority under this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursuant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the commencement of such research, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the nature of the research to be conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(2) the date on which the Secretary approved the research;

(3) the justification for the determination of the Secretary that the scientific objectives of such research could only be met using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(4) the frequency and duration of such research; and

(5) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of the research.

(d) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any research being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, or non-human primates as of the date of the submittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such research was conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(3) the justification for using canines, felines, or non-human primates to conduct such research; and

(4) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of such research.

(e) The Department shall implement a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate or reduce the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of Public Law 116-94.

SEC. 247. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 248. Amounts made available for the “Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care” account in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 249. Obligations and expenditures applicable to the “Medical Services” account in fiscal years 2017 through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain in the “Medical Community Care” account for such fiscal years.

SEC. 250. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities” accounts, \$1,279,096,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans.

SEC. 251. Notwithstanding any other law, by no later than September 30, 2023, the Secretary shall commence construction of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California in accordance with Lease No.36C10F20L0008.

SEC. 252. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be expended for monthly payments under Lease No. VA10112R0032, including section 11 of the lease, that exceed \$223,166.67 unless required for maintenance and repairs or improvements related to the form, fit, or function of the facility that directly enhances the safety of veterans or improves healthcare services.

SEC. 253. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the status of the “Veterans Medical Care and Health Fund”, established to execute section 8002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2): *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include an update on obligations by program, project or activity and a plan for expending the remaining funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must submit notification of any plans to reallocate funds from the current apportionment categories of “Medical Services”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “Medical Community Care”, or “Medical and Prosthetic Research”, including the amount and purpose of each reallocation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

SEC. 254. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018 for purposes of carrying out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, that are available for obligation pursuant to section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation.

SEC. 255. Unobligated balances available under the headings “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” may be obligated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a facility pursuant to section 2(e)(1) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note), as amended, to provide additional funds or to fund an escalation clause under such section of such Act: *Provided*, That before such unobligated balances are obligated pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to obligate such unobligated balances and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That the request to obligate such unobligated balances must provide Congress notice that the entity described in section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 114-294, as amended, has exhausted available cost containment approaches as set forth in the agreement under section 2(c) of such Public Law.

SEC. 256. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Veterans Affairs from prior appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

“Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, \$4,933,113,000;

“Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care”, \$1,909,069,000; and

“Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities”, \$250,515,000.

SEC. 257. Not later than 30 days after the date the funds become available, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations an expenditure plan for funds made available through the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118-5) for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

SEC. 258. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the Department of Veterans Affairs interim final rule published on September 9, 2022, or any successor to such rule, or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be expended for any abortion, including through a medical benefits package or health benefits program that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The limitations established in subsection (b) shall not apply to an abortion—

(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

SEC. 259. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for surgical procedures or hormone therapies for the purposes of gender affirming care.

SEC. 260. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to fly or display a flag over a facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs or a national cemetery other than the flag of the United States, the flag of a State, Territory, or District of Columbia, the flag of an Indian Tribal government, the flag of the Department, the flag of an Armed Force, or the POW/MIA flag.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$15,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$158,630,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$47,200,000: *Provided*, That \$3,385,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL
CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$100,267,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the "Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies" account.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for planning and design and construction at Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, \$88,600,000, to remain available until expended for planning and design and construction associated with the Southern Expansion project at Arlington National Cemetery.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME
TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$77,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which \$8,940,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$25,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of "E-Commerce" technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military

Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 407. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 30 days.

SEC. 408. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 411. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 412. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 413. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matter pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 414. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009), Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825).

SEC. 415. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

SEC. 416. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) Discriminatory action defined.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and non-public fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) Accreditation; Licensure; Certification.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any office, programs, or activity for the purposes of diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 418. \$0.

This Act may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

The Acting CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 118-158, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 614, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 614.

Each amendment printed in House Report 118-158 may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to the amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 614, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in House Report 118-158 not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 614, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. RYAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$103,000,000) (reduced by \$103,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

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

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which increases Army construction funding by \$103 million to address extensive flood damage at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

A few weeks ago on July 9, New York’s Hudson Valley, along with

other parts of the Northeast, was devastated by a once-in-a-millennium flood that saw nearly 10 inches of torrential rainfall arrive on the Hudson Valley in just a few hours, washing away homes of our military families, devastating roads, businesses in the surrounding community, and tragically costing the life of a young woman in the surrounding community just outside West Point.

My alma mater, the United States Military Academy at West Point, was hit particularly hard. I have been on the ground multiple times seeing the damage firsthand, along with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, to assess the extent of the damage. We have decimated roads, collapsed cliff-side routes, compromising damage to barracks, bridges, and facilities critical to carrying out the vital mission of the United States Military Academy at West Point. In particular, I draw attention to the fact that all of the enlisted soldier barracks, serving hundreds of enlisted soldiers at the garrison have been completely destroyed. There is nowhere for these soldiers on post to live, causing a cascading effect and a real housing crunch across the post.

As of this moment, the cost estimates to rebuild are increasing each day, presently topping out at over \$100 million. As we know, West Point serves a mission-critical role in our Nation’s national security—the world’s premier leadership institute, creating leaders and shaping the future of our Nation’s Army. This institution made myself, many of my colleagues across the aisle, and many others of our Nation, into leaders. We cannot stand by during this time of need for such a critical national security resource.

Allowing West Point to be hamstrung by such significant damage imperils our military readiness, and we must ensure the institution has the resources it needs to urgently repair and rebuild and get back to their mission.

Mr. Chair, I urge the support of my colleagues throughout the Congress, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I support the amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I strongly support the gentleman’s amendment and commend him for his efforts to address the severe flooding problems that have occurred in and around West Point.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for the bipartisan support of this critical amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

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AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 92, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, as we attempt to cut spending back to top-line FY 2022 levels, we must address the glaring \$32.6 trillion debt.

We must commit in this Congress to significant spending cuts. If we don’t, we will be mortgaging the futures of our children. We will perpetually hobble long-term economic growth by not only destroying our future borrowing power but by forcing our Treasury to dedicate much of its future spending to debt repayment rather than meeting the needs of the American people.

If we fail to tackle runaway spending now, we are compromising the well-being of future generations. Is that the legacy we want to leave behind? We have an obligation, a moral one, to ensure that we leave this country better off than we found it.

In an appropriations bill that is supposed to be focused on supporting our veterans and their families, we are sending \$293 million—taxpayer dollars—abroad to support NATO. That is an increase of 33 percent from FY 2023.

There will be some who argue that the \$293 million figure is a commitment that the United States made at the June 2022 NATO summit. While Congress has largely abdicated its role in foreign affairs to the executive branch, it was the intent of our Founding Fathers that this institution provide a robust check on the executive. It is why we have the power of the purse.

Ultimately, given Congress’ massive spending habits, there needs to come a time when we say enough is enough, and that is the purpose for offering this amendment today. I am asking all of

my colleagues if they could spare just a 1 percent cut to NATO's Security Investment Program. That is just 1 percent.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, the NATO Security Investment Program is NATO's military construction program. The U.S. contribution supports projects needed by the alliance and also supports U.S. strategy in the region. It does not finance other countries' construction costs, and the cost share is favorable to the United States.

The increase included in the bill this year is needed to reinvest in infrastructure in the region to deter Russia's aggression. Literally, this program is a concrete investment in deterrence.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I strongly oppose this amendment to cut the NATO Security Investment Program. It is hard to imagine a worse time for us to be cutting funding from our international obligations when Russia has illegally invaded Ukraine and our international obligations and cooperation are so essential in order to ensure that Ukraine can maintain its sovereignty and ensure that Russia is not allowed to be successful here and then repeat the same thing across the globe.

The program, also known as NSIP, is a core part of America's contribution toward shared territorial defense with its allies. Moreover, the projects that NSIP funds often are already aligned with U.S. European Command needs.

Our NSIP contributions often closely align with U.S. requirements, like projects for safety and runway upgrades at airfields that our planes use and fuel and dock improvements at ports that our ships use.

The program is experiencing a period of growth as the alliance seeks to address necessary deferred infrastructure needs. This amendment would cut funding for the program below the requested level, shortchanging America's commitment to its allies, and instead move it to the spending reduction account.

Military construction programs are already funded at \$1.5 billion below the enacted level, as I have talked about, and this amendment is seeking to cut it further.

The United States contribution to NSIP, as a percentage of the overall program, is much smaller proportionally than the United States share of the alliance's gross national income. Simply put, our allies are more than paying their fair share in the Security Investment Program.

NSIP funding is necessary for NATO, and it is necessary for American national security. We should not jeopardize it with this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I have a great deal of respect for my colleagues, but let's talk about America's contribution. We have already spent roughly \$42 billion on equipment and support for Ukraine in addition to these moneys.

When you think about NATO, our allies are supposed to hold up their fair share of the bargain, 2 percent. We are meeting our obligations, but only seven other countries meet their obligations. Keep in mind, it is supposed to be 2 percent. Luxembourg is at 0.62; Canada, 1.29; Turkey, 1.37; Norway, 1.57; Germany, 1.49; and France, 1.89.

Before we start talking about the United States of America doing its job and having to defend the rest of the world, how about our allies do their job and uphold their obligations? I am asking for only a 1 percent cut.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, it is hard to justify sending hard-earned taxpayer dollars to NATO when most of our allies don't uphold their end of the bargain and when they look to us to be their defender and to fund their security.

Meanwhile, we have a porous border. Every community in this country is a border town because of fentanyl overdoses in the streets and trafficking run amuck. Yet, we are going to spend more money overseas. How about we secure our country and take care of our country, our people, our needs, and secure our border?

Mr. Chair, it is just a 1 percent cut. I encourage all of my colleagues to send a message to NATO and our allies to do their fair share.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 118-158.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, line 24, strike "\$293,434,000" and insert "\$220,100,000".

Page 92, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$73,334,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today to ask the House to support my amendment No. 3, which will cut the \$73 million increase in funding for the NATO Security Investment Program. This is simply keeping the NATO funding at the same level as last year's appropriations level. I think this is very important.

The United States overwhelmingly contributes more than our fair share to NATO for Europe's defense, and it is time for European countries to pay their dues.

While our own border is overrun by border-crossers and deadly, poisonous fentanyl daily, we continue to send hundreds of billions of dollars to NATO to defend Ukraine's democracy, even though they aren't even a NATO member nation.

Investing in NATO security is an America-last policy. All increases in funding should be investing in the United States of America's security and the defense of our own border.

President Trump was exactly right when he called on European nations to put the required minimum of 2 percent of their GDP toward NATO defense spending. Most NATO countries still don't meet that requirement, and the U.S. ends up paying for 70 percent of the alliance's defenses. This is outrageous. The American people do not like paying for other countries' defenses when our borders are overrun daily.

The current 2023 defense expenditure for NATO countries has the United States at \$860 billion. The United States of America's military is not meant to be the world's police. As we find ourselves funding a war in Ukraine, when the United States' position should be pushing for peace, not paying for and not funding war and the death of innocent people, we should not increase our spending and increase the amount of funding by \$73 million more to the NATO Security Investment Program.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, my arguments are the same.

The NATO Security Investment Program is NATO's military construction program. The \$73 million increase this year is needed to reinvest in infrastructure in the region to deter Russian aggression.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this grossly irresponsible amendment. This amendment would take a huge cut, \$73 million, from the NATO Security Investment Program during a time when increased funding is essential for long-deferred projects.

Cutting funding for the NATO Security Investment Program is not only shortsighted from a national security perspective, but it isn't even sound long-term fiscal policy. These investments ensure a robust American and NATO presence to deter hostile nations and prevent even greater costs to American taxpayers down the road.

One only has to look at the news to understand that we have hostile nations that wish to do us and our allies harm. A \$73 million cut from the NATO Security Investment Program would put us in more jeopardy alongside our allies.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine shows that international cooperation and strong alliances are as essential as ever. These projects are not America paying other countries' bills. In fact, America pays a proportionally small amount to the program compared to the size of our economy in relation to the rest of NATO.

□ 1530

Regardless of your stance on overall defense spending levels of various NATO countries, it is simply not true that the United States is paying more than its share of this direct contribution program.

These projects are agreed-upon NATO requirements and oftentimes have a direct benefit to supplement existing U.S. requirements. These sites include ones directly benefiting U.S. forces through the use of upgraded ports, airfields, and communications.

Our contributions to NATO represent only a small portion of overall defense spending, but the strength of the alliance is an outsized and irreplaceable part of American national security.

This amendment would not even reinvest the funding into other priorities, it simply cuts funding from the bill, shortchanging the military construction portion by over \$73 million. It is irresponsible. It is dangerous.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, Americans are not fighting and dying in Ukraine, Ukrainians are. All they ask of the great country they admire and they want to emulate is that we help with equipment and training.

Putin benefits from this amendment. Putin, a sociopath, who is engaged in

the most depraved behavior in our lifetime: killing innocent men and women, targeting hospitals, targeting schools, and showing no restraint.

This Congress must stand with Ukraine. This Congress can never be seen as Putin's enabler. That is what this amendment does. That is what is behind it.

The author of this amendment has already said she wants to give zero to Ukraine, so we know the motivation behind the amendment. Let's reject it.

Let's stand with Ukraine and make sure Putin gets that message loud and strong with a forceful voice here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, perhaps my colleagues are confused. Ukraine is not a member of NATO. Ukraine has not been accepted into NATO. Why are they using defense of Ukraine for their argument for an additional \$73 million increase for the NATO security investment program? That makes absolutely no sense.

If you want to talk about national security, Mr. Chair, let's talk about the American people's national security. My colleague across the aisle speaks of hostile nations and how they present a clear danger to America's national security. Well, you have to look no further than the southern border. The southern border is where hostile nations are invading our country every single day with poisonous fentanyl, which is murdering over 300 Americans a day.

If there is going to be an increase in funding for the defense of any nation, it should be the United States of America's border in defense of American lives.

Mr. Chair, I would like to add, my position and the position of most Americans is peace, not funding the murder and death in continued foreign wars, defending other countries' democracies while completely ignoring our own.

Mr. Chair, I ask the House to pass my amendment that keeps the spending level at the same level it was this previous appropriations bill—the same level. An increase in \$73 million is another step towards funding world war III.

It is another step in United States aggression over a country that is not even a member of NATO in the name of a NATO security investment program. This is absolute madness. It is outrageous.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN). The gentlewoman from Georgia has the only time remaining.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. May I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I will wrap this up. It is very simple. We are at \$32 trillion in debt. There is no

need to increase spending over the level that it was last year. Americans are already spending \$860 billion for NATO for the defense of other nations. There is no reason to increase it by \$73 million.

My amendment is very simple: It is asking to keep the appropriations level the same as it was this past year.

Mr. Chair, I ask the House to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF TEXAS

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 614, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, printed in House Report 118-158, offered by Mr. CARTER of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 24, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$25,000,000) (reduced by \$25,000,000)".

Page 24, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$25,000,000) (reduced by \$25,000,000)".

Page 25, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$25,000,000) (reduced by \$25,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 33, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000) (decreased by \$2,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 33, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. NORTON OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (decreased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 35, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by 2,000,000) (increased by 2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 35, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 36, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB OF MICHIGAN

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 47, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. ZINKE OF MONTANA

Page 40, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 47, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 42, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by 1,000,000) (increased by 1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 37, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 38, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

Page 40, line 5, dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

Page 48, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

Page 47, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, these are noncontroversial amendments and are supported by both sides.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. It includes 28 amendments: 2 bipartisan, 14 for Republicans, and 12 for Democrats. I am glad to see that we can at least come together around certain aspects of this bill to support our veteran servicemembers and their families and the leadership of colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ), who is here as an advocate on behalf of her constituents serving in the military as well as our veterans.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendments en bloc.

Following recent meetings with veterans in Lewis County, I am deeply concerned about a number of issues impacting constituent veterans who receive care through the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System.

First and foremost, veterans in Lewis County have seen their access to care reduced dramatically in recent years.

The 2021 closure of the Chehalis Community Based Outpatient Clinic cut many veterans off from nearby care. Travel times went from about 1 hour to more than 2 hours to get to a VA Puget Sound facility. Not just that, but the wait times are horrific. I am hearing from veterans that they are waiting at times over 6 hours on the phone for it to be answered.

In rural communities with sparse specialty and mental health care options to begin with, the closure of a full CBOC has put lifesaving care out of reach of our veterans.

I offered two amendments that are included in the amendments en bloc that will hold the VA accountable for protecting access to care for veterans in rural areas like mine in east Lewis County.

Amendment No. 15 would require the VA to submit a report to Congress on their efforts to ensure access to healthcare for veterans residing in geographic proximity to a Department of Veteran Affairs community-based outpatient clinic subject to closure.

Amendment No. 23 will require the VA to update Patient Experience Compare Data published on their public website to break down data by county. This would give our body and Americans valuable insight about how the patient experience with a medical center may differ based on location within the center's jurisdiction, not just the jurisdiction broadly. We can compare whether it is a rural issue or an issue with the center itself.

In return for their service to our country, we have made a promise to our veterans that we must uphold. It is our responsibility to ensure they have the access to healthcare necessary to lead a full and healthy life after their time in the armed services has ended.

Mr. Chair, I ask for support for these two amendments that will help increase transparency and hold the VA accountable for access to care for my constituents and other vets in rural areas.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who is here to stand up to make sure that our veterans get access to legal care.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide support to law school clinical programs and provide pro bono legal and support services to veterans, including assistance with disability claims and appeals and foreclosures. The House passed this amendment last year.

There are already at least 22 law schools that have clinics devoted to veterans' legal needs, including William and Mary Law School Veterans Benefits Clinic, which serves as a national model for this idea and was the first recipient of the “best practice” award for the VA.

There are many other law schools, such as the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law that are interested in starting their own VA certified clinics. More needs to be done to sustain and increase the number of these programs.

I was a tenured professor of law and continued to teach a seminar after being elected to Congress. I saw the expert attention that clinical programs provide their clients.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, a concrete measure that would assist our veterans who put their lives on the line for this country.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 21 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 38, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$20,000,000) (increased by \$20,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of my amendment to H.R. 4366.

This amendment will ensure the VA conducts large-scale studies into the efficacy of drugs with FDA breakthrough therapy status to treat post-traumatic stress disorder through medication-assisted therapy trials.

□ 1545

Every day, roughly 20 veterans take their own life. This number has stayed high despite our best efforts here in Washington. Fortunately, new breakthrough therapies have offered significant help.

Under the Trump administration, the FDA granted breakthrough therapy status for MDMA-assisted therapy to treat PTSD. Since then, privately funded research has demonstrated clear, positive results in treating previously untreatable PTSD with little or no risk for patients.

This includes studies in cooperation with the VA, for instance, at the Bronx VA hospital.

Let me be clear. These trials are conducted with full FDA approval, under medical supervision, and in safe clinical environments.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Additionally, Mr. Chair, because these medications are only ever administered directly in-person and in a clinical setting by medical professionals, there is no potential for misuse.

It is now time for the VA to do its part to expand research into these lifesaving therapies and refine best practices for our treatment for our veterans.

If psychedelic-assisted therapy can help treat a veteran's PTSD or prevent them from taking their own life, then we owe it to them to take an active role in researching these potentially lifesaving therapies.

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Chair, I also rise in strong support of the Bergman-Correa amendment.

This amendment will push the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA, to carry our large-scale studies into drugs like psilocybin, MDMA, and others which have been designated as breakthrough therapies by the Food and Drug Administration.

Why? It is because we owe it to our veterans.

Mr. Chair, what you have to do is listen to veterans' testimonies—veterans who have the invisible scars from the wounds they brought back from the battlefield—and their challenges, psychological challenges. Psilocybin promises up to 80 percent success after one treatment of a veteran's challenge, and, today, as the law stands, these veterans have to go outside the country to get treatment.

That is no way, Mr. Chair, to treat our veterans.

Let's take care of business. Let's make sure the VA takes these tests and studies and brings back data so that we can create a program that takes care of our veterans.

Veterans have fought for our freedom. It is time that we continue and step up to fulfill our moral obligation to take care of them, as well.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join us in voting "yes" on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague and partner, Representative CORREA, for his remarks.

We have both worked long and hard on the commitment to our veterans in so many different ways. This is just one more example of Congress doing the right thing for our veterans.

This amendment will unlock potential treatments that have been shown to actually cure post-traumatic stress disorder, something current medicine and modern psychology have been unable to do; give our veterans a chance to live a long, happy life that we all take for granted.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge all our Members to vote for our men and women—our heroes—who have served in uniform and to support the Bergman-Correa amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 34 printed in House Report 118-158.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 52, beginning on line 18, strike "the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion".

Page 52, line 20, strike the comma.

Page 52, beginning on line 24, strike "\$86,481,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment asks the House to support striking the funding for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion.

The Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion in the VA is charged with promoting woke DEI initiatives. My amendment would strike over \$86 million of funding for this woke office which provides training for VA employees to teach them about their implicit bias.

Just for you to understand what implicit bias means, Mr. Chairman, because it was something I had to look up myself, implicit bias—this is ACORN—implicit bias refers to a person's unconscious attitudes about other communities that can affect their behavior to those members.

Unconscious attitudes? We are funding \$86 million for people to be trained about things they feel that they don't know that they feel?

This makes absolutely no sense for the care of our great veterans.

Instead of spending millions of tax dollars on woke ideology, we should put that money toward making the VA

an agency that actually helps our heroes and our great veterans who served our military and our country and who desperately need good care.

When I am at home in my district and I speak to veterans there, that is what I hear them talk about to me constantly: is the care that they want to receive at the VA, but yet they are failed so many times?

Sick and injured veterans suffering with PTSD, depression, and mental illness and who are on the verge of suicide don't care if VA employees serving them have checked their White privilege. They just want to get the treatment that they need.

Just for some examples for the House to hear about the type of training that happens in this DEI department that is costing the American taxpayers \$86 million, a few examples are managing gender diversity in the VA, managing implicit bias—remember those are feelings you don't know you have—valuing workforce diversity in the workplace inclusion; participating effective diversity and inclusion in the workplace for managers, supervisors, and team leaders; understanding micro behaviors in the VA work environment.

It is time to put \$86 million to taking care of our veterans' healthcare needs. That is the right place to spend the money.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The VA strives to fairly represent and support the communities that it serves, and all veterans deserve equitable and fair access to the healthcare and benefits that they deserve. Diversity and inclusion foster a healthy workplace environment and promote equal opportunity through smart outreach, retention, and education.

Our veterans—despite the sponsor's denial of a more greatly diverse VA—increasingly are diverse themselves, and they deserve that.

The bill already rejected the budget request to fund the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion at the levels needed to support the department in 2024 and instead holds the office flat at the same funding level provided in 2023, and now this amendment seeks to eliminate the already inadequate funding in the bill entirely.

What is so threatening about the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion?

This office, among the many things it does, prevents harassment and discrimination problems.

I can't imagine why we wouldn't want to combat that, why we wouldn't to make sure that everybody is able to come to work or to be treated at the VA in an evenhanded and fair way.

It heads off costly legal problems for the VA and saves taxpayer money in the long term which I thought was something that our friends on the other side of the aisle are interested in.

I believe the real issue is that our friends on the other side of the aisle don't like the increasing diversity that is occurring in this country, and there is an effort underway as a result across all appropriations bills to excise that word and any policy related to it and to cut anything related to diversity regardless of the purpose and need of the office.

Mr. Chairman, this is an inherently discriminatory, unfair, and bigoted amendment. I urge my colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, the great news for all of us here today is that the Constitution declared long ago that all of us are created equal. It is time that we started acknowledging that in all of our funding, in all of our departments, and all across America, and, as well, that our veterans are created equal. We don't have to spend \$86 million on educating everyone on how different they are. It is time to start treating everyone equally.

As far as sexual harassment claims, private businesses all across the country are able to handle these without having special diversity, equity, and inclusion departments to handle sexual harassment. That is usually handled in human resources or among managers who can handle the situation.

Management has always been a problem in the VA. We do not need to fund \$86 million creating a big, woke department that is actually already created. We should spend \$86 million, again, toward helping our veterans. Our veterans have enough issues they face.

Not too long ago there was a tragic story in Georgia where one of our veterans committed suicide while waiting for the care in the waiting office at the VA. This should never ever happen.

This type of funding, \$86 million, again, should not go towards educating people about gender and gender bias, educating people about their skin color, and educating people about how they think unconsciously without knowing how they think. These are the type of woke ideologies that divide and separate Americans and that veterans could care less about.

They care about the care that they will receive, they care about having their appointments, they care about their medical treatment, and they care about one another.

One of the things veterans care most about is the fact that they suffer with PTSD from all the foreign wars that they have been sent to and served in.

It is time we take better care of our veterans and stop dividing America with identity politics.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chairman, I would say this: There is an attempt to divide the military.

We see each other as brothers and sisters in arms. I come from the military, and I can tell you this, Mr. Chairman: We don't care in the VA and we didn't care on the battlefield if the person carrying us on or the person whom we are carrying off is Black or Brown or White. We do have grooming standards, but I would say otherwise we don't care about the length of their hair or other things.

The left fundamentally despises, in my opinion, that the military is this last bastion of best man, best woman for the job that exists in our country, and they are doing everything that they can in the VA and in the military alike to insert themselves and create division that otherwise does not exist there.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia will be postponed.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report a determination under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, and section 3.353 of title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to the Department of Justice National Instant Criminal Background Check System established pursuant to section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 4366.

My amendment would prevent any funds under the act from being used to continue a VA current practice of sending a veteran's name to the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or the NICS list.

According to the VA rules, if a veteran or beneficiary is appointed a fiduciary to help manage their VA benefits, their name is automatically sent to the NICS list. VA sends the veteran's name without finding that veteran a danger to themselves or others, and this is not done in a court of law, not done by a judge, not done by any person with legal authority. It is only done by a VA bureaucrat.

A Federal employee currently has the right to take away a constitutional right of our veterans. The same veterans who protected our constitutional rights are now losing theirs because they need a bit of help managing their finances.

I have said this once, and I will say it again: Veterans should not be treated any differently from any other American citizen.

The mission of the VA is to care for those who have served. To me, it seems this practice is the opposite of caring for our veterans.

Veterans have told me that this practice is a barrier for them to seek healthcare. They are so afraid of losing their constitutional rights that they will not go to the VA for their healthcare or their benefits.

There were just under 15,000 individuals reported to NICS last fiscal year from the VA. This fiscal year, over 8,000 veterans have already been reported to the NICS so far. This practice must stop.

I am proud to have introduced my amendment that would prohibit the unlawful loss of a constitutional right of our veterans.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD letters of support for my amendment from The American Legion, Gun Owners of America, National Rifle Association, National Defense Committee, Vets 4 Vet Leadership, Veteran Warriors, and Catholic War Veterans.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
July 20, 2023.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

REPRESENTATIVE BOST: On behalf of the more than 1.6 million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for amendment to H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. It is ironic that veterans, a community in which every member swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States, requires advocacy to maintain their constitutional right to bear arms. The American Legion believes that each veteran, regardless of disability, has the lawful right to possess firearms, unless deemed unfit by a judicial authority with the full benefit of due process. Any constitutional right should be protected with this same expectation of scrutiny.

The proposed amendment would prohibit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from sending information on veterans who are assisted by a fiduciary to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), without a judicial ruling that they are a danger to themselves or others. As such, this amendment would prevent veterans from losing their Second Amend-

ment right to purchase or own a firearm because they receive help managing their VA benefits.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 118: Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Clarify the Treatment of a Veteran as Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent for Certain Purposes, The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation which would prohibit VA "from transmitting in any form, findings about a veteran's mental status or ability to handle his or her own funds, to other agencies without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction." The American Legion supports the proposed amendment. The American Legion sincerely appreciates your leadership on this issue and looks forward to working with you to secure the passage of this critical amendment.

For God & Country,
VINCENT J. "JIM" TROIOLA,
National Commander.

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA,
July 18, 2023.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOST: Gun Owners of America is thankful to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for its focus on the lost gun rights of a quarter of a million veterans with its legislative hearing on H.R. 705, the Veterans' 2nd Amendment Protection Act.

GOA exists to protect the constitutionally recognized right to keep and bear arms of all Americans. Because our veterans have taken up arms to defend this country, we strongly believe that the Department of Veterans Affairs must respect that right. Yet, since the Clinton Administration and the invention of the NICS background check system, the VA has used its "fiduciary rule" to disarm veterans as if they had been "adjudicated as a mental defective" by a court and were now prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law.

Veterans who have risked life and limb and now suffer from the psychological consequences related to their service should receive the best mental health care our nation has to offer. But VA gun control measures, such as this "fiduciary rule" to arbitrarily report veterans to the NICS database, pose major barriers to care for gun owning veterans who may need life-saving mental health treatment.

Sadly, veterans are disproportionately "adjudicated" as mental defectives by the federal government. As of 3 January 2023, 97.8 percent of active 18 U.S.C. §9221(g)(4) records in the NICS system submitted by the federal government are veterans. Of the 266,804 records submitted to NICS by federal agencies pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(4), 261,168 records were submitted by the VA.

The procedure of turning a veteran who cannot manage his or her checkbook into a prohibited person begins when a VA bureaucrat requires a fiduciary to administer benefit payments. The VA only notifies the veteran once at the initiation of the fiduciary appointment process. If the VA does not receive a response within 60 days of the issuance of this notification, the VA makes a determination of competency based only on the evidence of record and the veteran's record is submitted to the NICS database. Thus, a veteran may lose the legal right to possess or obtain firearms without committing any crime, without the constitutional due process necessary for the deprivation of a right, and sometimes without the veteran's full knowledge or consent.

It is essential that Congress immediately pass the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act to prohibit the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs (VA) from disarming any more veterans with its unconstitutional "fiduciary rule" process. Congress must also restore the Second Amendment rights of the veterans currently prohibited from possessing firearms because the VA has submitted their name to the FBI's background check system.

GOA fully endorses Chairman Bost's Amendment to H.R. 4366—to include the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act to the Military, Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

In Liberty,

AIDAN JOHNSTON,
Director of Federal Affairs.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2023.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOST: The National Rifle Association (NRA) applauds your amendment to H.R. 4366, to prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from stripping veterans' Second Amendment rights without due process.

For decades, VA has been using an entitlement program as a pretext to revoke a fundamental constitutional right from those it vows to serve. Under the current scheme, appointment of a fiduciary—a bureaucratic decision assessing a beneficiary's ability to handle personal finances—is treated as an "adjudication" of "mental defectiveness." This results in the reporting of these veterans to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System as disqualified from firearm ownership and acquisition, even though that finding does not involve a judge or a hearing to establish whether the individuals are dangerous to themselves or others.

No government bureaucrat should have the unilateral and arbitrary power to strip any American of their gun rights. Therefore, on behalf of millions of NRA members across the country—many of whom have served this great nation in uniform—the NRA fully supports this amendment as well as your companion legislation, H.R. 705, the Veterans' Second Amendment Protection Act.

Sincerely,

RANDY KOZUCH,
Executive Director, NRA-ILA.

JULY 26, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House.
Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Majority Leader of the House.
Hon. JIM MCGOVERN,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader of the House.
Hon. TOM COLE,
Chair, House Committee on Rules.

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY, LEADERS JEFFRIES AND SCALISE, CHAIR COLE, AND REPRESENTATIVE MCGOVERN: We, the undersigned veteran and military serving organizations, endorse the inclusion in the House Committee on Rules' reported Rule on H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, of the Rules Committee Amendment 23, Version 2—sponsored by Representative Bost of Illinois—to prohibit "the VA from using funds to submit a beneficiary's name to the NICS list based on VA's appointment of a fiduciary." We also endorse the amendment's adoption by the House into the final House-passed version of the bill.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) Fiduciary program is a testament to the threat the unchecked regulatory powers of the Executive Branch can pose to the inalienable rights of the People, in this case, to the rights of disabled veterans to due

process under the law, and to keep and bear arms. From the Fiduciary program's placing the burden of proof on the veteran to prove they are competent (and not on the VA to prove the veteran is incompetent), to the lack of judicial oversight to the process (as is provided in similar incompetency determinations by the Social Security Administration), to the then Orwellian process by which the VA tattles to the Department of Justice that the veteran has problems balancing their checkbook, and therefore now somehow qualifies as a "mental defective" under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 and loses their right to keep and bear arms, all without any judicial action, this program is rife with threats to the liberty and property of the very men and women who sacrificed their physical well being in the defense of this country.

Furthermore, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine found 55 percent of those Iraq and Afghanistan veterans needing mental health services did not seek VA care. The National Academies further stated a significant reason these veterans are not seeking these mental health care services is because of the fear they will lose their firearms, or other legal or administrative actions will be taken against them for seeking mental health care such as loss of security clearance, loss of child custody, and with 35 percent of those interviewed by the National Academy saying "the potential of having their personal firearms taken away as an obstacle to use VA mental health services." And given the rate of increase in veteran suicides over the last 20 years is almost 240 percent higher for those veterans not in the VA's mental health care programs than those in it, such disincentives to seek VA mental health care, such as the Fiduciary Rule, appear to be increasing veteran suicide, not decreasing it.

While we believe the entire VA Fiduciary program must be fundamentally reformed to address the significant civil and legal right abuses the Fiduciary program itself represents for America's veterans, given the legislative process that will require, we believe the Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act should contain this prohibition on any funds being expended by the VA to involuntarily place any veteran into the Fiduciary program.

Very Respectfully,

NATIONAL DEFENSE
COMMITTEE.
VETS 4 VET LEADERSHIP.
VETERAN WARRIORS.
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I thank Representatives ROSENDALE, HUDSON, DESJARLAIS, SELF, CAMMACK, HIGGINS, OGLES, MILLER, BOEBERT, VAN ORDEN, and KIGGANS for joining me on this amendment.

Madam Chair, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia). The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, during the process of applying for disability benefits, VA determines whether or not a beneficiary can manage their own financial affairs. If not, VA will assign them a fiduciary to protect the veteran.

VA will only determine an individual to be unable to manage his or her fi-

nancial affairs after receipt of medical documentation or if a court of competent jurisdiction has already made that determination.

In assigning a fiduciary, VA must also report the beneficiary to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the NICS system, as, under the law, they are adjudicated as mentally defective. This reporting prevents the beneficiary under Federal law from purchasing a firearm.

The program has a full due process system, and veterans can file an appeal. This is an example of generating a controversy where there is none.

The process of applying for disability benefits is entirely separate from the processes by which veterans receive VA healthcare. The Veterans Health Administration, which handles disability benefits, does not take away veterans' firearms.

However, by implying that VA bureaucrats are going to take guns away from veterans, this amendment not only does nothing to increase access to care but its very introduction seeks to dissuade veterans from even seeking healthcare that they have earned in the first place.

Moreover, this amendment deals with an authorizing issue and should not be debated on an appropriations bill. This is policy, not funding.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am glad that was brought up, the claim that the bureaucrats do not do this. It is only the bureaucrats that recommend to the NICS list, and then the Department of Justice does this. They take away a right of a veteran where any other citizen in this United States would have to go before a court of law where they would be found to be a danger to themselves or others.

Yet, our VA, under the interpretation that they have made of an existing law, has decided that they will have a bureaucrat, without due process, take away the rights of our veterans. It is as simple as that.

When I came here to this House, I found this out. As a veteran, I was appalled. What bothers me more than anything is the number of veterans across the central part of this United States who choose not to seek VA help for the fear that they would lose that Second Amendment right. They fought for that right and every other right under this Constitution.

This needs to be straightened out. It is not gun control. It is not any issue like that. This is a veterans rights issue.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, VA is required by law to transmit the names of the VA beneficiaries to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which prevents them from buying a firearm, but let me make one thing abundantly clear. Under no circumstances has VA ever confiscated anyone's firearms.

Seeking mental health care from the Veterans Health Administration will not result in a veteran's firearms being taken away. VA does not have legal authority to do so. Only under a discrete set of circumstances for a very discrete population does the Veterans Health Administration report veterans to NICS.

Madam Chair, the stigma around seeking mental health care at VA is a real one. It is also a multifaceted problem we are trying to tackle. Partisan stunts like this amendment make that fight more difficult because it leads to misinformation about the fiduciary program, a program meant to protect vulnerable veterans and beneficiaries.

We had a legislative hearing on Representative BOST's bill on this topic, and it was abundantly clear that there were problems with that bill. My colleagues are attempting to go this route, through the appropriations process, which is harmful because it strips money from VA for political purposes.

Madam Chair, when we discussed this bill last week in the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, we also learned of a great deal of concern about due process, but let me be clear on this point. There are already six avenues for review and relief that beneficiaries can use to challenge VA's determinations and remove their names from the NICS list. However, those avenues are not widely used.

In fact, I would challenge the chairman to show me where there is any veteran with standing that would even take this case to the Federal court to challenge the whole process at VA.

There are six avenues of review and relief. There is due process. What is the problem that this amendment is really trying to address?

As I said in committee, Madam Chair, no one on our side of the aisle asserts that the fiduciary program is infallible. No policy or program is. However, any change to a program or policy must be evidence based and data driven.

In the case of VA's fiduciary program, a program designed to protect the most vulnerable veterans from both financial and physical harm, we must be especially careful not to put more veterans at risk.

Democrats are more than willing to have a debate on the merits of this program under those parameters, but this amendment is purely a political exercise that only seeks to put more veterans at risk by perpetuating stigma around mental health care, and it undermines the VA's efforts at suicide prevention.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, I will answer two quick questions.

The fact is that, no, the VA employee does not take the Second Amendment right and possess the guns. The Department of Justice does. They give the name to the Department of Justice.

Two, when the statement was made that I have a bill to try to deal with this, the ranking member was totally correct. I do because I am going to do everything I can to make sure that the rights of our veterans are not taken away.

It is time for us to stand up for our veterans and protect the constitutional rights that they fought to protect. No veteran should lose their Second Amendment right without due process of law.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, let me make clear that the Department of Veterans Affairs has robust due process policies and regulations in place for incompetency determinations and remind our colleagues that one of the three ways in which someone is denied an opportunity to possess a firearm is when they have been declared mentally incompetent.

There are very robust provisions in the processes at the VA to ensure that there is due process in place. On top of that, the VA has the ability to grant relief from disability in the event that clear and convincing evidence is presented that affirmatively, substantially, and specifically shows that the beneficiary is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to the public and that granting relief will not be contrary to the public interest.

That is the kind of safety measure that we want, to make sure that when a veteran has been declared mentally incompetent, Madam Chair, that they are not able to get access to a firearm.

Due process is important. Protecting the public and the individual is important, as well.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise in favor of the en bloc amendment package, which includes six of my amendments that redirect funds from Biden's bloated bureaucracy to actually help our Nation's veterans.

Our men and women in uniform and our Nation's veterans put everything on the line to defend this great country and our freedoms. They deserve the best care that America has to offer.

Caring for our veterans should be a priority in our annual funding bills. That is why I drafted these amendments that transfer dollars from the Federal bureaucracy to provide additional resources for veterans, including veteran mental health programs, medical and prosthetic research, the Board of Veterans' Appeals to help reduce its backlog and process veterans claims more quickly, gravesites for veterans in areas where a veteran cannot be buried in a VA national cemetery, construction of State extended care facilities, the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, and veterans telehealth and rural health.

Don't believe the lies on the other side of the aisle. The Republican majority is committed to fully funding our veterans healthcare programs and funding veterans benefits and VA programs.

Earlier this year, they falsely claimed that the Limit, Save, Grow Act would cut veterans benefits, even though it didn't even mention veterans in the bill.

The White House and the leftists falsely tried to claim that this bill cut veterans benefits before it was even released. We didn't even have the text yet.

Let me say this again: This bill fully funds our veterans and even provides an increase of \$1.5 billion above the discretionary funding level contained in the fiscal year 2023 bill drafted by Democrats.

The only thing this bill cuts is wasteful spending, and it ensures the Department can no longer be politicized by putting veterans and their needs above a rainbow flag or pronouns.

My support for our servicemembers does not end when their service is complete. I am committed to ensuring that our Nation's most precious resource, its sons and daughters and mothers and fathers who answered the call to serve in uniform receive the essential healthcare and benefits they have earned.

I applaud the committee for taking on this difficult task of prioritizing limited resources for our veterans.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my amendments, as well as the underlying bill, which fully funds our veterans.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1615

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. MAST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used to enforce Veterans Health Directive 1315 as it relates to—

(1) the policy stating that “VHA providers are prohibited from completing forms or registering Veterans for participation in a State-approved marijuana program”;

(2) the directive for the “Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management” to ensure that “medical facility Directors are aware that it is VHA policy for providers to assess Veteran use of marijuana but providers are prohibited from recommending, making referrals to or completing paperwork for Veteran participation in State marijuana programs”;

(3) the directive for the “VA Medical Facility Director” to ensure that “VA facility staff are aware of the following” “[t]he prohibition on recommending, making referrals to or completing forms and registering Veterans for participation in State-approved marijuana programs”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

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

I rise today in support of a bipartisan amendment to do something simple: give veterans access to every possible tool when it comes to the wounds of war, of which I am innately familiar.

The amendment is quite simple. It allows VA doctors in States with legal medical cannabis programs to discuss cannabis as a treatment option with their patients. I say this as clearly as I can: I have friends who are Rangers, Green Berets, and SEALs. I have seen pilots and every other job in the military sometimes find relief from the drugs, the narcotics that they have been prescribed in the VA or in the hospital. They find relief from both mental and physical wounds that they face.

However, what they face as well is a Department of Veterans Affairs that does not allow their primary care physicians, their post-deployment clinics to discuss the medical treatment options and work with them through the paperwork for those medical treatment options that are actually available in their States. If they are not working with their doctors to do that, then you have to ask yourself, who is it that they would be working with to do that for medical treatment that is legal in their State?

This amendment, again, would change that and make it the case that the Department of Veterans Affairs can assist those veterans for whom it is appropriate and recommended by their doctors that medical cannabis be a treatment option.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I understand the intent and that some States permit the use of marijuana. However, the VA doctors are required to comply with Federal law. This amendment does not address that. I don't want to put them in legal jeopardy. I believe this should be handled by the authorizing committee.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his leadership.

I am proud to lead this amendment with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) to inject some sanity into our medical marijuana approach.

Veterans in Oregon and across the country have shared powerful stories with me about how medical cannabis has saved their lives and given them relief from wounds of war seen and unseen. These veterans have also shared their fear about what would happen if they worked with the VA doctors to incorporate their cannabis use into their treatment plans.

The VA denies veterans access to this care option by preventing providers from completing forms in compliance with State medical marijuana programs. This is a shameful disservice to the men and women who put their lives on the line. The VA is forcing veterans to seek care outside the VA or self-medicate.

Our veterans are paying the price for Congress' failure to act. That is why I am proud to join Representative MAST in leading the Veterans Equal Access Act and why I call on my colleagues to support this amendment. Simple justice for our veterans.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I think it is important to make clear that this debate is not about whether veterans in a State where it is legal can get access to marijuana. It is not even about whether doctors at the VA can communicate about those options with their patients because they can. VA already does that. We allowed that several years ago.

What it does do and what this debate is about is to ensure that because marijuana is still an illegal substance under Federal law, if we allow this amendment to pass, it would potentially put VA employees, healthcare providers and other VA employees at risk of DEA enforcement actions. That is not something that we can change with this amendment, no matter how much you might want to have this amendment move forward.

While some States might have legalized marijuana for medical purposes and allow physicians to prescribe it to patients, VA providers are still subject to Federal enforcement actions through the Drug Enforcement Administration. The VA has policies in place prohibiting physicians from completing forms, not from communicating with their patients, and they can't register veterans in a State medical marijuana program themselves. However, veterans certainly can register themselves to do that.

There is a concern that if legislation forced the VA to change or stop enforcing its policies, as this amendment is proposing, in the absence of systemic changes to Federal drug policy outside the VA that providers could be at risk of penalties or other legal action.

The proper place for this discussion, Madam Chair, is in the authorizing committee, which my colleague, the sponsor of the amendment serves on. Have a discussion and a debate over policy to change the Federal enforcement action risk that we would be placing VA employees in if this amendment moved forward. Move it to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee and prohibit DEA enforcement action.

This debate is happening in the wrong bill on the wrong topic. I oppose the amendment for that reason, while separately not opposing the idea that there are legal ways that veterans are able to get access to cannabis and marijuana. However, we do have to make sure we can continue to allow VA employees to be protected from prosecution as a result of the potential impact that this amendment would have.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, I yield myself 1 minute, just to point out that my colleague from Florida from the other side is quite literally wrong.

VHA Directive 1315 says this plainly: VHA providers are prohibited from completing forms or registering veterans for participation in State-approved marijuana programs. It says it very literally.

My colleague is saying that, no, doctors can talk to them about this, and they can deal with it. No, if a doctor can't help them with the forms and help them with registering and help them with the dosages and the

amounts and everything that goes on with a very specific medical policy, then that is a pretty confusing conversation for somebody to have if they can't take it to that level.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Chair, I am proud to join my colleagues in leading this commonsense effort to help our country's veterans access medical treatment.

Research has shown that medical cannabis can be a safe and effective treatment in targeted pain management for PTSD which, unfortunately, impacts many of our veterans. Despite their efficiency, bureaucratic red tape continues to deny veterans these life-altering treatments. In States like Ohio and 37 others where it is legal, the Federal Government should not prevent a VA doctor from recommending medical cannabis as a viable treatment option if they believe it will help their patient.

As the son of a WWII veteran who was wounded and left for dead on the battlefield, I have seen firsthand the many challenges our Nation's heroes face when they return home. We should all resolve to help expand access to treatments for the medical challenges, both mental and physical, our veterans experience.

That is why I ask my colleagues to support this amendment to help eliminate barriers for alternative treatments and provide our veterans with the care they need to overcome the wounds of war.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Again, I point out the merits of this: It is fact in the VA right now the cannabis policy is extremely confusing. It does very literally say VHA providers are prohibited from completing forms or registering veterans for participation in State-approved marijuana programs.

Those are conversations that you need to have with your primary care physician, nurse practitioners, and others. This is the reason that that policy needs to be changed. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, as Co-chair of the Congressional Cannabis Caucus, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan amendment No. 36, to the Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill. This amendment would help veterans participate in a legal state medical cannabis program, ensure services are not denied, or limit health care providers' ability to make appropriate recommendations of this treatment option for veterans.

Currently, VA physicians aren't allowed to complete medical forms relating to their patients' cannabis usage nor can they assist their patients in enrolling in medical cannabis programs.

This amendment would authorize VA physicians and other health care providers to provide recommendations and opinions regarding

the use of medical cannabis to veterans who live in states with existing medical programs.

Millions of American veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress and depression. Moreover, of the nearly one million veterans who receive opioids to treat painful conditions, more than half continue to consume beyond 90 days.

Time after time, data has revealed that the mortality rate from opiate overdoses among VA patients is nearly double the national average. In states where patients can legally access medical cannabis to treat painful conditions, often as a less addictive alternative, the hands of VA physicians should not be tied.

Cannabis is currently legal in most states and territories for medicinal or adult use and the VA health system must keep up. I am proud to co-lead this amendment and want to give a special thanks to my Cannabis Caucus Co-chairs, Representatives MAST, BLUMENAUER and JOYCE, for their partnership on enacting comprehensive cannabis reform.

I urge my colleagues to vote and support this bipartisan, common-sense amendment that would benefit our armed service members.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce any COVID-19 mask mandates.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, amendment No. 37, which would prohibit the use of funds made available by this act from being used to enforce any COVID-19 mask mandates.

Our country sends young men and women overseas for long periods of time, away from their family and friends at great risk to their physical safety. When they come home and become veterans, sometimes the VA refuses them the care that they have earned and that they deserve. This is unacceptable.

I have heard from numerous veterans in my district who have been denied care over their unwillingness to wear a mask to protect them from a pandemic that has long been declared over, using a method that has long since been refuted.

Denying a veteran medical care over a personal decision is outrageous. We

owe it to care for our Nation's heroes and to provide them with the best possible care, not stigmatize them over masking decisions.

The COVID-19 mask mandates are also unfair to the employees of the VA. Most employees want to provide veterans with world-class healthcare, not enforce arbitrary, unscientific rules. The VA did loosen its COVID-19 mask requirements recently. However, they left too much discretion to unelected bureaucrats. Again, the pandemic has long been over, and it is time to end all of the COVID-19 mandates.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, this amendment would prohibit the enforcement of any COVID-19 mask mandates. However, the VA has already relaxed mask mandates except in high-risk areas where patients could be put in danger by someone who has a respiratory infection.

For example, the VA continues to require masks near chemotherapy units, transplant units, and emergency rooms. In other words, this amendment would override safety precautions put in place for the VA's most at-risk patients.

It would block masking requirements near chemotherapy patients, whose immune systems have been brutally weakened by treatments to fight cancer. It would block masking requirements in the vicinity of surgery patients, where a dangerous respiratory virus could be deadly. It would block masking requirements near intensive care units filled with patients with severe, life-threatening illnesses.

This amendment is reckless, and it would endanger the lives of our most vulnerable patients at the VA. This amendment is not about a mask mandate at the office, it is not about a mask mandate at the grocery store. This amendment would block mask requirements at VA hospitals and healthcare facilities. How ludicrous could anything be?

□ 1630

It is astonishing that the gentleman would suggest that, in a hospital setting, around vulnerable individuals, particularly those that are extremely vulnerable, that we would be prohibiting a hospital from requiring people to wear masks so that people don't die of an illness contracted as a result of being exposed to someone who might be carrying germs that they are not aware of.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for this country. It is our responsibility to protect their health, not to risk their lives for a political stunt.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, unfortunately the Representative is either mistaken or intentionally spreading false information. Any parts or portions of the facility that previously had mask mandates for immune deficiencies or any other reasons would not be impacted by this mandate. Only mandates that are a direct result of COVID-19 are prohibited.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas, (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of Mr. ROSENDALE's amendment to remove mask mandates from our Veterans Affairs facilities.

Last April, President Joe Biden signed the Pandemic Is Over Act into law to decisively end the COVID-19 national emergency. Accordingly, hospitals and clinics across the country have rescinded their policies requiring visitors and patients to wear a mask.

However, VA clinics continue to enforce the so-called sensitive areas policy where patients must wear a mask while sitting in a meeting room waiting on his or her doctor. There is no reason for the VA to continue with this frivolous charade. Enough of the drama.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Chair, the medical center leadership, the leadership, will determine when it is appropriate to transition from standard to enhanced safety practices. This is the problem.

Bureaucrats are continuing to make decisions, not about sensitive areas, not about areas where we are prone to have immune deficiencies, but simply sensitive areas, and recommended national response by a team of subject matter experts due to future COVID-19 variants that threaten veteran staff and safety. This is not acceptable.

Again, COVID-19 is over. These mask mandates as a result of COVID-19 need to be eliminated.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, this amendment simply eliminates use of funds by the VA for the implementation of any COVID-19 mandates and is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to support this amendment and restore the proper treatment of our veterans.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Extreme MAGA Republicans are once again trying to prevent people—trying to make sure that we have more people get sick rather than fewer.

In a hospital setting, with medical experts, neither of whom have spoken on this amendment today, it is imperative that we listen to medical experts.

When you are in an intensive care unit, when you are receiving chemotherapy, when you are in a medically risky situation, ensuring that the people around you that come in from the outside don't get you sick and potentially risk you severe illness and death, that is a responsible medical policy.

What Republicans are proposing is to make sure that the VA can't keep its patients safe. That is irresponsible, in the name of the extreme MAGA opposition to doing anything to ensure that people don't get COVID. The stunning irresponsibility is surprising, even for them.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Madam Chair, I will speak briefly to two amendments that were included in the MILCON appropriations bill.

Specifically, one, amendment 24 ensures the funding for Veterans Health Administration, it ensures that we are dedicated to assisting veterans with disabilities and those with mental health and substance abuse challenges. Of course, as a Nation, we owe a great deal of gratitude to these men and women, and regardless of whether these are emotional or physical scars, this amendment ensures that we continue to provide appropriate access.

Additionally, amendment 25 ensures funding for the VA electronic health records which, of course, is critically important to our veterans, that we continue to modernize the system to help transitioning veterans access and receive top-quality care at VA facilities.

At the same time, we need to ensure the safety and effectiveness of updating this program. The VA and Congress must work in lockstep to create a system that better serves our veterans and taxpayers.

Madam Chair, I thank my colleagues for consideration of these amendments.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in of House Report 118-158.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out VHA Directive 1193.01, "Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Program for Veterans Health Administration Health Care Personnel".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, this amendment that I am offering prohibits any of the funding in the MILCON-VA appropriations bill from being used to carry out what I believe are unnecessary and unscientific COVID-19 vaccine mandates at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Now, there has been some confusion about this. Some people have said, oh, well, that is not really still going on. Well, I just got an email from the VA today saying, yes, it is.

There still are vaccine mandates that are being carried out at the VA and, to the best of my knowledge, it is the last remaining Federal vaccine mandate, and it needs to end.

Most Federal vaccine mandates ended in May of 2023, with the end of the public health emergency. The VA, though, was one of the few agencies to leave the mandate in place.

VHA Directive 1193.01, COVID-19 Vaccination Program for VHA Healthcare Personnel, outlines the policy and guidance for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for Veterans Health Administration healthcare personnel is still in effect.

The mandate applies to EMS personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, health professions trainees, clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, maintenance, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and even volunteers.

If you want to volunteer at the VA, you better get a jab.

The COVID vax mandate is unnecessary. It hurts healthcare workers. I believe it hurts healthcare being provided to our veterans.

As of July 15, 2022, the VA had disciplined some 74 workers that we know of, some of whom were fired.

I do not believe the mandate is necessary to keep our veterans or the VA staff safe. The former CDC director has said that the vaccines can't do anything to prevent transmission.

This amendment is about ending COVID madness once and for all at the VA and making sure that anyone who wants to provide medical care to our great veterans can do so.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I really can't believe I have to say this out loud, but vaccines have been essential in reducing the severity of COVID.

I would note that VA's vaccine requirement currently applies specifically to healthcare personnel, who are the people most in danger of not only contracting, but spreading this disease, especially to the vulnerable patients that VA serves, many of whom are at high risk for the long-term effects of COVID.

Additionally, at its highest point during the pandemic, VA had over 15,000 staff unable to work due to either infection or exposure, with over 9,000 of those clinical staff. That has a significant impact on patient care, and I think we should all agree that no veteran should be turned away from care because there wasn't a provider available to treat them.

VA took extremely reasonable steps to protect its patients and its workforce, and we shouldn't be tying VA's hands when it comes to managing their workforce and pursuing workplace safety and protecting its patients.

It was a responsible decision to limit the vaccine requirement to care providers in clinical settings, and this amendment, if it passes, will ensure that more VA employees get sick, more of their patients will get sick, and there is a certainty that more people will die if we don't ensure that VA employees who treat patients are vaccinated. That is just common sense and should be understood based on the experience of the time we all spent battling the pandemic.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I would only respond to the gentlewoman from Florida when she said it only applies to healthcare personnel. I just rattled off an entire list of virtually every known possible human being and job that could apply at the VA, and a whole lot of them aren't, in fact, healthcare personnel.

I went through an entire list, including laundry, security, maintenance, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, even volunteers.

Instead, some of my colleagues have said, this doesn't apply to the VA. Like I said, we reached out to the VA and, sure enough, they replied today, yes, the vaccine mandate still applies.

Nevertheless, we get rid of the Medicaid. We get rid of the Medicare mandates. The private sector is out there. They can do what they want to do. The vaccine mandate has come and gone in terms of something that the American people believe we should tolerate.

They want to be able to move about without having the fear of losing their job, and we have people at the VA losing their job.

We have nurses that have given up their ability to practice. We have got it throughout our entire—we have members of our military that have been held up from being promoted and being able to advance. We have people at the VA. I have met with people who worked at the VA, some of whom who were facing losing their job. This should end. This madness should end.

That is what this amendment would do. It would ensure that no funding goes to continuing and perpetuating that mandate.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I think it is important to point out that it is not just healthcare providers that work in VA healthcare facilities. Maintenance workers work in VA healthcare facilities and interact with patients and they move back and forth throughout the facility.

Cafeteria workers, other people who are not healthcare professionals work in VA facilities in and around the most sensitive patients being provided with care in the most intense healthcare environments. They can infect people with COVID. They can infect healthcare providers who work at the VA who interact with patients even more closely, and they can infect patients directly.

It is a responsible policy to ensure that where there is a severely ill patient or someone who is extremely vulnerable and has their immunity lowered—as a breast cancer survivor, I can tell you that when you go through chemotherapy, which I did not, but I have obviously spent a lot of time on understanding what breast cancer patients and people who go through chemotherapy experience, your immunity is knocked out.

So we are going to prohibit people who work in VA healthcare facilities from wearing masks to ensure that someone who has had their immunity system knocked out from being protected from an individual who might have COVID, while they are at work? That is grossly irresponsible, and it would result, potentially, in people getting sick and dying from something other than what they are being treated for at the VA.

□ 1645

That is the height of irresponsibility, and I can't believe that our friends on the other side of the aisle would be willing to risk the life and health of VA patients with this irresponsible policy.

We have to make sure in a healthcare setting that people who interact with patients in any way are protecting the patients from getting sick, and that is why this amendment should be defeated.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to modify or remove any display of the Department of Veterans Affairs that bears the mission statement "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.'"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment that prohibits any of the MILCON-VA funding appropriated from being used to modify or remove any VA display of the original mission statement.

Now, just a quick second before I go there. I didn't reserve my time because I thought we were trying to move things along. I am going to say, as a cancer survivor, as someone who did have chemo, and as someone who was on Neulasta to deal with a weakened immune system, I was in a hospital, and I wasn't being forced to wear masks and wasn't being forced to take any shots. If I wanted to take the flu shot, I could.

We have a CDC Director who said that this vaccine doesn't do anything to help the spread from other people to you. That is the whole point.

We should get rid of the vaccine mandates, but on another note of craziness from this administration, on March 16, 2023, earlier this year, the VA announced it updated the 1959 mission statement from: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise: 'To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and

for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans."

Now, it is a gender-neutral version: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

That is, it upends the quote that is directly from President Lincoln.

The original mission statement is posted in roughly 50 percent of the VA's facilities. The VA has been working through replacing them over the last couple of months by a directive. It is unclear how many displays are left.

The Trump administration resisted calls to change the motto and put an additional 140 plaques at national cemeteries bearing Lincoln's quote because it is a good quote. It is a historic quote.

The fact is, we should not use taxpayer dollars to allow this administration to unilaterally change the VA's historic motto and erase the words of President Lincoln in order to appease the radical left in advancing yet another one of their cultural revisionist efforts.

The VA's mission statement, established in 1959, appropriately used the words of President Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address delivered on March 4, 1865: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

That quote obviously came from the timeframe in which we were concluding the Civil War, and it came a mere month, from my recollection of history, from when Abraham Lincoln was, in fact, assassinated.

The speech was in part the basis of the Department of Veterans Affairs' creation and declared mission.

The Department wants to continue to waste hard-earned taxpayer dollars to erase history and expunge Lincoln's words by replacing the VA's mission statement, all in an attempt to earn woke brownie points.

I am thankful, of course, for the millions of men and women who have served valiantly in our Armed Forces, but changing the VA motto is just virtue signaling. We should be focused on providing the quality care and benefits veterans have earned in a timely manner.

The average wait time for new primary care appointments within the 13 South Texas Veterans Health System facilities was 50 days; veterans seeking their first appointment locally at the new Pecan Valley clinic, an average of 98 days; the VA clinic in the district I represent, Kerrville, 23 days, and that is the shortest.

This amendment, like my other amendments, is about restoring VA focus, not advancing a political agenda out of step with the majority of Americans.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, in March of this year, VA announced it is updating its 1959 mission statement: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors," and that was a way to make VA a more inclusive and inviting place.

VA's previous mission statement read: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise: 'To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.'"

The VA is a place where all veterans should feel welcomed, included, and cared for, and the previous mission statement did not adequately reflect the true veteran population. Only men were really reflected in the statement.

Today, women are the fastest growing group of veterans, and it is about time that we are reflected in VA's mission statement.

I am pleased the VA made this important and monumental change, honoring the past by making sure that we continue to make reference to President Lincoln's words and honoring the spirit of President Lincoln's intent, but also making sure that we truly honor all of our Nation's veterans, not just the men who have served our country.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment because this is exclusionary, and we want to make sure that the VA continues to be a more inclusive place and recognizes all veterans who serve, not just those who are men.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I will reiterate the extent to which this motto came directly from a quote from President Lincoln at his Second Inaugural Address at a particularly important and historic moment in our Nation's history. That was the point.

The literal culmination of the Civil War had occurred almost around that exact date or was occurring shortly thereafter and shortly before the President was to be assassinated, I believe in April, a month after this speech. To go back and edit this and then go around changing the VA to pull out a quote directly from Lincoln just, again, shows a lack of focus on what the VA should be focused on.

That is the point of the amendment. Can we just get back to trying to figure out how to provide care and do what we said we are going to do for millions of veterans who are tired of waiting and having technological systems that aren't working properly so they have trouble getting in and out of care and being able to use care in the

private sector? There are lots of things we need to be fixing at the VA, and this is certainly not one of them.

Madam Chair, I think that I have made the point. I think the amendment should be supported. I think we should get the VA focused on what the people of this country want us to focus on, supporting the care for veterans.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I think it is important to point out that the new motto still is reflective of President Lincoln's beliefs, and his promise is one that was developed after surveying veterans who receive care from the VA and their employees.

Perhaps we should listen to the veterans who are served by the VA and the people who work with them every single day about the need for a more inclusive motto. The more inclusive motto says, "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors," making sure that the motto of the VA ensures that all patients who are served there, all employees who work there, all the surviving families who interact with the VA every single day understand that the motto applies to them and the more outdated motto that dates back to President Lincoln's time is no longer reflective of who is served at the VA.

This is 2023. It is hard to imagine that we are actually debating a motto on the floor of the House of Representatives and have a Member of Congress suggesting that that motto should remain exclusive of women instead of ensuring, as the motto voted on as a result of the surveys of VA employees and VA patients, is more reflective of who the VA treats today.

Madam Chair, I urge opposition to the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to implement any of the following executive orders:

(1) Executive Order 13990, relating to Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis.

(2) Executive Order 14008, relating to Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

(3) Section 6 of Executive Order 14013, relating to Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs To Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration.

(4) Executive Order 14030, relating to Climate-Related Financial Risk.

(5) Executive Order 14057, relating to Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability.

(6) Executive Order 14082, relating to Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

(7) Executive Order 14096, relating to Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, this amendment prohibits any of the funding in the MILCON-VA appropriations bill from being used to carry out President Biden's executive orders on climate change.

I was gratified to have offered a similar amendment and to see it adopted on the floor of the House with respect to the National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA. We believe that the United States military should have a singular focus, and that is also true for the Veterans Administration. It should have a singular focus—ensuring our veterans have the care they need, not advancing the climate fetish that is making us beholden to China for our energy needs, undermining our national security, and undermining the very reason veterans put their lives on the line to defend this country.

In August 2021, the VA put forward a "climate action plan," which includes indoctrinating VA employees with so-called climate literacy, pushing renewable energy consumption, sustainable buildings, and greenhouse gas emissions at VA facilities.

Now, VA is transitioning its fleet of over 22,000 vehicles to zero-emission vehicles. Mind you, our American public, who want to go about carrying out their jobs and their livelihoods, can't even afford vehicles anymore because we are clamping down on the ability of them to go purchase vehicles because we are limiting the production of the internal combustion engine so we can have battery-powered automobiles that are being produced with lithium and cobalt and things being mined in Africa while children are being exploited and the Chinese Communist Party is being empowered, all while China, by the way, has 1,100 coal-fired plants compared to our 250. They are building two a week while we are basically doing nothing to advance anything with respect to reliable energy.

Instead, we are putting all of our eggs in the unreliable energy basket, which makes us beholden to China, the Chinese Communist Party, and our enemies around the globe rather than exporting liquefied natural gas and making us stronger.

Again, the Veterans Administration ought to reflect the American people and our strength by focusing on its core mission—providing healthcare and benefits that are necessary for those who have served to defend our country.

□ 1700

My Democratic colleagues apparently think you can power a VA hospital on wind and solar alone. Of course, you cannot. It is not possible.

Anybody who looks at it looks at the data and sees on a windless, cloudy day, how are you powering a VA hospital? You are powering it with fossil fuels. You are powering it with what little nuclear power we have, given that we have been unable to build a nuclear plant, by far the most reliable non-CO₂-producing energy in the world. We haven't been able to do it since the 1970s because of the regulatory infrastructure in this country. It is absurd.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle go around ballyhooing about carbon dioxide, and the one reliable energy that you can do has been prevented by regulatory morass through the better part of my lifetime of 50 years.

Instead, they go around producing wind and solar, which as more information comes out about how horrific it has been for the planet, how horrific it is for children throughout this world mining those minerals, how empowering it is for our enemies, and here we are trying to turn the VA into essentially a promotion of the climate agenda for the radical left.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

Despite the wildfires, smoke-covered skies, life-threatening heat waves, and extreme weather we now face nearly every day in the United States, this amendment would hamstring our ability to address the accelerating threat of climate change.

The scientific consensus is clear, and we need to get serious about preventing further damage by transitioning to clean energy sources while also working to mitigate the costs we already bear today.

The Department of Defense has repeatedly recognized that climate change is a direct threat to the U.S. military's readiness, mission effectiveness, and resilience. From rising sea levels that can flood coastal installa-

tions to more frequent extreme weather events that can damage our military infrastructure, these climate-related effects put our security at risk.

Don't take my word for it. Just look at the news. Just yesterday, the news reported that the ocean temperature in south Florida was more than 100 degrees yesterday, 101.1 degrees to be specific, in Everglades National Park in Manatee Bay.

Do you know what happens at temperatures like that? At temperatures like that, we start seeing massive coral bleaching. Coral bleaching, high temperatures, sea level rise are not someday things in Florida. They are right now things.

In 2018, a Category 5 hurricane devastated Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, necessitating billions of dollars to repair and rebuild. We can only mitigate against those costly scenarios if we can acknowledge that the changing climate and increasing extremes we must adapt to are real.

Further, climate change directly impacts the health of our most vulnerable veterans. Increases in extreme heat, extreme weather events, and disease pose a threat to those who have served, particularly those who are older or who have preexisting conditions and those who have respiratory conditions, which often older veterans do.

The policies targeted in this amendment provide a path to help us future-proof our military, incorporate climate risk analysis into military planning, enhance our energy security, address the health effects of climate change, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

The gentleman from Texas might want to wish away or amend away global warming and climate change and its effects, but that simply isn't possible. This amendment would result in leaving our military woefully unprepared and our Nation on a path toward climate catastrophe in decades to come.

Madam Chair, I urge opposition to the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I just reiterate the extent to which we are turning over our national security to our enemies. Eighty percent of the solar panels installed in the United States come from Chinese firms. Seven of the top 10 wind technology turbine manufacturers are Chinese firms. China controls 77 percent of EV battery manufacturing.

The fact is, our national security is dependent upon our ability to produce and export liquefied natural gas and being able to use the God-given minerals that we have in this country, oil and gas, to be able to power the world.

There are almost a billion people on this planet who really have no access to electricity, some 3 billion who don't have access to reliable electricity and energy, and all we are doing is constraining the ability of the world to produce the energy necessary for human flourishing.

We are all committed to trying to help improve the environment. Governor DeSantis in Florida has made enormous strides in improving the Everglades in Florida and received notoriety for doing so.

In Texas, we have the most wind production of any State in the country, but you have to beg the question as to whether that is a good thing or a bad thing if you don't have enough fossil fuels to back up the wind and the solar.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to live in unicorn land and pretend that you don't need energy to power up the buildings in which we live in order to make us able to exist on this planet and actually have human flourishing in the face of weather and the conditions that we have to live through.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, it is astonishing to me that our friends on the other side of the aisle are fossil fuel warriors. I mean, that is what this is all about. This is about Big Oil and fossil fuel supporters and making sure that the coffers continue to be filled.

It is absolutely irresponsible. It is essential that we make sure that we are preparing and aggressively pursuing and making sure that we can stave off and mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change. These are not risks that are somewhere in the distant future. They are happening right now.

Madam Chair, in my own district, in neighborhoods in south Florida, during the king tides in particular, you have sunny day flooding because the sea level rise is nearly unstoppable at this point. That is costing us precious resources that we should be spending on other quality-of-life issues. Yet, the gentleman's amendment would further prevent us from being able to mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change. It is dangerous.

In particular, as it relates to our military, it puts our national security at risk and the health of our servicemembers at risk. We need to make sure that we can continue to aggressively pursue protecting our national security interests, which is why, on both sides, no matter who is in charge of the Department of Defense, the Department continues to pursue policies that will ensure that we can mitigate against global warming and climate change. They understand the risk to our servicemembers and to our safety.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. ZINKE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 118-158.

Mr. ZINKE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer, implement, or enforce Executive Order 14057 (dated December 8, 2021).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ZINKE. Madam Chair, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support my amendment to ensure the Department of Defense has the flexibility and authority to supply adequate power to defend this country and win in battle.

It is ironic that we are here today, and I can't believe we are talking about it, but we are. The latest rule by the Biden administration to force the DOD to only use electricity for power and heating without backup, without any regard to situation, terrain, technology, or supply chain, is absurd.

Let's talk about energy security and what it looks like. The first 2 years of the Trump administration, we went from 8.7 million barrels a day to 12.5 million barrels a day. We went from being energy vulnerable and dependent upon our allies and potential adversaries to being energy independent and, in some places, dominant.

By the way, we lowered emissions. Do you know why? Because America does energy better, cleaner, and more efficient than any other country on the face of this planet.

Let's talk about the Biden administration and what this does. It puts our national security at risk.

First, let's talk about supply chains. In the EV world, where are the minerals mined? Who controls the minerals, the processing, the manufacturing? Who controls the solar cells, the components that make up the EV world? China.

It is ironic that the moment we become energy independent, we are now moving to more dependency on our allies and what could be our adversaries.

Secondly, let's look at the cost. How much does it cost in the world we live in? We are looking at budgets and savings and the future. What this does is it raises the cost of construction, and there is no answer to the supply chain. Just on mining critical minerals alone, it would take a 2,000 percent increase

for 20 years to meet the energy demands of batteries today. Yet, this administration puts this rule in, and by the way, good luck mining in the United States. The only thing this administration is approving is gravel pits.

Let's talk about the environment and disposal. Where do 90 percent of the solar cells go today? To landfills across this great Nation. How about the turbine blades? How about the batteries? Where are the batteries going? How do we remove the toxins? Do you know what? There is no answer. There is no answer for the supply chain in the processing and manufacturing, and there is no answer for the disposal.

Madam Chair, I agree with the gentlewoman from Florida that our oceans are precious, absolutely precious. Ninety percent of the plastics in the ocean come from four rivers in China. I can go over a list of the environmental atrocities in China.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to vote for America, vote for American energy, and stop this absurdity that is going to cost lives because we won't be able to power this country.

Do you think we are having problems now? Ask the United States Navy, which had to pull the fleet out of San Diego. Do you know why? They don't have shore power because the grid is not set up for it. We are dangerously moving toward vulnerability.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, this executive order is a whole-of-government approach for addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to clean energy and sustainable technologies. It ensures that we set responsible targets for how we invest our Federal dollars to incentivize the private sector to expand on these technologies, and it creates unionized jobs.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires across this Nation. We are seeing the impacts of climate change in real time.

In south Florida, like I mentioned earlier, yesterday, we had a 101.1-degree registered temperature in the ocean around south Florida.

From California to Vermont and across Republican and Democratic districts, if we want to leave our planet better for our children and our grandchildren, then we must strategically invest in products that improve energy and water efficiency, reduce emissions, and generate clean energy.

We need a coordinated, government-wide approach to ensure that there is no duplication of effort or unnecessary red tape that disincentivizes public-private partnerships. This amendment prevents that.

The focus on elevating fossil fuels and thwarting the advancement of clean energy will not help this Nation build a strong economy for the future.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to defeat the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has the only time remaining.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment strikes section 258, which prohibits funding for abortions and the implementation of the VA's interim final rule on access to reproductive healthcare. My Republican colleagues want to make abortion illegal nationwide.

□ 1715

Section 258 of this bill furthers that mission, putting women at risk and making it harder for veterans to access healthcare. Let's ensure that doesn't happen.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4366 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

Strike section 258.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ZINKE) having assumed the chair, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

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 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1745

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HERN) at 5 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 614 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4366.

Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1746

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Ms. VAN DUYNE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 118-158 offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 118-158 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. RYAN of New York.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. OGLES of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 3 by Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

Amendment No. 34 by Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

Amendment No. 35 by Mr. BOST of Illinois.

Amendment No. 37 by Mr. ROSENDALE of Montana.

Amendment No. 38 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

Amendment No. 39 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

Amendment No. 40 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

Amendment No. 41 by Mr. ZINKE of Montana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. RYAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in House Report 118-158 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 394, noes 19, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 369]

AYES—394

Adams	Courtney	Gooden (TX)
Aderholt	Craig	Gottheimer
Aguilar	Crawford	Granger
Alford	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Allen	Crockett	Graves (MO)
Allred	Crow	Green (TN)
Amodei	Cuellar	Green, Al (TX)
Armstrong	Curtis	Greene (GA)
Auchincloss	D'Esposito	Grijalva
Babin	Davidson	Guest
Bacon	Davis (IL)	Guthrie
Baird	Davis (NC)	Hageman
Balderson	De La Cruz	Harder (CA)
Balint	Dean (PA)	Harris
Banks	DeGette	Harshbarger
Barr	DeLauro	Hayes
Barragán	DelBene	Higgins (LA)
Bean (FL)	Deluzio	Higgins (NY)
Beatty	DesSaulnier	Hill
Bentz	DesJarlais	Himes
Bera	Diaz-Balart	Hinson
Beyer	Dingell	Horsford
Bice	Doggett	Houchin
Bishop (GA)	Duarte	Houlahan
Bishop (NC)	Duncan	Hoyer
Blumenauer	Dunn (FL)	Hoyle (OR)
Blunt Rochester	Edwards	Hudson
Bonamici	Ellzey	Huizenga
Bost	Emmer	Hunt
Bowman	Escobar	Issa
Boyle (PA)	Eshoo	Ivey
Brown	Espallat	Jackson (IL)
Brownley	Estes	Jackson (NC)
Buchanan	Evans	Jackson (TX)
Bucshon	Ezell	Jackson Lee
Budzinski	Fallon	Jacobs
Burgess	Ferguson	James
Bush	Finstad	Jayapal
Calvert	Fischbach	Jeffries
Cammack	Fitzgerald	Johnson (GA)
Caraveo	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (OH)
Carbaljal	Fleischmann	Johnson (SD)
Cárdenas	Fletcher	Jordan
Carey	Flood	Joyce (OH)
Carl	Foster	Joyce (PA)
Carson	Foushee	Kamlager-Dove
Carter (GA)	Fox	Kaptur
Carter (LA)	Frankel, Lois	Kean (NJ)
Carter (TX)	Franklin, C.	Keating
Cartwright	Scott	Kelly (IL)
Casar	Frost	Kelly (MS)
Casten	Castro (TX)	Kelly (PA)
Castor (FL)	Chavez-DeRemer	Khanna
Castro (TX)	Cherfilus-	Kiggans (VA)
Chavez-DeRemer	McCormick	Kildee
Cherfilus-	Chu	Kiley
McCormick	Ciscomani	Kilmer
Chu	Clark (MA)	Kim (CA)
Ciscomani	Clarke (NY)	Kim (NJ)
Clark (MA)	Cleaver	Krishnamoorthi
Clarke (NY)	Cline	Kuster
Cleaver	Clyburn	Kustoff
Cline	Cohen	LaHood
Clyburn	Cole	LaLota
Cohen	Comer	Lamborn
Cole	Connolly	Landsman
Comer	Correa	Langworthy
Connolly	Costa	Larsen (WA)
Correa		Larson (CT)
Costa		Latta

LaTurner	Nunn (IA)	Sorensen
Lawler	Oberholte	Soto
Lee (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Spanberger
Lee (FL)	Ogles	Spartz
Lee (NV)	Omar	Stansbury
Lee (PA)	Owens	Stanton
Leger Fernandez	Pallone	Stauber
Letlow	Palmer	Steel
Levin	Panetta	Stefanik
Lieu	Pappas	Steil
Lofgren	Payne	Steube
Lucas	Pelosi	Stevens
Luetkemeyer	Peltola	Stewart
Luna	Pence	Strickland
Luttrell	Perez	Strong
Lynch	Peters	Swalwell
Mace	Pettersen	Sykes
Magaziner	Pfluger	Takano
Mann	Phillips	Tenney
Manning	Pingree	Thanedar
Massie	Plaskett	Thompson (CA)
Mast	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Matsui	Porter	Thompson (PA)
McBath	Pressley	Tiffany
McCarthy	Quigley	Timmons
McCaul	Radewagen	Titus
McClain	Ramirez	Tlaib
McClellan	Raskin	Tokuda
McCollum	Reschenthaler	Tonko
McCormick	Rodgers (WA)	Torres (CA)
McGarvey	Rogers (AL)	Torres (NY)
McGovern	Rogers (KY)	Trahan
McHenry	Rose	Turner
Meeks	Ross	Underwood
Menendez	Rouzer	Valadao
Meng	Ruppersberger	Van Drew
Mfume	Rutherford	Van Orden
Miller (IL)	Ryan	Vargas
Miller (OH)	Sablan	Vasquez
Miller (WV)	Salazar	Veasey
Miller-Meeks	Salinas	Velázquez
Mills	Santos	Wagner
Molinaro	Sarbanes	Walberg
Moolenaar	Scalise	Waltz
Mooney	Scanlon	Wasserman
Moore (AL)	Schakowsky	Schultz
Moore (UT)	Schiff	Waters
Moore (WI)	Schneider	Watson Coleman
Moran	Scholten	Weber (TX)
Morelle	Schrier	Webster (FL)
Moskowitz	Schweikert	Wenstrup
Moulton	Scott (VA)	Westerman
Moylan	Scott, Austin	Wexton
Mullin	Scott, David	Wild
Murphy	Self	Williams (GA)
Napolitano	Sessions	Williams (TX)
Neal	Sherman	Wilson (FL)
Neguse	Sherrill	Wilson (SC)
Nehls	Slotkin	Wittman
Newhouse	Smith (NE)	Womack
Nickel	Smith (NJ)	Yakym
Norcross	Smith (WA)	Zinke
Norton	Smucker	

NOES—19

Biggs	Good (VA)	Norman
Buck	Gosar	Perry
Burchett	Griffith	Posey
Burlison	Grothman	Rosendale
Clyde	Hern	Van Dyne
Collins	Loudermilk	
Crane	McClintock	

NOT VOTING—27

Arrington	González-Colón	Pascarell
Bergman	Huffman	Roy
Bilirakis	Johnson (LA)	Ruiz
Boebert	LaMalfa	Sánchez
Brecheen	Lesko	Sewell
Case	Malliotakis	Simpson
Cloud	Meuser	Smith (MO)
Donalds	Mrvan	Trone
Gallego	Nadler	Williams (NY)

□ 1806

Messrs. GOSAR, BURCHETT, GROTHMAN, and MCCLINTOCK changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. TLAIB and SCANLON changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I unfortunately missed one rollcall vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on rollcall No. 369.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2, printed in House Report 118-158 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 99, noes 327, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 370]

AYES—99

Aderholt	Franklin, C.	McClintock
Alford	Scott	Miller (IL)
Babin	Fry	Miller (WV)
Banks	Gaetz	Mills
Bean (FL)	Good (VA)	Mooney
Biggs	Gooden (TX)	Moore (AL)
Bilirakis	Gosar	Murphy
Bishop (NC)	Graves (LA)	Nehls
Boebert	Graves (MO)	Norman
Bost	Greene (GA)	Nunn (IA)
Brecheen	Griffith	Ogles
Buck	Guest	Palmer
Burchett	Hageman	Perry
Burgess	Harris	Posey
Burlison	Harshbarger	Rogers (AL)
Cammack	Hern	Rose
Carey	Higgins (LA)	Rosendale
Carl	Houchin	Rouzer
Cline	Hunt	Roy
Cloud	Jackson (TX)	Ruiz
Clyde	Johnson (LA)	Smith (MO)
Collins	Jordan	Spartz
Comer	Kelly (MS)	Steube
Crane	LaHood	Strong
Davidson	Langworthy	Tiffany
DesJarlais	Lesko	Timmons
Donalds	Letlow	Van Drew
Duncan	Loudermilk	Waltz
Emmer	Luetkemeyer	Weber (TX)
Estes	Luna	Williams (TX)
Ezell	Luttrell	Wilson (SC)
Fallon	Mann	Zinke
Ferguson	Massie	
Fitzgerald	Mast	

NOES—327

Adams	Brownley	Cleaver
Aguilar	Buchanan	Clyburn
Allen	Bucshon	Cohen
Allred	Budzinski	Cole
Amodei	Bush	Connolly
Armstrong	Calvert	Correa
Auchincloss	Caraveo	Costa
Bacon	Carbajal	Courtney
Baird	Cárdenas	Craig
Balderson	Carson	Crawford
Balint	Carter (GA)	Crenshaw
Barr	Carter (LA)	Crockett
Barragán	Carter (TX)	Crow
Beatty	Cartwright	Cuellar
Bentz	Casar	Curtis
Bera	Case	D'Esposito
Bergman	Casten	Daids (KS)
Beyer	Castor (FL)	Davis (IL)
Bice	Castro (TX)	Davis (NC)
Bishop (GA)	Chavez-DeRemer	De La Cruz
Blumenauer	Cherfilus	Dean (PA)
Blunt Rochester	McCormick	DeGette
Bonamici	Chu	DeLauro
Bowman	Ciscomani	DelBene
Boyle (PA)	Clark (MA)	Deluzio
Brown	Clarke (NY)	DeSaulnier

Diaz-Balart	Kustoff	Rodgers (WA)
Dingell	LaLota	Rogers (KY)
Doggett	Lamborn	Ross
Duarte	Landsman	Ruppersberger
Dunn (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Rutherford
Edwards	Larson (CT)	Ryan
Ellzey	Latta	Sablan
Escobar	LaTurner	Salazar
Eshoo	Lawler	Salinas
Espallat	Lee (CA)	Santos
Evans	Lee (FL)	Sarbanes
Feenstra	Lee (NV)	Scalise
Finstad	Lee (PA)	Scanlon
Fischbach	Leger Fernandez	Schakowsky
Fitzpatrick	Levin	Schiff
Fleischmann	Lieu	Schneider
Fletcher	Lofgren	Scholten
Flood	Lucas	Schrier
Foster	Lynch	Schweikert
Foushee	Mace	Scott (VA)
Fox	Magaziner	Scott, Austin
Frost	Malliotakis	Scott, David
Fulcher	Manning	Self
Gallagher	Matsui	Sessions
Garamendi	McBath	Sherman
Garbarino	McCarthy	Sherrill
Garcia (IL)	McCaul	Simpson
Garcia (TX)	McClain	Slotkin
Garcia, Mike	McClellan	Smith (NE)
Garcia, Robert	McCollum	Smith (NJ)
Gimenez	McCormick	Smith (WA)
Golden (ME)	McGarvey	Smucker
Goldman (NY)	McGovern	Sorensen
Gomez	Meeks	Soto
Gonzales, Tony	Menendez	Spanberger
Gonzalez,	Meng	Stansbury
Vicente	Mfume	Stanton
Gottheimer	Miller (OH)	Staubert
Granger	Miller-Meeks	Steel
Green (TN)	Molinaro	Stefanik
Green, Al (TX)	Mooleenaar	Stell
Grijalva	Moore (UT)	Stevens
Grothman	Moore (WI)	Stewart
Guthrie	Moran	Strickland
Harder (CA)	Morelle	Swalwell
Hayes	Moskowitz	Sykes
Higgins (NY)	Moulton	Takano
Hill	Moynan	Tenney
Himes	Mrvan	Thanedar
Hinson	Mullin	Thompson (CA)
Horsford	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Houlahan	Neal	Thompson (PA)
Hoyer	Neguse	Titus
Hoyle (OR)	Newhouse	Tlaib
Hudson	Nickel	Tokuda
Huizenga	Norcross	Tonko
Issa	Norton	Torres (CA)
Ivey	Obernolte	Torres (NY)
Jackson (IL)	Ocasio-Cortez	Trahan
Jackson (NC)	Omar	Turner
Jackson Lee	Owens	Underwood
Jacobs	Pallone	Valadao
James	Panetta	Van Duyne
Jayapal	Pappas	Van Orden
Jeffries	Pascrell	Vargas
Johnson (GA)	Payne	Vasquez
Johnson (OH)	Pelosi	Veasey
Johnson (SD)	Peltola	Velazquez
Joyce (PA)	Pence	Wagner
Kamlager-Dove	Perez	Walberg
Kaptur	Peters	Wasserman
Kean (NJ)	Pettersen	Schultz
Keating	Pfluger	Waters
Kelly (IL)	Phillips	Watson Coleman
Kelly (PA)	Pingree	Webster (FL)
Khanna	Plaskett	Wenstrup
Kiggans (VA)	Pocan	Westerman
Kildee	Porter	Wexton
Kiley	Pressley	Wild
Kilmer	Quigley	Williams (GA)
Kim (CA)	Radewagen	Wilson (FL)
Kim (NJ)	Ramirez	Wittman
Krishnamoorthi	Raskin	Womack
Kuster	Reschenthaler	Yakym

NOT VOTING—14

Arrington	Joyce (OH)	Sánchez
Frankel, Lois	LaMalfa	Sewell
Gallego	McHenry	Trone
González-Colón	Meuser	Williams (NY)
Huffman	Nadler	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HERN) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1810

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 3, printed in House Report 118-158 offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 83, noes 347, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 371]

AYES—83

Allen	Fry	Mills
Banks	Fulcher	Mooney
Bean (FL)	Gaetz	Moore (AL)
Biggs	Good (VA)	Murphy
Bishop (NC)	Gooden (TX)	Nehls
Boebert	Gosar	Norman
Bost	Greene (GA)	Nunn (IA)
Brecheen	Hageman	Ogles
Buck	Harris	Perry
Burchett	Harshbarger	Posey
Burgess	Hern	Rosendale
Burlison	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Cammack	Houchin	Rutherford
Carey	Hunt	Santos
Carl	Jackson (TX)	Smith (MO)
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Spartz
Cloud	Jordan	Steube
Collins	Joyce (PA)	Strong
Comer	Langworthy	Tiffany
Crane	Lesko	Timmons
Davidson	Loudermilk	Van Drew
Donalds	Luna	Waltz
Duncan	Luttrell	Weber (TX)
Emmer	Mann	Williams (TX)
Estes	Massie	Wilson (SC)
Fallon	Mast	Zinke
Fitzgerald	McClintock	
Franklin, C.	Miller (IL)	
Scott	Miller (WV)	

NOES—347

Adams	Buchanan	Cole
Aderholt	Bucshon	Connolly
Aguilar	Budzinski	Correa
Alford	Bush	Costa
Allred	Calvert	Courtney
Amodei	Caraveo	Craig
Armstrong	Carbajal	Crawford
Auchincloss	Cárdenas	Crenshaw
Bacon	Carson	Crockett
Baird	Carter (GA)	Crow
Balderson	Carter (LA)	Cuellar
Balint	Carter (TX)	Curtis
Barr	Cartwright	D'Esposito
Barragán	Casar	Davis (KS)
Beatty	Case	Davis (IL)
Bentz	Casten	Davis (NC)
Bera	Castor (FL)	De La Cruz
Bergman	Castro (TX)	Dean (PA)
Beyer	Chavez-DeRemer	DeGette
Bice	Cherfilus	DeLauro
Bilirakis	McCormick	DelBene
Bishop (GA)	Chu	Deluzio
Blumenauer	Ciscomani	DeSaulnier
Blunt Rochester	Clark (MA)	DesJarlais
Bonamici	Clarke (NY)	Diaz-Balart
Bowman	Cleaver	Dingell
Boyle (PA)	Boyle (PA)	Doggett
Brown	Clyburn	Duarte
Brownley	Cohen	Dunn (FL)

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1817

Mrs. RADEWAGEN changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 35, printed in House Report 118–185 offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 228, noes 206, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 373]

AYES—228

Aderholt	Estes	Kiggans (VA)
Alford	Ezell	Kiley
Allen	Fallon	Kim (CA)
Amodei	Feenstra	Kustoff
Armstrong	Ferguson	LaHood
Arrington	Finstad	LaLota
Babin	Fischbach	LaMalfa
Bacon	Fitzgerald	Lamborn
Baird	Fleischmann	Langworthy
Balderson	Flood	Latta
Banks	Foxx	LaTurner
Barr	Franklin, C.	Lawler
Bean (FL)	Scott	Lee (FL)
Bentz	Fry	Lesko
Bergman	Fulcher	Letlow
Bice	Gaetz	Loudermilk
Biggs	Gallagher	Lucas
Billirakis	Garbarino	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (NC)	Garcia, Mike	Luna
Boebert	Gimenez	Luttrell
Bost	Golden (ME)	Mace
Brecheen	Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis
Buchanan	Gonzalez,	Mann
Buck	Vicente	Massie
Bucshon	Good (VA)	Mast
Burchett	Gooden (TX)	McCarthy
Burgess	Gosar	McCaul
Burlison	Granger	McClain
Calvert	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Cammack	Graves (MO)	McCormick
Carey	Green (TN)	McHenry
Carl	Greene (GA)	Meuser
Carter (GA)	Griffith	Miller (IL)
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Miller (OH)
Chavez-DeRemer	Guest	Miller (WV)
Ciscomani	Guthrie	Miller-Meeks
Cline	Hageman	Mills
Cloud	Harris	Molinaro
Clyde	Harshbarger	Moolenaar
Cole	Hern	Mooney
Collins	Higgins (LA)	Moore (AL)
Comer	Hill	Moore (UT)
Crane	Hinson	Moran
Crawford	Houchin	Moylan
Crenshaw	Hudson	Murphy
Cuellar	Huizenga	Nehls
Curtis	Hunt	Newhouse
D'Esposito	Issa	Norman
Davidson	Jackson (TX)	Nunn (IA)
De La Cruz	James	Oberholte
DesJarlais	Johnson (LA)	Ogles
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Owens
Donalds	Johnson (SD)	Palmer
Duarte	Jordan	Peltola
Duncan	Joyce (OH)	Pence
Dunn (FL)	Joyce (PA)	Perez
Edwards	Kean (NJ)	Perry
Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Pfuger
Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Posey

Radewagen	Smith (MO)
Reschenthaler	Smith (NE)
Rodgers (WA)	Smith (NJ)
Rogers (AL)	Smucker
Rogers (KY)	Spartz
Rose	Stauber
Rosendale	Steel
Rouzer	Stefanik
Roy	Steil
Rutherford	Steube
Salazar	Stewart
Santos	Strong
Scalise	Tenney
Schweikert	Thompson (PA)
Scott, Austin	Tiffany
Self	Timmons
Sessions	Turner
Simpson	Valadao

NOES—206

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

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego	Huffman	Trone
González-Colón	Sewell	Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1821

Mr. MOSKOWITZ changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 37, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 223, noes 211, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 374]

AYES—223

Aderholt	Ezell	Kustoff
Alford	Fallon	LaHood
Allen	Feenstra	LaLota
Amodei	Ferguson	LaMalfa
Armstrong	Finstad	Lamborn
Arrington	Fischbach	Langworthy
Babin	Fitzgerald	Latta
Bacon	Fitzpatrick	LaTurner
Baird	Fleischmann	Lawler
Balderson	Flood	Lee (FL)
Banks	Foxx	Lesko
Barr	Franklin, C.	Letlow
Bean (FL)	Scott	Loudermilk
Bentz	Fry	Lucas
Bergman	Fulcher	Luetkemeyer
Bice	Gaetz	Luna
Biggs	Gallagher	Luttrell
Billirakis	Garbarino	Mace
Bishop (NC)	Garcia, Mike	Malliotakis
Boebert	Gimenez	Mann
Bost	Gonzales, Tony	Massie
Brecheen	Good (VA)	Mast
Buchanan	Gooden (TX)	McCarthy
Buck	Gosar	McCaul
Bucshon	Granger	McClain
Burchett	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Burgess	Graves (MO)	McCormick
Burlison	Green (TN)	McHenry
Calvert	Greene (GA)	Meuser
Cammack	Griffith	Miller (IL)
Carey	Grothman	Miller (OH)
Carl	Guest	Miller (WV)
Carter (GA)	Guthrie	Miller-Meeks
Carter (TX)	Hageman	Mills
Chavez-DeRemer	Harris	Molinaro
Ciscomani	Harshbarger	Moolenaar
Cline	Hern	Mooney
Cloud	Higgins (LA)	Moore (AL)
Clyde	Hill	Moore (UT)
Cole	Hinson	Moran
Collins	Houchin	Moylan
Comer	Hudson	Murphy
Crane	Huizenga	Nehls
Crawford	Hunt	Newhouse
Crenshaw	Issa	Norman
Curtis	Jackson (TX)	Nunn (IA)
D'Esposito	James	Oberholte
Davidson	Johnson (LA)	Ogles
De La Cruz	Johnson (OH)	Owens
DesJarlais	Johnson (SD)	Palmer
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Pence
Donalds	Joyce (OH)	Perry
Duarte	Joyce (PA)	Pfuger
Duncan	Kean (NJ)	Posey
Dunn (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Radewagen
Edwards	Kelly (PA)	Reschenthaler
Ellzey	Kiggans (VA)	Rodgers (WA)
Emmer	Kiley	Rogers (AL)
Estes	Kim (CA)	Rogers (KY)

Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)

Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew

Van Duyn
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—211

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)

Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta

Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Sablan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón

Huffman
Sewell

Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1824

Ms. LEE of Nevada changed her vote
from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on amendment No. 38, printed in
House Report 118–158 offered by the
gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on
which further proceedings were post-
poned and on which the ayes prevailed
by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 224, noes 210,
not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 375]

AYES—224

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

Estes
Kustoff
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Flood
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Pfluger
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley

Kim (CA)
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Moylan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Radewagen
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao

Van Drew
Van Duyn
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—210

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)

Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone

Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Sablan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón

Huffman
Sewell

Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1827

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 39, printed in House Report 118-158 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 221, noes 212, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 376]

AYES—221

Aderholt	Finstad	Lawler
Alford	Fischbach	Lee (FL)
Allen	Fitzgerald	Lesko
Amodei	Fleischmann	Letlow
Armstrong	Flood	Loudermilk
Arrington	Foxx	Lucas
Babin	Franklin, C.	Luetkemeyer
Bacon	Scott	Luna
Baird	Fry	Luttrell
Balderson	Fulcher	Malliotakis
Banks	Gaetz	Mann
Barr	Gallagher	Massie
Bean (FL)	Garbarino	Mast
Bentz	Garcia, Mike	McCarthy
Bergman	Gimenez	McCaul
Biggs	Gonzales, Tony	McClain
Bilirakis	Good (VA)	McClintock
Bishop (NC)	Gooden (TX)	McCormick
Boebert	Gosar	McHenry
Bost	Granger	Meuser
Brecheen	Graves (LA)	Miller (IL)
Buchanan	Graves (MO)	Miller (OH)
Buck	Green (TN)	Miller (WV)
Bucshon	Greene (GA)	Miller-Meeks
Burchett	Griffith	Mills
Burgess	Grothman	Molinaro
Burlison	Guest	Moolenaar
Calvert	Guthrie	Mooney
Cammack	Hageman	Moore (AL)
Carey	Harris	Moore (UT)
Carl	Harshbarger	Moran
Carter (GA)	Hern	Moylan
Carter (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Murphy
Chavez-DeRemer	Hill	Nehls
Ciscomani	Hinson	Newhouse
Cline	Houchin	Norman
Cloud	Hudson	Nunn (IA)
Clyde	Huizenga	Obernalte
Cole	Hunt	Ogles
Collins	Issa	Owens
Comer	Jackson (TX)	Palmer
Crane	James	Peltola
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Pence
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Curtis	Johnson (SD)	Pfleger
D'Esposito	Jordan	Posey
Davidson	Joyce (OH)	Radewagen
De La Cruz	Joyce (PA)	Reschenthaler
DesJarlais	Kean (NJ)	Rodgers (WA)
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (AL)
Donalds	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)
Duarte	Kiggans (VA)	Rose
Duncan	Kiley	Rosendale
Dunn (FL)	Kim (CA)	Rouzer
Edwards	Kustoff	Roy
Ellzey	LaHood	Rutherford
Emmer	LaLota	Salazar
Estes	LaMalfa	Santos
Ezell	Lamborn	Scalise
Fallon	Langworthy	Schweikert
Feenstra	Latta	Scott, Austin
Ferguson	LaTurner	Self

Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick

Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)

Bice
Gallego
González-Colón

Stewart
Strong
Tenny
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dyne
Van Orden
Wagner

NOES—212

Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar

NOT VOTING—7

Huffman
Sewell
Trone

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1830

So the amendment was agreed to.

Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Sablan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Lieu
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swallow
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Trahan
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Tracy
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 40, printed in House Report 118-158 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 220, noes 214, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 377]

AYES—220

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

Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner

Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—214

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castro (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Españillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1833

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. ZINKE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on amendment No. 41, printed in
House Report 118–158 offered by the
gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE),
on which further proceedings were
postponed and on which the ayes pre-
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 222, noes 212,
not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 378]

AYES—222

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

Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna

Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne

Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman

NOES—212

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Españillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1838

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no
further amendment, under the rule, the
Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) having assumed the chair, Mr. HERN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 614, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Wasserman Schultz of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4366 to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 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.

□ 1845

CONGRATULATING EVALYNN SANFORD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recent Camden County High School graduate Evalynn Sanford for winning a national championship in architectural drafting at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta.

Sanford, who is 18 years young, captured the gold medal on Saturday,

June 24, 2023. She faced nearly 50 other competitors from across the U.S. in the architectural drafting competition.

In August, she will graduate with an associate's degree in drafting technology from Coastal Pines Technical College.

Sanford has an impressive resume, already working as an intern at Charles W. Day Design, which is an architectural firm in Brunswick.

In addition to her award, Sanford earned \$2,000 in scholarships, which she will put toward her next educational endeavor, a degree in architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Sanford on her championship and wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING JOYCE HAMLETT

(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 in honor of a great American, and I want to say at this point in time: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

I rise to recognize the Keeper of the Mace for the United States House of Representatives on this day, Joyce Hamlett, who has been a caretaker, a defender, a person who has kept this House in order, a person who knows the rules better than most Members and has also been a friend.

She has helped me with doctors, talked to me when I have been in bad shape, and kept me warm out in the hall. She is a consummate servant for this House.

For 35 years, she has given her life to the United States House of Representatives. I am deeply moved on this day, which is why I did my 1 minute from here, so I could address her and look her way and say: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

There is no one who is more serious about the business of this House than Joyce Hamlett. She will be missed.

I know it is bittersweet for her, as well. I know she can't wait till she leaves, but as she thinks about it, it is not a happy day.

Let me wish her continued success. She has earned this retirement. She has earned this retirement, working with the Members that she has probably had come through this House. God bless her. I thank her, and may the Lord keep her.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLINTON COUNTY FAIR

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic Clinton County Fair.

For half a century, Clinton County has brought local artisans, talented agricultural professionals, and an eager community together, and I want to acknowledge and celebrate the fair's success.

With humble beginnings as a horse-and-pony roundup run on donated time in a horse ring near Pine Creek, Pennsylvania, the organizers of the small event had big aspirations. Turning the simple livestock show into a full-fledged agriculture extravaganza would be no small feat, accomplished through the hard work and gracious efforts of volunteers.

In the years to come, the determined fair committee and their community fought through the red tape and battled funding ordeals. After many years of hard work, they emerged with a fully-fledged fairground and all the resources to put on an impressive display of local agriculture.

Today's annual Clinton County Fair is a testament to the hard work, determination, and strong values that are essential to both rural communities and our Nation. By funneling resources into local agricultural economies, farmers and families alike reap the benefits of collective effort.

TRAGEDY IN CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, most of you have probably never heard of Cedar Hill, Texas, but you know their story. A gunman walks into a hospital, which should be a place of healing, and instead inflicts immeasurable pain and trauma.

That is the story of Cedar Hill on July 25, 2023, a terrifying day for my constituents but an ordinary day for America, at least the America of today where guns are gods and people are pawns, the America where the gun lobby wins and we the people lose.

People lose their lives. They lose a sense of sanity. We all lose a sense of security.

Make no mistake, when the radical right wins, we the people lose our rights.

They have no clue what it means to be truly pro-life. If they did, they would write or at least support legislation that meets the moment, a moment full of death and destruction that is crying out for solutions and sanity.

THREAT OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as we know, the Chinese Communist Party poses one of the greatest existential challenges of our time.

Under President Xi Jinping, the CCP has made its intentions perfectly clear:

supplant the post-World War II international order created by the U.S. and forge a new world order led by China.

Clearly, the Biden administration is distracted from that. Time and again, this administration has projected weakness on the world stage and gotten bogged down by policies that only serve to divide our people and other silliness.

We can't afford to drop the ball on this critical matter. We must get tough on China and restore American greatness on the world stage by projecting strength, not weakness.

The CCP is only becoming more and more aggressive. Here are a few examples.

First is the issue of exit bans placed by the CCP on American citizens, including some of my own constituents. This behavior by the CCP needs to stop. We must find solutions for this dire issue facing American citizens.

Second, I was pleased to support prohibiting the CCP from acquiring American farmland, frequently near important military installations.

Third, we must deter any threat to Taiwan as well as Japan.

SECOND CHANCE FOR JUSTICE

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Pacoima, California, a working-class neighborhood that was unjustly targeted by the justice system. It is a community that I am proud to currently represent.

There are kids like Jerome Dixon, who was wrongfully incarcerated as a child and locked up for 20 years because he was pressured into giving a false confession after 25 hours of interrogation without having an adult or a parent present with him. He spent 20 years of his life behind bars for a crime that he did not commit.

For over 25 years, I have worked to fix a broken system that has prioritized stuck-on-stupid incarceration over proven, effective rehabilitation. That is why, last week, I announced the "Second Chance for Justice Package" with my colleagues, Congresswoman KAMLAGER-DOVE and Senator CORY BOOKER.

These bills further invest in youth development and crime prevention programs. They will make our communities safer, reduce expenses for taxpayers, and demonstrate a real commitment to treating children with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these common-sense bills. We owe our children a system that works with them, not one that is out to get them.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year, we recognize the 100th anniversary of the equal rights amendment. Today, I rise to commemorate, as well, the 60th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

Women in our Nation have made great progress in the fight for pay equality over the past six decades, but it is not nearly enough. We must close the gap.

Women in Ohio earn 79 cents for every dollar a man earns, and that is unacceptable. This pay gap has an impact on women's ability to excel in the workforce, pay for basic necessities, and build retirement savings for a successful future.

This pay disparity has remained relatively stable over the last 20 years, but this status quo will continue unless we work to close it. We must ensure equal compensation across the board and rightfully pay hardworking women their hard-earned dollars.

Women are invaluable members in every workplace and deserve equal compensation for equal work.

Let us prioritize closing the gender pay gap once and for all and lift up mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and daughters in our workforce.

TORNADO AT PFIZER FACILITY

(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, last week, a tornado ripped through Rocky Mount, North Carolina, severely damaging one of Pfizer's key facilities. We are grateful there were no fatalities, and we thank God for the first responders who ensured our community's safety.

Even during times of adversity, Pfizer's CEO, Dr. Albert Bourla, made an extraordinary commitment to continue operations in Rocky Mount, the heart of North Carolina's First Congressional District, guaranteeing job security for the employees at this site and contributing to our local economy.

The decision to stay and invest in Rocky Mount preserves the livelihoods of thousands of employees and sends a powerful message.

As the recovery process continues, I genuinely appreciate the vital role Pfizer plays not only in the Rocky Mount community but across the East, America, and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the businesses and residents affected by this natural disaster, please know I will stand with you.

SALUTING JOYCE HAMLETT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to salute our friend and patriot, Joyce Hamlett.

It is a surprise for some of us who wish that the news was not accurate, but I cannot miss an opportunity to call her a historic figure in this House.

Joyce made history as being named the custodian, the protector, of the mace. I can assure you, she handles this historic responsibility with grace, firmness, leadership, patriotism, and a love of country.

I do want to say that Joyce was a hero on January 6, 2021. It was Joyce's face that we looked at to get the original charge of getting to safety, of ensuring that the doors were closed. I heard her voice, and I saw her pointing, giving instructions to make sure that as Members finally discovered that we were under attack, we would be safe. She did not move to protect herself. She stood fast to ensure that Members had the right information to be able to be taken to or rush to safety.

Her family loves her. We don't realize that she has a wonderful responsibility of her grandchildren, and they have grown up under her. I have watched that happen.

Mr. Speaker, finally, let me say this: We will lose a great American. I hope as she goes in another direction, there will be others blessed by this grande dame, if you will, and this great American, a person who will always love this institution.

We will always love Joyce Hamlett and respect her for her service to the Nation.

God bless her, and God bless the United States of America.

□ 1900

RELAYING INFORMATION TO OUR CONSTITUENTS OVER THE AUGUST RECESS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we are just 2 days away from the August district work period, and on Friday our colleagues will return home to our 435 districts across this great country.

I know on the Republican side everyone will be holding townhalls and roundtables, and they will meet with constituents and businessowners. They will be with the people that we represent here in the people's House. We have so much to relay to them.

This has been a busy 7 months in this Congress, and House Republicans have

passed a lot of important legislation. We are keeping our commitment to America that we ran on in the last election cycle.

Here is a short list: The Lower Energy Costs Act. We passed that and it unleashed American energy production.

The Secure the Border Act is the most comprehensive border security package ever passed by the United States Congress.

The Parents Bill of Rights Act ensures that parents have a seat at the table.

The National Defense Authorization Act that is full of important priorities and pushes back on radical leftist policy in our military.

There is so much more. I could spend the entire designated hour going through the list of major accomplishments.

The House Republicans also, by the way, ended the COVID-19 national emergency. We rescinded two backwards D.C. crime bills. We have conducted rigorous oversight of an administration that has played fast and loose with the rule of law.

Not long ago, discussion of the Hunter Biden laptop was literally blocked on social media—I mean, literally. We have a 155-page Federal court opinion in the landmark litigation, *Missouri and Louisiana v. Biden*. The court looked at volumes of evidence and deliberated for months and issued a preliminary injunction order explained in these 155 pages.

The court says that the facts show very clearly that the Biden administration and its agencies, including the DOJ, FBI, CDC, Department of Homeland Security, and others, were engaged in a whole-of-government censorship effort. They censored and silenced and suppressed the viewpoints of Conservatives, specifically online. They met routinely with the social media companies and told them to pull down voices and messages they disagreed with, so-called misinformation that none of them obviously can define. They blatantly violated the Constitution and the First Amendment.

The court said that if all of these allegations are true—and that is what the facts show—it is, arguably, the most massive attack on free speech in the history of the United States. That is what the court said, not Republicans. We have been on that and we have been investigating that.

News organizations just a few months ago called Members who dared to question the narrative about the Hunter Biden laptop as conspiracy theorists and extremists.

Thanks to the work of our various committees, not only has this information been verified, but we have uncovered a wealth of information not only linking Hunter Biden to illegal activities, but very likely the President himself.

We will take this time during the August work period to continue to share

all these important facts with the American people. I am encouraged that people are following these developments and they are demanding accountability.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great lineup of Republican Members here tonight to speak during our hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), my good friend and a former Navy SEAL.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

As a former Navy SEAL and combat veteran, I am proud to support this legislation. It delivers on our promise for a safer Nation by providing the Department of Defense with the facilities they require and our promise to protect those that protected our Nation by fully funding the Veterans Affairs Department.

Additionally, it helps rectify two grievous wrongs that have been committed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. First, they are politicizing this appropriations process, and second, by trying to subvert the Constitution and remove veterans' Second Amendment rights.

As Republicans worked to responsibly raise the debt ceiling, the Department of Veterans Affairs told Americans in a press release that Republicans wanted to gut benefits for those that served our country. This was simply not factual.

When I returned to my district, I held a roundtable for my fellow veterans. At The American Legion in Sparta, Wisconsin, a 96-year-old Vietnam veteran named Don told me that he was terrified that he would be losing the benefits that he earned during his service.

The Department of Veterans Affairs are being fearmongers with Don and all of our veterans to score cheap political points, and that is unacceptable.

The Veterans Administration is subverting our vets' Second Amendment rights by sending the beneficiary's name to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, whenever a fiduciary is appointed to help a beneficiary manage his VA benefits. If a veteran cannot balance their checkbook, they could potentially be barred from buying a weapon. As a result of this, many veterans have decided not to go to the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In the Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing last week on Chairman BOST's bill, the Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act, a witness testified that as of December 2020, Federal agencies have contributed 263,225 records to the background check system, of which the Veterans Administration is responsible for 98.1 percent of the total number.

Mr. Speaker, I am a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran. Make no mistake, the MILCON/VA appropriations bill fully funds veterans'

healthcare, veterans' health benefit programs, and many other Veterans Administration programs to the tune of \$800 million more than Joe Biden put in his budget request.

It eliminates the funding for the Veterans Administration Office of Public Affairs in direct response to their politically motivated false claims about budget cuts.

My number one priority when I entered this body is to prevent veteran suicide. Scaring veterans away from going to the Veterans' Affairs facilities is not forwarding that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the Democrat and the Republican side to support this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. VAN ORDEN for his service to this country and for his expertise on this, it is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in my entire tenure in Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives will be considering two appropriations bills this week that cut wasteful spending. Before the fact-checkers come after me, I will go ahead and say that I am sure it has been done before, but not in my time in Congress, which up until this year has been done under Democrat majority control.

Here are just a few of the wasteful Washington programs House Republicans are aiming to cut in the appropriations process this week. In the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2024, House Republicans prohibit using funds to promote or advance critical race theory. No taxpayer dollars should have ever been spent on this harmful, divisive and anti-American theory.

The bill prohibits the Biden administration from implementing, administering, or enforcing any of President Biden's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The executive branch should be focused on hiring our country's best and brightest, not on checking a certain box.

The bill even rescinds billions in funds, like \$1 billion for rural clean energy programs created in the Inflation Reduction Act on Green New Deal climate initiatives.

Not only are these bills cutting wasteful Washington spending, but they are also advancing many conservative principles Tennesseans can be proud to support, such as: ending mail-order chemical abortion, directing the USDA Secretary to take action to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land by those associated with China, Russia, North Korea, or Iran, or even prohibiting funds for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Mr. Speaker, all in all, I believe these are good provisions in these two bills. House Republicans are doing the good work on behalf of the American people to responsibly fund the Federal Government, cut wasteful spending, and return the focus of our government back

to where priorities should lie and not the woke initiatives of Green New Deal Democrats.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, he made some great points.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about it, wokeness is destroying America. The proof is all around us. It has managed to seep into our schools, businesses, publications, and nearly every other nook and cranny of our great society. Even our military is prioritizing diversity and inclusion over strength and readiness.

Schools are teaching critical race theory and revisionist history over truth and fact, brainwashing our kids with a leftist doctrine on what to think instead of how to think and formulate ideas for themselves.

Agendas to defund and demonize police officers are hindering police departments' ability to hire new personnel and to protect their communities.

Radical climate change policies are decimating our energy sector. The foolish push for electric vehicles is increasing our dependency on an enemy like Communist China.

Liberal judges are refusing to prosecute violent criminals and enabling this tsunami of a crime wave that is washing over our Nation.

The continued exploitation of programs like humanitarian parole is worsening the border crisis and allowing millions of illegal aliens to enter the country on the taxpayers' dime and making it more likely that we will be hit with another terrorist attack like 9/11, or even worse. The list goes on.

The fact remains that the left's woke policies plague our Nation, and we must find a remedy before the damage done becomes permanent.

By using common sense—and merely putting American interests first—many of the policies in the two appropriations bills that are currently being debated and voted on this week work to eliminate these woke and disastrous policies. Unsurprisingly, my Democrat colleagues across the aisle strongly oppose these commonsense policies and changes.

The American people know better. No longer should we fund the Wuhan lab responsible for unleashing COVID-19 into the world. No longer should we allow those with ties to the Communist Chinese Party, Russia, North Korea, or Iran to purchase U.S. farmland.

No longer should Federal funds be used by the Defense Department to enforce critical race theory and other DEI policies and sidetracking our military from its primary mission to destroy our enemies and keep us free.

These are just a few of the ways that House Republicans are prioritizing the Nation's needs over a political agenda that throws merit and ability out the window.

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We must remain steadfast in our mission to loosen this disastrous grip that wokeness has had on America for far too long. Our national security, our food security, our energy security, our overall sovereignty, and our national survival depend on it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BABIN. He is right. That woke agenda has had a corrosive effect on the culture. Today I was reading a new Gallup poll, only 18 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds are now extremely proud to be an American. It is just shocking. That is the result. Ideas have consequences.

Mr. Speaker, we will go from Texas all the way up to New York.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman JOHNSON for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider H.R. 4368, the agriculture appropriations bill, I will shed light on a critical issue that impacts the lives of millions of Americans and has the potential to transform our rural communities for the better, and that is expansion of rural broadband.

In an era defined by information and technology, access to reliable, high-speed internet has become a fundamental necessity. It empowers individuals, educates our youth, grows businesses, and connects us to the world at large.

While urban areas have experienced the benefit of a connected world, our rural communities have been left behind in the digital divide. Due to the lack of adequate broadband infrastructure, these communities face countless barriers to accessing the same opportunities and resources as their urban counterparts.

By investing in rural broadband, we can bridge this divide and unleash the full potential to our rural communities. It provides economic empowerment by opening doors to new markets and allowing small businesses in rural areas to thrive and compete globally. It encourages innovation, creates new job opportunities, and revives local economies.

It also provides our children in rural areas who are often left behind with new opportunities for education, and it enables lifelong learning for adults, offering access to online courses and vocational training.

As we saw during the pandemic, reliable internet will allow rural residents to access essential telemedicine opportunities with their doctors.

This is just a small picture of the life-changing effects of rural broadband. It is not just a matter of convenience. It is an investment in our collective future. It is a commitment to empowering all Americans equally, regardless of where they live, with the tools that they need to succeed in an increasingly interconnected world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the fiscal year 24 agriculture appro-

priations bill that includes these critical investments to take rural development and rural broadband to the next level.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very important points. It is hard to be connected at all if we don't have broadband. It is related to health, education, and every aspect of our lives now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. JOHNSON, and I appreciate his leading this, once again, as we communicate with the American folks about the good things we are getting done around here. That is important. The communication and the openness of the House to the people is a critical element and something we were missing for about 2½ years around here. The COVID disaster that hit this country was exacerbated by government action.

Indeed, overreaction has cost us so much economically and so much to the goodwill and the mental state of many of our people. Look at the damage that was done to our schoolchildren as they lost basically 2 years out of their lives. I think that will be damage that was done to a generation, and I don't know how quickly they are going to recover.

Nevertheless, we here, the Republicans in the majority of the U.S. House, have worked toward restoring peoples' faith in the government by allowing them to participate and opening the House gallery once again. I can have people from my district here tonight. That right would not have been seen just not that many months ago.

Our committee process is open to the people instead of being done by Zoom or some other effect. Indeed, that is very important because there is nothing like being in the room with people to have our witnesses there and have Members be able to look at each other and have a dialogue across the way instead of on the internet with the distractions there.

So we opened the House and are bringing it back to the people and open to the people. Through tours people are able to see their Capitol and just be amazed by what the Founders had in mind when we feel the history here and what it is about.

We have worked on important policy this year, the Lower Energy Costs Act. Now, I can't even describe how important energy is to our economy, our way of life, and for our culture. All of our forms of energy have made us competitive and strong around the world.

It has helped us win World War II, and it has helped us become the most competitive and strongest economy ever until we see the damage being done currently by the Biden administration stopping pipelines and stopping traditional forms of energy driven by oil and gas.

Yes, there is always going to be a place for oil and gas.

When we look at energy projections around the world, it is only going to go up in all the other countries except for the ones that are hamstringing themselves with this Paris accord business.

So energy is the cornerstone of a strong economy, our way of life, and our culture. Oil and gas are part of that. We need to continue cultivating nuclear energy and the new technologies coming with that. It doesn't have to be a scary thing: Oh, nuclear waste, oh, it is going to have a meltdown. No. Nonsense. These are things that can continue to be improved on if we have the will to do it.

Congress needs to move in helping to fund this type of research, and also the permitting process needs to be streamlined so that these projects can move forward.

As we know, windmills and the solar panels don't work all the time. We have to wait for the wind to blow, the sun to come up, or the clouds to go away in order to have those forms of energy.

As far as nuclear power and hydroelectric, right now they are trying to tear down dams because of dubious environmental regulations in my district.

Oil and natural gas are cornerstones that we can rely on 24/7 as base-load power. So what we are seeing is forced conversion to electric vehicles and electric stoves. They are taking away our gas stove. Look how mad people are going to be at home when they have to cook in ways that don't fit how they like or what they are used to or what is efficient.

The latest crazy thing is banning gas generators. It seems the Biden administration is just copying the craziest in my home State of California.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is a generator for?

It is for making electricity and generating electricity.

Mr. Speaker, how do you generate electricity?

Mr. Speaker, you don't use other electricity to generate electricity. It has to come from a different source, whether it is going to be hydropower—again, what I listed—or a personal generator. It is going to be either gas, diesel, or hooked up to your propane tank.

It is absurd what is going on. We need to continue to have an energy policy that helps Americans and helps us thrive. House Republicans are going to keep fighting for that because it makes sense and makes us stronger.

I appreciate the time to help remind people this is where things really come from, where our economy comes from, our freedom, and our basic lifestyle.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. There is so much wisdom coming out of California that I will stay with the theme.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), who is one of the most intelligent and thoughtful Members of the Congress.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I will talk for a few minutes tonight about a critically important bill that we are debating on the House floor this week. It is one of the must-pass bills for us this year, the appropriations bills for military construction and funding for the Veterans Affairs. MILCON-VA we call it.

This will establish funding levels for these critically important programs for the next fiscal year.

The job of crafting this legislation was particularly problematic this year because many people have heard about our commitment to fiscal responsibility and about the dire consequences of our inability to reduce Federal spending.

Our deficit this year will be almost 6 percent of our gross domestic product—6 percent of everything our country makes just in deficit spending. Our national debt this year will be the highest it has ever been in the history of our country, and it is going to get even worse if we don't get this problem under control.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office in their 30-year projection says that 30 years from now at the rate we are going, our national debt in current dollars will exceed \$1 million for every American household.

That is clearly an unsustainable fiscal trajectory for our country.

So the Appropriations Committee had the nearly impossible task this year of honoring our commitment to our veterans and fully funding the Veterans Affairs and our veterans health programs while at the same time honoring our commitment to cut wasteful government spending and our commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to say that our colleagues in the Appropriations Committee have pulled off that seemingly impossible task.

The bill we are considering this week fully funds both the VA and our veterans healthcare programs. In fact, it funds both of those programs at levels hundreds of millions of dollars more than the levels requested by the President because that is what is required to meet our commitments to our servicemen and -women.

Yet, at the same time, it makes very meaningful reductions in wasteful government spending on other non-essential programs.

It also accomplishes some things I am particularly excited about. It funds a program to modernize medical records at the VA. It also funds the expansion of the Arlington National Cemetery which is something that I think is a meaningful honoring of the promise that we have made to our veterans to be able to be buried at Arlington if they so choose.

This program is an incredible demonstration of the commitment that the folks in this Chamber have to honoring our promise to our military servicemen and -women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support it and to thank our colleagues on

the Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. He never uses notes when he speaks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), who is a good Southern gentleman.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Specifically, I will highlight the work that this legislation does to rein in wasteful Washington spending while strengthening our rural communities and protecting our food supply.

Georgia is the number one State for poultry, and this bill reins in harmful regulations that dictate how poultry and livestock producers raise and market their animals.

This bill also prevents the purchase of land by foreign adversaries. Let me repeat that. This bill will prevent the purchase of land—U.S. land—by foreign adversaries, countries like China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

Let's take China for instance. China owns 384,000 acres of American agricultural land. As a matter of fact, they have even got land that is close to one of our air bases in North Dakota. That poses a national security threat, not just that, but a food supply threat.

Finally, this year's Agriculture Appropriations bill reins in Washington spending and D.C. bureaucracy by directing the USDA to focus State hiring efforts on assisting rural communities and producers.

So with that, and my colleagues in the House, as we continue to discuss and debate this appropriation bill this week, let's focus on our commitment to the American people and protect our agriculture industry.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for speaking about very important priorities for Louisiana, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

This week or very soon we will be voting in support of H.R. 4368, the fiscal year 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Supporting Iowa's farmers and rural communities is especially important as one in five Iowans work in the agricultural industry. This bill has many highlights that do just that. It continues very critical investment in agricultural research, rural broadband, and animal and plant health programs. It prevents the purchase of agricultural land by foreign adversaries and directs the USDA to focus hiring efforts on State and county offices to assist producers and rural communities.

Additionally, it reins in harmful regulations that dictate how poultry and

livestock producers raise and market their animals. That is especially important to Iowa due to the fact that we are the number one hog producer in the country and in the top ten producers for both cattle and turkey.

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

Another bill that we have taken up is H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies bill.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' mission, as listed on their website, is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.

As a 24-year military veteran and a family of military veterans, that mission is one that I wholeheartedly agree with, and I understand the importance the VA has for so many former service-members in our Nation.

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Very importantly, this bill provides \$299.496 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. It fully funds the healthcare programs, fully funds veterans benefits and VA programs, and also includes funding for electronic health record modernization initiatives.

Most importantly, what I would like to point out is, in contrast to what the Secretary of the VA said earlier this year when he politicized the VA by sending emails to veterans service organizations, saying that the Republicans were going to cut funding, this cuts no funding to veterans or veterans benefits. That still remains on the VA's website and should be removed, and an apology should be issued.

The appropriations bill that the House Republicans passed this week fully funds the VA and prohibits the use of funds for anything that is not beneficial to running a smooth and efficient Department.

Veterans in my district are experiencing enough struggles accessing care from the VA. The President's politicization of the Department is not alleviating those concerns.

We did the right thing by passing this bill, and I am proud of the Republicans for both cutting spending and fully funding our veterans benefits.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. MILLER-MEEKS for clarifying the record, for her expertise, and for 24 years in the U.S. Army as a nurse and a doctor. I really appreciate her good word on that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY), who is overqualified to be serving in Congress, one of the brightest we have.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of prioritizing veterans in our Federal budget by fully funding VA programs, fully funding healthcare for veterans, and fully funding veterans benefits. The veterans funding bill before us this week accomplishes each of these three objectives.

First, the bill fully funds VA programs. It actually increases the VA

budget by \$18 billion over last year's funding level. In concrete terms, this means more tax dollars spent on critical care for veterans, including fully funding care for vets exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other environmental toxins while serving our Nation.

The bill also provides the necessary funds to revamp and enhance the effectiveness of the suicide hotline for veterans and provides funds for the electronic health modernization initiative, which will ensure a seamless transition between receiving care at a DOD facility while on Active Duty and receiving care at a VA facility after discharge from the military.

Second, the bill fully funds healthcare for veterans, and \$138 billion is allocated to address the healthcare needs of our retired service-men and -women, including over \$20 billion for veterans to receive quality care at non-VA facilities.

Finally, the bill fully funds veterans benefits. Mr. Speaker, \$181 billion is allocated to ensure that every benefit that was promised, every commitment that was made, is fulfilled by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to ensure our veterans receive the care they need and the benefits they have earned. Today's bill achieves exactly that by prioritizing veterans in the budget, and as a result, it has my support.

PLUMAS BROADBAND PROJECT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4368, which directly benefits my constituents in Plumas County by funding a critical high-speed broadband project in the A-15 corridor and Valley Ranch communities in eastern Plumas County.

In the 21st century, access to the internet is essential. It is essential for students to participate in online learning and access educational resources, for patients to receive needed telemedicine services, for workers to find job opportunities and engage in remote work, and for citizens to engage in open dialogue and participate in our representative democracy.

Too often, our rural communities are neglected and lack the basic telecom services necessary in today's economy and society.

That is why I prioritized funding rural broadband for my constituents in the Federal budget, and I am proud to report that a project I submitted to provide \$4.2 million in funding to the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative is included in the funding bill that will be voted on by the House this week.

This funding will enable the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative to construct middle- and last-mile fiber-optic networks to provide high-speed internet to rural residents in the Valley Ranch and A-15 corridor communities in eastern Plumas County.

Rural households will finally be able to participate in online education, tele-

medicine, and remote employment opportunities that are out of reach for too many today.

Emergency personnel who are dependent upon internet-based communications will be able to communicate with one another to strengthen emergency response services.

Perhaps most importantly, high-speed broadband service will attract new residents, homeowners, and businesses to the region to continue to ensure the vitality of Plumas County for many years to come.

Ensuring our households are equipped with high-speed internet is imperative for an increasingly technological society. Leaving behind those in rural communities is a detriment not just to our local economies but it is also a disservice to our youth and the vitality of their education.

Today's bill is an important step forward in addressing the existing gap in broadband services for my Plumas County constituents, and it will have direct, tangible benefits on their lives. For that reason, I support H.R. 4368.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have had so many of our colleagues here tonight to share not only about these important appropriations bills but also to recount some of the many really important legislative victories and oversight responsibilities that we have fulfilled here in the first 7 months of this Congress.

As I said in the opening, when we all go home now for this August district work period, we have a very important story to tell the American people.

We will continue to share the facts. We will continue to encourage them by the good work being done here.

The other thing we have to do, of course, is to continue to defend and support their faith in our institutions because, right now, faith in those institutions is at an all-time low.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING MIKE WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize an incredible, long-time labor leader in Florida, a man who spent so much of his life to improve the lives of working families throughout the Sunshine State, and a man I call a dear friend.

Robert Michael Williams, or, as we knew him, Mike Williams, was born on October 27, 1950, in McIntosh, Florida, to Bob and Martha Williams. Mike's father worked in the paper mills and relocated his family to work in North Carolina and St. Marys, Georgia, where

Mike graduated from Camden County High School in 1968.

Mike lettered in football and basketball during all 4 years of high school. He was a pretty tall guy. He excelled in academics, represented his school at Boys State, participated in debate club, and, in his senior year, served as the student council president and “Mr. CCHS,” along with several other superlatives.

After attending Georgia Tech and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for a brief time, Mike packed his acoustic guitar, backpacked Europe, and then returned home only to head west to Colorado.

To support himself, Mike worked several different jobs, reflecting, “I worked many temporary jobs in the service and construction industries, living paycheck to paycheck.”

Mike returned to Florida and began his career as a construction electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, otherwise known as IBEW, Local 177 in Jacksonville. During his time at the local, he chased work for years, traveling around the country in a travel trailer.

For Mike, holding a union card meant having dignity and respect on the job, a living wage, healthcare, retirement benefits, education, and training opportunities.

Mike learned early on in his career that, for far too long, far too many middle-class families had difficulty with basic workplace rights and that those rights remained out of reach as they struggled to pay rent, put food on the table, and seek medical attention.

“Becoming a member of the union meant finally having my hard work pay off by creating an opportunity for achieving personal goals and being able to provide for my family the way I wanted to. And it meant having the opportunity to achieve the American Dream, a dream that so many want to take away today.”

After working his trade for 15 years, Mike decided to take on leadership roles with his union by running for and being elected to become the business manager of his local.

Eight years later, Mike went on to serve as president of the Florida Building Trades Council, increasing the presence of the Florida building trades during the legislative session in Tallahassee and building a powerful voice for construction trades statewide.

Mike understood the impact a voice on the job can make on the lives of working people, but it wasn't until his trip to Colombia with the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center that he understood the global imperative of worker solidarity.

During the trip, Mike witnessed the damage both corporate and government forces could inflict on the rights of workers and the dangers of living in a state lacking the institutions to help combat these abuses.

He saw violence and hatred directed at those who were trying to organize

for better living conditions and to make a better life for their families. The trip solidified Mike's commitment to fight for all working people.

In 2009, he was elected president of the Florida AFL-CIO. During his term, the Florida AFL-CIO expanded its powerful legislative and political advocacy by introducing Working Families Lobby Corps, a program where union members travel to Tallahassee daily during the legislative session and directly engage with their lawmakers.

This program continues to be a central force in building coalitions between labor and community organizations. His efforts are still thriving and carry on the vision that he saw for all working families.

Mike also extended the vision of labor to represent all workers by fostering new alliances with community, immigrant, and faith-based groups. To enact that vision, Mike spearheaded the creation of Fight for Florida to communicate the labor movement's message to the broader public.

Fight for Florida started as a website and blog that evolved to engage people and content creators outside of union membership on social and economic justice issues with the primary focus of informing the public that the work the Florida AFL-CIO does is for every working family.

As a Florida native, Mike understood the impacts that hurricanes can have on our communities and residents. Mike was hugely instrumental in organizing and participating in hurricane relief efforts in Florida and for other neighbors in the Southeast. He coordinated with various entities, including the Teamsters, to move goods, as well as FEMA and the national AFL-CIO to supply and staff these efforts, often traveling to the affected areas himself to distribute ice, water, food, formula, and diapers.

Later in his tenure as president, the AFL-CIO appointed Mike to their Racial Justice Task Force Advisory Committee, joining other union leaders from across the country to help combat racism in the ranks of union members and their locals.

As someone born in the South who attended segregated schools, as a southern White gentleman, this left a profound impact on him, reinvigorating his resolve for equality and justice for working people facing hardships due to discrimination.

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Mike leaves behind his loving partner, Jeanette “Jet” Netwal; daughters, Amanda Williams of Saukville, Wisconsin, and Suzanne Williams of Asheville, North Carolina; grandchildren, Zane Tinney, Ethan Williams, and Hailey Wilson; sisters, Jane Buffkin of Locust Grove, Georgia; and Beth (Tom) Mason of Riverview, Florida; brother, Mike (Laurie) Williams of St. Petersburg, Florida; and many nieces and nephews.

Beyond his dedication to fighting for the rights of working families, Mike

was a man of diverse passions. Whether strumming his guitar or relaxing on his beloved boat, a 1985 Chris Craft Constellation, he found solace and joy in the simple pleasures in life, almost always wearing one of his iconic tropical, Florida T-shirts and button-down shirt.

Joined by his loving partner Jet, he cherished precious moments watching the mesmerizing Florida sunsets and embarking on unforgettable road trips. Never failing to advocate for his fellow union members, Mike often visited picket lines and organizational efforts in support of those in need. His absence reverberates through the labor community in Florida, as his unwavering commitment inspired a generation to carry forth his legacy and fight tirelessly for the rights of working families in Florida and beyond.

Mike will be sorely missed, but his transformative impact will continue to shine brightly and guide us in the pursuit of a fairer and more just society.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving nearly 10 years in Tallahassee, both in the State house and State senate, and Mike and I worked on a lot of battles together. We worked to help those who served our State in administrative capacities. We worked for first responders like our cops, firefighters, and EMTs, our teachers, and so many other civil servants to protect pensions so that they can retire in dignity. We fought for better pay, better benefits, and for safer working conditions throughout the Sunshine State.

When I got here to Washington in 2017, I made sure to always remember our roots, and I would go back to visit them every year in Tallahassee during session. Some years were good. Some years not so much. However, we always fought side by side to improve progress.

I remember so many issues starting to happen while we were here in Congress that we would work on together. When the SunRail was being expanded and plans were made to expand it, as well as Brightline, a high-speed rail coming from Miami to Orlando, and when we worked on Amtrak issues together, I remember being the first one to sit in his office and let him know that high-speed rail was coming to Florida and how we needed to make it safe and economical, and make sure that people were being paid fairly and had the opportunity to unionize should they want to.

Then, Mr. Speaker, after a tough couple of years, Mike got to see President Biden sworn into office after 4 years of tough situations with labor. He saw us have the most productive session in 50 years. We passed giant laws out of this very Chamber: The American Rescue Plan, the infrastructure law, the CHIPS Act, the PACT Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

We got to talk about so many of those issues, but particularly for him as an electrician, as an IBEW guy, as a building trades guy, the infrastructure

law was of particular importance to him.

A generation of so many Americans, from sea to shining sea, will have work to do to upgrade America, to make sure all of our bridges, all of our roads, all of our highways, all of our water systems, all of our utility systems—which Mike would be most particularly proud about—as well as rural broadband and so many other areas. So many jobs, such a way to invest in the future. There are also a lot of clean energy projects coming to Florida and around our Nation to help boost solar, wind, nuclear, hydro, so many areas he cared deeply about. The CHIPS Act, which is bringing a record number of manufacturing starts in our Nation. In fact, we have seen a doubling, year over year, of new advanced manufacturing centers coming across the Nation.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, it takes thousands, hundreds of thousands of construction workers to help make these visions for our country a reality.

Mike always remembered our veterans. We have so many members of the AFL-CIO who served in the military. I remember getting to talk to him proudly about when we passed the PACT Act, helping so many veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, those facing terrible injuries from burn pits, and the veterans from Vietnam who still weren't getting their benefits, finally done in this critical landmark legislation to help our veterans.

Of course, he definitely had a smile as President Biden talked about these major laws and that they are going to provide good-paying union jobs. Of course, this is a fight now for the next generation.

I am going to miss him, Mr. Speaker, and I know so many of my colleagues will as well.

I also have some remarks from Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ that I will read into the RECORD:

Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to honor the remarkable life of the recently departed Florida AFL-CIO President Mike Williams.

Starting as an apprentice, he became an electrician, working the temporary service and construction jobs, and living paycheck to paycheck, like so many workers do.

Seeing the critical value of job protections and livable wages, he devoted his life to the labor movement, first as a rank-and-file member for 15 years, before becoming business manager of his Jacksonville Local IBEW 177.

Later he became president of the Florida Building Trades Council, and in 2009 Mike was elected President of the Florida AFL-CIO, where he served distinctively until his death.

A natural born leader, Mike revitalized Florida labor by fostering new alliances with community, immigrant, and faith-based groups.

Tall, with a contagious smile, he told it to you straight and always brought a worthy cause and compelling case for workers to the Capitol.

Direct and trustworthy, he was a man of standards whose shoes will be hard to fill.

Mike's empathy, dedication, and compassion will be sorely missed, but his legacy and impact must never be forgotten.

May his memory be a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I had lunch with him just in April, when I was there for legislative session. We talked about how he was looking forward to doing his summer boating that he would do every year. He would go all the way up the East Coast and then through the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi, and back out around. Other times he would go to the Keys or to the Bahamas or to other areas.

I am deeply saddened that he lost his life doing something he loved, but he got to see so much and meant so much to so many folks on my team and throughout the State legislature and the Congress.

Mike, I pray for you, and I hope you rest in peace. God bless your family.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have a few issues that ought to be debated on the floor and brought to the attention of the news media to help them with articles that would educate the American public a little bit on issues of importance.

I haven't spoken on Ukraine lately, but I will point out that Congress has not received a briefing on what is going on in Ukraine since December. That is way too long to go on the first significant land war in Europe in over 70 years. I ask the Biden administration to send its officials over to allow Members of Congress to at least get their opinion as far as what is going on.

As I have said before, this war should not be that difficult to end. Ukraine has the second lowest birthrate in the world. The Ukrainians, who have such a shortage of young people, should be especially ready to end this war. The Russians also have a low birthrate, and even prior to the war a lot of young Russians were emigrating.

Over 2 years ago, before the war started, I was in San Diego, and in the San Diego sector the Border Patrol and the immigration folks told me during the prior 2 weeks or month or whatever, in that segment, only in the San Diego segment, the second largest nationality to be crossing into America was Russian. You have two countries with shortages of people. It should be ripe for reaching some sort of settlement.

I think the United States is perceived to be, maybe rightfully so, overly partisan in this war, but somehow we should be prodding the Israelis or Turks or French or somebody to reach a conclusion here, for one, on humanitarian terms. I mean, for whatever rea-

son, it is hard to find exact numbers of people who died in this war. I am old enough to remember the Vietnam war. They could give you the number of Americans who died right down to the individual digit, but for some reason you get wildly different numbers on the number of people who have died in this conflict.

However, either way, there are a significant number of people dying, and the Biden administration should be looking for a way to wrap it up. It wasn't that long ago that we seemed to have good relations with both of these countries. The longer it drags on, the more we drive Russia into the arms of China, which isn't in anybody's best interests, and it is a little frustrating that we are not getting a rationalization by the Biden administration why we wouldn't try to end this. The American press maybe ought to spend a little bit of time asking the Biden administration whether they feel there is any end to this war.

In any event, I call on the Biden administration to give us a new update in the auditorium, and I call on the press corps to start asking, is there any time when we are going to end this war.

The next issue I think I should bring up, because they keep talking about it on the news without giving us any new information, is the transgender situation. Usually when we talk about it, we talk about it with regard to biological men going into the women's locker room or biological men competing in women's sports.

However, I think a more significant question is: Why are there apparently more transgender people now than during the rest of my life? It seems to me the Europeans have reached the conclusion that one of the reasons for this wave of transgenderism is, people keep talking about it on TV and in academic settings. The more one talks about it, the more people begin to think that this is perhaps the route they should go.

I talked to someone about a month ago, 6 weeks ago, who, I guess I will call a recovering transgender, a woman, who now regrets it. She had the surgery, breasts removed at age 15, the whole ball of wax. It is not something that would have occurred to her, but she found something on the internet which informed her that maybe the reason she was unhappy is that she really was a boy. She went down the path. She went to the gender reassignment doctors, who apparently make a living on this. They talked her into the idea that, yes, the reason she was an unhappy little 13-year-old girl is because she was really a boy. She went through testosterone treatments, puberty blockers, and eventually even had her breasts cut out, which is a true tragedy, and now she regrets it.

□ 2000

I think the thing we ought to take out of it—and I have read this in another places, as well—people who are—

nobody should ever be mean or that sort of thing, but people who are overly solicitous or overly accepting of this transgender lifestyle wind up encouraging more people, other people to adapt this lifestyle.

Every study out there shows these people wind up very, very, very unhappy and miserable, and sometimes even wind up committing suicide. So I would hope that the American press corps would put a new narrative out there rather than just persuading people that this is all a positive development.

They ought to take about where people wind up who wind up going through the surgery. They ought to spend a little bit of time talking about why it appears there are so many more transgender people today than there were 30 years ago, and the answer is obvious. It is presented favorably as a lifestyle for a lot of young people, and when it is presented favorably, a number of young people get on the internet, read about it, decide to adapt this lifestyle, which is obviously only going to lead to misery and which does lead into misery.

I would ask the press corps to be a little bit more open-minded or publish a little bit more as to why we seem to have more transgenders than the pass. Is it like the Europeans have discovered, a matter of the more we talk about it the more we have people like this.

Maybe then we will realize that the goal should not be to have dramatic surgeries on young people's bodies. The goal should be on pushing this kind of to the side and not have so many people adapt the transgender lifestyle in the first place.

The next topic I am going to take up, which we haven't taken up this session, but I think should be taken up next session or sometime in the near future because it has such a big influence on America is that of the breakdown of the family and the lack of fathers in homes, which is bad, not only for the children, but it is bad for the father, as well.

In the 1960s, in which I think it was maybe the biggest domestic policy blunder in this country's history, under Lyndon Johnson, tons of money was aimed at families with children, but because the percent of poverty was determined by your income level as a practical matter, this money was conditioned upon not having a man in the household.

In other words, if you had mother and father both working in the household, by definition, they were not in poverty. But if father was somewhere else and mother was alone, say, with two or three kids, and mother did not have a job, she was considered in poverty.

This program said that if you are in poverty, or the programs, the Great Society, as it was called then—they should have called it the war on marriage—under the war on marriage, peo-

ple who did not get married were given free housing at the time. So then they dialed back a little, given a check. They were given free food. They could be given free education. They would be given free medical care and given all these free things.

Basically what they did is they set up the family without a dad as a self-contained unit. Only 7 percent of the births in the United States at the beginning of the sixties were born without a mother and a father in the home. Now, we are over 40 percent.

I think, well, there are parents of all backgrounds doing yeoman's work, doing a tremendous job raising their children, and we don't want to denigrate them at all.

But the statistics would show that whether you are looking at crime rates or educational achievement, depression, children, in general, are happier with both parents in the home because not everybody is up to raising kids in that environment.

You would have to be blind not to realize the reason we have gone from 7 percent to over 40 percent is the great society and all these programs in which to get benefits, or you do get benefits if both parents are not around, and almost always that means the man is not around.

Other programs like earned income tax credit, which was, I think, not a very good program thought up by the Republicans and Jack Kemp, were also conditioned upon getting the check. You don't want to have two parents working in the household.

I would hope that we would do a subcommittee or something on this problem, get back to the good old days where depression and youth suicide was less than it is today, drug use a fraction of what it is today and, in order to do that, we have to change the incentives that were put into place by Lyndon Johnson.

This, by the way, was known by the end of the 1960s. I hate to cite this study because it is so overcited, but Patrick Moynihan, by the late sixties, had pointed out what a disaster it was to have incentives in which the father wasn't in the home. So this is not new things I am talking about today.

We knew this was a mistake by 1967, by 1968, by 1969, but Congress, either because they did not have the will, or because there is a radical element that Black Lives Matter represents, in which an element, a Marxist element wants to get rid of what they call the western prescribed nuclear family, and this is certainly a way to do it, but, for whatever reason, we have not adequately changed incentives in the 1960s.

Made a little think to the right direction under Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton in the 1990s, but since then it has all been downhill. I think we have to ask ourselves, was it a good idea to do all we could to set up the single parent as the sole parent in a child's life.

I realize this is little bit different than a divorce situation, a little bit

different than a widow situation, but there is no question there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of men in children's lives beginning in the 1960s.

I want to point to something else, too, about this issue that a lot of times people don't take into account. This is something that George Gilder, who was a great sociologist—he is still alive today—but he wrote a book called "Wealth and Poverty" in 1980. At the time Ronald Reagan was sworn in, the book received a lot of positive press at that time. It has now been forgotten.

What Gilder pointed out is not only are two parents important for the child but it is also important for the man because a lot of times the man's self-worth comes from—just like the woman's self-worth—comes from raising children. It is the most important thing in life.

As a result of all these welfare programs in the 1960s, you have a lot of families without men in the household; the man had no purpose. This is why I think you see so much crime lately, so much drug abuse, because I think a lot of these men who were supposed to get self-worth out of children have kind of been kicked out of their home. If they actually did try to work and support their family, they may be materially less well off, or their children would be materially less well off than if dad wasn't around at all.

Like I said, that goes for all the different benefits. There is a benefit called section 42 housing in which people taking advantage of section 42 housing, not only do you have to be in poverty to get it, but section 42 housing is frequently superior in quality to what people who are not on government programs get.

Because section 42 housing is usually very new housing because the government pays for so much of the housing or to build the housing, people build section 42 low-income housing nicer than regular old apartments that are being built now; but that would be an example of a bad program that has bad results.

The next topic that I would like to take up, the final topic, which I seem to address every week, but I think we should address again, because every one of these appropriation bills that comes before this place is subject to debate, either on this floor or in the Rules Committee, with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This country has, for the last 50 years, at least with regard to universities—it looks like it is going to end or to a degree end because of a recent court decision. For 50 years, we have had programs designed to hire people or promote people or fire people or let people into colleges and universities or give businesses government contracts based on people's race and gender too.

There are two rationalizations for this, but the press never spends any time determining whether these rationalizations are right or wrong. One

rationalization is that certain groups of people were discriminated against all the way back to slavery days, and, more recently, Jim Crow, that sort of thing.

The other rationalization is that in a workplace setting, diversity is a good thing and that we should, therefore, force or mandate businesses to hire people based on where their ancestors came from 200 years ago.

First of all, the idea that we owe people something—when you look at the people who are beneficiaries of these programs, many of them do not have any ancestors who were in America prior to the institution of these programs.

If somebody, say, who is Black from Jamaica immigrates to the United States in 1965, after Jim Crow ended, well after slavery, is there any reason why that person should receive preference?

Recently, the Biden administration has tried to give preferences to what they call North African or Middle Eastern people. So if I come here from Egypt or Syria or Algeria today, and I am not even a citizen, according to the Biden administration, we should make sure—kind of weigh in on companies, universities I think they would like to weigh in on admissions, and make sure we give preferences to people from Algeria or Syria who are not even in this country yet.

I don't know why we don't have that debate. We also ought to have a debate whether we ought to add a new so-called minority group of North Africans and Middle Easterners.

With regard to diversity, I think we also have a problem. I guess the idea behind diversity is a pure racist would say that someone's view of the world or the way they tackle a job is going to be dependent upon where their great-great-great-great-grandparents came from.

Now, I reject that idea. The idea that if I were to—I am not—but the idea that if I had a great-grandparent who was born in Peru, I would have a different view of the world than my next-door neighbor whose great-grandparents were from Germany. That is kind of a racist thing on its face, but that is what the diversity argument boils down to, that we should look at people, not on their viewpoint today, not on their personal experiences to this point in life.

If we have two people who both grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in houses next to each other, and one was one-quarter Mexican and one wasn't Mexican, that they would carry different viewpoints into the workplace, and it was important to get both viewpoints, even though, perhaps the person from Latin America had never been to a Latin American country in their life.

But the idea behind this program—and, by the way, you self-identify as to what your group is—the idea behind the program is it is important to get the viewpoint of somebody whose

grandfather or great-grandfather happened to be from a different country. Again, even though in the case, say, of a Latin American, people would not even know that that is true.

But this is a rationalization used for these rather high-handed programs that, as a practical matter, causes both the government people who are hiring and the businesses who do business with the government to hire based on ancestry.

□ 2015

I want to point out that I was actually talking to somebody from India today—of Indian ancestry. He wondered about this program because he was from India, and in India there are many different subgroups that sometimes don't get along. He thought the United States was alone in that we got along so well and it was such a wonderful thing we have going here, why in the world with us getting along so well would we try to duplicate countries like Nigeria or Sri Lanka or Iraq? Why would we try to duplicate what they are doing in other countries where the elections are contests between ethnic groups? These diversity, equity, and inclusion programs are designed to cause people not to view themselves as an American but view themselves as a Cuban American or a Mexican American or an Asian American or a Pacific Islander.

In other words, they are going to view themselves when they vote and at other times as a representative of where their ancestors came from perhaps even decades, if not, centuries ago.

I am afraid one of the reasons for these programs I ran across recently, I heard of someone who—I don't really like the phrase, but would today be considered by people who are proponents of these programs as a person of color—and this person, because they were from south of the border, their employer, once they asked them where their ancestry was—before I was in an elected position, the places that I worked, we never asked people where their ancestry was, but nowadays we ask them—and this large employer decided to hold breakout groups of people based on their ethnicity.

We are going to have the Black group meet over there and the Hispanic group meet over there and the Asian group meet over there, and what happened is the diversity consultant—an occupation which shouldn't exist in America, by the way—the diversity consultant tried to tell this person that they were put upon and how they should think because they had an ancestor from south of the border.

Now think how ridiculous that is. This person, who was just a fine, regular American never viewed themselves any different from anybody else, is being told because of where their ancestors came from, south of the border, that they ought to have certain beliefs, including certain political beliefs,

which I think is the reason why the Biden administration is pushing this sort of thing.

They want to tell people that if you are from Mexico or you are from Colombia or you are from Nigeria or you are from India that you are put upon and that you ought to have certain political beliefs.

It is better to cut this thing right away. We have a shortage of people, workers in this country. The idea that we have people going to college to be diversity experts is appalling. I am glad my colleagues again and again are trying to take these diversity, equity, and inclusion bureaucrats out of the Federal bureaucracy, but there are way too many of them in the bureaucracy of individual big businesses around the country. It is the wimps who run these big businesses who feel that they have to kowtow to the diversity lobby, the special interest group, and they are instituting these programs by themselves.

I think it is time we had a public discussion here as to whether this whole diversity, equity, inclusion thing makes any sense. I can go through topics that should be brought up by talk show hosts, by service clubs, what have you.

Should we identify people by where their ancestors came from? If they self-identify, should we be identifying people by where their great-grandmother or great-grandfather came from? That is an interesting question.

If we are going to give preferences based upon where your great-great-grandfather is from, should we see if there is any true diversity there before you say you should take my contract ahead of the other guy's contract or you should hire me ahead of the other guy? Tell us what you bring to the table because your great-great-grandmother was from Mexico. How do you think different than the other guy?

Let's have that discussion. We are not having that discussion.

Should you, again, be able to self-identify? If I am seven-eighths German and one-eighth Mexican, is it right that on the form I can put down that I am a Mexican and I should be able to say I bring the view of Mexican Americans to my engineering firm?

They can also talk about, in certain jobs, what is the benefit of diversity? If we are talking about an engineering job, is the way I engineer the building of a bridge any different because I am one-quarter Mexican? That doesn't make any sense, but that is the position of the people who push these programs.

Let's have a discussion on that. Another discussion is, before we get this divisiveness going on forever, how long is this going to happen? This began in earnest—I think under JOHN KENNEDY, but it really began in earnest under Lyndon Johnson in 1965 and at the time I am sure nobody in a million years dreamed that we would still have this stuff almost 67 years later.

Should we have a discussion? How long are we going to do this? Again, let's have a discussion. If part of this is supposed to be a way to make up for past sins, why are we giving benefits here to people who may not even be citizens yet? Why are we giving benefits to people who just moved here from Syria? Should that be considered a different sort of person subject to benefits?

Let's have a discussion there.

In any event, I hope as we write more and more about the Supreme Court case and preferences in college admissions, I hope people begin to ask some of these questions as to whether or not they make any sense at all whatsoever.

I leave here hoping that our news media and this Congress spend a little more time updating themselves on what is going on in Ukraine. I hope they spend a little bit more time wondering as to whether we have this transgender crisis even a little bit. Just because we talk about it, if we weren't talking about it so much, we would have a fraction of the number of transgenders in the first place.

I think we should spend some time looking at the premise that the diversity, equity, and inclusion is built upon and answering questions like, should we be adding Egyptians and Syrians to the mix? Should I be able to label myself a minority if I am one-quarter a minority? Should I be able to label myself picked upon if my parents have given me \$5 million?

These are questions that should be asked on the diversity level. I think we should be asking is it time to stop government programs which have resulted in an increase in fatherlessness from 7 to 40 percent, programs I think which hurt people, and particularly hurt men, have been around since the 1960s. There is no reason for these programs to continue forever.

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

WE HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL, BUT WE STILL NEED TO ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to address an issue that we can no longer ignore.

The Chinese Communist Party has manifested all over South America, and, most importantly, overpowering the United States in every single one of those relationships.

Today, I will be talking about Brazil, the largest economy in South America, the 10th-largest economy in the world, and the 4th-largest food producer in the world.

We have much to gain from our relationship with Brazil, but we still need to act.

Now, the CCP has seized its opportunity to assert its dominance. China is the largest trading partner of Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, and the second-largest trading partner for many other countries.

According to the American Enterprise Institute's China Global Investment Tracker, Chinese entities invested a total of \$148 billion in Latin America and the Caribbean countries between 2005 and 2022, with Brazil accounting for 44 percent of those investments, a total of \$66 billion.

Energy projects accounted for 62 percent of the investments and metal mining accounted for 21 percent.

The database also shows that the Chinese construction projects in Latin America and Caribbean countries were valued at \$68.6 billion over the same period, mainly in the energy, 50 percent, and transportation, which is another 30 percent—in those two respective sectors.

The CCP has metastasized to the extent that it influenced the 2022 Presidential elections in Brazil and successfully reinstated a convicted criminal into the Presidency.

We must remember that China has even gone so far as to support a veto of a 2019 U.S.-backed resolution in the United Nations calling for free and fair Presidential elections globally.

Luisa Inacio Lula da Silva, also known as Lula, is the current occupier of the Presidency as a direct result of the CCP's successful attempt to destabilize Brazil.

Let's be clear: The honest Lula, is a man deemed unelectable by the Brazilian courts due to his conviction for his involvement in one of the most significant political corruption scandals in Brazil's history, which subsequently led to the demise of the country's economy.

In doing so, he has weaponized the judicial system in Brazil to launch an assault like never before, prosecuting political opponents, silencing the media, and targeting everyday civilians.

Lula has shielded himself behind the nation's highest court, with his ally, Justice Alexandre de Moraes, granting his every wish.

You see, most Americans are quick to judge Brazil as a third-world country and pass up its value as an ally. This is only the beginning of the end for Brazil, our once great ally.

I want to make sure that the American people understand that value; however, being the first Brazilian American to serve in Congress, I hope and hold that Brazil will stand firm.

When Americans fought in World War II, Brazil was the only South American country to send troops; 50,000 men from Brazil fought alongside U.S. ally troops.

I present that fighting spirit on the House floor today, Mr. Speaker. I want to stress that Brazil's population yearns for a capitalist market similar to ours and appreciates our world-leading example for democracy.

Today, Brazilians suffer high inflation, arbitrary laws, and absolute devastation regarding infrastructure and healthcare.

I am calling on my colleagues to urge President Biden to suspend all foreign aid to Brazil until a review is conducted via the United Nations to assess the humanitarian crimes taking place under the power of Lula's tyrannical regime.

While we have an arrest warrant for Nicolas Maduro, the murderous Venezuelan dictator, it should come as no surprise that Lula parades him and hosts him with official visits legitimizing him while undermining us.

With this kind of egregious behavior as an elected official, it is only natural that we ask why Lula would align with some of the world's most monstrous dictators presently in the crosshairs of U.S. sanctions or conflicts.

□ 2030

Brazil is not the only country impacted by China's election interference. The Maduro regime has become reliant on China for disinformation campaigns and social control programs, including ID cards that serve as scorecards of Venezuelan citizens loyal to the regime.

When we examine who funds Venezuela, it is none other than China through their insidious and smoke-and-mirror charade toward world domination that the CCP has titled the Belt and Road Initiative, aka the BRI, a lending gambit that grants China's over 140 allied countries billions of dollars under the pretense of economic integration and interconnected development.

It is only a matter of time before Lula leads Brazil down the same path.

This is the perfect example of the kind of destabilization the CCP is known for, preying on countries via unsustainable and corrupt lending while ignoring global labor and environmental standards for their own economic gain.

The CCP will stop at nothing to reach their goal of world domination, and as time goes on, we have fewer opportunities to preserve Brazil's achievability and viability as our number one trade partner and ally.

Lula is nothing more than a repressive and destructive tyrant who aligns with underhanded puppeteers to make his case for power.

Lula is actively parroting CCP propaganda, saying we are prolonging the Ukraine-Russia conflict for commercial gain, undermining us at every single turn, not to mention the BRICS agreement created under Lula's direction by former impeached President Dilma Rousseff, whose main goal today is to undermine and replace the U.S. dollar as the global currency.

Mr. Speaker, as the first Brazilian American elected to this Chamber, I urge my colleagues to assist Brazil in restoring democracy and to stop legitimizing the Lula regime today. We must

ensure that an honorable and bona fide government can be installed and lead the country forward out of the clutches of the CCP.

This serves a great benefit to us Americans, all of us in this body, all of us in this country, to keep a good relationship with our fellow ally, Brazil.

(English translation of the statement made in Portuguese is as follows:)

To my Brazilian friends, be strong. We are together in this fight.

A meus amigos brasileiros, forga Brasil. Estamos juntos nessa luta.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2023, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO SWEDEN, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 15 AND JUNE 18, 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. Nathaniel Moran	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Jim Costa	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Bill Huizenga	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Andy Barr	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Barry Moore	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Victoria Spartz	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Sydney Kamlager-Dove	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Ben Cline	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Ed Case	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Hon. Amata Radewagen	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Phillip Bednarczyk	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Dwayne Clark	6/16	6/18	Sweden .....	.....	1,419.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,419.00
Committee Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,028.00

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, July 18, 2023.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 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. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN, July 11, 2023.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1469. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Credit-Related Information Sharing in Organized Wholesale Electric Markets [Docket No.: RM22-13-000; Order No.: 895] received June 28, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1470. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Transport and Commuter Category Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1647; Project Identifier AD-2022-01379-T; Amendment 39-22438; AD 2023-10-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1471. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Depart-

ment's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0434; Project Identifier 91-NM-255-AD; Amendment 39-22450; AD 92-02-14 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1472. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honda Aircraft Company LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1204; Project Identifier AD-2023-00340-A; Amendment 39-22448; AD 2023-11-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1473. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Lakeland, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0588; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1474. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1312; Project Identifier AD-2022-00551-T; Amendment 39-22420; AD 2023-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1475. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Van Horn, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0642; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1476. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0167; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00762-T; Amendment 39-22425; AD 2023-09-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64)

received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1477. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0018; Project Identifier AD-2022-00883-R; Amendment 39-22430; AD 2023-09-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1478. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1410; Project Identifier AD-2022-00198-T; Amendment 39-22427; AD 2023-09-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1479. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Engine Alliance Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1205; Project Identifier AD-2023-00441-E; Amendment 39-22452; AD 2023-11-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1480. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1055; Project Identifier AD-2023-00583-T; Amendment 39-22445; AD 2023-10-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1481. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0171; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01266-T; Amendment 39-22428; AD 2023-09-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1482. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1660; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01268-T; Amendment 39-22447; AD 2023-11-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1483. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1417; Project Identifier AD-2022-00731-T; Amendment 39-22419; AD 2023-08-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1484. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Direc-

tives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1049; Project Identifier AD-2023-00591-R; Amendment 39-22441; AD 2023-10-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1485. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0428; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01250-T; Amendment 39-22442; AD 2023-10-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1486. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1491; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00924-T; Amendment 39-22424; AD 2023-09-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1487. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR — GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0431; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01277-T; Amendment 39-22444; AD 2023-10-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1488. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0936; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00135-T; Amendment 39-22426; AD 2023-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1489. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0422; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01067-T; Amendment 39-22439; AD 2023-10-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1490. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0165; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01003-T; Amendment 39-22434; AD 2023-09-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1491. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0170; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00974-T; Amendment 39-22431; AD 2023-09-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1492. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yavora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1045; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01209-T; Amendment 39-22437; AD 2023-10-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1493. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0653; Project Identifier AD-2023-00280-E; Amendment 39-22429; AD 2023-09-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1494. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31488; Amdt. No.: 4062] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1495. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31487; Amdt. No.: 4061] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1496. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31485; Amdt. No.: 4059] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1497. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31486; Amdt. No.: 4060] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1498. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0421; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01360-A; Amendment 39-22435; AD 2023-09-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RESCIENTHALER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 614. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) 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'; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) 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" (Rept. 118-158). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 4895. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand the drug price negotiation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. ESTES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 4896. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROSS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MENG, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. CASAR):

H.R. 4897. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from

heat-related injuries and illnesses; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4898. A bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. CAREY, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASE, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4899. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4900. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education participating in Federal student assistance programs from giving preferential treatment in the admissions process to legacy students or donors; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 4901. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve reproductive health care of individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. LATURNER):

H.R. 4902. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a groundwater conservation easement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. HIMES, Ms. MACE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4903. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require reporting of certain accidents resulting in serious physical injuries or death at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SELF, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 4904. A bill to establish certain funds to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern international border of the United States and award grants to certain organizations addressing the fentanyl crisis; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, 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. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 4905. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Public Health Service Act, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to promote group health plan price transparency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, 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 Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. DELUZZIO):

H.R. 4906. A bill to amend titles 38 and 5, United States Code, to ensure that certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs are subject to the same removal, demotion, and suspension policies as other employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. FROST (for himself and Mr. GOMEZ):

H.R. 4907. A bill to prohibit owners of covered dwelling units from assessing or collecting certain fees from tenants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 4908. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to make eligible airport-related projects and port development projects eligible for approval under State environmental laws and regulations instead of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H.R. 4909. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve diet quality and nutrition security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4910. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that such section has no effect on certain laws relating to controlled substances and drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 4911. A bill to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to provide grants to community mental health centers for the placement of social workers with law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4912. A bill to require the evaluation of certain criteria relating to locations for deployment of successor radar systems of the National Weather Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4913. A bill to establish in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a program to improve precipitation forecasts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BERA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4914. A bill to provide for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 4915. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify the program of the Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense known as Project Spectrum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. IVEY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. TLAI, Mr. TRONE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 4916. A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on onshore wind and solar; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 4917. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide no-cost coverage for PFAS testing under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 4918. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to medical and other health profession schools to expand or develop education and training programs for substance use prevention and treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. TLAI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OMAR, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 4919. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a wealth tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 4920. A bill to provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by

the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 4921. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include information relating to certain questionnaire on forms to apply for disability or pension benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Mr. BILLRAKIS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CARL, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 4922. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections against the importation, and transport between States, of injurious species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 4923. A bill to allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MANNING:

H.R. 4924. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for periodic automatic reenrollment under qualified automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 4925. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the termination of certain retirement benefits for Members of Congress, except the right to continue participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on 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. MASSIE:

H.R. 4926. A bill to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on 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 Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. FALLON, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 4927. A bill to require ByteDance to divest itself of certain assets, and to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review certain business relationships between ByteDance and United States businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, 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. MCGOVERN (for himself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 4928. A bill to provide for clarification and limitations with respect to the exercise of national security powers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Rules, 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. MENG (for herself, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 4929. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit a report on security threats in Lebanon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 4930. A bill to provide grants for the conduct of demonstration projects designed to provide education and training for eligible individuals to enter and follow a career pathway in the field of pregnancy, childbirth, or post-partum, under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 4931. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain Federal Pell Grant requirements for certain students with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 4932. A bill to prohibit agreements between employers that directly restrict the current or future employment of any employee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, 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 Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TRONE, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. CHU, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 4933. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce to relieve workforce shortages; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 4934. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a standardized training curriculum for military vehicle operations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 4935. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to adjust the period during which amounts transferred by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to the account for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses shall remain available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. IVEY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. TLAI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr.

TRONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FALLONE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 4936. A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on offshore wind leasing; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4937. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the estate tax valuation of certain real property used in farming or other trades or businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 4938. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1934 to require country-by-country reporting; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4939. A bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take crested caracaras in order to prevent the death of or injury or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 4940. A bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 4941. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration a Center for Unhoused Individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILD, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CORREA, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BERA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. STANTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. FOXX, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. COLE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 4942. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 4943. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently

determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 4944. A bill to restore certain non-monetary Federal benefits to remarried surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces who die while serving on active duty, to provide student loan deferment for dislocated military spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Accountability, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 4945. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to raise public awareness for skilled trade programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 4946. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SOTO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 4947. A bill to modify the conditions for the termination of an oversight board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 4948. A bill to establish name, image, and likeness rights for college athletes at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 4949. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to facilitate the training and employment of veterans for certain conservation activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 4950. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage appropriate prescribing under Medicaid for victims of opioid overdose; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PALONE, Mr. LAMBOURN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. SANTOS, Ms. MENG, Mr. ROY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 4951. A bill to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. MILLS):

H.R. 4952. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish the Office of Strategic Capital in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILD, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ZINKE):

H. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent resolution calling for the immediate release of Marc Fogel, a United States citizen and teacher, who was given an unjust and disproportionate criminal sentence by the Government of the Russian Federation in June 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LIEU, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. FROST, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. BROWN):

H. Res. 615. A resolution condemning revisionist education and revisionist history as it relates to the African-American experience; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. WILD, and Mr. WALTZ):

H. Res. 616. A resolution expressing support for the people of Afghanistan, condemning the Taliban's assault on human rights and the specific targeting of women, girls, and members of religious and ethnic minorities, and expressing support for any Afghans who assisted in the United States mission in Afghanistan; 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. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 617. A resolution recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home and community living for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. FROST, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARSON, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. PRESSLEY, Ms. BROWN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. BUSH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOMEZ, and Ms. ADAMS):

H. Res. 618. A resolution recognizing August 11, 2023, as the 50th anniversary of hip-hop; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NOR-TON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. ALLRED):

H. Res. 619. A resolution expressing support for July to be designated as "Disability Pride Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of New York (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA):

H. Res. 620. A resolution a resolution seeking justice for the Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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 Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 4776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution, in that the legislation "is necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers" and "other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof," including the powers of the President specified in Article II of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits the use of federal funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Disinformation Governance Board.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: [The Congress shall have power] To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among several States, and with the Indian Tribes

The single subject of this legislation is:

Drug pricing

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 4897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses.

By Mr. ALLRED:

H.R. 4898.

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:

This bill establishes the Office of Press Freedom to advance the protection and well-being of members of the press abroad and to engage with foreign governments and global press freedom organizations concerning freedom of the press and of expression, appointment of Ambassador-at-Large for Press Freedom, a press freedom curriculum, and a GAO report on

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 4899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Housing

By Mr. BOWMAN:

H.R. 4900.

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:

Admissions practices at institutions of higher education

By Ms. BUSH:

H.R. 4901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section I, Article 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes various grants and related programs that address sexual and reproductive health care for individuals with disabilities.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 4902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establish groundwater conservation easement program

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 4903.

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 Higher Education Act of 1965 to require reporting of certain accidents resulting in serious physical injuries or death at institutions of higher education

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 4904.

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:

Establishes certain funds to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern international border of the United States and award grants to certain organizations addressing the fentanyl crisis.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4905.

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:

Requires health insurance plans to make personalized pricing information available to enrollees, and to post machine-readable files containing in-network negotiated rates, prescription drug prices, and out-of-network allowed amounts and billed charges.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Affairs

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 4907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit owners of covered dwellings from assessing or collecting certain fees from tenants, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 4908.

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:

Transportation and Public Works

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 4909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reforms Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to better prevent the illegal sale of drugs on big tech platforms.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 4911.

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:

This bill provides for the establishment of a pilot program to provide grants to community mental health centers for the placement of social workers with law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill provides for the establishment of a pilot program to provide grants to community mental health centers for the placement of social workers with law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Weather Radar

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establishes program to improve precipitation forecasting

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 4914.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 4915.

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:

Authorizes Project Spectrum within the Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 4916.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Repealing restrictions on renewable energy development on public lands.

By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 4917.
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 title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide no-cost coverage for PFAS testing under the Medicare program.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:
H.R. 4918.
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:
Health

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 4919.
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:
This bill creates a self-adjusting wealth tax that is determined based off the median household wealth as determined by the U.S. Treasury.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:
H.R. 4920.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Agriculture

By Mrs. LUNA:
H.R. 4921.
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:
Streamline the process of veteran disability claims so veterans can get their much-deserved benefits in a quicker fashion.

By Mrs. LUNA:
H.R. 4922.
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:
Address loopholes in the Lacey Act that need to be addressed including a 2017 D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision and granting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with emergency designation authority of potentially injurious species.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 4923.
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 allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes.

By Ms. MANNING:
H.R. 4924.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
permitting employers to re-enroll employees in retirement plans.

By Mr. MASSIE:
H.R. 4925.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Fiscal Reform

By Mr. MASSIE:
H.R. 4926.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Fiscal Reform

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:
H.R. 4927.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
CFIUS overseeing the sale of ByteDance's TikTok and the destruction of ByteDance's American data.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:
H.R. 4928.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 11, Clause 14, and Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
Reforms war powers, the National Emergencies Reform Act, and arms exports.

By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 4929.
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:
Lebanon

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:
H.R. 4930.
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:
This bill provides funding for, and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to award, grants for demonstration projects to train low-income individuals to work in the field of pregnancy or childbirth. Grantees must be located in a state that recognizes doulas or midwives as health care providers and that allows payment for their services in the Medicaid program.

By Mr. MORELLE:
H.R. 4931.

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 bill is disability.

By Mr. NADLER:
H.R. 4932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Labor and Employment

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:
H.R. 4933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
Mental Health

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 4934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a standardized training curriculum for military vehicle operations.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 4935.

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 Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Commodity Exchange Act to adjust the period during which amounts transferred by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to the account for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:
H.R. 4936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:

Repealing restrictions on offshore wind leasing.

By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 4937.

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:

Tax

By Ms. PETERSEN:
H.R. 4938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1
The single subject of this legislation is:

Finance

By Mr. PFLUGER:
H.R. 4939.

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 livestock producers and their employees to take crested caracaras in order to prevent the death of or injury or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes

By Ms. PINGREE:
H.R. 4940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I
The single subject of this legislation is:

Fishing credit

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 4941.

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:
Public Health

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:
H.R. 4942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:
H.R. 4943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof”.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Nutrition

By Ms. STEFANIK:
H.R. 4944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To defer loans for certain military spouses and restore non-monetary benefits to surviving spouses.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 4945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is: to raise public awareness for skilled trade programs.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4946.

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: healthcare

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 4947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is: Puerto Rico Financial Oversight Board

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 4948.

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: College Athletics

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4949.

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:

Veteran conservation grant training program.

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 4950.

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 establish additional requirements for state Medicaid drug-use review programs for individuals who experience opioid-related overdoses.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 4951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States. or in any Department or Officer thereof

The single subject of this legislation is:

Makes technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 4952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Authorizes the aforementioned office to identify and invest in entities to accelerate the research, development, and procurement of assets vital to national security.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 11: Ms. WEXTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. McBATH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 146: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 199: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 343: Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 431: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 491: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 496: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 536: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 537: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 549: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 592: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 594: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 608: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 765: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 770: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 793: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 807: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 830: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 866: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 936: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. HERN, and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 987: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 995: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 1024: Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 1045: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1062: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1074: Mr. BANKS and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1078: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 1097: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1122: Mr. HERN.

H.R. 1150: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 1199: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 1235: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1269: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 1277: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1302: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1321: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1385: Ms. PETERSEN and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1388: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1488: Mr. MFUME, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1502: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 1522: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1555: Mr. CORREA, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BERA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PELOSI, and Mrs. STEEL.

H.R. 1610: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1634: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1637: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1638: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1685: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 1741: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1752: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1767: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 1776: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 1788: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1794: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1822: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 1831: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 1834: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 1886: Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 2402: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2412: Mr. ALLRED and Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 2434: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 2439: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 2480: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 2493: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 2667: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2669: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 2682: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 2685: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 2700: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 2742: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 2766: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 2800: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 2814: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 2826: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 2878: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 2880: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 2891: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2918: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2923: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 2955: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 2966: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3008: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 3019: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 3031: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3032: Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 3080: Mr. KEATING and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3108: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 3139: Ms. PETERSEN and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 3152: Mr. MORELLE, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. PASCARELL, and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 3161: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 3184: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3216: Ms. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 3238: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEMERER, and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3240: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3253: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 3263: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 3264: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 3312: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3381: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3413: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 3519: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 3520: Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 3539: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 3548: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 3554: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 3561: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SANTOS, and Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 3583: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3601: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3608: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. TORRES of California.

H.R. 3611: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3625: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 3646: Mr. MAGAZINER and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3656: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 3680: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 3718: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3726: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3774: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. JAMES, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CARL, and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 3793: Mr. PETERS and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 3828: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 3836: Ms. PETERSEN.

H.R. 3852: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 3859: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 3875: Mr. TRONE, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 3879: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3882: Mr. CARL, Mr. STRONG, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 3887: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 3904: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 3922: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 3946: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3955: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3965: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 4007: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 4010: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 4037: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4039: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4077: Mrs. PELTOLA and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4124: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 4132: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4149: Mr. PASCARELL.

H.R. 4153: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 4227: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 4241: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 4263: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BACON, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 4278: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 4281: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 4335: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 4392: Mrs. FLETCHER and Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 4393: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. SALINAS.
 H.R. 4456: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 4468: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 4483: Mr. KEATING and Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 4531: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 4572: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 4581: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CASE, and Ms. MACE.
 H.R. 4596: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 4610: Mr. CUELLAR.
 H.R. 4615: Mr. BRECHEEN.
 H.R. 4621: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 4635: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4661: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 4700: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
 H.R. 4707: Mr. ROSENDALE.
 H.R. 4709: Ms. PETTERSEN.
 H.R. 4710: Mr. BRECHEEN and Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 4713: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. STEUBE.
 H.R. 4715: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. MCCORMICK.
 H.R. 4721: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
 H.R. 4724: Mr. NEHLS and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
 H.R. 4726: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
 H.R. 4729: Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 4736: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MANN, and Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 4739: Mr. BERGMAN.
 H.R. 4741: Mr. KEATING and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 4744: Mr. DUNCAN and Ms. MACE.
 H.R. 4750: Ms. SCANLON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. CHU, Ms. MENG, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 4752: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 4757: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. MAST.
 H.R. 4776: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MANN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. HERN, and Mr. BRECHEEN.
 H.R. 4782: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 4792: Mr. IVEY.
 H.R. 4812: Mr. GALLEGGO.
 H.R. 4815: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 4829: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 4831: Mr. DUARTE.
 H.R. 4838: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 4842: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
 H.R. 4851: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 4852: Mr. VEASEY.
 H.R. 4860: Mr. ISSA and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
 H.R. 4869: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 4870: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 4894: Mr. STEIL.
 H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. CARSON.
 H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H. Res. 77: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H. Res. 269: Mr. COHEN.
 H. Res. 434: Mr. ALLRED.
 H. Res. 451: Mr. MOONEY.
 H. Res. 561: Mr. MRVAN and Ms. KUSTER.
 H. Res. 584: Ms. PORTER and Ms. TOKUDA.
 H. Res. 609: Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.